REFE

Cholera claims 33 in Zaire, Rwanda:
Thirty three people have died from cholera in the area around Goma, eastern Zaire, and in a Rwandan transit centre in the past three weeks, the World Health Organisation said Friday.

AFP reports from Geneva Twenty three of the fatalities occurred around Goma which has had 1.133 cholera cases since November 16, the WHO said in

a statement A further 10 cholera deaths and 106 cases were reported in a transit centre at Rwanda. 20 kilometres (13 miles) from the capital Kigali

Chinese dissident jailed for 5 yrs: Chinese dissident Zhang Zongai has been jailed for five years for propaganda and counter revolutionary activities, a human rights group said in a statement received in Beijing yesterday. AFP reports from Beijing

Zhang, 56, was informed of the sentence early this week and filed an appeal Friday, the Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic November in China said. The trial was held in the central city of Xian. Quoting Zhang's lawyer. Zhang Jiankang, the group said one of the charges related to publication of an article in a Hong Kong newspaper in November 1994

5 of a family killed in Mexico: A couple who had written a book on Mexico's murderous drug trade has been found murdered along with their three children.

police said. AFP reports from Mexico City. Yolanda Figueroa and Fernando Balderas, who had written a book on drug kingpin Juan Garcia Abrego, were found beaten and stabbed to death on Thursday in the home in an exclusive section of Mexico City, police said. They and their daughter Patricia 18, and sons Fernando, 14, and Paul, 8, were also found murdered, according to police, who said the family was attacked on Monday.

Polling begins in Ghana: Polling million voters to decide their next president and parliament. AFP reports from Accra

Voters face a choice between continuing the donor-led development policies of President Jerry Rawlings, standing for reelection, and his party, the National Democratic Congress (NDC), or opting for the promises of better social conditions made by two presidential challengers and four opposition par-

Teresa meets visitors: Mother Teresa. recovering from heart surgery, was cheerful yesterday and met members of her Roman Catholic religious order, a clinic administrator said. Reuter reports from Calcutta.

"Mother Teresa is better. She is very cheerful. She had a good sleep." SK Tiwari, an administrator at Calcutta's BM Birla Heart Research Centre, told reporters. He said the 86-year-old nun, known as the "saint of the gutters" for her work with the poor, the sick and dying, also met members of her missionaries of charity order.

Landslide buries 23 alive in China: Twenty-three people were killed when a landslide buried them alive in China's southwestern Guizhou province, it was reported yesterday, AFP says from Hong Kong.

