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Friday, 10 December 2004

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay homage to Sayadaws at home and abroad World Buddhist Summit commences on grand scale

YANGON, 9 Dec —

A ceremony to commence the World Buddhist Summit in which Buddhist eminent Sayadaws from various countries, Chief Sayadaws of Buddhist Ganas and senior world Buddhism researchers and scholars will participate was held on a grand scale in Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township in Yangon this morning, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe.

The objectives of the World Buddhist Summit being organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Union of Myanmar are: to promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries to maintain Buddha's teachings and practice among the Buddhist countries to promote Buddhist education based on the studies of Buddhist scriptures in nations of the world to create the peaceful world by the Buddhists for all humanbeing to propagate the original teaching of the Buddha in the world.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of the Union of Myanmar,

Chiefs of Ganas, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, chairmen Sayadaws of State and Division Sangha Nayaka Committees, presiding Nayaka Sayadaws of Pariyatti monasteries, Tipitakadhara Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, Theravada Buddhist missionary Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Sayadaws, Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, the Rector and the Pro-rector Sayadaws of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, rectors of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities (Yangon and Mandalay), the Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Sayadaws from Yangon Division Abbots Training School, instructor Sayadaws of the cultural course, dictionary compiler Sayadaws, members of the Sangha from State Pariyatti Sasana Universities (Yangon and Mandalay), ITBMU and Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Maha Santi Sukha Missionary Monastery, Mahayana monks in Myanmar, presiding nuns of nunneries, Most Venerable Sayadaws from Lao People's

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Senior General Than Shwe offers a Buddha image to a Sayadaw at World Buddhist Summit.— MNA

We should rid the world of the roots of all evils and sow the seeds of goodwill, tolerance, kindness and altruism for the sake of peace and prosperity
Senior General Than Shwe sends
Congratulatory Message to Summit

YANGON, 9 Dec — *The following is the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe to the World Buddhist Summit, here, today.*

I am deeply honored to extend a congratulatory message on this auspicious occasion of the World Buddhist Summit.

The Government, the Sangha and the people are extremely happy and proud of the fact that this auspicious Summit is to be held in the Golden Land of Dhamma where Theravada Buddhism is preserved in its pristine purity.

All those who gather in this Maha Pasana Great Cave firmly believe that the timeless Teach-

ing of Lord Buddha is very relevant and essential to save the humanity made up of craving, desire and suffering.

Today, the world is witnessing numerous conflicts and crimes. All those evils result from greed (*lobha*), anger (*dosa*) and delusion (*moha*). We should rid the world of the roots of all evils and sow the seeds of goodwill, tolerance, kindness and altruism for the sake of peace and prosperity.

(See page 4)



The opening ceremony of World Buddhist Summit in progress at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 10 December, 2004

Make the most of favourable environment for agricultural development

The State Peace and Development Council has been simultaneously implementing the development plan for border areas, the 24-region development plan and the five rural development tasks to ensure harmonious development of states and divisions throughout the nation.

In doing so, the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw have been working in concert. Therefore, fruits of their united endeavours are now tangible.

Besides national development tasks, the project for greening dry and arid regions including Magway District is also being implemented in accordance with the guidance by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. As a result, the regions in the up-country has now begun to be lush and green.

As Magway Division is a dry and arid region, farmers in the region had to rely on rain for agriculture. Now, a total of 29 dams has been built in the region, 13 out of them being in Magway District alone.

Now, Magway Division has 178,938 acres of irrigated farmland and double and mixed cropping can be carried out.

In addition to the dams, 44 river water pumping stations have been constructed in Magway Division and they can irrigate more than 72,800 acres of farmland.

There is a total of 271 river water pumping stations all over the nation and another 34 stations are under construction. Moreover, 168 dams have been built and another 36 are under way.

The farmers, on their part, are required to grow 10 major crops suitable to the soil and climatic conditions of their respective regions, making effective use of water resources. If they have good harvest of crops, it is in the interests of the nation as well as in their own.

We would like to call on the entire national people to work unitedly in their respective sectors and strive for the development of agriculture industry, making the most of favourable environment created by the Government.

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နှင့်

(၂၆-၁၂-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Cash donations ceremony of MWJA held

YANGON, 9 Dec — A cash donations ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati to mark 1366 ME Sarsodaw Day organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street this afternoon, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, heads of department under the ministry, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), vice-chairmen, CEC members, literati and wellwishers.



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents K 20,000 to MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung).—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan made an opening speech and wellwishers donated the cash. The minister, the deputy minister and the chairman of MWJA

accepted donations and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers. On behalf of wellwishers, Vocalist Maung Maung Aye

(Alinka Wutyi) explained the purpose of the donation and expressed gratitude. Today's cash donations amounted to K 3.32 million.—MNA

BEPS gets new school building in South Okkalapa

YANGON, 9 Dec — A new building for South Okkalapa Township No 9 Basic Education Primary School was handed over today.

It was attended by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, departmental officials, officials of social organizations and



Minister for Education U Than Aung inspects classrooms of No 9 BEPS in South Okkalapa Township.—EDUCATION

wellwishers.

Director-General of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Col Aung Win, Chairman of the school board of trustees U Kyaw Thauang and

Headmistress Daw Khin Kyu formally opened the new school building.

Afterwards, a ceremony to hand over the building followed and Col Aung Win handed over the documents re-

lated to the building to Director-General of the No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu. Next, wellwishers provided cash for the school through the ministers.

MNA

First meeting for National Immunization Days held

YANGON, 9 Dec — The first meeting of the Second Year Regionwise National Immunization Days Central Leading Committee was held at the Medical Research Department on Ziwaka Road

this morning, attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, departmental officials, social organizations and guests.

The minister made an opening speech. Acting Director-General of the Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung reported on functional tasks for region-wise National Immunization Days and

Manager Dr Than Htein Win of Extended Vaccination Project on the assistance to be provided by the central committee for successful carrying out of NIDs.

Afterwards, those present took part in the discussions, followed by closing remarks by the minister.

The first time of regionwise National Immunization Days for second year falls on 9 January 2005 and the second on 20 February.

The vaccine will be given to the children under five in twenty townships of Rakhine State, Chin State, Kachin State and Sagaing Division.

MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint speaking at first meeting of the Second Year Regionwise National Immunization Days Central Leading Committee. —HEALTH



A man uses a Telekom Malaysian payphone in Kuala Lumpur on 6 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်စာ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း

Morocco seeks foreign investments from India

NEW DELHI, 8 Dec — Morocco sought Tuesday foreign investments from India and collaboration in diversified fields.

This was conveyed by visiting Moroccan Prime Minister Driss Jettou during a 30-minute meeting with President APJ Abdul Kalam here, the *Press Trust of India* reported.

The two sides discussed a host of bilateral matters with focus on how

bilateral trade could be bolstered, besides regional and international issues of mutual concern.

Kalam said information communication technology was one of the important sectors where India could be a useful partner for Morocco.

Jettou, who is on a four-day visit to India, will hold intensive talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Bilateral trade in 2003 between India and Morocco touched 423 million US dollars. Indian exports touched 213 million US dollars while imports accounted for 210 million US dollars. Morocco's geo-strategic position, its strategic stability, economic openness and potential are viewed by New Delhi as favourable indicators for enhancing cooperation.—MNA/Xinhua

Macao's first cable-stayed bridge named "Sai Van"

MACAO, 8 Dec — Macao's first cable-stayed bridge was Monday named "Sai Van" meaning West Lake, which was selected from over 1,000 entries in a contest.

Construction of the 2,200-metre bridge has been the largest public project since Macao returned to the Motherland at the end of 1999. The project was scheduled for completion before the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) on December 20.

Since the unveiling of the bridge will be an important part of the anniversary celebration, Macao people have paid a special concern to the naming of the bridge. A five-member judging committee was set up in August to receive proposals for the name of the bridge. The selection result has been submitted to the SAR government to make the final choice.

Designed with double deck carriageways, the cable-stayed bridge adopted the world's first design of

pylon type. It starts from the Sai Van Lake on the Macao Peninsula linking it to Taipa Island.

An important feature of the bridge is that cable of the bridge stays at 10-metre intervals and arrays in a M-shaped arch that signals the capital letter of "Macao".

Construction of the bridge started in 2002. The double-deck design allows six lanes in the upper layer and four lanes in the lower, which is shut down in common days and opens only when a typhoon hits the city.

As the third bridge linking the Macao Peninsula and Taipa Island, the bridge has also left room for the installation of a light rail. The bridge is important in infrastructure to accommodate an economic take-off of the Macao SAR. —MNA/Xinhua

Chinese State Councillor meets German guests

BEIJING, 8 Dec — Chinese State Councillor Zhou Yongkang met here Monday with German Minister of the Interior Otto Schily and his company.

Zhou, also Minister of Public Security, said the Sino-German relations have developed smoothly in many fields. The Chinese public security forces and German interior police had been strengthening cooperation in the fight against terrorism and crackdown on transnational crimes, which benefitted not only the two countries but also the world, he said, urging more pragmatic and effective cooperation in these fields.

Schily said anti-terrorism was a responsibility of all the countries in the world and the Ministry of the Interior would like to take more powerful efforts with China in the fields like anti-terrorism and crackdown on illegal immigration.—MNA/Xinhua

India, South Africa to ink trade pact soon

DELHI, 8 Dec — India will soon sign a preferential trade agreement with the South African Customs Union to expand trade and investment flows between the two countries, the *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted Commerce Minister Kamal Nath as saying Tuesday.

