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DPRK Celebrates 54th National Foundation Day



Photo shows a platform of a national meeting to celebrate the 54th founding anniversary of the DPRK held in Pyongyang on September 8.

The DPRK commemorated the 54th anniversary of the foundation of the country. Various kinds of commemorative events were held in Pyongyang on September 8 and 9.

A national meeting was held at the April 25 House of Culture on September 8 to commemorate the DPRK's National Foundation Day, attended by senior officials of the party, the state and the army and the chairmen of the friendly parties. Present on invitation were diplomatic envoys and foreign guests.

Hong Song Nam, Premier of the DPRK Cabinet, said in a report that the DPRK has entered the phase of a new turn in its

development holding aloft the banner of the army-based policy under the leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

The DPRK Premier stressed that Kim Jong Il had conducted energetic external activities in recent years including his recent historic visit to the Far Eastern region of the Russian Federation which brought about a new turning point in boosting the traditional DPRK-Russian friendship.

Referring to the issue of national reunification, Hong Song Nam said that the government of the DPRK would exert all efforts to meet the vicious challenge of the

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North and south Korea Unite as One in Inter-Korean Soccer Match



North and south Korean football players and officials concerned march in the Sangam World Cup Stadium, upholding a one Korea flag after the inter-Korean soccer match on September 7.

Paving the way for national reconciliation and reunification, the north and south Korean football teams played a landmark inter-Korean soccer match in Seoul on September 7.

The football match, called "reunification games," ended in a 0-0 draw.

Some 60,000 fans packed the Sangam World Cup Stadium in Seoul waving blue and white banners symbolizing a unified Korean Peninsula.

Players entered the stadium holding hands with each other as crowds chanted "Jo Guk Tong II! (Reunify Fatherland!)"

Slogans such as "Let us become one and startle the world" and "Whichever team may win, we are one" were seen in every seat in the stadium. South Korean spectators gave a warm welcome to the visiting north Korean national football players, holding banners reading "A unified Korean team is the best in the world" and "We are one." They kept up applause throughout the game for both sides.

Both sides mainly fielded players under 23 as they prepared for the 14th Asian Games in Pusan, south Korea, to start at

the end of September.

North Korea dominated the first half while south Korea had the better of the north in the second half. But the south was unable to cut through north Korea's defense.

Korean residents in Japan also joined the sports exchange between the north and the south in the inter-Korean reconciliation process, organizing a visiting delegation to watch the historic football match.

An Yong Hak, a Korean resident in Japan, who is a professional football player belonging to Albirex Niigata of the J-League (Japan's professional football league) Division 2, was selected as a member of the national football squad of north Korea for the inter-Korean football match.

The game was sponsored by the Europe-Korea Foundation and supervised by the (south) Korean Football Association.

Chong Mong Jun, head of the (south) Korean Football Association, said before kick-off that it would be a historic match which would unite people from the two

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Red Cross Societies Agree to Set up Facility for Regular Meetings of Separated Families



The north side delegation (right side) and the south side delegation shake hands before the inter-Korean Red Cross talks.

By Staff Reporter

In a growing inter-Korean reconciliatory mood, North and South Korean Red Cross organizations reached an agreement to take humanitarian measures to ensure reunions of separated families and relatives on a regular basis. The agreement was signed at a top-level meeting of the humanitarian bodies of both sides which was held from

September 6 to 8 in Mt. Kumgang.

At first, both sides agreed to set up and operate a house for the reunion of separated kin in the area of Mt. Kumgang, a scenic resort in the North. After the permanent facility is completed their reunion shall be put on a regular basis, it says. Both sides also agreed to discuss building an ad-

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DPRK, U.S. Sign Appendix to Korean Armistice on Opening Part of DMZ to Link Railways and Roads

Representatives of the Korean People's Army and U.S. Forces in South Korea signed on September 12 at the truce village Panmunjom a subsequent agreement to the Korean Armistice Agreement (KAA) to authorize the construction of a road and a railway through the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on the east coast of the Korean Peninsula.

It was signed by Colonel General Ri Chan Bok of the KPA and Major General James N. Soligan, UN Command deputy chief of staff. Under the agreement, the inter-Korean road and rail corridor will be put under the joint control of North and South Korea. It complements a November 2000 agreement reached by the two sides on rebuilding a western road and railway corridor between the North's Kaesong and the South's Munsan. Both subsequent agreements of the KAA will provide a mili-

tary and legal guarantee for the implementation of the North-South agreement on re-linking the long-severed roads and railways along the east and west coasts.