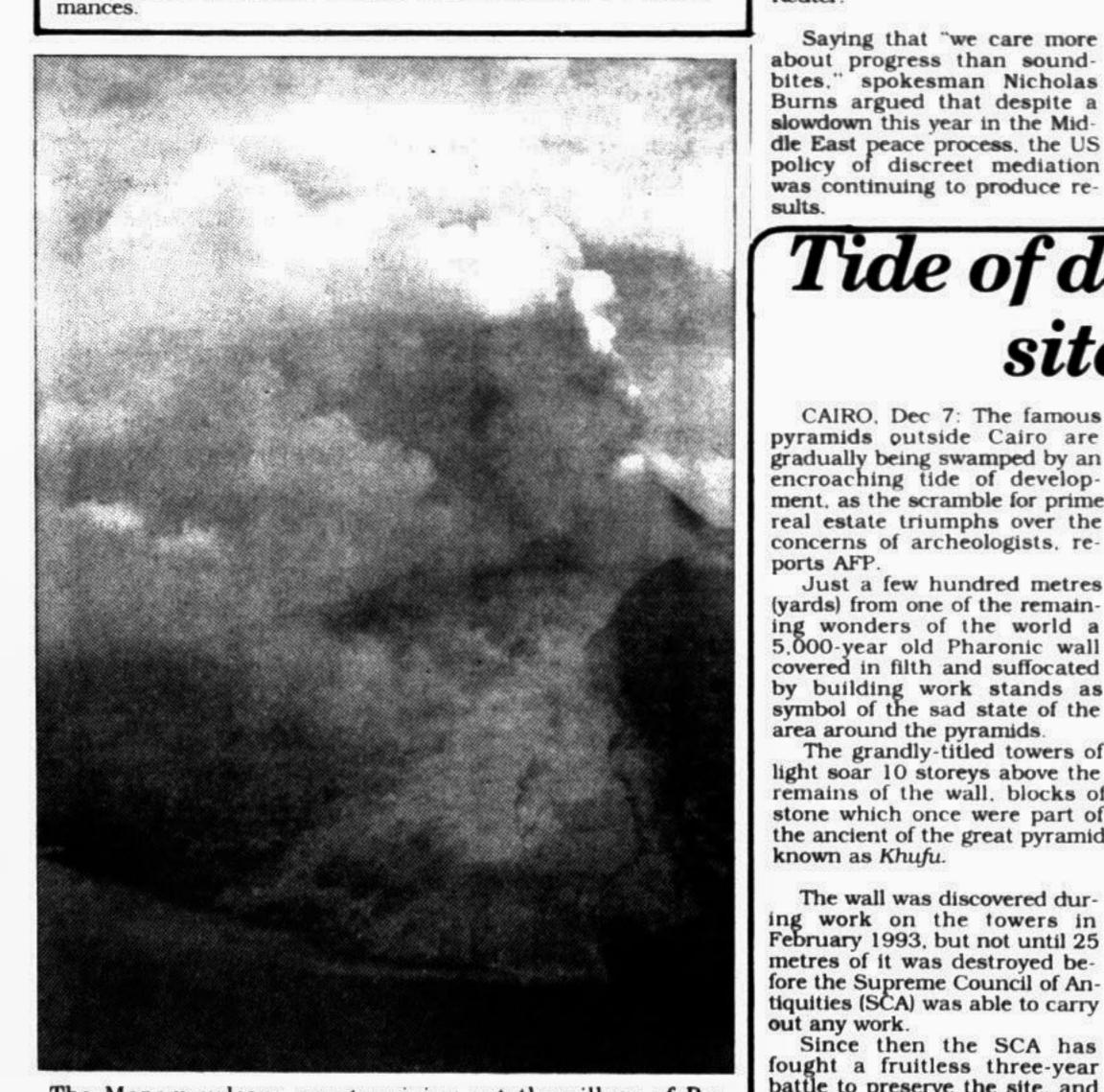
Another 15 were rescued from the landslide at a market in Guiuyang City on December 2, when more 20,000 cubic meters (700,000 cubic feet) of boulders, rocks and soil slipped from a hill, the China-backed Ta Kung Pao daily said.

Mild quake hits Japan: A moderate earthquake measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale shook the Izuo group of islands south of Tokyo yesterday but no injuries or damage have been reported, the Meteorological agency said, AFP reports from Tokyo.

The epicentre of the quake, which occurred at 8:06 am (2306 GMT Friday), was located near Hachijo Island in the Pacific, about 300 kilometers (185 miles) south of the capital, the agency said.

Noted Canadian singer dies: wilf Carter: a Canadian country music legend whose career spanned six decades has died at his home in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was

91. AP reports from Toronto. Carter died Thursday night. He was diagnosed with a stomach tumor two months ago. Carter, the son of a Baptist minister, was born in Port Hilford. Nova Scotia, on Dec 18, 1904. As a child, he was inspired by a touring Swiss yodeler and developed a distinctive yodel that became a trademark of his perfor-



The Manam volcano erupts wiping out the village of Budawa on the south side of Manam Island off the north coast of Papua New Guinea Wednesday. At least six people have been killed and dozens injured by lava and rocks as the government continues to evacuate the remote island's 7,000 residents. — AFP/UNB photo

Over 7 lakh refugees returned to Rwanda so far

____International =

Canada has no plan to close down multinational force mission

OTTAWA, Dec 7: Canada has no plans to close down the multinational force humanitarian mission in Central Africa, Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy said here Friday, re-

ports AFP. Talking to journalists. Axworthy said future operations of the multinational force would depend on the needs on the ground requests from humanitarian agencies helping the refugees.