At a meeting here between Kamal Nath and his South African counterpart Mandisi Mphahlele, the two sides also agreed to step up cooperation for the ongoing talks at the World Trade Organization, especially on agriculture and market access.

The Indian side also hoped the process of the dialogue forum among India, Brazil and South Africa would facilitate greater ties among the three countries.

Kamal Nath took up with the South African minister the issue of the time taken to register Indian pharmaceutical products in South Africa.

MNA/Xinhua

Situation in Iraq unlikely to improve

NEW YORK, 8 Dec — The situation in Iraq is unlikely to improve anytime soon, according to a classified cable and briefings from the Central Intelligence Agency, the *New York Times* reported on Tuesday.

The assessments are more pessimistic than the Bush Administration's portrayal of the situation to the public, government officials told the newspaper. The classified cable—sent last month by the CIA's station chief in Baghdad after the completion of a one-year tour of duty there—painted a bleak picture of Iraq's politics, econo-

mics and security and reiterated briefings by Michael Kostiw, a senior CIA official, according to the *Times*. The station chief cannot be identified because he is still working undercover, the *Times* added.

The cable, described as "unusually candid," cautioned that security in the country is likely to deter-

iorate unless the Iraqi Government makes significant progress in asserting its authority and building up the economy, the paper said.

Spokesmen for the White House and the CIA told the *Times* that they could not discuss intelligence matters and classified documents.

MNA/Reuters



A picture released by the US Marines shows Marines jumping from rooftop to rooftop during their advance on an guerillas stronghold in Fallujah, 50 kms west of Baghdad. — INTERNET

Iraq calls for tight controls on compensation to neighbours

GENEVA, 8 Dec — Iraq on Tuesday called for tight controls on billions of dollars due to be awarded its neighbours for environmental damage from its 1990 invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

One per cent of funds should be used to monitor compensation payments and ensure they are spent appropriately on environment projects, according to Iraq's speech to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC), obtained by *Reuters*.

The UNCC's Governing Council, a subsidiary of the Security Council, began three-day, closed-door talks on 23 billion US dollars of environmental claims lodged by six countries, diplomats said.

But the Governing Council is expected to award only a small portion of the 23 billion US dollars claimed by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Jordan, Turkey and Syria, they added.

Iraq's neighbours are seeking a total of 87 billion US dollars to clean up oil lakes, restore coastlines and fish stocks, and address public health issues dating to the occupation and 1991 Gulf War. "Iraq is suggesting a mechanism to control the money," Iraqi diplomat Mukdad Hadi-Salman, who addressed the UNCC's Governing Council, told *Reuters*. "It would be a committee between Iraq, the states that get the money and the UNCC to discuss how to fulfil the environmental projects," he said.

No decision was expected this week on the proposal — which for the first time would give Iraq a say in how funds derived from its oil exports would be spent by successful claimants.—MNA/Reuters

Ganas to the Summit and observers.	Czech Republic, Britain, the US and Germany led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmye-bonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaj Agga Maha Saddhamma-jotika Bhaddanta Paññin-	dabhivamsa, Secretary Vice-Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma-jotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Joint Secretary Sayadaw Chairman of the Central Committee for	State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Administration Board Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhavivamsa, Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Agga Maha (See page 5)
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Senior General Than Shwe and wife...



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win offers a Buddha Image to a Sayadaw in Maha Pasana Cave.—MNA

(from page 4)

Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Ashin Silanandabhivamsa (D Litt), Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Ovadaçariya of ITBMU Honorary Professor Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujanahitadhara Dr Ashin Nanissara into the Maha Pasana Cave along Mingala Natlan passage from the entrance of the cave. At that time, the congregation paid homage to them and the State Orchestra played music.

At 8 am, the open-

ing ceremony was held. Staff Officer (In-charge) U Wint Aung of Myanmar Radio and Television and Assistant Director U Ye Htut of International Organizations and Economic Department acted as masters of ceremonies.

Those present at the ceremony said Namō Tassa three times.

Next, members of the Sangha of the Union of Myanmar and those from abroad on the dais recited the Three Verses of Saranaguna gatha. Ma Ei Ei Chun of MRTV sang the song titled "Htoo Ma-chana" classical song to the accompaniment of nine harpists of Fine Arts

Department. Afterwards, 108 bells around the cave were tolled for nine times simultaneously.

Next, Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and Cambodian Sangharaja Sayadaw Most Ven Dr Phra Maha Vichit Singharaj offered candle lights to the Jade Buddha Image on the throne in the cave.

The significant bell on the left side of southern Mingala Passage to the cave was sounded to mark the ceremony of the World Buddhist Summit.

Afterwards, Theravada members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta and the congrega-

tion said Sadhu for three times.

On behalf of all Sayadaws, the Laotian Sangharaja Sayadaw delivered a congratulatory address and then the congregation said Sadhu for three times.

(The Congratulatory Message of the Laotian Sangharaja Sayadaw is reported separately.)

Next, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the World Buddhist Summit Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered a welcoming address.

(The opening address of the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar is reported separately.)

Afterwards, Joint Secretary Sayadaw of

SSMNC Chairman of the Central Committee for State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Administration Board Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa read out the Ovadakatha sent by the Chairman Sayadaw of SSMNC.

(The Ovadakatha of the Chairman Sayadaw is reported separately.)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein read the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe.

(The message of Senior General Than Shwe is reported separately.)

Next, a delegate read out the message of Bangladeshi President

Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed and Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, the message of Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam.

Next, the Thai Prime Minister and the Laotian Prime Minister extended greetings.

Afterwards, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng read out the message sent by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen.

Similarly, Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr DMM Ranaraja read out the message sent by Sri Lankan President Madame Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga; a delegate, the

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Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein donates a Buddha Image to a Sayadaw in Maha Pasana Cave.—MNA

Lord Buddha's teachings have historically inspired religious, social and political leaders in our two countries and other parts of the world.

YANGON, 9 Dec—The following is the message sent by President of the Republic of India Mr APJ Abdul Kalam, to the World Buddhist Summit, today.

I am happy to know that the World Buddhist Summit is being held in the Union of Myanmar during December 9-11, 2004.

Lord Buddha's teachings have historically inspired religious, social and political leaders in our two countries and other parts of the world. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Indian Nation, was deeply influenced by Lord Buddha's precepts and teachings which have eternal truth and universal significance.

The summit could be an occasion to renew humanity's faith in Lord Buddha's central message of "love for all lives", which is a key to restoring peace on the globe.

On this occasion, I extend my greetings and felicitations to all the participants and wish the Conference all success. —MNA



Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia reads the message sent by Indian President Mr APJ Abdul Kalam.—MNA



A delegate reads the message sent by the Bangladeshi President Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed.—MNA

Existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two neighbouring countries will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

YANGON, 9 Dec—The following is the message sent by Professor Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, to the World Buddhist Summit, today:

It gives me immense pleasure in conveying to Your Excellency our heartiest felicitations and greetings on the auspicious occasion of the World Buddhist Summit to be held in Yangon on 9-11 December 2004.

Buddhism has not only professed a religion but also endowed the world with thriving civilization. The philosophy and spirit of Buddhism specially the tolerance and fondness for all living beings is very imperative in this critical juncture of human civilization. The humanitarian essence of Buddhism that has transcended over the span of time is equally having great appeal to the present day world.

I am confident that the Summit will bring the followers of Buddhism specially peace and harmony among different religious to the mankind in general and to the Buddhists in the particular.

I am hopeful that following the Summit, existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two neighbouring countries will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your good health, long life and happiness as well as for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife...

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message of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Mrs Begum Khalida Zia; Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khon, the message of Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai; and Nepali Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyaya, the message of Nepali Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

(Presidents and Prime Ministers' message are reported separately.)

On behalf of the Chairman Sayadaw of SSMNC, Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nanissara delivered a keynote speech.

(The keynote speech of Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nanissara is reported separately.)

At 10.20 am, Senior General Than Shwe together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at the Cave where they were welcomed by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Min-

ister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Secretary of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Summit Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

First, the Senior General paid homage to Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa and Sayadaws of 18 Theravada and Mahayana Buddhist countries and donated one Buddha image each to them.

Next, the Senior General cordially greeted Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Ministers and ministers from abroad. Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye left the Cave at 10.30 am.

Next, the opening ceremony of the World Buddhist Summit followed. Prime Minister Lt-



Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra at Maha Pasana Cave.—MNA

Gen Soe Win offered one Buddha image each to eight delegate Sayadaws from Sweden, the Netherlands, Nepal, Switzerland, the US, Singapore, Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister presented a certificate of honour to Chairman of the Myanmar Economic Association of Japan Mr Nakajima Yasuyoshi who donated 34 mini-buses to be used in the Summit.

Similarly, the Secretary-1 donated one Bud-

dha image each to eight delegate Sayadaws from Germany, Australia, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Later, Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa and members of the Sangha and Sayadaws from abroad posed for documentary photos together with Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Buddhist leaders from foreign countries, the Buddhist leaders, diplomats and

members of the Leading Committee. The opening ceremony ended at 10.40 am.