According to the appendix, both sides agreed to open some parts of the area along the Military Demarcation Line and the DMZ where Onjong-ri-Jojin railways and Kosong-Sonhyon-ri roads pass through and placing them under the joint control of the North and the South of Korea and to let the armies of the North and the South consult each other in solving technical and working issues related to the opening of some portions of the DMZ and military matters that may be raised concerning the area under the joint control, in conformity with the KAA.

They also agreed to put the appendix into force from the date of its signing at the general-level talks.

Torch Ceremony Held for Asian Games



Photo shows a torch ceremony for the 14th Asian Games to be held in Pusan, south Korea from September 29 to October 15.

A sacred torch for the 14th Asian Games was lit on Mt. Paekdu with a due ceremony on September 6. Two women in national costumes separately lit two sacred torches on Mt. Paekdu before putting them together.

The torch was handed to Jong Song Ok, who won the gold medal in the women's marathon competition at the 7th World Track and Field Championships in 1998.

At the ceremony, Vice-chairman of the DPRK Olympic Committee An Song Il expressed the belief that the sacred torch would sow the seeds of patriotism and national unity for reunification in the hearts of the 70 million Koreans.

On the same day the torch was handed

to the south side with a due ceremony in Mt. Kumgang.

Present at the ceremony were Jo Ui Suk, vice-chairman of the Korean Olympic Committee, and other officials concerned, sportspersons and working people in Kosong County.

Present from the south side were U Pyong Taek, executive chairman of the organizing committee of the Asian Games, and officials concerned.

The DPRK plans to send a large-scale delegation including more than 300 athletes and referees, officials and cheering group to the 14th Asian Games to be held in Pusan from September 29 to October 15.

SPA Vice-President Addresses Sustainable Development Summit

"Korean people, under the leadership of Kim Jong Il, will strive to overcome the persistent anti-DPRK moves of the outsiders and the aftermath of continued natural disasters and build a reunified and powerful nation at an early date," Vice-President Yang Hyong Sop of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, said on September 3 in his speech at the World Summit on Sustainable Development which was held between August 26 and September 4 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

He further said:

"Gaps in wealth between developed and developing countries are widening on a worldwide scale. Meanwhile, the ecological environment of the globe is being destroyed and the security and existence of humankind threatened due to rash economic activities and improper use of natural resources only for profit, and by vari-

ous forms of disputes and confrontation.

"If sustainable development is to be ensured, each country should, above all, put into action its political will to provide a good environment for the living not only of the present generation but also of the generations to come, and establish fair international economic and trade relations favorable for sustainable development.

"It is also important to decisively solve the financial problems of all countries and regions and ensure lasting peace and security so as to create a circumstance favorable for sustainable development.

"The DPRK government is directing its energetic efforts to education, economic activities and environmental protection in keeping with the requirements of the IT era so as to provide the people with better living conditions and hand down a prosperous land to posterity."

Science and Technology Exhibitions Held

As part of an IT-led economic innovation drive, a variety of exhibitions were held in Pyongyang in early September: "a national scientific and technological presentation and a new technology exhibition" and "the second national exhibition of scientific research achievements made by universities."

The former was held by workers in the field of city management in Pyongyang on September 4 and 5 to mark the 10th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's work "Let Us Improve and Strengthen City Management to Meet the Requirements of the Developing Realities." It brought together scientists, technicians, officials and working people from universities, scientific research bodies and provincial organs and enterprises in the field of city management.

A total of 220 papers were introduced at the presentation. Among them were those on successes made in scientific researches in various fields of city management including "Development of paint made of natural substances for marking roads and its use" and "Sewerage disposal

without using power." On display at the exhibition were a variety of exhibits invented by the Central Heating Institute and many other units through vigorous mass movements for technical innovation to contribute to building a powerful nation, thoroughly establish cultured practices in production and life and provide people with more convenient amenities. Prizes were awarded to the successful participants and units at a closing ceremony held on September 5.

The other exhibition was held between September 2 and 6 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the publication of "Theses On Socialist Education," which was participated in by Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology and other universities across the country.