Asked if he were planning to ask for the dissolution of the multinational force. Axworthy replied: "No. these are decisions that will be taken by the partners in this agreement. We will want to ensure the mandate of the mission, which was to supply humanitarian assistance, is fulfilled," even if over the last several weeks, the need has changed dramatically.

"What we want to ensure now is that whatever needs are

Sunday.

Reuter.

US won't

change its

ME policy

US state department said Fri-

day it saw no need to change its

Middle East policy and rejected

calls by former Secretary of

State James Baker that it

should take a tougher line on

Jewish settlements, reports

Saying that "we care more

about progress than sound-

bites," spokesman Nicholas

Burns argued that despite a

slowdown this year in the Mid-

dle East peace process, the US

policy of discreet mediation

was continuing to produce re-

CAIRO, Dec 7: The famous

pyramids outside Cairo are

gradually being swamped by an

encroaching tide of develop-

ment, as the scramble for prime

real estate triumphs over the

(vards) from one of the remain-

ing wonders of the world a

5,000-year old Pharonic wall

covered in filth and suffocated

by building work stands as

symbol of the sad state of the

light soar 10 storeys above the

remains of the wall, blocks of

stone which once were part of

the ancient of the great pyramid

The wall was discovered dur-

February 1993, but not until 25

metres of it was destroyed be-

fore the Supreme Council of An-

tiquities (SCA) was able to carry

fought a fruitless three-year

battle to preserve the site, and

what remains of the wall now

lies at the bottom of a ditch

strewn garbage and dwarfed by

the towers offering unrivalled

views over the historic pyra-

"The land is worth at least 15

Since then the SCA has

The grandly-titled towers of

area around the pyramids.

known as Khufu.

out any work.

Just a few hundred metres

concerns of archeologists, re-

ports AFP.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7: The

left, if we can help support the work of NGOs (non-government

agencies), we'll do it. The demand is still there. the commitments of the other countries are still there, what we are particularly trying to do is get a further assessment of the condition on the ground in the eastern part of Zaire."

Axworthy said that decisions on operations would depend on the multinational force's steering board in New York and on the military command in Kampala.

Reuter adds: More than 700,000 refugees have now returned to Rwanda from Zaire. Canadian Defence Minister Dough Young said on Friday. There has been a great deal

of success because something like 700,000 refugees have been repatriated from Zaire to Rwanda, something never seen

US Nobel Prize winners in physics (L-R) David M Lee, Douglas D Osheoff, and Robert C

Richardson after arriving at Stockholm airport Friday ahead of the awarding ceremony on

BELGRADE, Dec 7: The Op-

position in Belgrade has formed

a shadow government, Opposi?

tion leader Vuk Draskovic an-

He said it had formed 'a

democratic government and a

state council ready to replace

Serbian President Slobodan

Milosevic and to call new elec-

Speaking to more than

100.000 demonstrators. Dras-

government would take effect if

Milosevic continues to refuse to

recognise opposition victories

in 15 of Serbia's 18 main cities

Tide of development swamps

sites of pyramids

million pounds (about five mil-

lion dollars) and the built-up

are 32 million pounds," said

Mamdoh Ahmad, who runs the

project for a joint Egyptian-

sary government permits to

build and the construction

should be ready within one

year," said Ahmad, adding that

some 400 families will live

a minimum of 1,000 pounds per

square meter, maybe a bit more

for those overlooking the wall,"

tion of the wall is buried under

the parking lots of the towers

and extends several metres un-

der another plot of land where a

school will be built as part of

Zahi Hawass, Director of

Antiquities for the Giza and

nearby sagarah pyramids sites.

deplored what he sees as the

greed of real estate brokers in

should have been stopped," he

said, stressing the historic im-

portance of the wall-part of the

ancient port on a canal built by

cel of the architectural complex

of the Khufu pyramid," Hawass

"The wall was part and par-

the architects of the pyramids.