At 10.45 am, the opening of the Buddhist Heritage Photo Exhibition (Myanmar-India) was held at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin Hall. Secretary of the Leading Committee Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia formally

opened the exhibition.

Next, the minister presented books of Tri Pitakat treatises to the Indian Ambassador. And, the minister and the ambassador delivered speeches. Later, the minister, the ambassador and guests viewed 92 photographs and 17 paintings on heritage of Buddhism displayed by the Union of Myanmar and 82 photographs by the Republic of India.

MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and dignitaries seen at the World Buddhist Summit.—MNA

We also have to help propagate that understanding, compassion, love and assistance are the beautiful and indispensable virtues for mankind and the true noble goals of all religions

YANGON, 9 Dec—The following is the greetings extended by Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand to the World Buddhist Summit, today:

It is a pleasure for me to be present at this august gathering of esteemed members of Maha Sangha, scholars, government representatives and Buddhists



Dr Thaksin Shinawatra

from different parts of the world. The World Buddhist Summit is undoubtedly an event of great significance for Buddhists of this region, who share the strong bonds of religious and cultural ties, and for Buddhists the world over. On behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, I wish to extend to the Government and people of Myanmar our warmest congratulations on the

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The current World Buddhist Summit is of great significance as it enables the Buddhist leaders to gather and exchange views on the preservation of the revered Buddhist faith

YANGON, 9 Dec—The following is the address by HE Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR, at the Opening Ceremony of the World Buddhist Summit, today:

Today, it takes a great pleasure and honour for me to attend the opening ceremony of the World Buddhist Summit which is being held in Yangon, a beautiful city enriched with many ancient and sacred Buddhist sites.

On behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Lao Buddhist worshippers, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and goodwill to the Government and the Myanmar people for their concerted efforts to

HE Mr Bounnhang Vorachith

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We also have to help propagate that...

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successful hosting of this event. As a country where Buddhism has long taken root and flourished, Myanmar is indeed qualified as one of the most suitable venues for the World Buddhist Summit.

In the age of globalization when interdependence in all areas of endeavour and great leaps in science and technology have done much to compress the world, people of different races, cultures and religions have come to live and work together much more closely than at any other times in history. Telecommunications and Internet also enable people to have instant access to news and information from the other side of the globe. Peoples are now travelling the world at a pace and intensity never seen before, as tourists, merchants, investors, job seekers and migrants. The demographical landscape of the world has indeed undergone dramatic changes. The multi-racial, multi-cultural societies have become the global phenomenon.

Along with the emergence of multi-racial, multi-cultural societies, also arise undesirable consequences of the process, namely the biases and prejudices on the basis of colours, beliefs, cultures and others. The rise in biases and prejudices, separating "them from us", as we have witnessed in many parts of the world, breeds hatred, racial and religious conflicts and, worst of all, extremism and terrorism. All these, as we are all aware of, have been prevalent in many parts of the world and have posed as one of the most serious threats of the world today.

And for this reason, there is also a need for all of us, regardless of religious inclinations, to empower those who advocate and practise the middle path (or Mijjima Patipatha in Buddhism), moderation and tolerance. First of all, let me refer to the central tenet of Lord Buddha's teachings that killing, regardless of justifications, is a sin. The right to life is supreme and, for whatever reason, should never be violated. We also have to help propagate that understanding, compassion, love and assistance are the beautiful and indispensable virtues for mankind and the true noble goals of all religions.

Buddhism is the religion of moderation and tolerance. A peace of mind and the salvation from *Atta* (self) are the ultimate goals of all Buddhists, which could be achieved by means of *Sila*, *Samadhi* and *Panya*. We, Buddhists, are taught to abide by *Sila* (the precepts), the first of which is to refrain from killing. We are also taught, among other things, to observe the four divine abidings, namely the loving-kindness (*Metta*), compassion (*Karuna*), sympathetic joy (*Mudita*) and equanimity (*Upekha*).

I am therefore very pleased to see that we, Buddhists, have made efforts, by holding this World Buddhist Summit, which, among other things, aims to encourage Buddhists to help build lasting peace in the world, through the observance and propagation of the Lord Buddha's teachings. This is great and most valuable contribution from Buddhists at the critical juncture of the world. I wish you all a success in this quest of peace and happiness for all mankind. —MNA



Magway Sayadaw and Most Ven Dr. Phra Maha Vichit Singharaj of LPDR offer lights to Jade Buddha image.—MNA



The congregation seen at the World Buddhist Summit. —MNA

The current World Buddhist Summit is...

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ensure the excellent arrangements of the World Buddhist Summit. At the same time, I would also like to pay respect and congratulate all Buddhist representatives from various countries and organizations for taking part in the Summit.

The current World Buddhist Summit is of great significance as it enables the Buddhist leaders to gather and exchange views on the preservation of the revered Buddhist faith. It also provides an opportunity for the Buddhist followers worldwide to foster a sense of cordial friendship and mutual understanding with one another in order to ensure world peace and lasting tranquillity as well as bring about prosperity, happiness and well-being to mankind.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic has 5.6 million inhabitants, out of which 75 % are Buddhists. Nevertheless, the Lao Buddhist people as well as other religious believers or atheist people have always manifested a sense of mutual respect thus enabling the entire Lao society to enjoy cordial friendship, harmony and mutual help while jointly safeguarding and driving the nation towards prosperity as defined by the Government policy.

I would like to congratulate and express my high appreciation to the Myanmar Government for establishing the International Theravada Buddhist University that opened its doors six years ago. It is both a learning and dissemination center of Buddhist teachings for the people of the world. A number of Lao monks and nuns studied here and some are currently following their study in this University.

I would like to take this auspicious occasion to wish the World Buddhist Summit a brilliant success. —MNA

The conference records the value and the sense of profound friendship and solidarity among all Buddhist from different sects and countries

YANGON, 9 Dec—The following is the message sent by Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia to the World Buddhist Summit, today:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all Buddhist followers, the participants of the World Buddhist Summit in Yangon, the historic Capital of the Union of Myanmar.

It is my conviction that all the Buddhist including those from Cambodia still remember with deep gratitude the holding of the Third World Buddhist Summit in December 2002, in Phnom Penh of the Kingdom of the Cambodia, and patronized by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preach Norodom Sihanouk, the King of Cambodia, in the Throne Hall. The outcome of the Third Buddhist Summit reflects a unified consolidation of Buddhist around the world in their cooperation to support and promote faith in Buddhism, for the cause of peace, stability and harmony among people living in a society.

In this sense, the conference records the value and the sense of profound friendship and solidarity among all Buddhist from different sects and countries. This tradition, that has been adhered by every Buddhist follower and that has been maintained and transferred from generation to generation-long time ago, led us all toward a common goal of eliminating violence, aggression, jealousy and other dishonest and immoral acts, then turning to searching for harmony and coexistence under the lights of the Dharma of Buddha.

Thus, the Third World Buddhist Summit achieved such the results which are of great importance, upon our Buddhists role, in calling all mankind from every political affiliation to realize the dangers of being controlled by the power of greed, violence and hatred which are the frightening sins or evils; and come back to comply with the path of our Buddha.

In all these, I am strongly convinced that the World Buddhist Summit in Yangon will surely gain another momentum for global peace and generate more positive changes in exercising love and compassion, thus helping to reduce conflict and suffering, and making the world a better place to live.

With this conviction, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia I would like to earnestly wish the World Buddhist Summit every success, with the sponsorship of the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

Once again, I wish the spirit of the World Buddhist Summit remain in our hearts forever and become the symbol of firm unity among all the Buddhist followers across the world, who follow the Dharma of our Buddha to create peace and progress.

Finally, may I wish all of you, the participants of this summit, the five gems of Buddhist blessing. —MNA

Cambodian Deputy
Prime Minister Mr Lu
Lay Sreng reads out
the message sent by
Prime Minister of
Cambodia Mr
Semdech Hun Sen.

MNA





Senior General Than Shwe receives Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and party at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building. (News on page 16)—MNA

Only teachings of Lord Buddha...

(from page 16)

The Maha Pasana Cave is of great significance in the annals of Buddhism. In 1954 about 2,500 Sangharajas, Maha Theras from the five Theravada Buddhist countries assembled in the Great Cave for the Sixth Buddhist Synod. At the conclusion of the Synod in 1956, this cave was also the venue where Buddhist leaders from Theravada and Mahayana countries assembled to celebrate the 2500th Anniversary of the Buddha Sasana.

Today world Buddhist leaders are assembled in this historic Cave to discuss how to perpetuate the Buddha Sasana. This meeting will seek ways and means on how the Sasana can contribute to peace and prosperity for the world and mankind.

At this World Buddhist Summit, leaders will exchange views on matters of Buddha Sasana on the basis of mutual friendship, cooperation and forbearance. This coming together for the

exchange of view is a major milestone in the history of Buddhism.

Despite different traditions, sects and practices, we are all sons and daughters of the Sakyamuni Buddha. We have the same objectives to understand the Four Noble Truths and to realize Nibbana.

In the Buddhist scriptures, we note four Sangha Synods during the lifetimes of four Buddhas—Kakusandha, Konagamana, Kassapa and Lord Gotama. In all these Synods, the

Enlightened Ones preached the virtue of patience, forgiveness, loving-kindness, compassion and the avoidance of evil—in deed, speech and thought, as the basic principles for the propagation of Buddhism. I believe these admonitions by successive Buddhas will continue to remain as fundamental principles

today in the dissemination of the Buddha's teachings.