The exhibition was divided into nine sections including metal machining and bio-agricultural science sections. Displayed there were more than 2,000 exhibits of over 1,100 varieties including nano-material designing and technology for laser application.

Inter-Korean Red Cross Talks

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ditional facility in the western region when the severed railways and roads are reconnected between the North and the South, which will pass through the Military Demarcation Line and the Demilitarized Zone.

According to the agreement, the South side shall supply materials and equipment for the construction while the North side shall provide a labor force needed for the project. A ground-breaking ceremony for the first house in Mt. Kumgang shall be jointly observed and its date be fixed after successfully conducting a geological survey, designing and procuring necessary materials and the construction work.

At the same time, the agreement says, both sides shall promote the work of confirming the whereabouts of separated families and relatives and correspondence and discuss specific proposals including its scope and period in future. As for those reported missing during the 1950-1953 Korean War, both sides are to discuss and solve the issue of their whereabouts as part of Red Cross humanitarian work.

In order to implement these points agreed upon at an early date, both sides shall hold a working-level meeting in Mt. Kumgang in mid-October. At the talks, both sides confirmed the arrangement of the fifth reunion of separated families and relatives, that 100 from each side shall meet in Mt. Kumgang between September 13 and 18.

in the U.S. and India, respectively. The American one is "Evita" starring a world-famous pop singer Madonna. In the worldwide smash hit musical, Madonna played Eva Peron, former Argentine first lady, to win a "Golden Globe Award" in 1996. The other one which gained a spotlight was "Piao Liang Ma Ma"--its English title is "Breaking the Silence"--starring Gong Li, China's screen goddess, who is internationally known for, before anything else, "The Emperor and the Assassin."

At the closing ceremony held on September 14, the results of the examination of the films presented to the festival were announced by the festival jury, which was followed by an awarding ceremony. The golden statuette went to the Russian film "The Star"; prizes for scenarios to the Polish film "The Cart Man" and the Indian documentary film "Scribbles On Akka;" and prizes for production to the Australian film "Serenades" and the Singaporean short film "Grandfather." And prizes for acting

went to the male star of the Korean film "The Souls Protest" and the female star of the Iranian film "The Suit." The Chinese film "Hero Zheng Cheng Gong" was awarded a special prize by the international festival jury.

The Pyongyang film festival has been held continuously once in every two years ever since it started in 1989 for the purpose of promoting friendship and cooperation among the film artists of non-aligned and other developing countries. At the latest festival, however, those films that were presented by non-aligned nations accounted for about 50 percent--a 30 percent decrease compared with the last one. "This is part of our effort to make this event a genuinely international film festival," said Jang Won Jun, member of the organizing committee. "But the basic idea of our festival--independence, peace and friendship--has remained unchanged, no matter how the width of participating countries has expanded," he added.

Films Starring Madonna, Gong Li Highlight Pyongyang Film Festival



Photo shows foreign guests from 40 countries, representatives of international organizations and movie fans participated in the film festival.

By Staff Reporter

The latest biennial Pyongyang film festival of non-aligned and other developing countries drew broader public attention as the festival included films produced in the U.S., Britain, Germany, Australia and Japan. The eighth in the series of events was held between September 4 and 13 in different theaters in the capital city of the DPRK in three categories--the shows of films for competition and the shows of special films and informative ones from more than 40 countries in all.

The first category included 16 full-length feature films and nine short films which

were produced after the 7th film festival held in June 2000. Among them were DPRK movies such as "The Souls Protest"--a Korean version of the "Titanic"--, "Bellflowers," and others. Presented under the third category were some 80 "informative films," including those made in West Europe such as Britain and Germany. Also shown as part of this category was a Japanese feature film titled "The Family" directed by Yamada Yoji, who contributed his "The School--4" to the last festival held in Pyongyang two years before.

