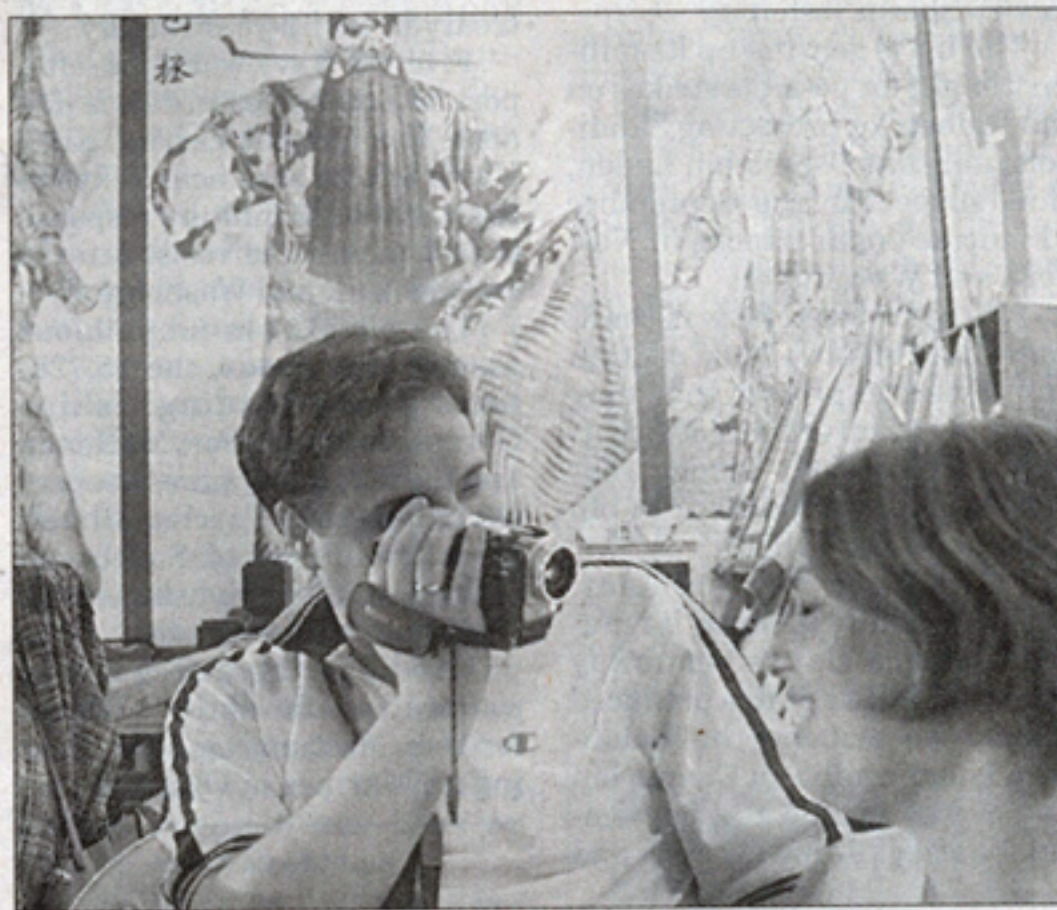




Delicious tanghulu: Tanghulu, sugar-coated hawthorns on a stick, are a popular local treat at the famed Wangfujing Night Market.

Honeymoon in Beijing: Slette Vold and Jane Trond from Norway are spending the first days of their marital bliss in the Chinese capital.



XU JINGXING/China Daily

Open for business: The holiday week is prime time for area shopping centres, which draw in customers with sales.



XIAO HUAIYUAN

Square slumber: A group of students spend Sunday night of the National Day in Tian'anmen Square.



ZHANG JIE



LIU YINGYI

Beijing's bust: Traffic police get no break during the holidays, keeping the streets safe and orderly.

City immersed in festival

2 million flowerpots, 500-kg mooncake top features

By NAN
China Daily staff

Two million pots of flowers, days of full-night illuminations and more than 300 performances being staged in Beijing to celebrate the National Day and the Moon Festival (the Mid-Autumn Festival).

Both fell on October 1, a coincidence that happens once every 19 years.

Features, a 3.3-metre-tall mooncake that weighs 500 kilograms is on display in downtown Wangfujing Street.

Tian'anmen Square has been dressed with four massive flowerbeds and a central fountain terracing 300,000 pots of flowers.