Of the two requirements of mankind, physical and spiritual, while progress in science and technology can fulfill the physical needs only the teachings of the Lord Buddha can satisfy the spiritual requirements.

The Buddha Dhamma is preventing the

decline of moral values and contributing to enhancing patience, loving-kindness, compassion and selflessness. It purifies the hearts and minds of mankind and promotes these values.

While social development can be achieved through science and technology, mental

(See page 13)

The Summit will help to spread the noble message of the Buddha and to ensure a peaceful world for all of us to live without fear and hatred

YANGON, 9 Dec—*The following is the message sent by Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of Sri Lanka, to the World Buddhist Summit, today.*

I am happy to send a message of good wishes to the World Buddhist Summit being held in Yangon, Myanmar, from 9-11 December, 2004. It is noted that this Summit coincides with the founding of the Amarapura Maha Nikaya in Sri Lanka which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year.

The Amarapura Maha Nikaya was established in Sri Lanka in the year 1803 after the visit of the Most Ven'ble Velitara Gnanatissa Maha Nayake Thero to the City of Amarapura in Burma (now known as Myanmar) and obtained the Higher Ordination from the Dhamma Rajadhi Rajaguru Sangaraja Maha Nayake Thero at the Swarnaguha Sima Malaka in Amarapura City. Since then the services rendered by the Maha Sangha of the

Amarapura Maha Nikaya for the spiritual upliftment of the people of our country have been most outstanding and well recognized. We as Sri Lankans wish to place on record our appreciation of these services with a deep sense of gratitude. All Sri Lankans look forward to the continuation of this noble mission by the Maha Sangha of the Amarapura Maha Nikaya with dedication and commitment in the future too.

The great efforts being made by the Ven'ble Maha Sangha of the Amarapura Nikaya to ensure the advancement of our people as well as to usher in peace amongst all sections of our multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-ethnic society is a source of great encouragement. It is my sincere hope and wish that the deliberations of the Summit will help to spread the noble message of the Buddha and to ensure a peaceful world for all of us to live without fear and hatred.

May all beings be well and happy.

MNA

The Summit will give opportunity to get together the followers of Buddhism around the globe including Bangladesh

YANGON, 9 Dec—*The following is the message sent by Mrs Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, to the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win:*

On behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, I extend to Your Excellency and through you to the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar our heartiest greetings and felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the World Buddhist Summit to be held in Yangon on 9-11 December 2004.

The philosophy of Buddhism specially the non-violence, tolerance and fondness have been associated with our history, thoughts and conscience. The constitutional spirit of Bangladesh for the promotion of international peace and harmony has imbued with those ideals. In the present critical time of human history, the spirit of Buddhism has strong substance to promote peace,

harmony among the religions, races and nations. In Bangladesh, we are constitutionally committed to communal harmony, tolerance and mutual respect for each other's faith as well as obligated to ensure equality of rights irrespective of caste, creed and religious beliefs.

It is my firm belief that the Summit will give opportunity to get together the followers of Buddhism around the globe including Bangladesh. I am confident that the Summit will further strengthen and consolidate the friendly relations existing between our two peoples in the years to come.

I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for your good health, happiness and long life and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

MNA



Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr DMM Ranaraja reads the message of the Sri Lankan President.—MNA



A delegate reads the message sent by the Bangladeshi Prime Minister.—MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung presents copies of Tri Pitakat treatises to Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia.—MNA

Keynote Speech by Venerable Dr. NYANISSARA Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Sagaing Hills, Myanmar

YANGON, 9 Dec—*The following is the keynote speech by Venerable Dr Nyanissara of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy on the occasion of the World Buddhist Summit today.*

First and foremost, I would like to convey my wish that may auspiciousness come to all the Buddhist leaders from many nations. I am also deeply honoured to deliver Dhamma speech on this important occasion.

Welcome to our golden land of Myanmar. We are happy and proud to host this World Buddhist Summit as a devout Theravada Buddhist nation where 500,000 monks reside with strong and united State Sangha Mahanayaka Committee. The Government, the people and the sangha organizations are united in the promotion and propagation of Buddha Sasana both inside the country and in the world.

This World Buddhist Summit is the most supreme and prestigious Buddhist conference ever held in the history of Buddhism. This Buddhist Summit surpasses the all other Buddhist Summits in terms of number of participants, preparations and purpose.

Many brainstorming sessions were held in Myanmar to work out the details of the World Buddhist Summit. For this conference, all Ministers and the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, called many coordinating meetings to prepare for the successful holding of the World Buddhist Summit as a national event.

My sincere congratulations are in order for the Organizing Committee of Myanmar and the World Buddhist Leaders. Both Mahayana and Theravada Buddhists around the world give spiritual support for the successful holding of the World Buddhist Summit and express their desire to attend the Summit. It would not be too much to say that the World Buddhist Summit bears many characteristics of the Seventh Buddhist Council, with Myanmar as centre of Buddhism for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the original teachings of the Buddha.

With the benefit of hindsight I would like to draw your attention to the wonderful coincidence regarding the venue of this conference. This Mahapasana Cave has special historical and religious significance in the

history of Buddha Sasana. In 1954, monks from five Theravada countries, namely, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand, convened the Sixth Buddhist Council in this very cave to celebrate 2500th Anniversary of Buddha Sasana. Sangharajas, Heads of State and Prime Ministers of the five Theravada countries graced the occasion and read goodwill messages. Moreover, ten Mahayana countries including Japan participated in that great event. Today, forty-eight years after the convening of the Sixth Buddhist Council, both Theravada and Mahayana Buddhist leaders around the world are now gathering again in the same great cave and

they will be discussing about Buddhist unity and cooperation and propagation of Buddha Sasana.

The Buddha preached that frequent meetings and discussions of Buddhist leaders can contribute to the promotion and propagation of his teachings. Following the Buddha's advice for continuous discussion, the two main sects of Buddhism, namely, Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism, are now meeting again at the Buddhist Summit to discuss the matters concerning the unity of Buddhists and propagation of Buddhism.

Undoubtedly, the Buddhist Summit is sending powerful Buddhist messages of Great toler-



Dr Nyanissara of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy. —MNA

ance and Boundless compassion to the turbulent world where the strong rules over the weak and the rich is reluctant to share with the poor.

Also the Buddhist message of harmony and peace as we emphasize in

the Summit motto will send vibrations to the region where violence, tension and conflict are the rule of the day. Lack of peace and harmony is bound to dislocate the family, society, nation, religion, environment and the world.

We must try our best until the world is convinced that Buddha's teaching of wisdom, lovingkindness, tolerance and compassion is the only panacea to cure the illness of mankind. Even if we achieve harmony and peace in the world we still have to fight poverty, diseases and ignorance which are the origins of human misery and scourge of civilizations.

(See page 11)



Members of the Sangha from abroad seen at the World Buddhist Summit. —MNA

Thai Prime Minister arrives

YANGON, 9 Dec — The Thai goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra arrived here by special aircraft to pay a goodwill visit in Myanmar at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win.

The Thai Prime Minister and party were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister

for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and staff of the Thai Embassy, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department, Director-General U Thang Tun of the Political Department and officials.

MNA



Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra being welcomed at Yangon International Airport. —MNA

We must remain effortful to maintain, promote and spread peace in our region and beyond

YANGON, 9 Dec—*The following is the message sent by Venerable Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal, on the occasion of the World Buddhist Summit today.*

It gives me great pleasure to send this message of felicitations to the Government of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the hosting of the World Buddhist Summit in Yangon, Myanmar from 9 to 11 December 2004.

Shakyamuni Lord Buddha, the greatest apostle of peace was born in 623 BC in Lumbini, which lies in the southern part of Nepal. His teachings of peace, compassion and tolerance are as relevant in today's world as they were in the past.

We have just entered into the 21st century. The legacies of the last century like inter and intra-country wars, ethnic conflicts still pose serious challenges to the peace and stability in the world. The threat emanating from the existing both conventional as well as weapons of mass destruction still looms large. We, therefore, must remain effortful to maintain, promote and spread peace in our region and beyond. Mankind itself is responsible for propagating peace or making evil design of war. It is my firm belief that this Summit would be a successful event to highlight the urgency of peace among the citizens of the world. Peace and development complement each other. Without peace economic development cannot be achieved and sustained as well. Viewed against this backdrop, I believe that the convening of this World Buddhist Summit in Yangon holds greater significance. I wish the Summit a great success. —MNA



Sayadaws at home and abroad, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Buddhist leaders pose for documentary photos at the opening ceremony of World Buddhist Summit.—MNA

World Buddhist Summit continues

YANGON, 9 Dec—The World Buddhist Summit, organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, took place on a grand scale at Chattha Sangayana Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye

Hill here this afternoon.

The Summit was graced by the attendance of leading Buddhist monks of different Ganas at home and abroad. Also present were ministers of the Union of Myanmar and their

wives, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, deputy ministers, members of the Leading Committee for the Summit, foreign Buddhism researchers, laity of Mahayana, members of religious and

social associations, lay disciples of Ashin Dhamma Piya of India, lay members of meditation association of Sayagyi Goenka, Mr Nakakina and party of Japan, Ven Zuiho Naka

Shita and party, Ven Joen Woon Duk and party of the Republic of Korea, and representatives of foreign nations.