The highlights of the recent event were eight "special films" in the second category including two "Oscar"-winning ones made

Strong Message of Reunification

Troupe of Korean student artists in Japan performed in South Korea for first time

By Staff Reporter

National reunification seems to be accelerated now. On September 4 and 6, Korean students in Japan raised the historic curtain, as a 90 member troupe of Korean student artists in Japan, headed by Ku Dae Sok, principal of Tokyo Korean Middle and High School, visited South Korea and gave performances in Seoul and Jeonju for the first time since the division of the Korean nation and in the history of national Korean education in Japan. They conveyed a message to a 4,500 audience of South Koreans about the necessity of ethnic Korean schools in Japan and the real state of the schools which were established with the blood and sweat of first-generation Korean residents in Japan, and which have been successfully maintained by the third and fourth generation Korean residents. The Korean school students who spoke Korean, danced and sang songs with a national rhythm and played their national musical instruments. They moved Korean compatriots in South Korea, touching their heartstrings.

Dreamlike stage in homeland

The June 15 Joint Declaration was published in 2000. After that, the visit of Korean residents affiliated to Chongryun (The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) to their native places in South Korea was realized eight times and the Kungansan Opera Troupe (opera troupe of Korean artists in Japan) gave performances in South Korea in 2000. This year, the World Cup event was jointly hosted by South Korea and Japan. During the game, Korean residents in Japan cheered the national team of South Korea, remembering the splendid achievement of the North

Korean team in the 1966 event. Moreover, some Korean residents in Japan formed a cheering party and visited South Korea to cheer the South Korean team. Exchange between South Korean and Korean residents in Japan started in this way.

This time, the performances were realized under the joint sponsorship of the Association of Love for Korea Juveniles and Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC). The Seoul Art High School of National Music and the Jeonju High School of Arts jointly managed the performances, while performing together with the troupe of Korean students from Japan.

Present at the performance were Kim Sang Hyun, Li Je Sung, Sol Hun and Kim Hi Sun, members of the South Korean Assembly, and the New Millennium Democratic Party; and Park Bum Hun, Vice president of Chungang University, and Ro Dong Un, President of Chungang University and President of the University of National Music.

South Korean people, who saw the performances, gave shouts of joy and applauded the troupe enthusiastically whenever the students spoke in Korean, sang songs and danced. They were unsparing of praise as they found a national kinship in and a common hope for national reunification in the performances of the students who have protected and preserved Korea's national spirit in a foreign country.

The theater was filled to capacity. All the seats were occupied and some people had to sit on the stairs or in the aisles.

"This is my homeland where my grandfather and grandmother spoke about me and which I longed to see. Now, I am on the stage in my homeland. This is like a dream...", Im Jin Ryang, stage manager, shed tears and couldn't speak more on the stage. Hearing her words, the audience also couldn't hold back their tears. The theater



Members of the art troupe of Korean students in Japan perform in a stage in Seoul.

was turned into a sea of tears.

Treasure of the nation

"Whirlwind," a dance with music, was the most impressive program for the South Korean audience who saw it performed in Seoul and Jeonju. The story of the dance is based on an actual incident in which a Korean schoolgirl, wearing Chima-Jogori (Korean national costume), was attacked by some Japanese gangster and had her Chima-Jogori knifed. Her feeling was hurt and she burned with anger. In the climax of the dance, the schoolgirl fights against the discrimination that was sweeping through Japanese society, by wearing a new Chima-Jogori given by her friends, when a storm of hand clapping arose in the hall.

O Gyong Hwa, 26, who was moved to tears, said, "I didn't know how the Korean residents in Japan were suffering in a foreign country to protect our nation. I feel ashamed of the fact that South Korea society does not understand our compatriots in Japan." She added, choking her voice, "Students of Chongryun school students are a treasure of our nation. We should unite

for the reunification of our country. There is no compatriot or nation without unity."

Li Je Jung, a member of the Assembly and of the Board of Education, said, "I am very glad and thankful that the students who were born and grew up in Japan have protected our national culture and tradition. I feel very sorry for the fact that our government support is not enough because of the division of the country. We will closely watch the present situation of Korean schools in Japan, and consider what is needed from a political standpoint."

Meanwhile, Kim Saeng Bun, 78, who saw the performance in Seoul, said, "I am so thankful to our compatriots living in Japan who have protected our nation on their own in spite of unbearable discrimination against them. We have lived in an awkward situation for a long time. But I was moved to know that we all wish for unification from the bottoms of our hearts."

