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Saturday, 11 December 2004



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win bids farewell to Lao Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith.— MNA

## LPDR Prime Minister leaves

YANGON, 10 Dec — The goodwill delegation from Lao PDR led by Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith left here by special aircraft this morning after paying a goodwill visit to Myanmar at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Before their departure, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greeted Lao Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and party at the special lounge of Yangon

International Airport. Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win presented a photo album on the goodwill visit and video tapes to the Lao Prime Minister.

Later, Prime Minister 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 of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for

### 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

Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR U Tin Oo, Lao-tian Ambassador Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and embassy staff, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department, Director-General U Thauung Tun of the Political Department and officials bade farewell to the Prime Minister of Lao PDR and party. —MNA

## Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and party

YANGON, 10 Dec— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win received Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party who are here to attend the World Buddhist Summit at the Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Konmynintha here at 8 am today.

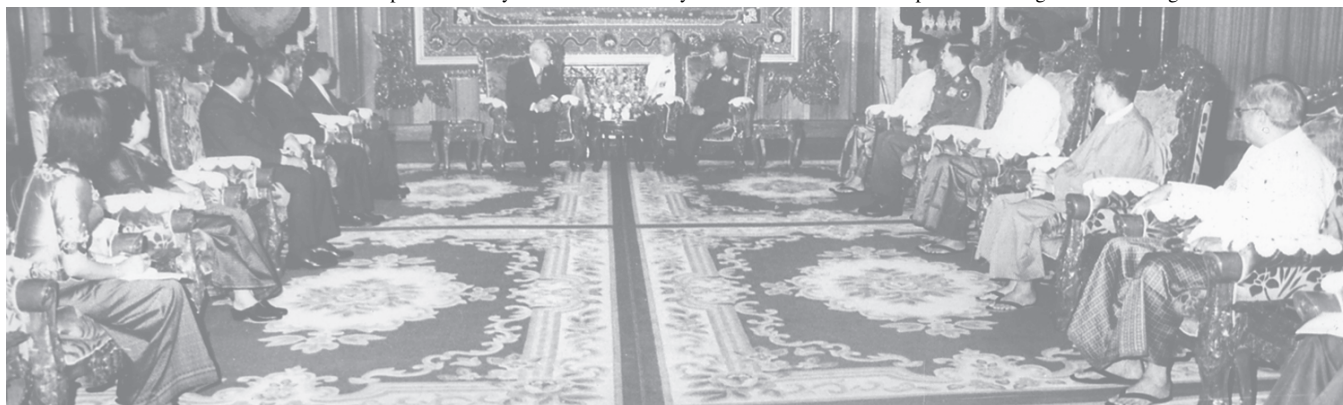
Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development

Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Political Department U Thauung Tun and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

The Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister of Religious Affairs of Cambodia Mr Khun Haing and Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany.

Matters related to mutual cooperation and cementing of friendly ties between the two nations were discussed.

After the call, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng presented a Jade Buddha image, the gift of Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. Afterwards, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win had a documentary photo taken together with the guests.— MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.— MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 11 December, 2004

## World Buddhist Summit, which helps flourish loving kindness, compassion over the world

The World Buddhist Summit, organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, is now in progress at the Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon, and eminent Buddhist Sayadaws and Chief Sayadaws of Buddhist Ganas of various nations, world Buddhist researchers and scholars representing their nations and associations at the Summit.

It is heartening to see respective Buddhist representatives at home and abroad carrying out religious tasks in unison and with heart and soul at the Summit for long lasting and promotion and propagation of the Sasana of the Lord Buddha.

At the opening of the Summit, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and party paid reverence and offered Buddha images to the Sayadaws. And respective venerable Sayadaws, Buddhist representatives, prime ministers and ministers delivered addresses, extended greetings and read messages and papers.

Now, Myanmar has opened a new chapter in the history of Buddha Sasana by hosting the Summit, at which local and foreign representatives are holding thorough discussions on the religious affairs, based on friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries. Myanmar and its people have gained merits by taking full responsibility to host the Summit that will make religious history. At a time when tremendous progress has been made in science and technology that can fulfil all the physical needs of mankind, it is required to create a better world with peace, stability and development by satisfying the spiritual requirements of human beings through the teachings of the Lord Buddha.

Visible are such unpleasant events in today's world as armed rivalry, terrorism, the development gap between the poor and the rich, and the bullying of the weak by the strong. So also are evil fires like greed, anger and fear that are enflaming the feeling of local people in some parts of the world. Only loving kindness, patience and forgiveness can put out such fires of human beings.

The World Buddhist Summit will contribute towards the creation of a new world with ubiquity of peace, loving kindness and justice.

World eminent Buddhist monks and leaders are to carry out religious duties with the sweat of their brow through the teachings of the Buddha for flourishing tranquillity, peace and cardinal virtues around the world. Therefore, the ongoing World Buddhist Summit will add a greater speed to measures for peace, loving kindness and compassion of global reach.

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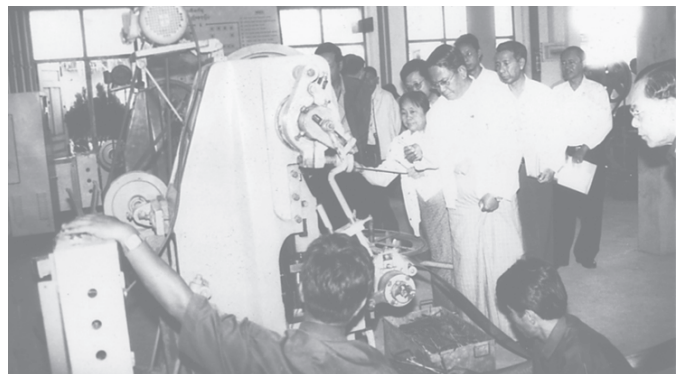
### People's Desire

- \* 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

## Minister inspects factories in Yangon

YANGON, 10 Dec — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun and officials, visited the plastic factory No 2 of Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries in Mayangon Township yesterday morning and inspected the production process of conduit pipes, tooth brushes and other plastic wares.

Next, the minister and party went to the soy bean and vinegar factory of Myanma Foodstuff Industries in Hline Township, where he inspected production process and gave instructions to officials on the



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang inspects production process of Myanma Umbrella Factory.— INDUSTRY-1

production of foodstuff in accord with GMP system and measures to be taken for quality control.

The minister and party also inspected the

umbrella factory of Myanma General and Maintenance Industries. Later, the minister inspected the production of umbrellas and gave cash

assistance to the senior staff members. He then inspected production and packaging of candy and camphor balls.

MNA



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun meets officers of Customs Department.— F&R

## F&R Minister meets staff

YANGON, 10 Dec — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun met with the Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar and staff of the

departments and enterprises under the ministry at the training school of the Customs Department here yesterday.

After his speech, the

minister urged the staff to be loyal to the State, to work in accord with the codes of conduct and to strive for exceeding the targets.

He also visited the Tax Imposition Committee (Valuation Division) at Ywathagyi. Officials explained functions of the committee. — MNA

## Tailoring courses conclude

YANGON, 10 Dec — The closing ceremony of Advanced Tailoring course No 9 and the Basic Tailoring Course No 37 took place at the women's vocational training school in Kengtung, Shan State (East) this morning, with an address delivered by Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council and also Commander of Triangle Region Command.

Present were local authorities, departmental officials, and guests of social organizations. Five trainees successfully

completed the advanced tailoring course while thirty trainees completed the basic tailoring course. The courses are opened by the Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

Similarly, the women's vocational training school in Myeik concluded its Advanced Tailoring course No 9 and Basic Tailoring Course No 37 this morning. The closing ceremony took place at the hall of the training school. Taninthayi Division PDC

Chairman and also Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint delivered an address on the occasion. Present were departmental officials, local authorities, and guests of social organizations. Three trainees and 42 trainees successfully completed the advanced course and the basic

course respectively.

Likewise, the advanced and basic tailoring courses opened by respective women's vocational training schools also concluded today in Muse, Lashio, Monghsat, Tachilek, Loikaw, Hpa-an, Myawady, Yay, Kawthoung, and Maungdaw.

MNA

### All this needs to be known

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



# Philippine House passes 2005 budget

**MANILA, 9 Dec**—The Philippine House of Representatives Wednesday approved on third and final reading the 907.7-billion-peso national budget for 2005.

Voting 155-22, the proposed General Appropriations Act for 2005 was passed late Wednesday, the *Philippines News Agency* reported.

By department, the key beneficiaries of the budget remain to be the Department of Education with 111 billion pesos; Department of Public Works and Highways, 49.5 billion pesos; Department of National Defence, 46.2 billion pesos; Department of Interior and Local Government, 43.9 billion pesos.

Education got the top most five sub-sectors with 135.5 billion pesos; infrastructure, including roads, communication, energy, water, and flood control, 56.5 billion pesos; public order and safety, 54.3 billion pesos; social security and development, including pen-

sions and gratuities, 40.1 billion pesos; and agriculture and agrarian reform, 25.9 billion pesos.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia said "this is a reformist and Spartan budget designed to help government manage and arrest the huge budget deficit while not sacrificing the delivery of basic services and making way for an economic turnaround".

The General Appropriations Act will be transmitted to the Senate for further deliberations before the two chambers sit down in a bicameral conference meeting to reconcile any differences.

After finalizing the amendments, both Houses will ratify the bill and send it to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for signing into law.—MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်သစ်ကိုမြင်ကြ



Vietnamese girls in traditional 'ao dai' dress carry lotus at a South Korean products exhibition in Hanoi on 10 December, 2004. The exhibition is a part of a South Korean Week in Hanoi marking the 12th anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral relations between Vietnam and South Korea.—INTERNET

## Singapore company wins US Army contract

**SINGAPORE, 10 Dec**—Singapore Technologies Engineering (STE) had won a laptop computers contract from the US Army worth 200 million US dollars, according to local media reports on Thursday.

STE, Southeast Asia's largest defence group, said on Wednesday that the laptops will be designed to withstand the US Army's harshest tactical environment for computer systems and will be deployed in areas under extreme weather and handling conditions.

Used for diagnostics and maintenance on all the US weapons systems, generators as well as wheeled and tracked vehicles, the laptops are expected to be produced and delivered between 2007 and 2009 after two years of functional and environmental testing. — MNA/Xinhua

## Vietnam to boost industrial development along North-South road

**HANOI, 9 Dec**—Vietnam plans to invest 119.9 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (7.6 billion US dollars) in developing the industry of 16 provinces having the Ho Chi Minh National Road, the second North-South link, run through in the next five years.

Most of the money will go to the fields of hydro-electricity, farm and forest product processing, mineral exploitation and processing, and building material production in the 2004-2010 period, *People's Army* newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The country is developing some large-scale in-

dustrial complexes, such as bauxite mining in Dac Nong central highlands province and cement production in the northern provinces of Ha Tay and Hoa Binh as well as in the central provinces of Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh.

The road, which includes a 2,667-kilometre

main route, and a 500-kilometre western branch on the basis of the Ho Chi Minh Trail, is expected to further socio-economic development of 30 localities, from northern Cao Bang Province to southern Ca Mau Province.