Prior to the commencement of the Summit, 18 Sayadaws from Australia, Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Japan, Korea, Romania, India, the Czech Republic, British, the US and Germany led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee of Myanmar Aungmye-bonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Panñindabhivamsa, Secretary of the SSMNC Vice Chancellor of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Joint-

Secretary Chairman of the Administrative Board of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa, were ushered to the venue, receiving the reverence of those present.

The members of the Sangha and the congregation recited the Gatha, of which the beginning is *Namo Tassa*, three times to open the first-day afternoon session.

Members of the Sangha from Thailand recited *Metta Parittas*. Rector of Chulalongkorn University Phrasripariyattimoli read the message sent by Thai Sangha Maha Raja Sayadaw His Holiness Somdet Phra Nanasangvera.

Respective representatives also read the messages of Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar (See page 13)



Most Venerable Sayadaws and Chiefs of Buddhist Ganas from various countries seen at the opening ceremony of World Buddhist Summit in Maha Pasana Cave.—MNA

Union of Myanmar is devoted Buddhist Country and faithfully believes in the Lord Buddha's Teachings

YANGON, 9 Dec — The following is the message sent by, the most Ven Dr Mahavichit Singharaj, President of Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization to the World Buddhist Summit, today.

I on behalf of the Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization Central Committee, Lao Buddhist of the ethnic groups and myself have great pleasure and honor to convey a congratulation and gratitude to your Most Ven, as well as to the Buddhist people of Myanmar on the occasion of holding the world Buddhist

Summit.

The Union of Myanmar is the devoted Buddhist Country and faithfully believes in the Lord Buddha's Teachings. The Government and Myanmar people have patronized the Sixth Buddhist Council to redact Tripitaka in BE 2500, at Maha Pasana Guha, in Yangon, the Union of Myanmar.

The World Buddhist Summit is also going to be held in the Maha Pasana Guha (Cave), Yangon, the capital of Myanmar, is not only a remarkable event in the history of Buddhist, but it is also the gathering of the

Top Buddhist leaders to exchange their views on how to bring the Lord Buddha's Teachings into wide propagation to people of the world in order to promote peace, friendship, solidarity and happiness of all humanity in the world.

I again would like to convey my sincere congratulations and support to Most Ven Chairman of the State Sangha Nayaka Committee of Myanmar, especially to the Government and the people of Myanmar for excellent hospitality of holding the World Buddhist Summit successfully. —MNA

Opportunity given to get together followers of Buddhism around the globe

YANGON, 9 Dec — The following is the message sent by, Mr Phan Van Khai Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the World Buddhist Summit, today.

On the occasion of the World

Buddhist Congress, on behalf of the Government and the People of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I would like to convey to the Congress our warmest congratulations and best wishes for the great successes of the Congress. —MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and guests view Buddhist Heritage Photo Exhibition (Myanmar-India). —MNA

Keynote Speech by Venerable...

(from page 9)

The following are the five objectives for holding the World Buddhist Summit:

- (1) To promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries



Nyaungdon Sayadaw reads the message sent by Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. —MNA

- (2) To maintain Buddha's teachings and practice among the Buddhist countries
- (3) To promote Buddhist education based on the studies of Buddhist scriptures in nations of the world
- (4) To create the peaceful world by the Buddhists for all humanbeing
- (5) To propagate the original teaching of the Buddha in the world

Let me go further to give you historical flashback of the Buddha's advice at a Sangha conference in his lifetime. His advice will be very a useful guideline for our meetings.

Nine months after his Enlightenment, even the Buddha held the First All Sangha Order Conference at Veluvana Monastery in Rajagaha. At the Veluvana Sangha Conference, the Buddha approved Ashin Sariputta as first monk leader and Ashin Mahamoggallana as the second monk leader to supervise the Sangha Order.

The main points of Buddha's Ovada (Admonition) at the conference were as follows:

- (1) Patience (Forbearance) is the best virtue
- (2) The monk must not ill-treat the others.
- (3) The monk must not accuse, abuse, and blame the others.
- (4) Control your bodily, verbal and mental action.
- (5) The monk must be content with the food, residence and his sleeping place.
- (6) The monks must keep on practicing meditation.
- (7) Avoid all evil actions.
- (8) Avoid all evil speech.
- (9) Avoid all evil thoughts.
- (10) Try to purify the mind.

Therefore, following the Buddha's advice at the above meeting, we, the sons and daughters of the Buddha, should earnestly discuss the propagation of Buddhism for the benefit of mankind with patience, contentment and optimism at this conference.

Four Big Tasks

There are two main points in Dhamma preached by Buddha, namely, Noble Path and Noble Truth. Buddha's sons and daughters have been carrying the message of Noble Path and Noble Truth from generation to generation and preserve them for 2500 years. Although different Buddhists practice different traditions, there has been no dispute over the Noble Path and Truth. This is one of the significant features of Buddhism.

The Buddha's sons and daughters who live during the age of Buddha Sasana are all servants of Buddhism. Because of carrying over of Buddha Sasana, which the Buddha preached for fortyfive years, by generations of our brothers, sisters and teachers, we come to possess this Sasana. For the younger generations of our brothers and sisters to continue to work over the Noble path to realize Noble truth and to enjoy the bliss of Nibbana, we must carry out four big tasks effectively. They are

the following:

- (1) To preserve Buddhism as the original teaching and to keep its pristine purity
- (2) To disseminate the original teaching of the Buddha effectively
- (3) To apply the modern method and technique in preservation, teaching, learning and research of Buddha Sasana
- (4) To protect Buddhist historical sites, ancient pagodas, Buddha images, Buddhist literature and cultural heritage from natural disaster and destruction by opposition forces.

There are four essential requirements for preservation, protecting, promotion, propagation, teaching, and learning of the Buddha's Dhamma. They are as follows:

- (1) Man Power
- (2) Money Power
- (3) Material Power
- (4) Mind Power

When we talk about manpower, we need to mobilize the power of monks, government, educated persons, technicians and people from all walks of life for the promotion of Buddhism. Just as different nations with different political outlooks united in forming the United Nations, we Buddhists should try to unite our Buddhist nations and form United Buddhist Nations. In order to reach that stage, we need a powerful spirit of Buddhist brotherhood. The foundation of that spirit is friendship, understanding, forgiveness and patience. Added to these qualities are virtue and wisdom. I believe the present conference will contribute a great deal to friendship and mutual understanding among Buddhist leaders.

Without money power, we cannot undertake great religious projects effectively. During the Buddha's lifetime, a wealthy man named Anathapindika built the Jetavana monastery for the Buddha at the cost of 540 million. In this monastery the Buddha with his disciples spent their days for twentyfive years. The Buddha also preached many Suttas and many people became Arahats after listening to the Buddha's sermons. About 300 Buddhist Era, Emperor Asoka spent millions to build monasteries and pagodas and to send missionary monks to nine regions. The venue of the World Buddhist Summit, the Maha Pasana Cave, was built at the cost of 9 million Kyats (Myanmar currency) in 1952.

Nowadays the renovation of this great Cave cost 900 million Kyats. The sponsor of the World Buddhist Summit, the Government of the Union of Myanmar spent millions of money for this conference. There is no doubt that without money power, these grand projects cannot be implemented.



Ven Ashin Uttama of Chez Republic reads paper on Buddhism in Europe. —MNA

The same is true of material power. To make the Buddhist Summit a success, new audio-visual system, computers, mobile phones, transmission equipment, electrical appliances and printing press had to be installed and used.

Moreover, the most important prerequisites for the promotion and propagation of Buddhism is mind power. However much money, material and manpower we have, without knowledge, character, and virtue, we cannot implement any plan effectively. Virtue means disciplining of mind, body and speech. We as Buddhists have to keep the common virtue recommended by the Lord Buddha. We should store virtue of patience, loving-kindness and compassion, spirit of universal brotherhood spirit of selflessness within our hearts. At the same time, the kind-hearted person also must have good sense of virtue. Therefore, out of four

kinds of power, mind power is the main power for successful promotion and propagation of Buddhism.

By using these four essential powers judiciously, Emperor Asoka had done a great service to Buddhism. As a result of Emperor Asoka's missionary efforts, Buddhism spread to Greece, Turkey and Russia in the west and to the whole of Southeast Asia. It was recorded in the history of Buddhism that Emperor Asoka built thousands of Padogas and monasteries.

Today since these four powers were not combined well and used in Indian continent, land of the birth of Triple gem became the land of death of Buddhism. The big area of Buddhism has been reduced in size. Emperor Asoka's temples and monasteries became heaps of broken bricks. Therefore, at this World Buddhist Summit I would like to urge my brothers and sisters to safeguard, maintain and disseminate Buddhism to the best of their ability.

When we look at the international situation, we will find everything is in ferment lacking stability in political, economic, social and military situation. The instability of the world starts with unstable state of each individual, whose unfulfilment of desires pave the



Most Ven Dr Phra Maha Vichit Singharaj of LPDR—MNA

way for tensions and war. The history of the world is full of wars waged by persons of unfulfilled desires.