Korean compatriots in Seoul and Jeonju were convinced that the Korean nation is bound by blood ties and that they could no longer live apart, after seeing the dances

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U.S. Committed Germ Warfare in Korea by Using Results of Experiments by Japanese Imperial Army's Unit No. 731; It Is Japan's Responsibility

Interview with Mori Masataka, Chief of Investigation Team of Historical Fact of U.S. Germ Warfare During Korean War

A Japanese investigation team of U.S. germ warfare during the Korean War visited the DPRK and the North East of China from July 26 to August 5 to investigate the actual situation of the U.S.-committed germ warfare during the Korean War. The group found a film recording the damage done by the germ warfare and obtained not a few results in investigating the truth of the germ warfare.

Q: What was the purpose of your visit to the DPRK?

A: The U.S. committed germ warfare during the Korean War, utilizing the researches and experiments by the former Japanese Imperial Army's notorious Unit No. 731. The germ warfare should be thoroughly investigated as Japan's responsibility. Japan has settled no problems related to its war responsibility at all, including its past colonial rule in Korea. I think that these problems should be clearly settled by calling Japan to account for crimes committed in Korea in its modern history.

I have researched Japan's aggressive war against China for 20 years. I began my research with the damage done by the No. 731 unit, visiting Nanjing and areas of



Mr. Mori Masataka

former Manchuria in 1991.

I came to know about the U.S.-committed germ warfare during the Korean War in the process of my investigation, and I visited Rason City in the DPRK via Yangji.

Q: What kind of investigation did you make?

A: In a very limited schedule, our team waged investigation activities around Pyongyang City.

We obtained testimony from many persons—researchers, victims and witnesses of the chemical and biological warfare. I was most impressed with the story that in Korea there was a custom of presenting shellfish to others wrapping it in straw, and that by making use of this custom, the U.S. army spread germ-contaminated shellfish, causing many Korean people who ate it to die.

I also visited the germ warfare section in the Museum of Victory in Korean War, and I was able to have access to documents and materials, which were not to open to the public.

What surprised me most during my visit to the DPRK was an 18-minute documentary film, which was filmed in 1952 by the staff of the National Film Studio of the DPRK.

The documentary film titled, "U.S. forces' atrocity of germ warfare," showed flies and spiders, which were scattered by U.S. airplanes, crawling around on the snow, together with captive pilots testifying to the act of germ warfare. The film also showed the activities for prevention of epidemics and the activities of an international investigation team, which was formed by eight countries including the UK and France, to investigate the suspicion of U.S.-committed germ warfare.

This time, I confirmed again the fact that the U.S. committed chemical and biological warfare in Korea. Through some documents, I had known about the germ warfare committed by the U.S. forces during the Korean War but had no sufficiently convincing materials to persuade people to believe the fact.

Hearing the testimonies of victims and

witnesses during my stay in the DPRK, I was able to obtain an outline of the germ warfare.

Q: On your future activities

A: It was the first time since 1952 that an investigation team on the germ warfare visited the DPRK.

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) and the International Council for Scientific Unions (ICSU) sent their task forces to the DPRK in 1952. The ICSU's investigation team made a report on the basis of its investigation activities performed from June to August 1952. But the report was completely ignored by Western countries.

I will make public all the materials I obtained through my latest investigation. This will help reveal the truth about the long hidden germ warfare committed by the U.S. forces during the Korean War. I want to deepen our relationship of mutual trust with the DPRK, which was very cooperative in our investigation activities. I will also gather more testimony from victims, witnesses and bereaved families and investigate the actual situation caused by the U.S.-committed germ warfare in Korea.

Some media in the U.S. and Japan are set on covering up the fact of the germ warfare.

Our organization will gather witnesses by the U.S. side, while urging the U.S. to release information to the public.

The Korean War is not yet understood well. People often say that air raids on Tokyo, Chongqing and Guernica are the world's three worst air raids, but I think that the air raid on Pyongyang by the U.S. during the Korean War should be included in this category. The U.S.-committed germ warfare and the air raid on Pyongyang are only part of the Korean War. Our latest field investigation gave me a new recognition of the war crimes committed by the U.S. forces against Korea.

Performance in South Korea

(Continued from page 3)

and songs of the Chongryun school students.

Blood is thicker

It was the first time that Korean students in Japan gave performances in South Korea, and it was also the first time that an exchange was realized between young Koreans in Japan and South Korean youth.

