

IN BRIEF

From staff and Xinhua

BEIJING

Leaders meet

Li Peng, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Ninth National People's Congress, Li Ruihuan, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Vice-Premier Li Lanqing, yesterday met separately with visiting Ukrainian President Leonid Danilovich Kuchma. The Chinese leaders praised the healthy and sustained growth of ties and co-operation since China and the Ukraine established diplomatic relations 10 years ago.

Donation given

A donation of US\$1.3 million was given to the Funding the Poor Co-operative (FPC) at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences yesterday. The money aims to help impoverished Chinese women improve their lives, according to the donor, American Citigroup, a US-based global financial institution.

NANJING

Forbes inching

Steve Forbes announced yesterday that Forbes magazine would set up an editorial bureau in Shanghai in January, which hopes to launch the Chinese edition of the magazine.

As the third generation of the Forbes family, Steve Forbes serves as both chief executive officer and editor-in-chief of Forbes, one of the most influential financial publications in the world.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of the ongoing World Capital Forum in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province.

Nations to tap Asian tourism market

Guilin Declaration to promote holiday trade co-operation endorsed

By **YU NAN**
China Daily staff

GUILIN, Guangxi: China will develop much closer ties in the tourism industry with all Asian nations, He Guangyuan, the head of the China National Tourism Administration, said yesterday.

The co-operation will focus on developing the tourism market, spin-off products and communications as well as improving safety in the industry, He said.

He made these remarks came at the ministerial-level round-table meeting held on the final day of the three-day Boao Forum for Asia-Tourism Conference (BFA).

Specific projects and areas mentioned include border tourism, the Silk Road project and the greater Mekong sub-region tourism co-operation programme, in which "China will play a more active role and enhance co-operation with related countries."

Senior tourism officials from 14 countries who attended the round-table meeting, expressed their willingness to strengthen co-operation and assistance with other Asian countries.

"We are a big and integrated family in which a tiny hurt on any member will unavoidably influence the whole," said Rich-

ard Gordon, the Philippine tourism minister.

"China, with the largest tourist market — in terms of population — and the richest tourism resources, undoubtedly will be one of the leading countries in the future co-operative and collaborative mechanism," Gordon added.

The round-table meeting also proposed that a standing committee on tourism should be established to offer a stable and convenient platform, upon which BFA members can exchange information and expand their capacities and academic research in the field.

At the end of the conference, the Guilin Declaration, which set out four agreed topics, was issued. These were Asian regional tourism co-operation and development, new tourist products development, sustainable tourism growth, and more socio-economic contribution to the tourism sector.

The declaration underlined that participants viewed the government, the tourism trade and local communities as a strategic partnership in the promotion of sustainable tourism. Thus the role of the BFA and the Asia Co-operation Dialogue should be promoted along to forge Asia-wide co-operation, the declaration said.



HUANG YIMING/China Daily

I belie I can fly

A young woman hoping to scale new heights steps up to be weighed yesterday in South China's Hainan Province, where China Southern Airlines held a recruitment drive to select 30 air stewards and stewardesses. Several hundred young men and women, aged 18 to 21, vied for the sought-after vacancies.

Red de maroons fishing industry

By **MIN**
China Daily staff

An unexpected poisonous algae bloom, known as red tide, has dealt a heavy blow to the shellfish industry in Lianjiang County in Fujian, the capital of East China's Fujian Province.

Local authorities estimated the loss at around 3 million yuan (US\$300,000) yesterday, but a Xinhua report said total loss could reach 10 million yuan (US\$1 million).

A red tide is an explosive propagation of algae caused by excessively concentrated nutrients in seawater. The algae either consume much oxygen in the water or release poisonous substances that kill sea life.

The red tide is caused by the area's intensive aquaculture farming, authorities said. "We haven't been trying to re-

duce the density of aquatic animals in the area. But it is hard to convince people to give up profits," said an unnamed official with the Lianjiang County Fishery Bureau, who would only give his surname Li.

Although the area has been affected by red tides before, previously deadly algae only came in after they floated from neighbouring areas. In the past they were never hard to clean up, authorities said.

This most recent red tide will greatly affect the long-term development of the county's aquatic farming industry, they added.

"Many local farmers have voluntarily worked to reduce their farming density for the first time in decades," he said.