To dominate other peoples, to confiscate other peoples' property, to kill other peoples are the basic features of international society. Moral man seems to be creating immoral society and we seem to be back to the law of the jungle. Peace is the scarce commodity only few people can afford to consume. In the words of the Buddha "The whole world is burning: the mind is burning, mental objects (idea etc.) are burning, burning with the fire of lust, with the fire of hate, with the fire of delusion; it is burning with birth, aging and death, with sorrows and with lamentations." Beautiful world environment with mountains, forests, rivers and snow is defaced by factories which produce weapons for death and destruction. The earth which is full of precious gems became graveyard as result of continuous wars. From the point of view of law of nature, the root of these evils are cravings and desires.

Underneath the appearance of human being lie delusion, lust and anger. If we can identify the problems, we can now look for the solutions. In the same manner, if we know the cause of illness, we can find out the medicine to cure the illness. In other words, the Buddha is a great Physician who can heal the suffering of mankind.

Tipitaka texts are like books for prescription for the cure of human mentaw illness. Noble Truth and Noble Dhamma is the most effective medicine for patients of the world who are suffering from mental illness. It is the prime responsibility of the Buddha's sons and daughters to fulfil the needs of mankind by teaching them Dhamma. In order to educate the world which cannot comprehend the objective reality and to cure the world which is burning with lust and delusion, I strongly recommend to open more Buddhist centres around the world.

In many World Buddhist Conferences, world Buddhist leaders have tried every possible effort towards Buddhist unity and cooperation. Because of these world conferences, the Theravadins, the Mahayanists and Tibetan Buddhists came to learn more about each other. Personal friendship and ties have also been forged. We need to take further steps towards drawing a concrete action plan to translate our words into action.

(See page 13)

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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FAO says world tea production hits record high in 2003

ROME, 8 Dec — World tea production in 2003 reached 3.15 million tonnes, 75000 tons more than in 2002, largely as a result of favourable weather conditions, according to a report released on Tuesday by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome.

According to the report, India accounted for 27.4 per cent of world output, followed by China (with 24.6 per cent), Sri Lanka (9.75 per cent), and Kenya (9.4 per cent). Production in India reached 857,000 tonnes in 2003, from 829,000 tons in the previous year.

In China, production was estimated at 791000 tons, with green tea accounting for about 73 per cent. In Kenya, produc-

tion in 2003 was higher by 8000 tons as compared to the previous year, due to favourable weather conditions, FAO said.

A significant indicator shows India's organic tea production still on the rise reaching 3500 tons in 2003, with about 75 per cent of it being exported to France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. World tea exports reached 1.4 million tons in 2003, a 2.6 per cent decline from the quantities shipped in 2002.

Global tea imports reached 1.39 million tons, about one per cent more than 2002, reflecting the 3.2 per cent gain by developing countries, where importers took advantage of low prices and rising domestic demand.

MNA/Xinhua

Turco-Russian cooperation contributes to peace in world

ANKARA, 7 Dec — Turkish President Ahmed Necdet Sezer said on Monday that developing Turco-Russian dialogue and cooperation would contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the world.

Sezer made the remarks at a joint news conference with visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin following their official meetings.

The Turkish President expressed his satisfaction over deepening political, economic, military, cultural and social relations between Turkey and Russia.

"During the meetings, it is corroborated that both Turkey and Russia are willing to increase their relations to the level of multi-dimensional partnership," said Sezer.

MNA/Xinhua

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Yangon 10 December 2004

Tanzanians eat less fish

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 8 Dec — Fish consumption among Tanzanians has declined by almost 50 per cent in the past two decades due to a rapid population growth and influx of illegal anglers.

The Tanzanians now consume an average of 5.9 kilos of fish annually per person as against 10.5 kilos in the early 1980s, local newspaper *Daily News* reported Tuesday.

The paper quoted Godfrey Nanyaro, the country's director of fisheries, as attributing the decline to the country's population growth that has surpassed the growth rate of fish resources, and to the illegal anglers who have over-tapped the fish resources with such banned methods as the use of dynamite, seine and small-meshed nets.

The decline is feared to have negative impacts on the general health of the Tanzanians, as fish constitutes an essential part in the local diet because of its easy access to the Indian Ocean and fresh-water lakes and rivers.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. of 3-11, Nihonbashi-Honcho 2-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Mark:

ASTELLAS

Reg. No. IV1238/2004 in respect of "Int'l class 5: Pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations, Oiled paper for medical purposes, Sanitary masks, Pharmaceutical water, Gauze for dressings, Empty capsules for pharmaceuticals, Eye patches, Ear bandages, Menstruation bandages, Menstruation tampons, Sanitary napkins, Sanitary panties, Absorbent cotton, Adhesive plasters, Band-aids for dressings, Colloidon, Breast-nursing pads, Dental materials, Bracelets for medical purposes, Incontinence diapers, Fly catching paper, Mothproofing paper, Lactose (Milk sugar), Powdered milk for babies, Semen for artificial insemination".
Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark shall be dealt with according to law.
KHINE KHINE U, Advocate
LL.B., D.B.L., LL.M (UK)
For Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
#626, 8 Fl., Traders Hotel
Yangon, 10 December 2004

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INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER No. 009/ME/2004-2005

Sealed Tenders from eligible Suppliers are Invited for the supply of Reconditioned Hino HO 7C/HO 7D Engine With Gear Box (20) sets and 14 Ton Rear Axle Assembly (14) sets Prices are to be quoted in Myanmar kyats Yangon.

- Tender Documents are available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport No. 375 Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar, commencing on 9th, December, 2004
- Tender will be closed on 20th, December, 2004 at (16:00) hours.
- The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders without furnishing reasons.
- Detailed information will be available at the office of the Procurement & Stores Department or Contact Phone No. (01-252574) (or) (01-376549)

Road Transport

Dubai opens First Film Festival

ABU DHABI, 8 Dec —

The first Dubai Film Festival opened in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Monday night, the *UAE News Agency* reported Tuesday.

About 800 international and local movie stars attended the opening ceremony held at the Dubai Media City, where 75 films from 26 countries will be shown in six

festival venues.

More than ten films from east Europe, Asia and the Mideast are to debut Tuesday. The week-long festival will open to the public from Tuesday with multiple screenings.

The festival came as part of Dubai's efforts to promote its image as a media hub, organizers were quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Cuba, Dominican Republic to increase bilateral relations

HAVANA, 8 Dec — Cuba and the Dominican Republic expressed Tuesday their wish to increase bilateral relations, including those on trade, during a meeting in Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic.

At the headquarters of the Centre for the Promotion of Imports and Exports, officials of the two countries expressed their interest in increasing trade, according to the reports received in Havana.

Carlos de la Nuez, economic consultant of the Cuban Embassy to the Dominican Republic, delivered a speech on "How to do business and invest

in Cuba" before Dominican entrepreneurs.

Currently, 65 per cent of Cuba's trade was conducted with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Diplomatic sources said the value of the commercial exchange between Havana and Santo Domingo amounts to nearly 50 million US dollars, which should double

as a consequence of the results of the Bilateral Commission which convened in Santo Domingo last November.

On behalf of the Dominican Republic, Hector Martinez, a senior official of the State and Trade Department, said the government is indeed interested in developing the commercial relations with Cuba. — MNA/Xinhua

British manufacturing output dips in 3rd quarter

LONDON, 8 Dec — Output in Britain's manufacturing sector fell unexpectedly in October mainly due to dips in transport equipment production, paper manufacturing and printing, an official report released on Monday said.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said that between September and October manufacturing output fell by 0.1 per cent, with production declining in six of the 13 manufacturing sub-sectors.

October's output slid 0.5 per cent from the same month a year earlier, the biggest annual fall since August 2003. The declines were not expected.

Analysts had previously predicted a 0.4-per-cent monthly rise and a 0.1-per-cent annual increase.

The ONS said output from the transport equipment industries fell 2.6 per cent and the paper, print-

ing and publishing industries shed 1.0 per cent.

The only significant increase was in the chemicals and man-made fibers industries, where output rose 2.1 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

DON'T SMOKE

Keynote Speech by Venerable...

(from page 11)

In future plan we should do more networking among us, especially we should form linkages among universities, monasteries and exchange scholars. International forums for Buddhist leaders are absolutely essential and should be regularly held for intellectual debates and exchange of ideas. We also should participate in these forums with understanding, patience and forgiveness to each other to reach our common goal.

For further implementation of plan for Buddhist unity and cooperation we need an institutional structure.

I think it will take its final shape in due course with progress of further discussion. Moreover, Buddhist education is also a very effective medium by which Buddhist sects will understand each other well. In short, our commitment to Buddhist unity and cooperation is indispensable and this

World Buddhist Summit is reaffirmation of our lofty ideals.

Although the Buddhist leaders are outwardly different in appearance, traditions and cultures, inside their hearts they are the same in cherishing the values of loving-kindness, forbearance, compassion universal brotherhood spirit, spirit of appreciative joy and wisdom. The Eightfold Noble Path laid down by the Buddha is the common path we will have to take together. The Noble Truth of Cessation is our common destination which we are determined to reach in the end.

Therefore, let us walk together in the common path with common values toward our common destination.

I also pray that all the supreme Buddhist leaders and the delegates of the Buddhist Summit as a united group fulfil sublime mission with noble aims and objectives.

May the Buddhist

leaders be able to do more for the promotion and propagation of Buddha Sasana.