"The construction site

the tower complex.

the region.

he said.

The apartments will sell for

According to Ahmad, a sec-

"We obtained all the neces-

Kuwaiti construction firm.

kovic said the alternative

nounced, reports AFP.

US demands Milosevic to open talks

Opposition forms shadow

govt in Yugoslavia

in November 17 pells.

The opposition was demand-ing that the electoral will of

citizens be respected and that

all be done in a regular manner

in accordance with the law," he

behave "like a genuine head of

States demanded that the Ser-

bian government open talks

with the opposition, as Presi-

dent Slobodan Milosevic faced

a deepening crisis over election

Hawass pleaded for a new

But currently such a law is

Tens of thousands of people

law which would place under

the SCA's effective control the

region bordering then Giza

wishful thinking, as dozens of

new buildings including hotels

live in the villages of Nazlat al

Samman and Nazlat al-Sissi on

the outskirts of the plateau

where construction is strictly

years promised to raze these

two villages and relocate their

inhabitants in a bid to protect

the pyramids, but in fact they

They live off tourism by selling

visitors trinkets, offering horse

and camel rides and also by

trafficking in antiquities," said

a local antiquities inspector.

who asked to remain anony

house. It's a real mafia," the

celerated since the 1970s, eating

into the land surrounding the

Giza pyramids which are

around 12 kilometers (seven

miles) southwest of Cairo city

"Antiquities lie under each

Urban development has ac-

The residents are wealthy.

have been allowed to proper.

The government has for

are mushrooming in the area.

plateau.

banned.

man said.

centre.

He thus urged Milosevic to

Reuter adds: The United

in history," he told parliament. Previous reports had spoken

of 600,000 having gone back out of the original figure of more than one million who aid agencies said had fled to Eastern Zaire in 1994 after a massacre of about a million people in Rwanda.

Nonetheless both he and foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy sought to give assurances that, though the need for airdrops and major military intervention would probably not be needed in Eastern Zaire. the international mission still

"Nobody indicated vester day that we were ending our mission in Zaire. Young said. "Canada is not acting unilaterally. It will not leave this area unilaterally.

Canada is leading the multinational force designed to help refugees return to Rwanda and to allow aid agencies help refugees and displaced people in

- AFP/UNB photo

Axworthy said the coalition partners wanted to be able to respond when needed, he said. For example, that UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy told him on Friday there were lots of needy children among the displaced

He said she advocated that rather than focusing on the numbers of refugees, "we should be focusing on what's within those numbers, and she said there's a lot of children that she believes still are in need of

Whether the need of military help, he said, was being examined by the force commander. Canadian Lt Gen Maurice Baril, and the humanitarian

agencies. "They (the soldiers) will come home when the job is done, you want to make sure that it is done well." Axworthy

Lankan minister, chopper crash

COLOMBO, Dec 7: A military helicopter carrying Sri Lanka deputy defence minister and army chief crash-landed in the country's north today, but both men are safe, a military official said, reports Reuter.

The helicopter, with Minis-

"It had crash-landed after experiencing mechanical trou ble," the official told Reuters.

A senior air force official said the men had been brought to Vavuniya and were safe.

Ratwatte and Daluwatte are widely credited with the military's recent victories over sep-

The Sri Lankan government has been embroiled in an ethnic war since 1983 against Tamil Tiger rebels demanding a separate homeland in the north and east of the predomi-

Four Africans in race for UN

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 7 Four prominent Africans entered the race for the top UN job and others were expected to join the contest next week after Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali temporarily stepped aside in the face of an unrelenting US veto, reports

It was the first time candidates other than Boutros-Ghali had been formally submitted to the council, which must select a secretary-general and forward the name to the 185-member General Assembly for ratification before the 74-year-old

African ambassadors jointly submitted the names of UN Undersecretary-General Kofi Annan of Ghana; former Niger Prime Minister Hamid Algabid: Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Amara Essy; and former special UN envoy Ahmedou Ould Abdallah of Mauritania to the council Friday.