However, Li dismissed the reported loss of over 10 million yuan (US\$1.2 million).

"That is drastically different

from our estimation and sounds too big. The red tide does not affect a wide area and almost all fish, apart from the shellfish, have survived," he said.

No sea products from the area will be allowed to be sold until they have passed a series of strict examinations ensuring their safety.

Ji Weidong, a red-tide expert with the State Oceanographic Administration, said it was unfortunate that the red tide was not detected sooner.

"Although the county authority moved quickly to control the damage after the red tide broke out, the loss would not have been as great if a red tide monitoring station had been set up in the area," said Ji. "In view of China's present marine environment, it is a pressing task for all aquatic farming areas to have monitoring stations."

FM hopes arms inspection works

By **SHAO ZONGWEI**
China Daily staff

Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan yesterday expressed the hope that the United Nations (UN) arms inspectors will be able to carry out their mission in Iraq effectively.

Speaking at a regular briefing, Kong said that all parties should strictly implement the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Chief UN arms inspector Hans Blix and an advance team of about two dozen arrived in Iraq's Baghdad on Monday.

Formal inspections are not due to commence until November 27, and full-scale checks not until Iraq files a declaration disclosing full details of its prohibited weapons programmes. It has until December 8 to meet the deadline for disclosure.

The spokesman also confirmed that Vice-Foreign Minister Wang Yi will lead a delegation on border talks with India in New Delhi tomorrow.

"The two sides will exchange their views on border issues, bilateral relations and international and regional issues of common concern," said Kong. "We hope that the talks will yield progress based on what has been achieved."

When asked to comment on the recent visit of China's special envoy to the Middle East, Wang Shijie, Kong described the trip as "having yielded positive results."

He said: "The visit has enabled the relevant parties to get a comprehensive understanding of China's desired intention to play an active role in the Middle East peace process, within the UN framework."

He said the countries concerned have expressed the hope that China will continue to play an active role in the matter and pledged to maintain close contact and co-operation with the Chinese special envoy.

Wang visited Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel during his nine-day trip to the region between No-

vember 6 and 14.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said the 132nd General Assembly of the Bureau of International Expositions in Monte Carlo, Monaco will cast votes to decide which country will hold the World Expo 2010 December 2 and 3 and State Councillor Wu Yi will give a presentation on Shanghai's bid for the Expo.

He also revealed that at the invitation of President Jiang Zemin, President Tarja Halonen of the Republic of Finland will pay a state visit to China from November 26 to 28.

WEATHER REPORT

8 am November 20 - 8 am November 21

(All information provided by the Central Meteorological Observatory)

Light to moderate snow or sleet is forecast for northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, southeastern parts of Gansu and Qinghai provinces, southern Shaanxi Province, western Sichuan Province, southern Henan Province, northern Hubei Province, Anhui Province, northern Jiangsu Province, eastern Shandong Province, and eastern Heilongjiang Province. Drizzle or moderate rain is expected in eastern regions of Southwest China and most of South China. Northeast and North China will see northerly winds with a force of 4 to 6. The East China Sea and South China Sea will see northerly winds with a force of 6 to 8.

Forecasts for major Chinese cities			Foreign cities		
City	Max	Min	City	Max	Min
Beijing	06	-4	Bangkok	33	26
Changchun	-8	-12			
Changsha	10	07			
Chengdu	12	08	Cairo	27	14
Chongqing	15	12			
Dalian	03	-2			
Fuzhou	17	14	Frankfurt	12	05
Guangzhou	22	17			
Guilin	14	11			
Haikou	26	22	Karachi	33	21
Hangzhou	13	10			
Harbin	-9	-19			
Hong Kong	22	20	London	10	04
Jinan	06	-3			
Kunming	19	10			
Lhasa	11	-3	Moscow	07	-1
Lanzhou	06	-3			
Nanchang	13	10			
Nanjing	13	06			
Qingdao	06	-2	New York	09	03
Shanghai	15	10			
Shenyang	-2	-6			
Shenzhen	22	17	Paris	09	04
Taipei	23	19			
Tianjin	06	-3			
Urumqi	04	-3	Sydney	26	14
Wuhan	11	07			
Xian	05	00			
Xiamen	21	15	Tokyo	13	06
Zhengzhou	07	-3			

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