May the Buddhist leaders help to solve the problems of mankind, while taking the Noble Path let us realize the Noble Truth of Cessation together.

May the Dhamma prevail everywhere.

May original Buddha Sasana exist in its purity.

May the sentient beings be free from suffering.

May sentient beings be well and happy.

May all the Buddhist leaders work together for world Peace.

Ciram tithatu lokasamim, sammasambuddha sasanam, tasamirn sagarava nicciani, hontu sabbe pi panino.

May the teaching of the Enlightened One (the Buddha) last long in the world.

May all beings pay their due respect to it always.

MNA



At the opening of the World Buddhist Summit, 108 bells are tolled simultaneously. — MNA

World Buddhist Summit continues...

(from page 10)

Mr Li Jinjun, Malaysian Ambassador Mr Dato Cheah Sam Kip, UN Coordinator Mr Charles Petrie, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra, Pakistani Ambassador Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry, Philippine Ambassador Mme Phoebe A Gomez and Russian Ambassador Mr Oleg V Kabanov.

Next, Ven Pannavaro (Ashin Panñavara) of Buddha Dhamma Education Association of Australia read the paper on Buddhist Information, Education and Resources on Internet; Ven Dr Jinabodhi (Jina Bodhi) of

Chittagong University of Bangladesh, Moral Philosophy of the Buddha and its Relevance to Contemporary World; Vice Khambo Lama of Mongolia Venerable Yo Amagalan, Buddhism in Mongolia; Dr Canda Varabhivamsa of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University of Myanmar, Buddhist Education; Ven Josho Adrian Cirlea of Romania, Buddhist - A Way to Live; Ven Ashin Uttama of the Czech Republic, Situation of Buddhism in the West; and Dr Punnobhasa of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy of Myanmar, the paper of Chancellor

of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Ovadacariya of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Honorary Professor Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujanahitadhara Dr Ashin Nyanissara.

The agendas of the first-day session concluded at 4 pm.

Members of the Sangha to the Summit, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials planted 36 Bodhi trees to mark the Summit around Maha Pasana Cave. — MNA

Only teachings of Lord Buddha...

(from page 8)

attributes can be gained and peace and tranquility developed through the teachings of the Lord Buddha. It is most important to control at all times excessive greed, violent anger and false pride.

In the international arena, men are frightened and shocked by arms rivalry, terrorism, the gap between rich and poor and bullying of the weak by the strong. Men's feelings are enflamed by the three evil fires of greed, anger and fear. These fires can be extinguished by Lord Buddha's Teachings and bring global peace, loving-kindness, tolerance and forgiveness. It is our ardent hope that the Theras and religious leaders would unswervingly strive to attain peace and prosperity and the flourishing of the Eternal Truths, for the world and the country in which we reside, in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha.

I firmly believe that this Buddhist Summit will, on the basis of the Sasana, not only bring peace, prosperity and justice to all, but also revive the ethical values and the guiding principles that protect the world.

Myanmar is a country which received the teachings of the Buddha in his lifetime. According to religious chronicles, the Buddha visited Myanmar three times. As a Theravada country, Myanmar has preserved

the pristine purity of the Buddha's teachings for over two thousand years. The Government of the Union of Myanmar has formed the Ministry of Religious Affairs with three departments and allocates budgets for the promotion and propagation of the Buddha Sasana. Throughout the country nearly five hundred thousand monks and nuns are engaged in scriptural studies and meditation practices at the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities, meditation centres, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and Sitagu International Buddhist Academy. The nine major Sangha sects in the country have been brought together. They closely supervise Sasana work through the various levels of the Sangha Maha Nayaka (Committee).

The members of the Sangha and civil servants are undertaking the task of promoting and propagating the Buddha Sasana in unison. In other words, the Sangha, the people and civil servants are joined together by the true teacher-disciple spirit in protecting the Sasana.

I also would like to extend my cordial invitation to the Mahatheras, Buddhist leaders and observers who are attending this summit to visit Myanmar again. I warmly invite all to come to Myanmar for pilgrimage,

study of Buddhist scriptures, meditation and research. We will do whatever we can to assist our honoured guests.

Once again, I am deeply honoured to warmly welcome State leaders, Buddhist leaders and observers on behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar and of the fifty-three million citizens including five hundred thousand monks and nuns of the country. I would also like to thank all of you for participating in this event.

The organizing committee of the summit has made all possible preparations for the ease, comfort and benefit of the distinguished guests. I hope you are happy with the preparations and arrangements. If there be any shortcomings I humbly request your understanding in loving-kindness.

In conclusion may I express my wish that:

* The Truth of the Omniscient Buddha be like unto the luminescence of the sun and moon and be long lasting.

* The Teachings of the Buddha be propagated throughout the world.

* Mankind be able to follow the Teachings of the Buddha and bring about World Peace, Justice and Prosperity.

* All the Buddhist leaders attending the summit are blessed with physical wellbeing and spiritual tranquility. — MNA

"From Myanmar, the Dhamma Land, Vipassana Spreads to the World"

Exhibition opened

YANGON, 9 Dec — "From Myanmar, the Dhamma Land, Vipassana Spreads to the World" Exhibition to mark the holding of the World Buddhist Summit was opened this morning near Maha Pasana Cave here.

Chancellor Sayadaw of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujana Hitadhara Sayadaw Dr Nyanissara formally opened the exhibition.

Next, Sayadaw and invited guests viewed around the exhibition.

Documentary photos of meditation camps all over the world including

Myanmar established by S N Goenka were exhibited there. Moreover, Dhamma Pitaka publica-

tions and guide books on meditation were also shown.

MNA



To mark the World Buddhist Summit, a bell is tolled for nine times. — MNA

SPORTS

Iranian footballer named Asian Player of the Year

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 Dec— Iran's Ali Karimi was named Asian player of the year on Wednesday, edging out Bahrain's A'ala Hubail and Shunsuke Nakamura of Japan.

It was the fourth time a player from Iran has won the award since it was introduced by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in 1994. Karimi, who plays for United Arab Emirates club Al Ahli, helped Iran finish third at this year's Asian Cup and was the tournament's joint top scorer with five goals.

Previous Iranian winners were Khodadad Azizi in 1996, Ali Daei in 1999 and Mehdi Mahdavi, who won last year. Adnan Hamd was named coach of the year after guiding Iraq to the Asian Cup quarterfinals as well as the last four of the Athens Olympics.

Japan were honoured as the continent's top national team after retaining the Asian Cup and Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad were named as the top club team after capturing the Asian Champions League title earlier this month. —MNA/Reuters



Iran's Ali Karimi holds the Asian Football Confederation's Player of the Year trophy. INTERNET

Monaco crush Deportivo Coruna 5-0

LA CORUNA (Spain), 9 Dec— Last season's losing finalists Monaco powered their way into the knockout stages of the Champions League with a crushing 5-0 win over Deportivo Coruna in Group A on Wednesday.

With Liverpool claiming a frantic 3-1 victory over Olympiakos at Anfield, the win secured the French side top spot in one of the most tightly contested groups in the competition.

Deportivo, already condemned to finish last, ended their campaign in miserable fashion to become the first team ever to go through the Champions League group phase without scoring a single goal.

Although they had

the break.

They gave a brief warning of their intentions when Javier Saviola slid a neat through pass to Ernesto Chevanton in the area, but the centre-forward was closed down before he could shoot.

Six minutes later, however, the two combined once more to carve open the Depor defence and put their side ahead.

Saviola sprinted clear into the Depor half, slipped the ball through to

Liverpool rout Olympiakos to advance with Gerrard's late goal

LIVERPOOL (England), 9 Dec— Steven Gerrard's stunning late goal capped a remarkable Liverpool comeback as they beat Olympiakos Piraeus 3-1 on Wednesday to qualify for the knockout stages of the Champions League.

The four-time European champions were set the tough task of scoring three times at Anfield after Brazilian Rivaldo had fired a free kick through their badly organized wall in the 27th minute.

But goals from substitutes Florent Sinama-Pongolle and Neil Mellor set up a dramatic finale before England midfielder Gerrard's fierce strike sealed their progress.

Liverpool finished on 10 points in Group A along with Olympiakos but took second place thanks to their better head to head record. Monaco topped the standings

while the Greek side go through to the UEFA Cup.

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez had probably feared the worst when Milan Baros and Gerrard had goals disallowed and Mellor was denied a penalty.

But the spirit of his side, led with passion by local boy Gerrard, saw them through against an Olympiakos side that had not won in 24 away games in the Champions League.

Liverpool suffered an early setback when they succumbed to a moment of magic from Rivaldo.

Picking up the ball in his own half, he shrugged off the challenge of Xabi

Alonso to skip past Jamie Carragher, and it needed a trip from Sami Hyypia on the edge of the area to halt his progress.

The Brazilian's free-kick went through a gap in the wall between Baros and Antonio Nunez to leave Chris Kirkland motionless as the ball hit the net.

By then Baros had been unlucky to have his headed goal ruled out and Gerrard was denied by the upright with a cheeky flick from Alonso's free kick.

Benitez introduced Sinama-Pongolle at halftime and the move paid instant dividends as

he slotted home following a good run by Harry Kewell.

Gerrard's volley was then disallowed for a foul on Gabriel Schurrer by Baros in the 63rd minute as the game became fractious.