The road, which is under construction, is designed to go through the

30 cities and provinces with a total length of 3,167 kilometres with an estimated investment of more than 33.6 trillion VND (over 2.1 billion dollars). After completion in 2010, some sections of the road will be upgraded into expressways.

MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore to encourage new ideas from entrepreneurs

**SINGAPORE, 9 Dec**—Singapore Government will grant advantage to entrepreneurs with innovative ideas in using public assets.

Addressing a business gathering on Wednesday evening, Vivian Balakrishnan, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, announced the launch of the First Mover Advantage framework, which takes effect immediately.

"The objective is to encourage entrepreneurs with innovative business ideas on the utilization of government assets to come forward with their proposals, while government preserves the overarching principles of open and fair competition and fair market value on the allocation of its resources," Vivian said.

MNA/Xinhua

## CIA fired me for not toeing Iraq line, says agent

**WASHINGTON, 10 Dec**—A senior CIA analyst who was once decorated for his work on weapons proliferation in the Middle East has accused the spy agency of ruining his career as punishment for his refusal to adhere to official pre-war "dogma" on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. In a law-

suit filed in a US district court, the unnamed agent, described as a 22-year veteran of the agency's counter-proliferation department, accuses his former supervisors of demanding that he alter his intelligence reporting to conform to the views of CIA management in the run-up to the war on Iraq. The action

marks the first time the CIA, which proclaimed that Saddam Hussein had stockpiles of WMD, has been publicly accused by one of its employees of exerting pressure to produce reports that would help the Bush administration make its case to go to war on Saddam.

Internet

## US raps NATO allies for Iraq mission impasse

**WASHINGTON, 10 Dec**—US Secretary of State Colin Powell has renewed criticism of a group of NATO allies for refusing to allow officers to serve in a NATO training mission in Iraq.

"We think it is a problem," Powell said, referring to countries including anti-Iraq war heavyweights France and Germany which are refusing to let their staff assigned to NATO centres in Europe and the United States to be dispatched to Baghdad.

"It is our expectation that when units and individuals are committed to an international staff, they then work in that international staff and become a key part of that international staff," he said on Thursday.

The refusal is hurting the credibility and the cohesion of such the international organization, he said, speaking after discussing the issue with his NATO counterparts at talks in Brussels.

None the less, NATO said on Thursday it would boost its fledgling military training mission in Baghdad after several European countries responded to US appeals to send trainers to Iraq.

"The number of personnel will go from 60 to 300, including trainers and support staff," NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer told reporters after a meeting of foreign ministers from the 26-member alliance.

He said the expansion would go ahead as soon as possible but gave no precise time-frame for the officer training mission, which is intended to complement the much larger US-led operation to train Iraqi foot soldiers.—Internet



US Marines, from the 1st Battalion of Bravo Company, open fire on guerilla positions after they came under attack by small arms fire while conducting a series of raids hunting arms and guerilla suspects south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad on 1 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

## GMS Learning Resource Centre launched in Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH, 9 Dec— The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) of the Great Mekong Subregion (GMS) Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management (PPP) was inaugurated here on Wednesday.

The LRC is based in the Asian Development Bank (ADB) resident mission in Phnom Penh. The centre, which provides public access to information through ADB and GMS databases on general development issues, is open to the public with a library and an Internet facility.

"I am confident that the LRC will contribute to building capacities in the GMS," said Senior Minister Khy Taing Lim at the inauguration ceremony. "This inauguration of the LRC is yet another step in our working together to foster the exchange of ideas and information."

Moreover, development-related multimedia publications, including online access to ADB documents and other GMS databases, are available at the LRC. The centre will also have video-conference facilities through which PPP

can conduct learning programmes and development management dialogue among GMS countries.

Khy Taing Lim said, "Empowering people, institutions, and markets by providing them with effective information is a critical element in the fight against poverty and the effort to achieve greater connectivity, competitiveness, and community in the GMS."

The PPP aims to build the capacity of middle- and senior-level professionals in the governments of the six countries of the GMS. Through the PPP, a select group of GMS managers and leaders will be given opportunities to develop their skills to facilitate sustainable development of the GMS.

GMS includes China's Yunnan Province, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia. —MNA/Xinhua

## Italian President visits Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 9 Dec— Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi said here Wednesday in his second leg of China tour that China has made remarkable achievements in economic development and Italy will continue to further the cooperation with China in various fields.

Italy-China cooperation has produced positive results and the entrepreneurs of the two countries should join hands to promote the bilateral friendly cooperation, Ciampi said in his address to a seminar on Italian manufactory industry.

More than 200 Italian businessmen in Ciampi's delegation held talks

with their Chinese colleagues on the cooperation in the fields of energy, fashion design, architecture, education and tourism. Chinese official statistics showed that Italy has established 206 direct investment projects in Shanghai with a contracted value of 300 million US dollars by the end of this October.

MNA/Xinhua

## Thailand's shrimp, chicken export prospect promising in 2005

BANGKOK, 9 Dec — The prospect of shrimps and chicken export looks promising in 2005, the Thai News Agency reported on Wednesday.

The shrimp industry will have a bright prospect since the EU has declared its intention to renew GSP for Thailand, Adirek Sripratak, president of Charoen Pokaphand Feed Plc was quoted as saying.

With the renewal of the privilege, Thailand's export to the EU is likely to

rise from the current 1 per cent, or around 7,000 tons, to 10 per cent of the total volume of product the bloc imported, he said. Meanwhile, the Thai Government has planned to negotiate with France for the purchase of Airbus planes in exchange for the import of Thai farm goods.

MNA/Xinhua



US Marines of 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, set out on a patrol in the city of Fallujah, 50 km West of Baghdad, on 8 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

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## Masterpieces of French impressionists on display in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 9 Dec— An exhibition of 51 masterpieces by 12 French impressionist painters was opened here Wednesday and will last until January 19 next year.

The art show is a key part of the "French Year of Culture in China," which was officially launched on October 10.

The 51 paintings include works by Claude Monet, Paul Cezanne, Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet and Alfred Sisley.

Of the 51 works, 38 are provided by the Musee d'Orsay in Paris, 11 others are from other French museums, and

one from the Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton Group, which is sponsoring the exhibitions in China.

The show at the Shanghai Art Museum follows an exhibition in Beijing, which was held from October 11 to November 27 at the National Art Gallery.

The show attracted about 300,000 visitors in Beijing. The National Art Gallery in the nation's

capital had to extend opening hours every day, and at the end of the event, it set a record of nonstop operation for 36 consecutive hours to receive enthusiastic art lovers.

Under the auspices of the French and Chinese ministries of culture, the show will move to Hong Kong at the end of its display in Shanghai.

MNA/Xinhua



Hollywood movie powerhouse Walt Disney has taken sides with Japan's Sony Corp in a bitter battle between studios to define a technical standard for next generation DVDs by announcing it would adopt Sony's Blu-ray disc format putting it at odds with an array of studios supporting rival Toshiba technology.

Picture shows a Sony employee holding the new Blu-ray disc—INTERNET

## Russia supports Iraq in restoration of order

MOSCOW, 8 Dec— Meeting with visiting Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Russia is ready to support all Iraqi steps aimed at restoring order in this country, the Interfax news agency reported on Tuesday.

"Frankly speaking, I cannot imagine how elections can be organized (in Iraq) when the entire country is occupied by foreign troops," Putin noted at the meeting held in Kremlin.

"Russia is seriously concerned about process-

es taking place in the country with which Russia has had friendly relations for a long period of time," Putin said. The President indicated that the relations between Russia and Iraq have been free from any ideology in the past few

years. They have always been guided by the principles of friendship. Putin expressed hope that the current authorities of Iraq "will be able to pull the country out of" its crisis

MNA/Xinhua

## US commander predicts troops in Iraq possibly shifting next year

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec — The top US commander in the Gulf region sees the role of US troops in Iraq possibly shifting as early as next year to focus less on combat and more on training Iraqi security forces, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

Army General John Abizaid did not set a timetable for the shift, saying it would depend on the outcome of the January elections and evidence Iraqi forces were ready to handle the guerillas, the newspaper reported. Abizaid, the US Central Command chief, was interviewed in Qatar by The Washington Post and the Bloomberg news service. — MNA/Reuters



# China to learn from Germany on revitalization of old industrial belt

CHANGCHUN, 9 Dec— Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan said here on Wednesday that China will further cooperate with Germany to learn from Germany's experience in revitalizing old industrial belts to stimulate economic progress in northeast China.

Zeng made the remarks at a seminar held here in the capital of Jilin Province on Sino-German cooperation in revitalizing northeastern China's old industrial region, which includes the provinces of Jilin, Liaoning and Heilongjiang. Visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder also spoke.

"Northeast China enjoys good natural condition and wide-ranged catalogue of industry," Zeng said. "Meanwhile, Ger-

man companies have cutting-edge in fund, technology and management. The two economies are complementary and share broad industrial connection."

The northeast China provinces and their German partners have close trade and economic cooperation, he said, noting that German companies have invested 1.2 billion US dollars in about 300 projects in China's northeast region so far.

The Chinese senior

official said that he hopes the northeast part of China and Germany will expand cooperation in energy and environmental protection, traffic, automobile, chemical, electronics and machinery and high-tech industry.

He urged the two sides to stimulate cooperation in reforming state-owned enterprises, developing modern agriculture and service industry and encouraging the small- and medium-sized businesses to enhance cooperation.

Schroeder introduced Germany's experience in reforming its industrial bases, such as developing core competitiveness and enhance infrastructure construction, highlighting research and development and training on personnel.

German-Chinese cooperation in northeast China has had sound foundation, he said, noting the German Government supports enterprises to participate in the revitalization progress of northeast China.— MNA/Xinhua

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## Schroeder starts visit to Japan

TOKYO, 9 Dec— German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder arrives in Japan on Wednesday, kicking off a three-day visit on a variety of issues, including UN reform and Iraq's reconstruction.

Schroeder is scheduled to hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Thursday, the Foreign Ministry said.

Japan and Germany are both aiming at obtaining permanent membership in the UN Security Council. The leaders are expected to reaffirm their commitment to support each other's bids to that end during the summit.

On the Iraq issue, they are expected to discuss cooperation in efforts for the training of Iraqi security personnel. Japan has been firmly supporting the US-led actions in Iraq, while Germany is one of the major opponents.— MNA/Xinhua

## Heavy oil leaks in China Sea after collision of two foreign ships

BEIJING, 9 Dec— Two container ships, registered at Panama and Germany, collided at 9:35 pm Tuesday at the sea area close to the mouth of the Pearl River in south China, causing heavy oil to leak from the oil tank of one of the ships.

There is no danger of sinking, and no injuries reported, according to sources from the Ministry of Communication here Wednesday.

According to the ministry, the Panama ship, the *Hyundai Advance*, was proceeding from south China's Shenzhen Port to Singapore, while the German ship, the *MSC Ilona*, was headed from

Shenzhen to Shanghai. After the collision, a fuel storehouse of the *MSC Ilona* was broken and leaked heavy oil.

At present, the heavy oil has polluted a sea area 17 kilometres long and 20 to 200 metres wide.