Western and African diplomats said names of Senegal Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse; Salim A Salim of Tanzania, secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity; and Olara Otunnu, a former Ugandan ambassador, were expected to be submitted by Mon-

Mine blast kills

soldiers were killed and another five wounded in a mine attack in northern Sri Lanka. officials here said today, reports AFP.

near a military check-point on the Jaffna Peninsula when one trapped device that activated the mines Friday, a military spokesman here said.

Zaireans.

assistance.

told reporters.

army chief survive

ter Anuruddha Ratwatte and army commander Lieutenant General Rohan Daluwatte, came down in rebel held territory north of the town of Vavuniya, about 220 km (135 miles) from the capital Colombo.

"They are all fine," he said.

aratist Tamil Tiger guerillas in the north of this Indian Ocean island nation

nantly Sinhalese nation.

secy gen post

The 15-member Security Council will convene again Monday afternoon, and diplomats said Friday they would begin a series of unofficial votes to eliminate the weaker candi-

Egyptian's term ends Dec. 31.

6 troops in Lanka COLOMBO, Dec 7: At least six

The troops were bathing of them stepped on a booby-

conveyed from China YANGON: A sacred relic popularly believed to be Buddha's tooth arrived here Friday from China and was escorted to a

Buddha's tooth relic

pagoda in carriage pulled by an elephant, reports AP. Monks, nuns, devotees and ordinary citizens gathered at the airport for the arrival of the tooth, which was transported on a special flight from China.

Off the Record

Hosting the arrival, which was broadcast live on state television, was the chairman of Myanmar ruling junta. Gen.

This is the second time since the military regime took power in 1988 that the tooth relic has been lent by China. It was also brought here in 1955, when the country was under civilian rule. The only other Buddha's tooth relic is in Sri Lanka. China has never allowed its relic to be sent anywhere outside China except for Myanmar

The gesture is believed to be a particularly effective form of diplomacy, a good will gesture by a close ally that cannot be matched. Myanmar has been ostracised by Western nations because of human rights abuses. China is a major arms supplier to the country's junta and a major trading partner.
As prayers were chanted Friday, the sacred tooth relic was

carried from the aircraft in a jeweled box and placed onto a decorated palanquin escorted by people dressed in royal garb or as celestial beings

In a ceremonial procession, the relic was brought from the airport to Yangon's World Peace Pagoda on a decorated carriage drawn by one elephant and trailed by four others.

Overwhelmed father of sextuplets

HUELVA. Spain: A day after his wife gave birth to sextuplets. an overwhelmed father thanked Spaniards for a roomful of telegrams and flowers Friday, reports AP.

"I'm still a bit dazed — I can't quite come to grips with what has happened to us." a grinning Miguel Angel Raposo, a bricklayer in the southern Spanish town of Bollullos Par del Condado, told the private Europe Press news agency outside the

He said his wife, 31-year-old Rosario Clavijo, was recovering well while the four boys and two girls remain or respirators in hospital incubators Clavijo learned more than a month ago she was carrying eight fetuses after taking fertility drugs. One fetus died three

weeks ago, during the 27th week of her pregnancy, and a second died on Thursday A medical staff of more than 30 delivered the six babies by Caesarean section after inducing early labour

Less than a dozen cases of living sextuplets are known to exist. Over the past decade there have been two cases of sextuplets and one of sextuplets in Spain, but some of the babies were lost in each case.