Mellor gave the home side renewed hope when he scored within seconds of being sent on as he reacted quickest to tuck home the rebound from Nunez's header.

With three minutes left, Mellor's intelligent header teed-up Gerrard to unleash a powerful drive past the despairing dive of Antonios Nikopolidis.

MNA/Reuters



From 2nd L to R, AS Monaco's players Francois Modesto, Greek Andreas Zikos, Gael Givel, Patrice Evra, Sebastien Squillaci and Argentinian Javier Saviola celebrate their 2nd goal against Deportivo La Coruna next to Uruguayan Walter Pandiani (L).—INTERNET

nothing other than pride to play for, a second-string Depor made a promising enough start as Monaco took time to settle into their rhythm.

The Spaniards flattered to deceive, however, and their only real chance came when midfielder Lionel Scaloni sent a 20-metre drive ricocheting off a defender and wide of the post.

Monaco, meanwhile, who hammered Depor 8-3 in last season's group stages, were content to soak up the pressure and wait for opportunities on

Chevanton on the right and the Uruguayan fired a powerful shot past fellow countryman Gustavo Munua.

Depor threatened a comeback when winger Pedro Munitis caused problems for the Monaco defence from a free kick and the unmarked Walter Pandiani had a header saved on the line.

But the brief scare sparked Monaco into a response and they scored two quick-fire goals towards the end of the half to put the result beyond doubt. —MNA/Reuters

Real go through to knockout stage with Figo's double

ROME, 9 Dec— Luis Figo scored twice as Real Madrid eased their way into the knockout stage of the Champions League with a comfortable 3-0 win over AS Roma in their final Group B match on Wednesday.

Real knew they had to win against the Italians to be assured of a place in the next round and never looked back after Brazilian Ronaldo put them ahead in the ninth minute.

Apart from a scare when Roma's French midfielder Vincent Candela hit the top of the post with a free-kick in the 31st minute the nine-times European Cup winners had little trouble against a weak Roma.

Real go through with Germans Bayer Leverkusen who beat Dynamo Kiev 3-0 to force the Ukrainians, who went into the final game leading the group, into third place and the UEFA Cup.

Roma, already out of Europe, had nothing to play for and fielded a weakened side without striker Francesco Totti

and Vincenzo Montella in an empty Olympic stadium.

The 70,000 venue was deserted as Roma served the second of two matches they were ordered by UEFA to play behind closed doors after trouble at their opening group game against Dynamo where Swedish referee Anders Frisk was hurt by an object thrown from the crowd.

In such a strange atmosphere, Real settled in quickly and Ronaldo had a decent chance in just the second minute but he headed over a Figo cross from the right flank.

But the Brazilian made no mistake when after a lengthy passing move, Zinedine Zidane slipped the ball into his path and Ronaldo lifted the ball past the advancing Roma keeper Ivan

Pelizzoli to put Real ahead.

With the pressure having eased, Real were content to push the ball around in midfield without much in the way of disturbance from the Italian side although in the 22nd minute Ronaldo had another half chance, firing wide under challenge from French defender Philippe Mexes.

Roma created nothing in the first half hour but then went close to an equalizer when Candela struck the woodwork with a free kick.

Then on the stroke of halftime, Roma's Argentine defender Leandro Cufre forced Real keeper Iker Casillas into action with a powerful long range drive that Casillas opted to punch out.

After that Real were clearly taking no risks af-

ter the break and they were somewhat fortunate to extend their lead in the 61st minute when Ronaldo was judged by Dutch referee Rene Temmink to have been fouled inside the area by Greek defender Traianos Dellas.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid players forming a wall watch AS Roma's French midfielder Vincent Candela (#32) fire his free kick during their Champions League clash at Rome's Olympic Stadium.—INTERNET



Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party offer flowers to Buddha images at Shwedagon Pagoda.— MNA

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and party visit National Museum, Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 9 Dec — Visiting Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party, accompanied by Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hul Phany and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the National Museum and Shwedagon Pagoda this

afternoon.

At 3.10 pm, the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and party arrived at the National Museum where Director-General U Myint Thein Swe of Department of Cultural Institute and officials welcomed them.

Next Director Daw

Nu Mra Zan of the Museum conducted the visiting Deputy Prime Minister and party round the Thiha Thana Throne Booth.

At the booth of Yadanabon Period and the booth of royal equipment, Curator Daw Mi Mi Thet Nwe and offi-

cials explained facts about the booths.

Afterwards, the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister signed in the visitors' book. The director-general presented a souvenir to the Deputy Prime Minister.

At 6 pm, the guests proceeded to Shwedagon Pagoda. Members of the pagoda board of trustees welcomed and conducted them round the pagoda.

Next, the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and party offered flowers and lights to the pagoda and signed in the visitors' book. In the evening, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win hosted a dinner in honour of the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and party at Hotel Nikko Royal Lake.

MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win hosts dinner to Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party at Hotel Nikko Royal Lake.— MNA

HK Police begin upgrading of communications system

HONG KONG, 9 Dec — The Hong Kong Police have launched the first phase of its Third Generation Command and Control Communications System which offers a more secure environment for police communications and helps improve manpower and resources deployment.

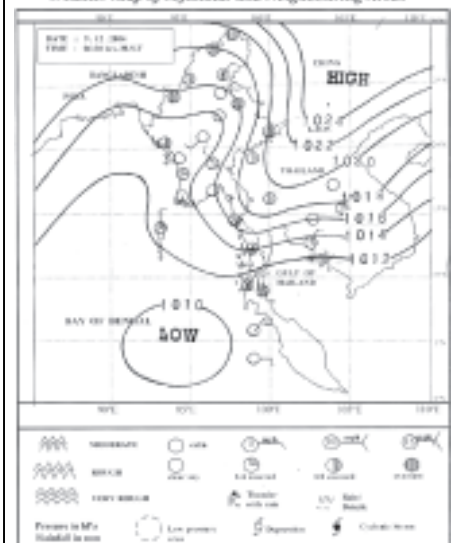
The force's New Territories regions will adopt the new system Thursday while the final phase of the project will be implemented in Kowloon East and West Regions in January 2006.

The 540 million Hong Kong dollars (69.23 million US dollars) project adopts an Internet protocol terrestrial trunked radio-based digital communications system, which

offers an effective and efficient call set-up with more reliable routing capabilities. It also enables good voice quality by prioritizing voice packets and allows various types of data to be carried in the same IP manner. Security features include encryption and authentication of users to prevent eavesdropping by unauthorized elements.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 9 December, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (4°C) above normal in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State and Bago Division, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Kayin State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Nansam (5°C), Mindat (6°C) Hakha (7°C).

Maximum temperature on 8-12-2004 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 9-12-2004 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 9-12-2004 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 8-12-2004 was (8.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 9-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 were 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from East at (13:30) hours MST on 8-12-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 10-12-2004:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Rakhine States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions.

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with (35) mph and temporary rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Slight decrease of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-12-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-12-2004:** Fair weather.

Nepali Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation arrives

YANGON, 9 Dec — Nepali Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyay and party arrived here by air this morning to attend the World Buddhist Summit.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Director-General U Aung Bwa of the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Director-General U Tun Mya Aung of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, Charge d'Affaires ai of the Nepali Embassy Mr Dilip Kumar Paudel and officials.— MNA



Nepali Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyay and party being welcomed at the airport.— MNA

Radio Myanmar

Friday, December 10
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: One for sorrow
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: I keep it to myself
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: I'll be there for you
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: -Roller coasta
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music
- Hello
- Adam & Eve
- 9.00 pm World of music
- Songs from China
- Article/music
- 9.15 pm Music at your request
- How deep is your love
- When I need you
- Because you loved me
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation



Senior General Than Shwe poses for documentary photo with Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and party at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe receives Thai Prime Minister

YANGON, 9 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and party at the Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building at 11 am today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior

General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint,

Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

The Thai Prime Minister was accompanied by Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Surakiat Sathirathai and party together with Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal. — MNA

Only teachings of Lord Buddha can satisfy spiritual requirements Prime Minister delivers welcoming address

YANGON, 9 Dec — The following is the full text of welcoming address of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win at the World Buddhist Summit at Maha Pasana Cave, here, today.

At the outset may I express the happiness of the Government of the State Peace and Development

Council and people of Myanmar on being able to share merit and for the honour of being able to take full responsibility to host this World Buddhist Summit which will go down in the annals of Sasana history.

May I take this opportunity to convey Metta for the physical and spiritual wellbeing of the Sayadaws, Heads of State and pure hearted people who are attending this World Buddhist Summit.

The World Buddhist Summit is being attended by venerable Sayadaws and Buddhist delegates from abroad, world leaders and Ministers as well as venerable Sayadaws and Ministers from Myanmar.

(See page 8)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers an opening address at World Buddhist Summit.— MNA

INSIDE

The farmers, on their part, are required to grow 10 major crops suitable to the soil and climatic conditions of their respective regions, making effective use of water resources.

Page (2)

PERSPECTIVES

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win bids farewell to Thai counterpart



YANGON, 9 Dec — The Thai delegation led by Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra left here by special aircraft at 1 pm today after paying an official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and staff of the Thai Embassy, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department, Director-General U Thaung Tun of the Political Department and officials bade farewell to the Thai Prime Minister and party at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win bids farewell to Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra at the airport.— MNA