Eight decontaminating ships from south China's Guangdong Province have arrived at the spot to deal with the leaking oil.

Divers have been sent to plug the leak.

The ministry held an emergency meeting last night and set up a leading group, headed by Vice-Minister of Communication Xu Zuyuan. The leading group urged local rescue and wrecking departments to do their best to prevent more sea areas from being polluted.

MNA/Xinhua

## S Korean President makes surprise visit to troops in Iraq

SEOUL, 9 Dec— South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun made a surprise visit Wednesday to the South Korean troops stationed in Iraq to encourage them while on his way back home from a trip to Europe, according to a news release of the Presidential Office.

Roh arrived in Kuwait on a special flight from Paris late Wednesday and then flew

to Irbil in northern Iraq on a military plane along with a small entourage, the Presidential Office said.

During his two-hour visit, Roh had breakfast with some South Korean troops before being briefed on their local activities and inspecting the unit's hospital and barracks. About 3,600 South Korean troops are stationed in Irbil, making South Korea the third-largest contributor to the US-led coalition in Iraq after the United States and Britain.

"I have been told that you, South Korean troops, are doing well in Iraq. I came here to have a first-hand look at you on behalf of the entire nation," Roh was quoted by the release as he talking to the soldiers.— MNA/Xinhua



The Ariane-5 Rocket. The launch of an Ariane rocket with six French and one Spanish satellites on board, which was to have taken place next Friday, has been rescheduled for December 18, launch operators Arianespace said.— INTERNET



Spectators watch aerial acrobatics by Surya Kiran team of the Indian Air Force on the last day of the two-day aerobatics show in Bhopal, capital of the central state of Madhya Pradesh, on 8 Dec, 2004.— INTERNET

## China hopes Ericsson will do more to boost trade cooperation

BEIJING, 9 Dec— China hopes the Swedish telecommunications equipment giant Ericsson will make more contributions to boost the economic and trade cooperation between China and Sweden in the future, Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi said here Wednesday afternoon.

Wu made the remarks while meeting visiting Ericsson CEO and President Carl-Henric Svanberg in Beijing.

She said China and Sweden have witnessed a steady progress in economic and trade cooperation over recent years and the two countries have kept frequent contacts at various levels.

In addition, the two

sides have carried out an increasingly close cooperation in many areas, such as investment, technological transfer, finance and environmental protection.

"Swedish businesses, including Ericsson, have contributed a lot to the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries," said the Vice-Premier.

China appreciates Ericsson's strategy of picking China as its development priority and dedicating itself to being a long-term partner in cooperation with China in the communications industry, she said.

Svanberg said Ericsson will continue to enhance its cooperation with China.

MNA/Xinhua

## China's Lenovo Group acquires IBM's PC business

BEIJING, 9 Dec— China's personal computer giant Lenovo Group Limited Wednesday signed an agreement with IBM to take over the latter's personal computer business for 1.25 billion US dollars.

According to the agreement, Lenovo will acquire IBM's entire global desktop and laptop computer research and development

and manufacturing business.

In return, Lenovo Group will pay IBM 650 million US dollars in cash and grant it 600

million US dollars' worth of Lenovo stocks, which will make IBM an owner of around 18.5 per cent of Lenovo shares.

MNA/Xinhua

## Medicine exports in Bangladesh grow 330% in three months

DHAKA, 10 Dec — Pharmaceutical exports of Bangladesh surged by 330 per cent during the first quarter of current fiscal 2004-2005, with Africa emerging as a highly potential market for the burgeoning sector.

According to the daily New Age on Thursday, a recent study of the country's Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) shows medicines worth 7.06 million US dollars were exported in July-September period of this fiscal, while that of the corresponding

period of last fiscal stood at 2.14 million dollars.

It is a tremendous growth which will sustain and increase further according to EPB's observation and analysis, the bureau's vice-chairman Mir Shahabuddin Mohammed was quoted as saying, adding his bureau has recommended the government should provide necessary support for this sector.

Detailing export performance in some African countries, the vice-chief pointed out African market has a huge demand for

Bangladeshi pharmaceutical products.

The first-ever market mission comprising Bangladeshi exporters visited Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi recently, and fetched spot orders worth 600,000 US dollars for medicine.

More such orders are in progress, as by February 2005 the EPB will send a second such mission to Africa which will visit Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Morocco and Algeria, said Mohammed, the report said.

Bangladesh has now a total of 141 pharmaceutical companies in operation, with 10 to 12 of them are now exporting medicines, it said, adding the pharmaceutical products have so far reached 79 countries including Singapore and countries of the European Union as well as the Middle East.

According to a World Trade Organization

(WTO) rule, the least developed countries (LDCs) will not be required to meet patent and other obligations to export medicines to other WTO member countries from the year 2006 to 2016.

Bangladesh is among the top five having most advanced pharmaceutical industries out of 49 LDCs, so local entrepreneurs in this field have been encouraged by this special advantage to substantially increase their exports in the near future.

The EPB has handed in to higher authorities some recommendations to boost the pharmaceuticals exports, including the establishment of a government-run central testing laboratory for export-oriented pharmaceuticals to enhance reputation of local products abroad through dependable quality certification, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

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## Singapore to strengthen business ties with Iran

SINGAPORE, 10 Dec — Singapore on Thursday encouraged businesses from Iran and the city state to get together, find partners and familiarize themselves with each other's markets.

Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang said that Iran and Singapore can complement each other in various areas such as oil and gas, construction, industrial parks and infrastructure.

"It is my hope that the Singapore-Iran relationship will grow closer in the coming years," Lim said, adding that the island state welcomes Iranian businesses to increase their presence here.

Lim was speaking at the Iran Business Seminar, which was opened here on Thursday with the aim to highlight the opportunities in Iran to the Singapore business community.

Lim said that Singapore will host the Asia-Middle East Dialogue next June to enhance mutual exchange and understanding between the two regions, which have become increasingly attractive to each other in the economic field. — MNA/Xinhua

## China Southern Airlines opens flights between Wuhan, Paris

WUHAN, 9 Dec — China Southern Airlines opened a flight between Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, and Paris, Tuesday.

Passengers on the flight will have to transfer planes in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province.

A Boeing 737-800 with 160 seats will fly the route from Wuhan to Guangzhou, while the international flight from Guangzhou to Paris will be carried out by Boeing 777 with 300-plus seats, said He Zongkai, general manager of the Hubei branch of China Southern Airlines.

The flight will cover 11,000 kilometres, with a flight times of one hour and 20 minutes from Wuhan to Guangzhou and 13 hours from Guangzhou to Paris.

The flight will take off from Wuhan at 6:20 pm each Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. The return flight will leave Paris at 11:30 a.m. local time each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

With frequent economic cooperation and cultural exchanges, Hubei Province, located at the middle of the Yangtze River, has become a major investment destination for French companies. — MNA/Xinhua

## Members of US special operations task force disciplined

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec — Four US troops serving on a special operations task force have been disciplined for abusing prisoners in Iraq, including unauthorized use of Taser electric-shock weapons, the Pentagon said on Wednesday.

The task force's activities became known on Tuesday with the release of a June document showing that its members punched and abused prisoners in front of Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) agents and then threatened the agents to try to keep them quiet.

Chief Pentagon spokesman Lawrence Di Rita told a Pentagon briefing that four members of the task force were given administrative punishments by the military for excessive use of force involving the unauthorized use of Taser weapons.

All four were reas-

signed to other responsibilities and two were removed from the unit, Di Rita added.

Di Rita added that the commander of the task force already had initiated an investigation of potential detainee abuse within the unit even before the DIA letter was written. Di Rita said he did not know what had triggered that investigation.

The newly disclosed letter from the head of the DIA to a senior Pentagon intelligence official detailed previously unknown incidents of abuse by US forces on prisoners in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

## Asia's air quality improving

MANILA, 9 Dec — Contrary to a US media report lately, Asia's air quality is improving by some measures instead of worsening, a senior ADB official told the opening session of the ADB-supported Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2004 conference in India on Monday, according to an ADB news release Tuesday.

Quoting an ongoing Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) study that summarizes data from 20 Asian cities, Director-General of ADB's Regional and Sustainable Development Department Jan van Heeswijk said that there has been a moderate to slight decrease in pollution levels for total suspended particulates and fine particulates as well as sulphur dioxide.

Although particulate levels were still harmful to human health, average sulphur dioxide levels had fallen below guidelines set by the World Health Organization, proving that air quality management policies can work in Asia.

He said the success of CAI-Asia as an organization was reflected in an evaluation in which 83 per cent respondents feel their involvement in its activities had improved their personal understanding of air quality problems and solutions in Asia.

"The most important result of the evaluation for

me was that 75 per cent of the respondents responded that CAI-Asia activities had resulted in more Asian cities undertaking concrete air quality management activities," he said.

CAI-Asia is the cohort of the three-day workshop, which together some 600 delegates from 35 countries to share experiences on management of urban air quality and discuss ways to improve air quality in Asian cities in the context of a political economy.

The latest issue of the US Time magazine said in its front-page report that "rapid economic growth has led to record levels of pollution". But it also said that "this is a mess that can be cleaned up".

This is the fourth BAQ workshop and is jointly organized by the Central Pollution Control Board and SIAM and sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and CAI-Asia. CAI Asia has been promoted by ADB, World Bank, and USAID.

MNA/Xinhua



A visitor looks at a chocolate bust of Marilyn Monroe during the exhibition 'Chocolate - History, Business, Pleasure' in a museum in Erfurt, eastern Germany, on 9 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

## Cave of 2,000-metre deep found in Indonesia's Papua

JAKARTA, 10 Dec — An expedition team in the Indonesian easternmost province of Papua has discovered a cave of around 2,000-metre deep, which if proven will surpass the Jean Bernard cave in southern France as the world's deepest known cave, the official Antara news agency reported Thursday.

Led by Bruno Thery of France, the team discovered the cave in Manokwari Regency, some 3,200 kilometres east of Jakarta, the report said.

Since 1993, the same team has conducted several geological surveys in Papua after gathering information from satellite images.

In his report to the local authority in Manokwari, Thery said the cave was found in the mountainous area of Lina and is 2,000-metre deep from the entrance against 1,610 metres of the Jean Bernard cave, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



# The World Buddhist Summit

*Sein Yaungchi Sayadaw  
(Shwekyin Myo)*

The World Buddhist Summit is in session at the Maha Pasana Cave, the venue of the Summit, at Kaba Aye in Yangon, in the presence of eminent Buddhist leaders from 35 nations around the world. Over 500 Buddhist monks from abroad are taking part in the discussions together with monks, nuns and lay persons in the nation who are well-versed in the Three Pitakas. The Summit will be a milestone in the nation's history of religion.

While admiring the World Buddhist Summit and its participants, my mind went back to the Sixth Buddhist Synod, that was held in Myanmar from 1956 to 1958. During the Synod, the virtues of Mingun Sayadaw were unforgettable. The five Theravada Buddhist countries selected Myanmar as the country to host the Synod. Some countries had asked Myanmar whether the nation had a monk who was well-versed in the Three Pitakas. Thus, the nation held the Tri-Pitaka examinations, and there emerged Mingun Sayadaw, who could present any part of the Pitaka orally, before the start of the Synod.