The Korean students in Japan and the students of the Academy of Arts in South Korea looked as if they were old friends who had learned in the same class. They asked each other, "When did you start playing musical instruments?" "What are you interested in now?" and so on. They got together very well in spite of the country's division for over half a century. Above all, they could make themselves understood without a language barrier, speaking in Korean.

Inter-Korean Soccer

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sides. Ri Gwang Gun, Chairman of the DPRK Football Association, Minister of Foreign Trade, said in a speech at the opening ceremony that the Korean people will show the power of unified Korea to the world, referring to the achievement of the north Korean football team in the 1966 World Cup and of the south Korean football team in the 2002 World Cup. Park Keun Hye, executive of the Europe-Korea Foundation, also said that the activation of inter-Korean sports exchanges would promote peace between both sides and serve an opportunity for the cooperative development of the north and the south.

"The north got to the last eight of the 1966 World Cup in England, and the south was among the last four of the 2002 Korea-Japan World Cup. If we get together we can be a powerhouse," Ri Jong Man, coach of the north Korean team, said after the inter-Korean football match.

"The football match marked an important occasion for deepening reconciliation and confidence among sportspersons in the north and the south, promoting the unity and reunification of the nation and demonstrating the nation's unshakable will to build a reunified country at an early date under the banner of the June 15 joint dec-

After the performance in Jeonju, Korean school students from Japan and Jeonju High School of Arts students hugged each other tearfully.

Kim Hee Yeong, 17, a student of the Jeonju High School of Arts, had a hard time seeing off the Korean students from Japan, saying, "This was a very heart-warming encounter. I wish I could get over the sorrow of parting as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, Hwang Jeong Su, 41, principal of Jeongju Art High School, said with great confidence, "As a result of this exchange, we could find 'the things' by ourselves. In fact, we were taught of anti-communism and we used to be prejudiced against Chongryun schools. But now, I don't feel 'national confrontation' after seeing how our students mingled with the Korean students from Japan. Culture and arts should lead the reunification of our fatherland."

Young people will become leaders in the future of our country. Their reunification through exchange has just started now.

laration," north Korea's official Korean Central News Agency reported.

In the past, there were a series of inter-city soccer games in Korea from 1929 which were called "Kyong-Pyong Games" namely, games between Pyongyang and Seoul. But both sides were compelled to stop the games under Japanese colonial rule. After the national liberation in 1945, the games were resumed twice in 1946 and 1990. In 1990, an inter-Korean football game named, "the North and South Reunification Soccer Games" were held on October 11 and 23 in Pyongyang and Seoul respectively.

"Korea Will Be A Great Team If North and South Korea Unite as One"

Interview with Ri Jong Man, coach of north Korean football squad

I visited south Korea twice as a player in 1990 and as a supervisor this time. I was very happy that north and south Korean footballers played together for the first time in 12 years.

My heart was filled with joy when I saw south Korean people enthusiastically welcoming the north Korean football squad.

In the 1966 England World Cup, north Korea became the first Asian country to



South Koreans give a warm welcome to Korean students in Japan and keep up applause for the performance of little Korean artists.

enter the competition's semifinals. In the 2002 World Cup Korea-Japan, south Korea also won the fourth prize to enter semifinals as the first in Asian country to place fourth. I think that these achievements show the love of the Korean nation for football and the ability and mettle of the Korean nation. I am sure that the north and the south will make a stronger team if the two sides unite as one.

For north Korean football players, the latest inter-Korean football match was a good experience. Players were all 19 to 28 years old. We selected mainly young players anticipating their future. I hope that both sides' players learnt many things and found some good points in both sides.

I think that the inter-Korean football match was an event of great significance in the technical development of football on both sides. The football match also will contribute to advancing reunification.

Founding Anniversary of DPRK

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anti-reunification forces at home and abroad, foil their obstructive moves, turn the inter-Korean relations into the relations of reconciliation, unity and cooperation.

Independence, peace and friendship are the basic ideas consistently maintained by the

DPRK in its foreign relations, he said, adding that the DPRK government would strengthen its friendly and cooperative relations with foreign countries.

On the occasion of the anniversary, General Secretary Kim Jong Il received a congratulatory message from Russian President V. V. Putin on September 9. He also received congratulatory messages from leaders of the People's Republic of China, Chinese President Jian Zemin, Li Peng, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Premier Zhu Rongji.