Mayor's dream for colourful city

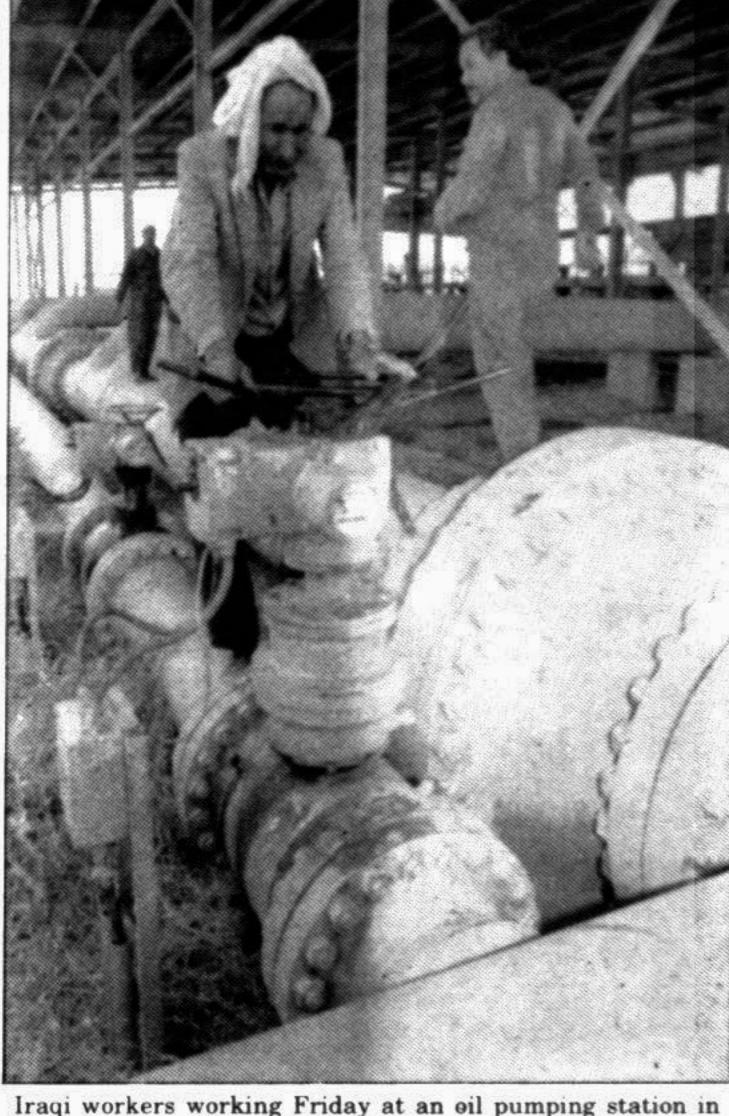
MOSCOW: Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov has decided to paint the town red, or yellow, or pink, or any other bright and attractive colour, a newspaper reported Friday, reports AP.

Operation Bright Facade and Operation Historical Colour will do away with the drabness the capital suffered under Soviet rule, when officials strove to make people's lives and city streets uniformly gray, wrote the daily Moskovsky Komsomolets.

Several large dark buildings erected in the 1930s and "50s in central Moscow will be among the first to assume a new look. according to a recent city government resolution adopted at Luzhkov's urging.

Luzhkov is famous for his campaigns to make Moscow a more attractive and comfortable city.

His pet projects include restoring a highway that circles the city, installing new statues and fountains in Moscow's squares. lighting its buildings, churches and bridges to bring out their beauty at night and rebuilding a mammoth cathedral destroyed by the Bolsheviks.