Thanks to the Sayadaw's immense knowledge on the Three Pitakas, Myanmar was able to hold the Synod successfully, and the successful convening of the Synod was a triumph and pride for the nation. As the Sayadaw was able to recite all the over 7,600 pages of the Three Pitakas orally, he was recorded in the Book of Guinness published by England. Thus, Myanmar was able to raise her dignity as a true Theravada Buddhist nation.

Myanmar is a land where Pariyatti, Patipatti and Pativeda Sasana flourish. Many monks, nuns and lay persons who are well-versed in the Three Pitakas have been emerging in the nation throughout the successive periods. Thanks to the efforts of Buddhist monks and

people of Myanmar, peoples of many other nations all around the world are able to study the Buddha's teachings and practise meditation and vipassana. They are able to take shelter from the Dhamma. Some of the eminent monks including Leti Sayadaw, Mahasi Sayadaw, Mogok Sayadaw and Hpa-Auk Sayadaw were renowned even in other nations for their vipassana practices. Thus, Myanmar is like a place where gems of fine quality can be found.

**The world has seen the existence of Theravada Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism, and both teach and show people the way to Nirvana, despite having some differences between them. But we cannot find the correct way to the Nirvana just by reading books or making discussions or studying Patipatti. It is the vipassana practice that can lead us to finding the correct way to the Nirvana.**

I was included in the first batch of students who attended the State Pariyatti University (Yangon). After completion of my four-year study course at the university in 1996, I travelled to four countries for over seven months for missionary services, and found that the peoples in those nations wished lecturer Sayadaws from Myanmar to teach them Pariyatti and the practice of meditation and vipassana. They did believe in vipassana practices.

The world has seen the existence of Theravada Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism, and both teach and show people the way to Nirvana, despite having some differences between them. But we cannot find

the correct way to the Nirvana just by reading books or making discussions or studying Patipatti. It is the vipassana practice that can lead us to finding the correct way to the Nirvana.

The embryo-Buddha had to practise the ten Virtues to attain Buddhahood, and in the Ten Virtues include the Sicca Parami, which teaches mankind to stand for the justice and truth, and to speak the truth. In this regard, we all must tell the truth, and hatching evil plots against others is against the teachings of the Lord Buddha. We cannot go against the truth and justice for any reason.

Thus, we can say that any attempt or plot to stop Myanmar from holding the Summit or the Summit to meet its dead end is a sin.

In his one of the existences, the embryo-Buddha was King Sutasoma, who was captured by man-eater Podisada. But when the King remembered his appointment with Nanda Ponna, he asked permission from Podisada to go to the royal city, and pledged to return after completion of his assignment. The embryo-Buddha went back to the city, and made arrangements for his father to ascend the throne. After completion of his duty, he came back to Podisada, and said that he always stuck to his words.

After reading the Sihanada treatise compiled by Sitagu Sayadaw, an eminent Buddhist monk in Myanmar, I have come to understand and know more about the sins of making evil plots against and talking ill of others. We are lucky to be born as Buddhists in Myanmar as we have the opportunity to strive for the promotion, purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Sasana.

**(Translation: TMT)**

*Kyemon: 9.12.2004*

## Commerce Minister and diplomats view booths on export promotion

YANGON, 10 Dec—Booths on export promotion of the Ministry of Commerce were opened at the Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road here this afternoon. It was attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, diplomats of foreign missions in Myanmar, officials of the ministries concerned, cooperative societies, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and local companies.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and diplomats viewed fruits, rubber, coffee, tea, pepper, agricultural products, marine products and forest products on display.

A meeting between officials of foreign and local companies took place at the meeting hall of the Yangon Trade Centre and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun extended greetings on the occasion.

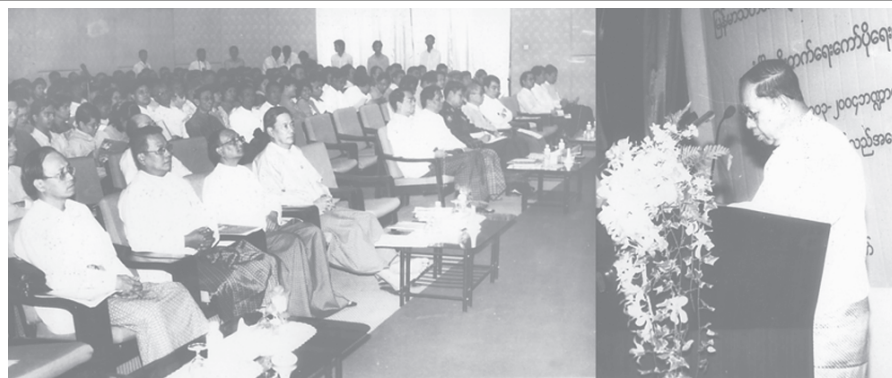
Next, officials of foreign companies gave their own views.

Matters related to marketing between foreign companies and local companies were discussed.

Those present viewed fruits, fish and meat and agricultural products on display.

Altogether 31 booths of cooperative societies and private companies are being staged at the Yangon Trade Centre.

MNA



*Vice-Chairman of the e-National Task Force U Aung Myint delivers a speech at the third annual general meeting of MICTDC.—MNA*

## MICTDC holds annual general meeting

YANGON, 10 Dec—The Myanma Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation held its third annual general meeting (2003-2004) at the MICT Park in Hline Township here this afternoon.

It was attended by Secretary of Myanmar Computer Development Council Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, Vice-Chairman of the e-National Task Force Member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Col Kyaw Nyunt of the Ministry of Defence, Managing Director of the Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs

U Maung Maung Tin, departmental officials, members of the MICTDC board of directors, shareholders and guests.

The e-National Task Force Vice-Chairman delivered an introductory speech on the occasion. MICTDC Managing Director U Aung Zaw Myint presented the report of the board.

Member of the MICTDC board of directors U Tin Win Aung replied to the queries raised by the shareholders, and presented the audit report.

Next, new members were elected for the MICTDC board of directors and the annual financial statement was approved, followed by closing remarks by Chairman of the meeting U Thein Oo. — MNA

## World Buddhist Summit...

(from page 16)

of the Sangha from State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon), International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy and Maha Santi Sukha Missionary Monastery, Mahayana monks in Myanmar, nuns at home and abroad, Sangharaja Sayadaws from the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cambodia and Sri Lanka, members of the Sangha from the People's Republic of China, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Australia, Germany, Canada, the US, the UK, Czech Republic, Romania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Thailand, Japan, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia, Sweden, Jamaica, Singapore and the Republic of Korea, ministers of the Union of Myanmar, deputy ministers, members of the Leading Committee, Work Committee and Sub-committees for Organizing the Summit, Mahayana lay persons, religious title recipient persons, religious and social associations, local and foreign journalists, members of the pagoda boards of trustees in Yangon, senior world Buddhism researchers and scholars from 38 countries, delegates to the Summit and observers.

Before the second-day session, officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs ushered 18 Sayadaws from Australia, Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Japan, Korea, Romania, India, Czech Republic, the UK, the US and Germany led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta



Ven Golayaye Piyadassi Sri Saddhatissa of Britain.—MNA

Paññindabhivamsa, Secretary Vice-Chancellor of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Joint Secretary Chairman of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Administration Board Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa, Rector of ITBMU Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Ashin Silanandabhivamsa into the Maha Pasana Cave through the southern entrance

along Mingala passage. At that time when they entered the cave, the congregation paid homage to them and the State Orchestra played music.

At 8 am, the opening ceremony was held. Staff Officer (In-charge) U Wint Aung of Myanmar Radio and Television of the Ministry of Information and Assistant Director U Ye Htut of International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acted as masters of ceremonies.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*.

Ma Thida Moe of MRTV sang the song titled "Htoo Machana" to the accompaniment of nine harpists of the Fine Arts Department. Next, the significant bell at the southern entrance of the Cave was tolled for nine times.



Ven Dr Phra Suthivarayah of Thailand.  
MNA

Cambodian members of the Sangha recited *Metta Sutta* and the congregation said Sadhu for three times.

Afterwards, delegates read messages sent by Cambodian Minister for Religious Affairs Mr Khun Haing, Korean Minister of Culture and Tourism Mr Chung Dong-Chea, Chairman of Government Committee for Religious Affairs of Vietnam Mr Ngoyen Thi and Ven W Sarada Maha Thero of the Singapore Buddhist Meditation Centre.

Sayagyi U Goenka of Vipassana Meditation Centre of Igatpuri Maharashtra of India submitted the paper on the Universal Appeal of the Buddha Dhamma; Dr Ashin Osadhasara of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, the paper on the Propagation of Buddhism; Ven Golayaye Piyadassi Sri



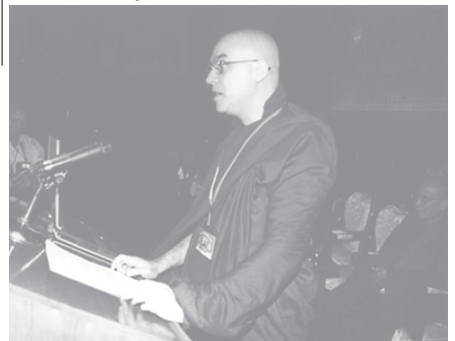
Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Sayagyi U Goenka of India.—MNA



Dr Ashin Osadhasara of Myanmar.  
MNA

Saddhatissa of International Buddhist Centre of the UK, the paper on the Theravada Buddhism in Great Britain; Ven Nandisena of Mexico, the paper on the Some Ideas on How to Teach the Dhamma in a Non-Buddhist Country; and Ven Dr Phra Suthivarayah of Maha Chulalongkorn Rajavidyalaya University of Thailand, the Buddhism and World Peace.

The congregation said Sadhu for three times. Next, the first-session of the second day programme went into recess with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu.—MNA



Ven Nandisena of Mexico.—MNA

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and the



**Optimist Dinghy Association of Myanmar**

132, Inya Road, Kamaryut T.S, Yangon, Myanmar

Tel: +951 527 277/535 298 Fax: +951 502 023

e.mail: myint@myintassociates.com.mm

www.myf.org.mm



Ministers and person alities at home and abroad attend the World Buddhist Summit at Maha Pasana Cave.—MNA





The Group-1 presents the topic "Buddhism and Its Relevance to the Present World". — MNA

## Four groups of World...

(from page 16)  
and scholars took part in the discussions. The resource Sayadaws and

Khikkhu Sanghasena of India, Dr Nyi Nyi of the UK, Nun Daw Aggañani of Germany, Nun Daw

Dr Silanandaçarabhivamsa presided over the discussions. Chief of Foreign Language Faculty of ITBMU U Sao Tun Hmat Win supplicated on

Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, India, the US, ROK, Bangladesh and Australia and observers.

President Ven Dr H Gunaratana of the Bhavama Society Forest Monastery and Retreat center in the Theravada Tradition of the US presided over the discussions. Prof Dr Min Tin Mon of ITBMU acted as master of ceremonies. Chief of Department of the ITBMU Dr Ashin Çandavarabhivamsa read the paper on Buddhist Meditation and World Peace, Professor of ITBMU Sayadaw Dr

Ashin Dhammapiya (US) on Nibbana in the Theravada Perspective, Bhaddanta Lokanatha of Jamaica on Buddhist Meditation and World Peace, and Professor Dr Min Tin Mon on Break-through in Tranquillity Meditation and Break-through in Insight Meditation.