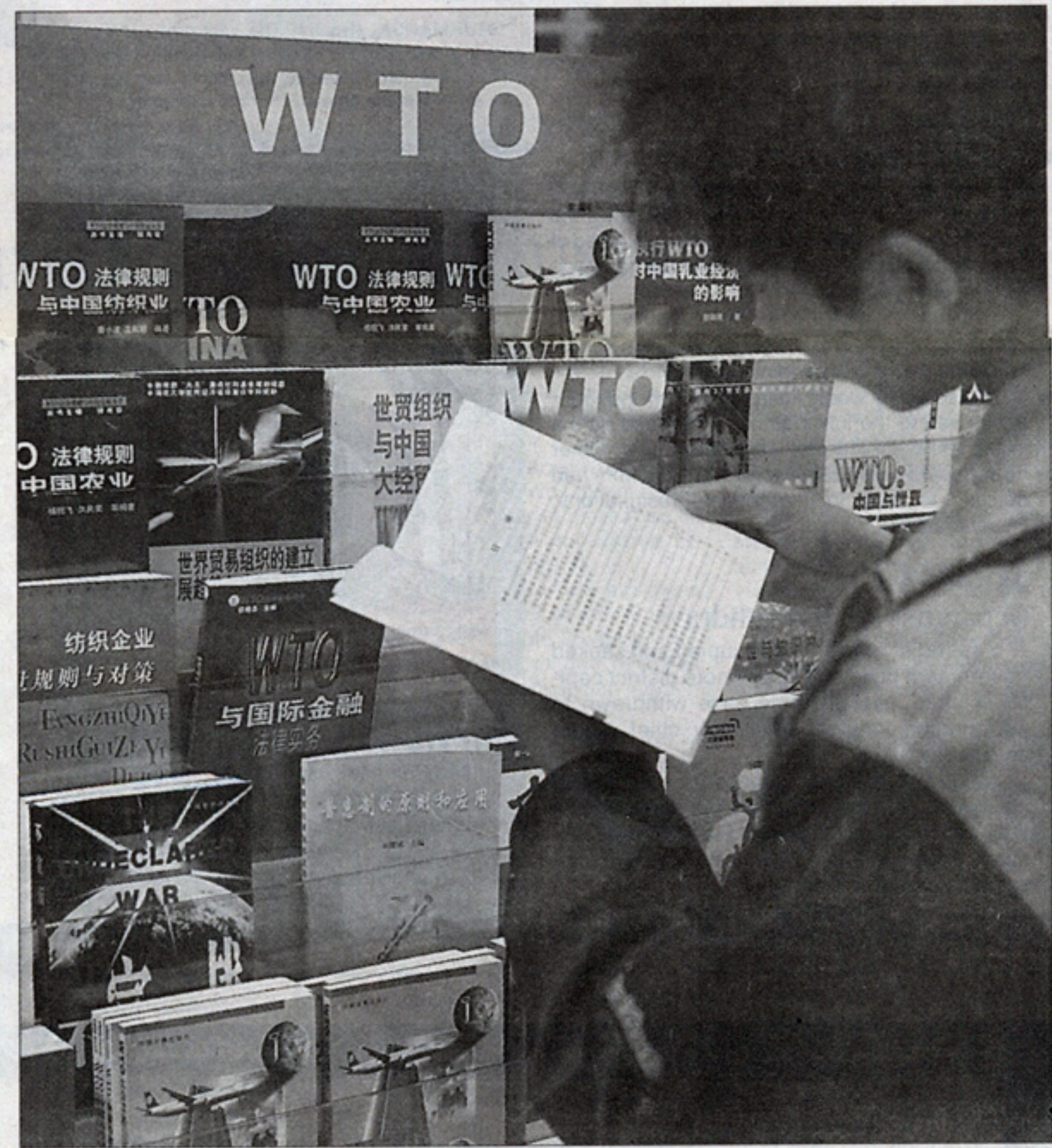
The computer-controlled fountain, which measures 30 metres across in diameter, can dance to 10 different water performances. The water can shoot as high as 12 metres in the air.

The 3.6-metre-high flowerbed looks like the Chinese character for "Lead to 2008" stand on the northeast corner to reflect China's excitement about hosting the Olympics in 2008.

White and yellow chrysanthemums, red gerberas and purple begonias are dressed the Chang'an Avenue and more than 100 other main streets in Beijing in its holiday best.

Most colorful lamps will shine on flowers, trees, streets and buildings from 6:10 pm to midnight on Saturday. Some will be on a night long, too.

Friends from across the globe are celebrating along with Beijing, making this celebration that much more meaningful.



LI TAIHANG/China Daily

Peace and quiet: Despite the clamour of the holidays, bookstores continue to offer some solitude and calm for readers.



In living colour: Beijing is illuminated and flashy for the holidays.

ZHANG WEI/China Daily