People enjoyed various cultural events to celebrate the country's 54th founding anniversary. An evening gala of youth and students, art performances, a circus performance and other colorful events were held in Pyongyang and local areas.

The 54th founding anniversary of the DPRK was also celebrated by overseas Korean communities. Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) celebrated the anniversary with a banquet on September 6, inviting members of the Diet of Japan, prominent figures in political, economic, cultural circles and mass media, ambassadors and members of foreign diplomatic corps in Japan, representatives of international organizations and foreign correspondents in Japan.

Roundup of Major Event of DPRK

August 2002

1-- Kim Yong Nam, President of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, met and had a friendly talk with Kenzo Oshima, under-secretary general of the United Nations, and his party at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

1-- Choe Thae Bok, Chairman of the SPA of the DPRK, had a talk with a delegation of the Senate of Thailand, headed by its first vice-president, Pichet Pattanachote.

2-4-- A working contact between the representatives of the north and the south was held in Mt. Kumgang to make arrangements for the seventh inter-Korean ministerial talks.

4-- The National Defense Commission of the DPRK gave a reception at the Manual Art Theater on the occasion of the first anniversary of Kim Jong Il's historic visit to Russia.

5-9-- The 16th Pyongyang International Table-Tennis Tournament was held at the Table-tennis Gymnasium in Chongchun Street, Pyongyang.

6-- General officer-level talks between the Korean People's Army side and the

U.S. Force's side were held in Panmunjom.

6-- Yang Hyong Sop, Vice-president of the Presidium of the SPA of the DPRK and chairman of the Korean Social Scientists Society, met and had a talk with a delegation of Japanese followers of Juche.

6-- An agreement on cooperation in standardization, measuring and quality of products was signed in Beijing between the quality control bureau of the DPRK and the certification and accreditation administration of China.

8-- Paek Nam Sun, Foreign Minister of the DPRK had talks with the President of Mongolia and the Mongolian Minister of Foreign Affairs, respectively.

8-- A treaty of friendly relations and cooperation between the DPRK and Mongolia and a protocol between the DPRK and Mongolian governments on the effectuation of the bilateral agreements were signed to promote the DPRK-Mongolian relations.

12-14-- The 7th north and south ministerial talks were held in Seoul, and a joint press release was published on August 14.

15-16-- The August 15 meeting for national reunification was held in Seoul.

15-- General Secretary Kim Jong Il saw the closing mass gymnastic and artistic performance "Arirang" on the occasion of the 57th anniversary of the country's liberation.

15-- Minutes of the talks between the delegation of the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Trade and the delegation of the Amur regional administration of the Russian Federation were signed in Pyongyang.

15-19-- The Pyongyang International Boxing Tournament was held.

18-19-- Talks between the Red Cross organizations of the DPRK and Japan were held in Pyongyang.

19-- A friendly meeting with the members of the delegation of "Peace Boat" of Japan was held at the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang.

20-24-- Kim Jong Il visited the Far-Eastern region of the Russian Federation.

20-- The 55th anniversary of the Air Force of the Korean People's Army was marked.

23-- General Secretary Kim Jong Il met with V.V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, in Vladivostok.

24-- Kim Jong Il inspected the DPRK-Russia Friendship House newly built in a

modern architectural style.

24-- The DPRK delegation headed by Yang Hyong Sop met and had a talk with the Namibian President.

25-26-- The department director-level talks of the foreign ministries of the DPRK and Japan were held in Pyongyang and a joint press release was made public on 26.

26-28-- A working contact for the 14th Pusan Asian Games was held in Mt. Kumgang between the north side's Olympic Committee and the south side's organizing committee of the Pusan Asian games.

26-- Kim Yong Nam met and had a talk with Ahmed Abdullah, Maldivian Minister of Health and his companion at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

26-- Choe Thae Bok met and had a talk with a delegation of the Hungarian Worker's Party at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

26-- Hong Chang Su, a Korean pro-boxer in Japan, retained his championship in the super-flyweight class of the WBC.

27-30-- The second meeting of the North-South Committee for the Promotion of Economic Cooperation was held in Seoul.

28-29-- The 12th board meeting of the Northeast Asia Telephone and Telecommunication Co. Ltd. took place in Pyongyang.