Those present discussed the papers and Prof Dr Min Tin Mon answered the queries.

MNA



The Group-4 presents the topic "Buddhist Meditation and World Peace". — MNA

The Group-3 presents the topic "Promotion and Propagation of Buddhism". — MNA

Sayagyi U Goenka answered the queries. The group discussions ended in the evening.

The Group-2 held its discussions at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Discussion chairman Rector of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Dr Nandamalabhivamsa delivered a speech. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indaka of the US, Ashin Punnobhasa of Myanmar, Ven Pannavaro of Australia, Lama Lhundrup of Germany, Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, Dato' Dr GKA Kumarasiri of Malaysia, Ven Phra Sri Pariyattimoli of Thailand, Ven Rong Be (Knmer Krom) of Vietnam, Ashin Kovida of Canada, Sayadaw Ven Dr Styapala of India, U Maung Maung Lay of Myanmar, Ven

Jotika Hamihsan of the Netherlands and Daw Saw Yi Mon of Myanmar participated in the discussions.

Those present gave suggestions. The discussion chairman gave an Ovadakatha before concluding the discussions.

At 1 pm, the group-3 discussed the Promotion and Propagation of Buddhism at the lecture hall of ITBMU. Present were members of the Sangha, world Buddhist researchers and observers including the Associate Professor of Maha Chulalongkorn University of Thailand and delegates from Indonesia, Nepal, Mexico, the US, Thailand, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the Russian Federation and Myanmar.

Rector of ITBMU

the topic of the discussion. Next, Pro-Rector of ITBMU (Academic) Dr Kumarabhivamsa submitted the paper on Buddhism and Purification; Head of Pariyatti Department of ITBMU Bhaddanta Kosalla on the Facilitator Role of the State in the Promotion and Protection of the Buddha Sasana; and Sayadaw Dr Uttarañānabhivamsa of Buddha Vihara Monastery in Birmingham of the UK on Promotion of Buddhism in the 21st Century.

Similarly, the discussion of the Group-4 was held at the convocation hall of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon). Present were Rector of the SPS University (Yangon) Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Panditabhivamsa, Rector of the SPS University (Mandalay) Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vannita, Pro-Rector of SPSU (Yangon) Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Uttama, members of the Sangha from ITBMU, SPSU (Mandalay) and (Yangon), members of the Sangha and delegates from Jamaica, Lao PDR,



## Bio-data of Prime Minister...

(from page 16)

Mahinda Rajapakse's father joined the late SWRD Bandaranaike in the latter's march towards forming a people-oriented political party.

Mr Rajapakse holds the record of being the youngest Parliamentarian. He had his education at Richmond College, Galle, Nalanda College and Thurstan College, Colombo.

He became Minister of Labour and Vocational Training in 1994 during the PA Government. A diploma holder of the Prague Trade Union School he rendered a yeoman service for the betterment of the working class of the country. Later, he was appointed Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Development Minister. He initiated the Diyawara Cammana program to solve the housing problem of fisheries community.

He was also appointed Minister of Shipping. A Vice-Chairman of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Rajapakse campaigned for the victory of the Freedom Alliance as a co-organizer.

The processions and demonstrations conducted by the SLFP Opposition in the past against the dominant UNP administrations of JR Jayewardana and R Premadasa were the brain child of Mr Mahinda Rajapakse who led such activities.

He was conferred the title of Sri Rohana Jana Ranjima by the Maha Sangha in 2001.

He is married to Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse. They have three sons.

MNA

ပဉ္စမအကြိမ်

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Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win greets Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng at Zeyathiri Beikman.

MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win bids farewell to Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith at the airport. (News on page 1) MNA

## Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister calls on PBANRDA Minister

YANGON, 10 Dec—Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party called on Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt at the latter's office this morning.

Matters discussed

included rural development, development of border areas and cooperation in rural and border areas development work.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Brig-Gen Than Tun, Director-General of Department for Progress of Bor-

der Areas and National Races Col Than Swe, Director-General of Development Affairs Department Col Myo Myint, Director-General of Education and Training Department Col Than Win and officials.

MNA



Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt meets with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng.— MNA

## Education Minister encourages students

YANGON, 10 Dec — Minister for Education U Than Aung and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, accompanied by directors-general of the departments under the ministry and officials, arrived at the Town Hall of Dagon BEHS No 3 this morning and observed students practising Wushu.

They were physically and spiritually weak.

The Minister, the Deputy minister and party cordially greeted the students and instructed them to try to be outstanding ones.

Headmistress of Dagon BEHS No 3 Daw Mother Hein and Principal of Mary Chapman's School for the Deaf Daw Khin May Sint reported to the Minister on matters related to learning of the students.

Next, the minister

and party inspected the library and School health booth in the school compound and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the Minister and party inspected the construction of new school building and fulfilled the requirements.

Altogether 48 students who are physically and spiritually weak are learning in the school.

MNA



## Cambodian Dy PM tours Yangon

YANGON, 10 Dec — Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party, together with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany and officials, visited Union National Races Village near Thanlyin Bridge in Thaketa Township this morning.

On arrival, the visiting Cambodian delegation was welcomed by Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, No 2 Military Region Commander

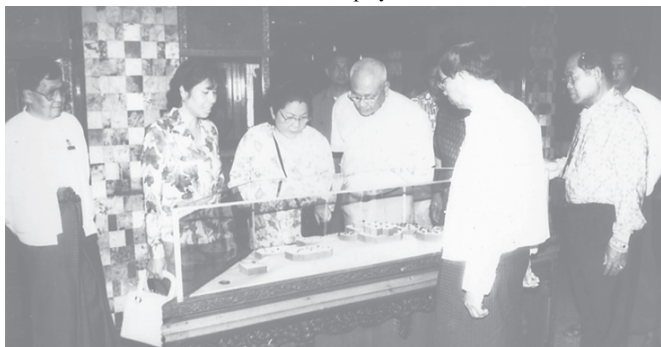
Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Director-General of the Border Areas and National Races Development Department Col Than Swe, officials and national races people. At the briefing hall, Col Than Swe gave a brief account of the village. Next, officials conducted the Cambodian delegation around the village by car. The Cambodian delegation observed Bamar, Kayin, Mon, Chin and Kachin national races villages. They also posed for group photos together with national cultural troupes. Visiting Cambodian Deputy Prime

Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng signed in the visitors' book.

In the afternoon, the Cambodian delegation also visited Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. On arrival, they were welcomed by Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Khin Oo, No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Tun Oo and officials.

Officials conducted the Cambodian delegation around the mart. Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng signed in the visitors' book, leaving the mart at 2.30 pm.

MNA



Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party visit Myanmar Gems Emporium.— MNA

## Construction of water-treatment plant inspected

YANGON, 10 Dec — Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by officials, inspected the progress of the water-treatment plant

project in Botahtaung township this morning.

Officials of the project reported on construction of the plant and conducted the mayor around the project, which is being implemented by

YCDC. At the briefing hall, the mayor met with officials and technicians of the project and urged them to work hard as the plant was the first of its kind in Myanmar.

MNA

## Myanmar delegation returns home

YANGON, 10 Dec — The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint arrived back here by air this evening after attending the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on En-

vironment held in Phnom Penh in Cambodia on 7 December.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by directors-general of the departments under the ministry and officials.

The deputy minister was also accompanied by delegation members Director-General U Than Oo of Relief and Resettlement Department and Deputy Director U Maung Maung Khin on the same flight.

MNA



## Wood-based industries inspected

YANGON, 10 Dec — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, accompanied by departmental heads and officials, inspected the wood-based factory of GGI Co Ltd in South Okkalapa Township yesterday afternoon. At the parlour, the in-charge the factory reported on the functions of the factory. The factory exports garden equipment and sown timber to France, Italy and Switzerland.

Next, the minister went to the timber shop in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, where he inspected the sale of sown timber and gave instructions on immediate



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects the finished wood products factory of the MTI Co Ltd in South Dagon Industrial Zone. — FORESTRY

supply of timber to the general public.

The minister also visited Myoma Furniture Co Ltd in Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone, and the

wood-based factories of Myanmar Technologies Industry Co Ltd and Lin Win Co Ltd. In his inspection tour of the wood-based factories, the

minister urged factory officials to make arrangements for finding new foreign export markets for a variety of timber including teak. — MNA

## Religious Affairs Minister receives Nepalese guests

YANGON, 10 Dec — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of

Nepal Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyaya at his office this morning.

Matters related to religious affairs between the two nations were dis-

cussed. Also present on the occasion were Nepalese Chargé d' Affaires ai to Myanmar Mr Dilid Kuma Paudel, Director-General of Religious Affairs De-

partment Dr Myo Myint and Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin and officials. — MNA



Col Zaw Win of MPF addresses the conclusion of Tourists Security Course No 9/2004. — HOME AFFAIRS

## Tourist Security Course concludes

YANGON, 10 Dec — The Tourist Security Course No 9/2004 organized by Myanmar Police Force (MPF) concluded at the Ministry of Home

Affairs this morning, with an address by Deputy Director-General Col Zaw Win of MPF, on behalf of the director-general of MPF.

On the occasion, the deputy director-general presented awards to outstanding trainees.

The course was attended by 40 police of-

ficers.

The aim of the course is to ensure secure and tranquil travelling of the tourists.

MNA

## Sanyo electrical equipment introduced

YANGON, 10 Dec — Sanyo electric goods being distributed by OK Myanmar Co Ltd were introduced at the Excel Treasure Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here yesterday evening.

On the occasion, U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing, Company Managing Director, explained extended distribution of electrical appliances; Lt-Col Zaw Weit (Retd), quality and grantee of the

goods and services to be provided to customers and distribution of goods at a reasonable price.

Next, the guests viewed Sanyo brand air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines and other electrical equipment produced by Sanyo Electronic Corporation of Japan. Sanyo electronics sale centre of OK Myanmar Co Ltd is opened at Dagon Tower near Shwedagon traffic lights in Bahan Township. Its service center is opened on Maha Bandoola Park Street (Middle Block) in Kyauktada Township. For purchase of the

goods, dial 544464, 544465 and 558291 and for services, call 376997 and 384748.

MNA



Sanyo electrical appliances. — MNA

## News from the Districts

### Infants, children immunized against measles

MYINGYAN, Nov 30 — In a bid to eliminate measles in Myingyan Township, the township Health Department in cooperation with well-trained staff vaccinated the children in the township from 14 to 20 November.

A total of 31,092 infants and children aged nine months to five years were collectively vaccinated. Divided into 58 groups, the volunteer staff inoculated the children in 271 stations and officials of the Health Department closely supervised the activities.

Similarly, in an effort to take precautions against measles, Loilem Township Health Department on 5 November conducted a meeting on measles vaccination at Loilem District Peace and Development Council office.