Iraqi workers working Friday at an oil pumping station in Kirkuk, from where the Gulf state exports oil to Turkey. Iraq's Oil Minister Amer Mohammed Rashid announced the resumption of oil exports at midnight December 10 New York time (0500 GMT) under the oil-for-food deal with the United Nations. Under the deal, Iraq is to be allowed to export two billion dollars worth of oil every six months to purchase food and medicine for the civilian population. - AFP/UNB photo

Myanmar police swoop on students to quell demonstration

YANGON, Dec 7: Police sealed off and dispersed a demonstration by several hundred students on Saturday as the military government confronted the biggest wave of street protest since using troops to bloodily crush a 1988 prodemocracy uprising, reports

The students were dispersed in an area near Yangon University sealed off to the public for several hours by hundreds of police equipped with shields and truncheons. Few witnesses were in the area, but it was feared violence was used.

The demonstrators had rejected entreaties by their professors to leave peacefully. One student held aloft a picture of

independence hero Aung San, father of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The demonstration was the

third spearheaded by engineering students from the Yangon Institute of Technology since October and the second this week.

The protests, stemming from the police beating three students in a dispute with a food-stall owner, mark the boldest dissent seen against the military. which has ruled Myanmar since 1962, in years.

The latest crowd swelled to over 2,000 people, including onlookers, but the protests have not ignited the streets of Yangon hundreds of demonstrators

eight years ago. The dispersal occurred about two hours before dawn. Roadblocks still remained well after daybreak on the roads leading to the key intersection where

the students had sat. The protest began Friday afternoon and at times numbered 600 students sitting in the intersection, plus perhaps 1,500 onlookers. Hundreds drifted away as the night wore on and fears of a clash rose, leaving perhaps 400 students at the end. In a sign heralding trouble,

some students were seen gathering sticks and rocks. And in an indication the protests might be spreading, at

student demonstrators, one numbering a few hundred people, were seen several kilometres from the main group. Witnesses kept hundred of

metres (yards) from the scene by roadblocks said police dispersed them, but it was unclear if violence was used. The police had moved quickly Friday to stop the

demonstration before it started. sealing off roads with fire trucks outside the Yangon Institute of Technology as 100 students tried to leave, apparently for the university, two kilometers (1.2 miles) away, where all the protests have been staged. The students agreed to return

Some even commandeered commuter buses, one student said, to reach the university. Government officials have

later slipped out in small group.

said demonstrators arrested Tuesday were treated "leniently and gently." Authorities said that 609 people, including 487 students, were detained Tuesday and released after identity checks.

The students' main demands have been the creation of an independent student council and disclosure of police brutality. but political demands for freedom and human rights have seeped in, mirroring the campaign led by Suu Kyi.

support and said the students share her opposition to injustice. But she has denied the regime's claims their actions are orchestrated by her National League for Democracy.

It has increasingly cracked down on Suu Kyi in recent months. Suu Kyi was launched to in-

ternational prominence by the 1988 uprising. The State Law and Order Restoration Council that seized power placed her under years of house arrest without trial before releasing her in 1995.

Suu Kyi's supporters won elections in 1990, but the gov-

Programme to combat child trafficking soon: ILO BANGKOK, Dec 7: A proment pushed children into the

gramme to combat trafficking of children in Asia and their exploitation in prostitution and sweat shops will be launched in January, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) announced here Friday. reports AFP.

Political sensitivities concerning efforts to link trade and labour rights were irrelevant in these cases, said Michel Barton, ILO Public Information Direc-

"Certain types of exploitation in child labour are absolutely unacceptable. Traffickcover two subregions where large numbers of children are exploited — Nepal. Bangladesh. Pakistan, and Sri Lanka in South Asia, and the countries of the Mekong river basin: Myanmar, Cambodia, China, Laos Thailand and Vietnam.

workplace, which might be a

better option in some cases

than starvation or abandon-

ment, but extreme forms of ex-

plaitation could not be justified

under any circumstances, he

The new programme would

Thailand appears to be the center of the problem' in southeast Asia

ing in children for prostitution in the kind of mass protest seen inside at the request of the Suu Kyl, winner of the 1991 ernment never allowed the is criminal activity," he said. before troops gunned down least two separate clusters of deputy education minister, but Nobel Peace Prize, has voiced elected parliament to convene. Poverty and underdevelop-