



South African President Nelson Mandela with Taiwanese Foreign Minister John Chang explains to the media why his country is shifting diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to Beijing during a presser at the Union Buildings in Pretoria Wednesday. Mandela reassured Taiwan that the two countries will however enjoy a high level of cooperation.

— AFP/UNB photo

## BRIEFLY

### Mother Teresa's condition improves:

Mother Teresa gained strength yesterday after life-saving heart surgery and was cheerful, a hospital official said. Reuter reports from Calcutta.

"Mother Teresa is better. She had a good sleep and is cheerful," said SK Tiwari of Calcutta's BM Birla Heart Research Centre, where the Roman Catholic nun was being treated. Tiwari told Reuters that Mother Teresa took morning tea, then sat in a chair and said her prayers. She was strong enough on Wednesday to walk a few steps with the support of staff, her first steps since surgery.

### 5 miners still missing in China:

At least five miners are missing after a Nov 27 coal mine explosion that killed at least 91 people, the officials newspaper People's Daily reported Thursday. AP reports from Beijing.

The gas explosion at the Dongcun mine near Datong, one of China's main coal producing centres in north-central Shanxi province, led local officials to stop production at all mines in the area to carry out safety inspections, the report said. The search continues for the five people known to have been working in tunnels affected by the blast, it said. The cause of the explosion is under investigation, it added.

### Blast kills 6 in Vietnam:

Five children and a man were killed in southern Vietnam when a war-era bomb exploded and ripped through the man's house, a local official said yesterday. Reuter reports from Hanoi.

The official in Binh Thuan province, speaking by telephone, said 36-year-old Nguyen Van Dinh triggered the blast by trying to saw through the causing of the US made bomb to remove its explosives. Neighbours had advised Dinh not to tamper with the bomb and then fled when he continued. But five curious children, four of whom were from the same family, stayed behind and were caught in the blast.

### Zemin returns home:

Chinese President Jiang Zemin returned home from Kathmandu yesterday, at the end of a ground-breaking South Asian tour. AP reports from Kathmandu.

Before he left, Jiang — the most powerful Chinese leader even to visit this Himalayan nation — thanked his host King Birendra for Nepal's "strong support for China's stand on the issues of Tibet and Taiwan."

### 20 die as bus overturns in China:

Twenty people were killed when their bus overturned and burst into flame in southern China's Guangdong province, it was reported yesterday. AP reports from Hong Kong.

The victims were killed instantly when their bus, with 40 passengers, suddenly overturned at a highway in Huaiji, and burst into flame late Tuesday, the Beijing-juned Ta Kung Pao said. The rest of the passengers were all injured in the accident. The bus was from neighbouring Guizhou province.

### Drugs worth \$ 39m seized in Australia:

Australian customs officials on Thursday announced the nation's largest drug cargo seizure of more than five tonnes of compressed cannabis, worth a dollar 50 million (US 39 million dollars), found in a ship in Sydney last month. Reuter reports from Sydney.

### Road mishap claims 18 in Cameroon:

A runaway truck killed 18 people when its brakes failed Wednesday at Mutengene, in Cameroon's southwest province, state radio reported. AP reports from Yaounde.

The truck loaded with a timber went out of control on a hill outside the village, mowing down 18 people, including children on their way to a local primary school and market traders, before ending up in the wall of a house.

## Suu Kyi attends wedding

YANGON. Myanmar Dec 5: Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi broke three days of house confinement Thursday imposed by the military government by leaving her home to attend a friend's wedding, members of her party reported, reports AP.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner left her lakeside compound, sealed off by roadblocks since Tuesday, and attended the wedding ceremony at a Chinese restaurant for about half an hour, family members of the couple said.

The wedding visit came a day after Suu Kyi told the British Broadcasting Corp that she was "illegally confined" following a protest by 1,000 students critical of the government. It was the biggest demonstration since

the pro-democracy uprising of 1988, which was bloodily suppressed by the army.

Earlier Thursday, the regime erected barriers on the road leading to the Yangon headquarters of the NLD, where Suu Kyi had been expected to meet supporters to mark the anniversary of a student rebellion against British rule in 1920.

The government has increasingly cracked down on Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy in recent months. Roadblocks have gone up and down around her home, preventing the weekend rallies she used to hold before thousands of supporters outside her home, nearly the only contact with large numbers of people she had been allowed.

Besides several warnings

and a discreet buildup of police, Milosevic has shown few signs that he is ready to use force. But the Serbian president is undermining his foes by blocking their message from the rest of this Yugoslav republic.

That is preventing the protest from spreading to factory workers and farmers outside the capital who are crucial to the opposition's success. To secure his position, Milosevic has made some minor concessions. On Wednesday, state TV announced a reduction of electricity prices and the regularization of a hard line Socialist Party leader in the provincial city of Niš. But opposition leaders were already claiming victory.

"We are the future of Serbia, and Milosevic is the past," opposition leader Zoran Djindjic declared. "They lost their nerve and don't know what they are doing. In 10, 20 days, we'll get rid of him forever."

To accomplish that, Serbia's opposition — made up mostly of intellectuals and middle-class urbanites — needs the support of workers in factories and fields. Without them, it has much less of a chance of driving Milosevic from power.

The opposition has never mounted an effective effort to organize the rest of the country. And outside the capital of this Yugoslav republic, most people get their news from Milosevic's Serbian TV, which has either

ignored the protests or attacked them as terrorism. Any other news of the protests comes from foreign media or word-of-mouth.

Never before has the opposition had the strength and unity to oust its authoritarian president. It has never been able to agree on who should be in charge or what policies to pursue.

Today, the opposition coalition Zajedno, or Together, is proving more tenacious, sustaining protests with the help of students who get demonstrations rolling in the morning. The protests started after courts annulled November 17 local elections that the opposition had won.

Community groups also are touted as an alternative to turning over utilities and other public services to private companies, a growing trend that critics say could hurt the poor.

"Privatisation of basic urban services... renders public control and accountability more remote," said Anna Marie A Karaoas, associate director of the Institute on Church and Social Issues in Manila.

"We've heard all about Eurostar's service usually had 200 passengers, mostly business people. Instead it left with a crew of 15, a Eurostar public relations executive and 15 journalists."

"The water system cost about 100 dls per household — just one-tenth of the price of the Karachi government system, according to Khanna.

Community groups also are touted as an alternative to turning over utilities and other public services to private companies, a growing trend that critics say could hurt the poor.

"The first London-Paris train arrived in Ashford, England, two US tourists got on, only to be surrounded by the reporters and a welcoming glass of champagne from Eurostar operators hoping to bounce back from the worst operational failure yet in the chunnel."

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

"Despite its successes, she

is the group's relations with the Ahmedabad government have occasionally been strained.

"They want us to run a literacy programme so they can say they are successful. But if we ask for more space in the market or a bigger share of the city budget, they are most unwilling," she said.

"Such groups are held up as role models by aid officials who want to instill creativity and initiative where official programmes have become bogged down by cost or bureaucracy."

"Grameen and SEWA — groups like this have shown us the way," said Anupama Khanna, chief of the East Asian infrastructure division of the World Bank.

"For her efforts, Bhatt in 1977 received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of