Medical Superintendent Dr Myo Thant Tin briefed on the measles immunization activity to be carried out collectively in the township. Measles, an infectious disease, causes fever and small red spots that cover the whole body. — KYEMON

### On-job training course concludes

MAWLAMYINE, Nov 29 — On-job training course conducted by Mawlamyine District Information and Public Relations Department concluded on 23 November.

Altogether 15 trainees of the department attended the course which lasted a week. Head of the district IPRD U Tint Tun made concluding remarks and presented certificates to the trainees. At the concluding ceremony, the department also provided cash assistance to children of the staff for their education. — KYEMON

### Self-reliant libraries set up in rural areas

MOENYO, Nov 30 — With the assistance of the State, contributions of wellwishers and local people, self-reliant libraries have been mushrooming in rural areas.

Up to 7 December, altogether 10,598 self-reliant libraries have been opened nationwide.

On 19 November, with the assistance of Moenyo Township Information and Public Relations Department, a self-reliant library was opened on 19 November in Kayinchaunggon Village in Moenyo.

At the opening ceremony, local people also provided books on general knowledge and cash assistance for the library. Similarly, Mawleik Township IPRD also established a library on self-reliant basis in AuZeGon Village in the township on 18 November. Head of the township IPRD inaugurated the library. At the opening ceremony, wellwishers also provided books on general knowledge and journals for the library. — KYEMON



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Organized by Department of Export Promotion, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand  
Supported by Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thailand Exhibition'2004

### Special activities

- \*Thai Cultural Dancing
- \*Beauty & health promotion
- \*Thai fresh fruit handy-curling

15-18 December 2004

Yangon Trade Center

Upper Pazundaung Road, Yangon

10:00 am to 06:00 pm daily

**15-16 December 2004 : Trade Days (entry by registration only)**

**17-18 December 2004 : Public Days**

*Businessmen and Traders to be visited on Trade Days, kindly register at the exhibition entrance on show days with business cards.*

**COME & ENJOY YOURSELF WITH WORLD STANDARD PRODUCTS FROM THAILAND**  
Fair managed by TTF (Yangon) Co., Ltd

### UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in US Dollars and Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr.No	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	3/MR/Locomotive (M) 2004-2005	IN-SERVICE LOCOMOTIVES	4 - Nos

Closing Date: 5.1.2005 (Wednesday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 14.12.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

**Deputy General Manager  
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon**

### 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**

### Rare turtle found in eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 9 Dec — The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has discovered the red-ear slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) in waters of the Indonesian eastern-most province of Papua, a researcher said Wednesday.

WWF researcher John Maturbongs was quoted by *The Jakarta Post* online news service as saying that the turtle was one of the great Emydidae species, such as the Geomydidae, Tryonichidae and Kinosternidae, which live in Latin and South America.

The red-ear slider has a typical belly shield with a relatively high, green back, and its head is mottled with distinct blood-red spots.

Maturbongs said only

two species of rare turtles were known to be found in the wild in Indonesia, the *Trachemys scripta elegans* and the *Trachemys terrapen*. The two species are brightly coloured as hatchlings and adolescents, but become dull in adulthood.

The red-ear slider encountered in a Manokwari river is estimated to be about four years old.

Maturbongs said the rare turtle was indigenous to America, and it was unknown how it came to be in Irian Jaya. "It's the WWF's duty to uncover this mystery," he said.

The turtle's diet consists mainly of fish and shrimp. It lays about a dozen eggs with an incubation period of 58 to 72 days.

MNA/Xinhua

### IDB to approve credit for Customs-modernization in Venezuela

CARACAS, 9 Dec — The Inter-American Development Bank will approve 37 million dollars to finance the modernization plan of the National Integrated Customs and Tax Service of Venezuela.

In a statement cited Tuesday by local daily *El Universal*, tax-collection supervisor Jose Vielma Mora said that the financing will help automatize Customs procedures.

The modernization plan covers areas of informatics, Customs, internal revenue and human resources.

Visiting IDB representative Marcio Carsel said that the bank's board of directors appears ready to approve the loan before the end of the year. The Customs project is estimated to be ready in early-2005. — MNA/Xinhua

### Fire causes explosion in New York power station

NEW YORK, 9 Dec — A power station in the East Village, New York City, was rocked by a series of explosions Wednesday morning after fire broke out in one of the station's transformers. No injuries were reported.

The fire, at the Consolidated Edison facility

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV JATIWANGI PB-400 VOY NO (519)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JATIWANGI PB-400 VOY NO (519) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.12.2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

### SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

### ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "MAWLAMYINE" VOY NO 111/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MAWLAMYINE" VOY NO. 111/N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving at Yangon port on 12.12.2004 and will be berthing on about 13-12-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

### CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

### Memoir (Daw Nu Nu Ohn)

Love is undying tribute to the memory of my beloved wife Daw Nu Nu Ohn who passed away a year ago (11 Dec 2003).

Words are so inadequate to express the overwhelming sense of feelings I have for you. All I can say is I do love you and I miss you always.

**Your lonely husband**

### Pole travels 3,000 miles to get medical fees for two disabled girls

SEATTLE, 9 Dec — A Polishman travelled more than 3,000 miles on rollerblades to Microsoft Corp's headquarters to ask Chairman Bill Gates pay the medical costs of two disabled Polish girls, the company said on Tuesday.

Krzysztof Dzienniak, 24, rolled into Microsoft's Redmond, Washington campus on Monday after setting off from New York in late August to raise

money for seven year-old Monika Mosur, who was born with hydrocephalus, and Patrycja Bialkowska, a 10 year-old who lost a foot in an accident.

Although Dzienniak did not get to meet with Gates, who was out of town, he did convince Microsoft executives to set up a special employee-contribution fund for the girls, with donations matched dollar-for-dollar by Microsoft.

### S Korea to select candidates for first astronaut

SEOUL, 9 Dec — South Korea plans to select two space astronauts by May 2005 with the aim of putting the first South Korean into space two years later, a South Korean Government-run agency said Thursday.

Unveiling the criteria by which it will select the two candidates, the Korea Aerospace Research Institute said that beginning early next year it will begin accepting applications from ordinary South Koreans who want to become the country's first space tourist.

Under the guidelines, would-be candidates must pass a four-part screening process, which includes physical and medical fitness examinations, English and science tests and interviews.

The two candidates who pass the screening process will undertake training at Russia's Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre from July 2005 to March 2007, the agency said.

In October 2007, one of the two candidates will travel to the *International Space Station* (ISS) aboard a Russian *Soyuz* spacecraft for a 10-day trip, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Gates kicked off the fund, established in association with the charity group SOS Children's Villages, with a 1,000-US-dollar personal contribution and encouraged Microsoft's employees to donate as well.

"We do respond to needs like this... and hope that we will be able to raise the money necessary for the girls' treatment," a Microsoft spokeswoman said.

Dzienniak, who lives in Warsaw and read about the girls' plight, decided to make the trip after Gates visited Poland in 2003. He said he was inspired to make the trip by the movie "Forrest Gump."

Dzienniak wore out three pairs of rollerblades, or inline skates, and travelled about 32 miles a day.

MNA/Reuters

**DONATE BLOOD**

on 14th Street, erupted in the early hours of the morning and was followed by a loud explosion, witnesses said. Flames were seen shooting out of the top of the station.

About 110 firefighters responded to the blaze dousing the fire in about three hours.

Services on a nearby subway line were briefly disrupted but returned to normal later.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua



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## China to treat more AIDS patients with free ARV therapy in 2005

**BEIJING, 9 Dec** — China plans to treat another 20,000 to 30,000 AIDS patients next year with free anti-retroviral (ARV) therapy, a senior health official said.

"By the end of last June, a total of 10,388 AIDS patients from 18 provinces have received free ARV therapy," Hao Yang, deputy head of the disease control department under the Chinese Ministry of Health, said Tuesday at a Press conference hosted jointly by the Ministry of Health and the

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

China has an estimated 840,000 people infected with HIV, among whom 80,000 have full blown AIDS. Since a large number of the HIV carriers got infected in the mid 1990s, many of them have be-

gun to show AIDS symptoms and are in urgent need of treatment.

In September 2003, the Chinese Government announced that it would provide free ARV treatment to AIDS patients in rural areas and those urbanite sufferers with financial difficulties.

MNA/Xinhua

## Arroyo earmarks \$ 8.9m for rehabilitation of typhoon-hit Luzon

**MANILA, 9 Dec**— Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said on Tuesday that the government is earmarking 500 million pesos (8.9 million US dollars) to finance the reconstruction and rehabilitation of typhoon-struck areas in Luzon in northern Philippines.

Arroyo said that the fund will also be used to renovate equipment of weather forecasting departments, fight illegal logging and finance reforestation programmes.

"As we carry out a massive relief and rehabilitation efforts, we are

setting our sight on the formulation of a more comprehensive national policy that would protect lives, property and crops, uphold environmental laws and sustain vulnerable communities over the long-term," she said. She said that the government is determined

to carry on with its double task of fighting poverty and ensuring human security and development.

Some 1,400 people were dead or missing in when the Luzon region was struck by two typhoons within three days last week. MNA/Xinhua

## S Africa takes measures to attract more overseas tourists

**JOHANNESBURG, 8 Dec**—The South African Tourism has concluded a multi-million rand deal with the *National Geographic* of the United States in a bid to attract more overseas tourists.

The campaign — rolling out between November 2004 and March 2005 — incorporates 938 television inserts and is also supported by print and photographic elements.

Moeketsi Mosola, CEO of South African Tourism, said: "Our intention is to leverage our new brand at the highest levels world-

wide."

"The new brand, launched throughout this year in selected markets across the globe, embodies the essence and values of South Africa as the break that breaks new ground," she added. She said: "We fully intend to build on that premise and break new ground with this initiative."

Mosola said: "South African Tourism has created one of the most progressive brands in the world today."

South Africa has seen a dramatic growth in travel enquiries and is currently regarded by tourism trade and consumers alike as the ideal destination to visit.

MNA/Xinhua

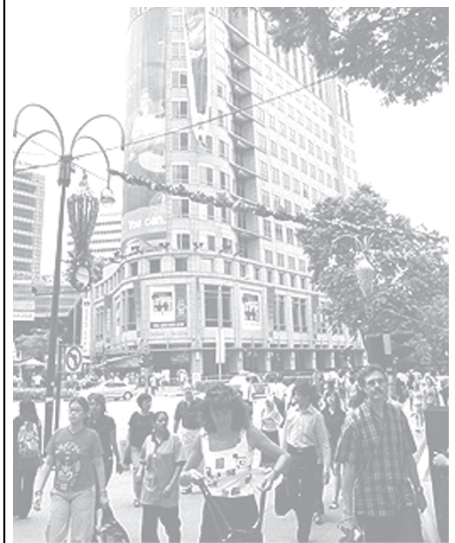
## Factory orders jump in Germany

**BERLIN, 8 Dec**— Big domestic contracts helped boost German industrial orders for the second month in a row in October, the Economics Ministry said on Monday. While orders from abroad sank by 1.2 per cent, domestic orders jumped by a surprising 3.3 per cent, beating analysts' expectations, the ministry said.

