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1. US-DPRK Military Talks

Xinhua ("U.N. COMMAND, DPRK TO MEET AGAIN NEXT MONTH", Seoul, 2010/07/30) reported that the U.N. Command (UNC) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will have another round of meeting early next month to arrange a timetable for general-level talks, the UNC said. During Friday's two-hour meeting at Panmunjom, colonels from the two sides continued their discussions for general-level talks, the UNC said. At the end of the meeting, the two sides tentatively agreed to meet again on Aug. 9, it added.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-07/30/c 13422810.htm

2. DPRK Nuclear Program

Chosun Ilbo ("REPORT CASTS DOUBT ON N.KOREA'S ABILITY TO DEPLOY NUKES", Chosun Ilbo, 2010/07/30) reported that the DPRK has not demonstrated that it is able to use its nuclear weapons, despite two underground tests in 2006 and 2009, according to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists "World Nuclear Stockpile Report" published Wednesday. It said the DPRK has conducted the two tests and produced enough plutonium to make eight to 12 nuclear bombs, but U.S. intelligence agencies believe the DPRK has no missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html dir/2010/07/30/2010073000795.html

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3. Sino-DPRK Relations

Xinhua ("SENIOR CHINESE DIPLOMAT REAFFIRMS FRIENDSHIP WITH DPRK", Pyongyang, 2010/07/30) reported that PRC Assistant Foreign Minister Hu Zhengyue said Friday the PRC is committed to consolidating ties with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). In a meeting with Yang Hyong Sop, vice president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, Hu said Chinese leaders attache great importance to the bilateral relationship.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2010-07/30/c 13422574.htm

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4. Cross Strait Relations

Taiwan Economic News (Judy Li, "TAIWAN'S MARKET DEPENDENCE ON CHINA MAY RISE TO 50% IN 10 YEARS", Taipei, 2010/07/30) reported that a recent report in an economics monthly published by the Bank of China (BOC) Hong Kong predicts the proportion of Taiwan's exports to the PRC might increase to 50% of the total exports from the current 40% in 10 years, starting from the signing of the economic cooperation framework agreement (ECFA) in June. The statistics released by Taiwan's Ministry of Finance (MOF) show Taiwan's exports to the PRC (including Hong Kong) totaled US\$56.75 billion in the first six months, the highest of its kind ever, accounting for 43% of Taiwan's total exports for a sharp annual growth of 61.9%.

http://news.cens.com/cens/html/en/news/news_inner_33098.html

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5. US Troops in Japan

Yomiuri Shimbun (Satoshi Ogawa, "U.S. TO DELAY GUAM TROOP MOVE", Washington, 2010/07/29) reported that a planned transfer of about 8,000 U.S. marines from Okinawa Prefecture to Guam could be delayed beyond the 2014 target, perhaps by up to six years, according to an office of the U.S. Defense Department. A final environmental impact statement released by the department's Joint Guam Program Office on Tuesday includes a proposal to delay the transfer of the troops and their dependents to as late as 2020 to reduce environmental impact from the personnel relocation and associated construction projects. However, the statement said a new time frame would be decided later.

http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/world/20100729TDY01T06.htm

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