Despite the good news on the domestic front, market watchers warned against reading too much into it. Economists are still worried about the euro's 12 per cent advance in the last three months on the US dollar, fearing it could put the brakes on the Germany's export-driven recovery. — MNA/Xinhua

## Maradona hopes to leave Cuban rehabilitation clinic

**BUENOS AIRES, 8 Dec**— A relaxed and lucid Diego Maradona said on Monday he was waiting for doctors' approval to permanently leave the Cuban drug rehabilitation clinic he has been "shut inside" for more than two months. Maradona said in a televised interview on Argentina's Telefe channel that he had been there to reaffirm what he did in the clinic in Buenos Aires and he was waiting for the doctors to give him permission to leave. Maradona returned to Argentina on Sunday night to spend the end-of-year holidays with his family. Since late September he had been in treatment for cocaine addiction in Cuba, where he has spent much of the last four years. — MNA/Xinhua



A view of the Orchard Road district. Prime real estate on Singapore's Orchard Road will be leased out for nearly 900 million Singapore dollars (550 million dollars) as the government seeks to upgrade the famous shopping strip.—INTERNET

## Report says 15% of Zambian children are orphans

**LUSAKA, 8 Dec**— Over 15 per cent of Zambia's children under the age of 15 are orphans who have lost one or both of their parents mainly to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development said in a report released Monday.

The report, titled "Orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia 2004 situation analysis", said 12 per cent of five-year old children were already orphaned in 2002.

The report also said in 2002, 31 per cent of the 14-year-olds in urban areas and 27 per cent of their rural counterparts were orphans.

Besides orphans, there are greater number of so-called vulnerable children, who are living in impoverished families, or families with HIV/AIDS patients, families with adopted orphans, as well as those who are infected with HIV/AIDS.

The report quoted a

study by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "Children on the Brink 2004", as saying Zambia has the highest proportion of orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa, much higher than any country in Asia, Latin America or the Caribbean. The report commended the Zambian Government to take care of orphans and vulnerable children.

The measures include the introduction of free basic education and the implementation of the Food Security Pack aimed at promoting household food security for vulnerable families.

MNA/Xinhua

## NZ, Australia to hold trade ministers' meeting

**WELLINGTON, 9 Dec** — New Zealand will host this year's CER (Closer Economic Relations agreement with Australia) trade ministers' meeting in Queenstown of the South Island on December 10 and December 11, Trade Negotiations Minister Jim Sutton announced here Tuesday.

Sutton said this year's meeting would be a larger one than usual, building on the work done as part of last year's celebration of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Closer Economic Relations agreement between New Zealand and Australia.

Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile will be attending the Queenstown meeting, accompanied by Australian Agriculture Minister Warren Truss and Australian Industry Minister Ian McFarlane.

Accompanying Sutton will be New Zealand's Commerce Minister Margaret Wilson and Regional Development Minister Jim Anderton. Sutton said the CER agreement was one of the world's most mature and comprehensive trade agreements. However, he said there were still further steps to take toward a single economic market between New Zealand and Australia.—MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi man walks in front of a tent erected for displaced people from Fallujah on 8 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

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S**Bolivar beat Boca Juniors 1-0 in Copa Sudamericana final**

**LA PAZ, 10 Dec** — Striker Horacio Chiorazzo scored 15 minutes from time to give Bolivar a 1-0 win over Boca Juniors in the first leg of the Copa Sudamericana final on Wednesday.

Chiorazzo, top scorer in the tournament which is South America's current answer to Europe's UEFA Cup, ran onto a ball from substitute Pedro Guiberguis to beat Argentine international Roberto Abbondanzieri in the Boca goal.

Boca, winners of the more prestigious Libertadores Cup last year, must now beat the Bolivian side by two goals when they meet in the second leg in Buenos Aires on December 17 if they are to end 2004 with a trophy.

Bolivar had hoped to take greater advantage of the 3,600 metres' energy-sapping altitude of La Paz but Argentine Chiorazzo said: "People here always want to win three or

four nil and so do we, but there are rivals who are really difficult.

"The important thing was to have won."

Boca defended well after taking their time to become used to the thin air and striker Carlos Tevez tested Bolivar's Brazilian keeper Machado with a shot in the 26th minute but no teammate was following up to turn the rebound into the net.

The Argentine side's defence were finally caught out by Chiorazzo's speed onto Guiberguis' long through ball in the 75th minute. The striker rounded Abbondanzieri, who came out to the edge of his box, to score the winner. —MNA/Reuters



Malaysia's Kiew Kit Kong (L) is challenged by Timor Leste's Salvador Do Rego during Tiger Cup ASEAN Football Championship 2004 in Kuala Lumpur on December 8, 2004. —INTERNET

**Malaysia beats East Timor in Tiger Cup**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Dec** — Malaysia whitewashed East Timor 5-0 as the latter made its first-ever international soccer tournament in the Tiger Cup here on Wednesday.

Liew Kit Kong opened the account in the 28th minute, before Mohamad Amri Yahyah scored twice in the 49th and 84th minutes.

The other goals came from Mohamad Fadzli Shaari at 67 minutes and Mohamad Shukor Adan in the 86th.

The best chance for East Timor came in the 24th minute when Nelson Silva made his cross and his teammates were too slow to move in and score.

MNA/Xinhua



Maccabi Tel Aviv's Liran Cohen (R) fights for the ball with Juventus' Pavel Nedved (L) during their Champions League Group C soccer match at Rammat Gan stadium near Tel Aviv December 8, 2004. —INTERNET

**Maccabi Tel Aviv battle with Juventus for 1-1 draw**

**TEL AVIV, 9 Dec** — Maccabi Tel Aviv battled valiantly with Juventus for a 1-1 draw on Wednesday but the result was not good enough to keep their European season alive and they finished bottom of Champions League Group C.

Maccabi needed to better Ajax Amsterdam's result on the night for a third place finish but they were pipped for the UEFA Cup place by the Dutch side who drew 2-2 with Bayern Munich.

Ajax and Maccabi finished on four points but the Amsterdam side advanced by virtue of a better head-to-head record.

Maccabi took the lead with a Barukh Dego penalty in the 30th minute after striker Emile Mbamba was brought down by defender Fabio Cannavaro. Juve equalized when Alessandro Del Piero struck with a close range shot in the 71st minute.

The only consolation for Maccabi was that they became the first team in the group to score or take a point off Juventus, who won

their opening five matches 1-0.

The first half was played mostly in Maccabi territory as the hosts took a cautious approach but Juve failed to show the commitment needed to prise open the defence and stand-in keeper Gal Nir was largely untroubled by their wayward shooting.

Maccabi's first organized attack resulted in a penalty when lone striker Mbamba was brought down in the area by Cannavaro as the Tel Aviv player rose for high a cross from Liran Cohen. Dego stepped up and confidently blasted the penalty into the back of Antonio Chimenti's net for his fourth goal in the competition. He scored all of Maccabi's goals in their first foray into the group stages.

MNA/Reuters

**Lyon ease past Sparta to top group**

**LYON (France), 9 Dec** — A rejuvenated Olympique Lyon, spearheaded by young Brazilian striker Nilmar, outclassed Sparta Prague 5-0 to finish top of Champions League Group D on Wednesday.

Determined to finish the pool phase on a high note, the three-times French champions took an early lead thanks to Ghana's Micahel Essien, who nodded in from a Florent Malouda cross in the seventh minute.

Lyon's constant domination was rewarded again in the 19th minute when Nilmar took advantage of a huge blunder by Sparta goalkeeper Jaromir Blazek to make it two from close range.

The 20-year-old Brazilian striker sealed victory in the 51st minute and young substitutes Sylvain Idangar and Bryan Bergougnoux completed the rout with late goals. —MNA/Reuters

**Fenerbahce beat depleted Man Utd 3-0**

**ISTANBUL, 9 Dec** — Tuncay Sanli scored a classy second-half hat-trick to earn Fenerbahce a 3-0 win over a depleted Manchester United team in their final Champions League Group D match on Wednesday.

Tuncay struck with an acrobatic overhead kick in the 47th minute and added two more goals to condemn the English side, who had already qualified

for the next round, to runners-up spot in the group behind Olympique Lyon.

The Turkish team, avenging their 6-2 defeat at Old Trafford in September, finished third to qualify for the UEFA Cup.

United manager Alex Ferguson said the hosts had deserved their victory, his team's first Champions League defeat of the season.

"The defending was very poor. The only experience we had was at the back, which was disappointing. I have no complaints about the score.

Fenerbahce deserved to win," Ferguson told a news conference.

"The young players will remember tonight, and the next time they come here, they'll be better," he said.

There were few clear chances in the first half, but Turkish international Tuncay sent the home crowd into raptures just after the interval.

The Turkey midfielder nodded in his second goal from close range after 62 minutes and added a third in stoppage time. —MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's John O'Shea (front) controls the ball ahead of Fenerbahce Istanbul's Marcio Nobre (back) during their UEFA Champions League Group D match at Sukru Saracoglu Stadium in Istanbul. —INTERNET

**Bayer  
Leverkusen  
defeat  
Dynamo  
Kiev 3-0**

**LEVERKUSEN (Germany), 9 Dec** — Bayer Leverkusen scored three times in the second half to beat Dynamo Kiev 3-0 on Wednesday and reach the knockout phase of the Champions League as Group B winners, ahead of Real Madrid.

Leverkusen, needing a win to be certain of joining fellow German sides Bayern Munich and Werder Bremen in the last 16, were a collective nervous wreck before Brazilian defender Juan headed them into the lead in the 51st minute.

Ukrainian striker Andriy Voronin added a second after 77 minutes and Marko Babic squeezed in a shot four minutes from time to settle the game.

The result gave Leverkusen 11 points and kept them ahead of Real thanks to

their better head-to-head record, after a 3-0 home win and a 1-1 draw against the nine-times European champions.

Kiev, the group leaders going into the final game, had to be content with third place and the consolation prize of a UEFA Cup spot.

Leverkusen, who had scored six goals in victories over Real and Roma in their two previous home games, found the Dynamo defence a much tougher proposition, at least in the first half.

MNA/Reuters



## Indonesian car sales drop 30.8% in November

JAKARTA, 10 Dec — Carsales in Indonesia dropped by 30.8 per cent to 35,141 units in November when compared with the preceding month, but year-on-year sale in the first 11 months climbed 33.22 per cent, a local newspaper reported Thursday.

All car producers reported a decline in their November sales except for South Korea's KIA and Germany's Daimler Chrysler whose market shares were not significant in Indonesia, reported *Bisnis Indonesia*.

Quoting data from the Association of Indonesian Automotive Industries (Gaikindo), the newspaper said car sales in the first 11 months of 2004 jumped 33.22 per cent to 434,581 units compared to the same period last year. Toyota

leads the market share far ahead other foreign producers with 125,880 units.

Trailing behind are Mitsubishi with 81,656 units, Suzuki with 73,025 units, Honda with 42,491 units, Daihatsu with 42,345 units and Isuzu with 21,383 units.

Gaikindo Chairman Bambang Trisulo said the association had expected a drop in monthly sales in November and December, as people allocate more funds for holiday trips.

MNA/Xinhua

## Filipino hostage in Iraq still alive

MANILA, 10 Dec — The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Thursday said that the kidnapped Filipino in Iraq, Roberto Tarongoy, is still alive and the rescue operation is also going on. Quoting Undersecretary Rafael Seguis who heads the negotiating team in Iraq, DFA spokesman Gilbert Asuque said that the 31-year-old accountant is still alive.

"Undersecretary Seguis and his team work on reasonable assumption that Tarongoy is still being held captive by the abductors and for that reason their efforts to free him continue," Asuque said in a radio interview. "The instruction is to exert every effort to free Roberto Tarongoy and we

will be there as long as needed," Asuque said. Tarongoy was one of the foreign workers of a Saudi-based company in Iraq who has been in captivity for over a month since November 1, the longest period in for a Filipino hostage in Iraq since truck driver Angelo de la Cruz was kidnapped there in July. The Iraqi kidnappers earlier demanded a ransom of at least 12 million US dollars and the release of at least four Iraqi prisoners held by the US troops.

The US Government urged the Philippine Government not to give in again to the Iraqi hostage-takers after a Philippine accountant was kidnapped early this week in Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesia hosting Int'l Junior Science Olympiad

JAKARTA, 10 Dec — The hope of finding future Indonesian Einsteins is the driving force behind the country's bid of hosting the first International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO), which is now underway.

"Indonesia is said to be weak in science. Therefore, we want to find young talents in that field," an organizing committee member, Riwarda Sihombing, was quoted Thursday by *The Jakarta Post* newspaper as saying.

The Olympiad, which will run through December 14, takes "Einstein, 100 years" as its theme to commemorate the contribution of Albert Einstein to science.

There are 181 students from 30 countries and regions who are aged between 12 and 15 years old participating in the event.

The international competition will also serve as a testing ground for Indonesian students to measure their prowess against students from abroad.

There are 12 Indonesian representatives, who were selected from Jakarta, Papua, Central Java, South Sulawesi, Lampung. They all had won selection competitions at the provincial level.

As the host, Indonesia has the privilege of fielding two teams. Riwarda said the tests were prepared by a joint team of lecturers from the University of Indonesia (UI), the Bandung Institute of Technology and Airlangga University, and academics from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI).

"The tests were assessed by another team consisting of lecturers from Padjadjaran University and LIPI. A day before each test, we meet with the foreign delegations to see whether the materials are acceptable," he said. The tests are presented in multiple choice, essay and experiment format covering physics, chemistry and biology. To prevent leakage of the test materials to the participants, "we isolate the students and keep them away from all kinds of communication."

"Participants stay in different hotels from their team leaders, with no phones, pagers, or Internet facilities," said Riwarda, who is also a lecturer at the School of Mathematics and Science in UI.

During the closing ceremony on December 13, the best students will be awarded with trophies and medals.

"Trophies will be given for Best Theory, Best Experiment and absolute categories," said IJSO coordinator Hidayat Muchtar. — MNA/Xinhua

## Russian legislature approves 2005 budget

Moscow, 10 Dec — Russia's Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday gave its final approval of the country's 2005 budget, which envisages a 6.3-per cent growth for the gross domestic product (GDP).

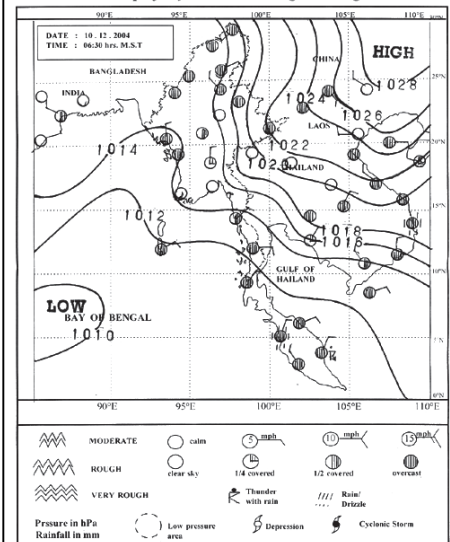
The draft was passed by a 312-2 vote, with 20 abstentions, in the fourth and final required reading in the 450-seat State Duma, according to the Interfax news agency. The budget projects a surplus of 278.11 billion (9.56 billion US dollars), or 1.5 percent of GDP, expecting 3.326 trillion roubles (114 billion dollars) in revenue and 3.047 trillion roubles (104.7 billion dollars) in spending. Russia's GDP in 2005

is estimated at 18.7 trillion roubles (643 billion dollars), up 6.3 per cent against this year, and inflation is expected to range between 7.5 per cent and 8.5 per cent, compared to 10 per cent for this year.

The bill faces one more vote on Friday in the Federation Council, or Upper House of Parliament, before it goes to President Vladimir Putin for his signature.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Friday, 10 December, 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayah State and Bago Division, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Kayah State, Taninthayi and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin and Mon States and upper Sagaing Division, (6°C) above normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 9-12-2004 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 10-12-2004 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-12-2004 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 9-12-2004 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 10-12-2004 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 15 mph from Northeast at (10:30) hours MST on 9-12-2004.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 11-12-2004:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States and fair in the remaining states and divisions.

**State of the sea:** Strong easterly wind with (35) mph and rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coast. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair weather in the whole country.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-12-2004:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-12-2004:** Fine weather.

**Weather outlook for second weekend of December 2004:** During the coming weekend, weather will be fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, December 11  
View on today:

- 7:00 am**  
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**  
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**  
3. Morning news
- 7:45 am**  
4. Nice and sweet Song
- 8:00 am**  
5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am**  
6. Musical programme
- 8:30 am**  
7. International news
- 8:45 am**  
8. Grammar made easy
- 11:00 am**  
1. Martial song

- 11:05 am**  
2. Musical Programme
- 11:15 am**  
3. Round-up of the Week's Local News
- 11:45 am**  
4. ကမ္ဘာ့ဥပဒေသဘာသာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု နှင့် လူ့အခွင့်အရေး
- 4:00 pm**  
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**  
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**  
3. Musical Programme
- 4:45 pm**  
4. အရေးကြီးသော သတင်းအချက်အလက် (သတင်းအချက်အလက်) (သတင်းအချက်အလက်)
- 5:00 pm**  
5. နားထောင်သော သတင်းအချက်အလက်
- 5:15 pm**  
6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတိုက်
- 5:30 pm**  
7. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm**  
8. Games for children

- 6:10 pm**  
9. တေးဂီတပြိုင်ပွဲ မြတ်သတင်း
- 6:30 pm**  
10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**  
11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**  
12. Discovery
- 7:10 pm**  
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်လမ်းညွှန်
- 8:00 pm**  
14. Union of Myanmar (Part- 4)
- 8:00 pm**  
15. Islands of Dhamma
- 8:00 pm**  
16. News
- 8:00 pm**  
17. International news
- 8:00 pm**  
18. Weather report
- 8:00 pm**  
19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်လမ်းညွှန်
- 8:00 pm**  
20. မင်းကုန်းအရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး
- 8:00 pm**  
21. The next day's programme



Saturday, December 11  
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: Here we go
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: Stay the same
- 8:55 am** National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am** Music: Kissy kissy
- 9:10 am** International news
- 9:15 am** Music: -Spotlight on a star
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Requests
- 9:00 pm** ASEAN Review
- 9:10 pm** Article
- 9:20 pm** Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 9:30 pm** Souvenirs
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL





The second-day session of World Buddhist Summit in progress in Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill.— MNA

## World Buddhist Summit continues

YANGON, 10 Dec — The second-day session of the World Buddhist Summit, being organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, in which Buddhist eminent Sayadaws from various countries, Chief Sayadaws of Buddhist Ganas and senior world Buddhism researchers and scholars are

participating was held on a significant scale at Maha Pasana Cave Ordination Hall on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of the Union of Myanmar, Chief Sayadaws of Ganas, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka

Committee, State Central Working Committee of the Sangha member Sayadaws from Kayin and Mon States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, the Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, presiding Nayaka Sayadaws of Pariyatti monasteries, members (See page 8)

### Bio-data of Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Mr Mahinda Rajapakse was born on 18 November 1945 in Weeraketiya, Southern Province DSRS. He is a Buddhist.

Mr Rajapakse is the 19th Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. He is the Sec-



Prime Minister of Sri Lanka  
Mr Mahinda Rajapakse.— MNA

ond Political Leader from the South to be elevated to the prestigious office of the Prime Minister of the Sri Lanka. Mr Rajapakse led the Opposition in the 12th Parliament, and was successfully returned to the office at the 2004 April 2 election after obtaining 107,603 preferential votes from the Hambantota district. He led the Freedom Alliance candidates in that district to secure 178,895 votes.

Mr Mahinda Rajapakse is a recognized and respected politician from the South. He followed his father's footsteps and entered Parliament in 1970 at the age of 25. His father was a co-founder of the SLFP in 1952. The senior Rajapakse left the UNP along with the late SWRD Bandaranaike to form the SLFP in that year.

(See page 9)



The Group-2 of the World Buddhist Summit holds discussions at meeting hall of Ministry of Religious Affairs.— MNA

### Four groups of World Buddhist Summit discuss papers

YANGON, 10 Dec — The afternoon-session of the second day programmes of the World Buddhist Summit continued today.

The group discussions of the Summit were held at the Maha Pasana Cave, the meeting hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the lecture hall of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and the ordination hall of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon).

The Group-1 discussed Buddhism and Its Relevance to the Present World at the Maha Pasana Cave. Present on the occasion were Ven Nanapunnika of Sri Lanka, Sayadaws at home and

abroad, Mahayana monks and nuns, Sayagyi Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja U Goenka, world Buddhist researchers and delegates, totalling about 300. Ven Nanapunnika presided over the discussions and gave a speech. Leading speaker was Ven Dr Dhammasami (Oxford University).

Sayadaw Dr Ashin Ardicca of ITBMU, Sayagyi U Goenka, Sayadaw Ashin Chekinda of ITBMU and Dr Soe Lwin of Britain submitted their papers. Members of the Sangha, Mahayana monks, Sayadaw Ashin Piyatissa and Dr Thein Kyaw of the US, Prof Dr U Tint Lwin and Dr Tin Hlaing of Myanmar (See page 9)

### Summit on world-wide coverage

YANGON, 10 Dec — Forty-seven journalists of Yangon-based foreign news agencies are covering the opening ceremony of World Buddhist Summit for global service TV, radio and newspaper net-

works on 9 December.

The journalists of Reuters, AP, AFP, NHK, Xinhua, Fuji, Nehon Kezai, Kyodo, TBS, Tokyo Shimbun, TV Asahi, Thai Channel 11, Minchi, NTV, Asahi Shimbun, Sankai Shimbun, GG news agency are covering the Summit being held at Maha Pasana Cave, Kaba Aye, here from 9 to 11 December.— MNA

#### INSIDE

While admiring the World Buddhist summit and its participants, my mind went back to the Sixth Buddhist Synod, that was held in Myanmar from 1956 to 1958. During the Synod, the virtues of Mingun Sayadaw were unforgettable. The five Theravada Buddhist countries selected Myanmar as the country to host the Synod.

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Sein Yaungchi Sayadaw (Shwekyin Myo)