

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 240

1st Waxing of Nadaw 1366 ME

Sunday, 12 December 2004



Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe receives Sri Lankan Prime Minister and party

YANGON, 11 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and members at the Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building at 10.30 am today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman

of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt,

Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka U Than Tun, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

The visiting Prime Minister and party were accompanied by Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr DMM Ranaraja. — MNA

In Myanmar, Buddhism prevails in its true form for more than a thousand years

YANGON, 11 Dec—The following is the full text of Joint Statement issued today at the World Buddhist Summit:

JOINT STATEMENT

The Buddha Himself expounded in the Aparihaniya Sutta that frequent meetings of the Sangha will contribute to the well-being of the Sasana and the Sangha. The earliest Buddhist conferences date back to the sixth century BC. Two Sangha conferences were held in India, during the lifetime of the Buddha, where He urged the members of the Sangha to propound His Teachings and appointed leaders for the administration of the Sangha.

Following the Parinibbana of the Buddha, Buddhist Councils were held mainly to preserve the Buddha's Dhamma in its pristine purity. Many Buddhist councils were held in many countries. The first three Buddhist Councils were held in India, the birthplace of Buddhism, and it was due to the last of these councils, i.e., the Third Buddhist Council, that Buddhism spread abroad. The Fourth Buddhist Council held in Sri Lanka may have been the first Buddhist conference outside India.

(See page 6)

World Buddhist Summit come to success only because all participants discussed with patience, forbearance, politeness, loving-kindness, compassion and optimism

YANGON, 11 Dec—The following is the Vote of Thanks delivered at the World Buddhist Summit by Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar today:

I would like to say that this historic World



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers vote of thanks at the concluding ceremony of World Buddhist Summit.—MNA

Buddhist Summit is a great success. More than two thousand participants—Sangha delegates and six hundred observers from thirty-eight countries, more than six hundred Myanmar Theras, Mahatheras and nuns, and laypersons—attended the Summit daily.

I would like to thank the State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, venerable monks and delegates. Especially, I would like to say that I deeply appreciate the fact that the Venerable Sangharajas of Sri Lanka and Lao PDR attended the Summit from the beginning to the end despite their advance years.

This World Buddhist Summit was held with the following five objectives:

- (1) To promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries
- (2) To maintain Buddhist teachings and practice among the Buddhist countries
- (3) To promote Buddhist education based on the studies of Buddhist scriptures in nations of the world
- (4) To help and to create a peaceful world by the Buddhists
- (5) To propagate the original teachings of the Buddha in the world.

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 12 December, 2004

Pay respects to senior literati and preserve literary and cultural heritage

Sarsodaw Day is observed in the Myanmar month of Nadaw, when Thazin flowers are in bloom. As part of preserving traditional culture, the day is being marked to this day.

The first waxing day of Nadaw has been designated and observed as Sarsodaw Day since the post-independence era. Accordingly, ceremonies are held to pay respects to celebrated literati, and awards presented to men of letters.

A cash donation ceremony took place at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information on 9 December to hail the Sarsodaw Day 1366 ME to be organized by the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan himself attended the ceremony and accepted the donations. In his speech, the minister said Myanmar people had held festivals in each of twelve months since yore, and that oral examinations were held in Nadaw and prizes presented to monks and laypersons with literary excellence.

In a bid to preserve and promote the literary and cultural heritage, the government presents Life-long National Literary Award, National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, National Motto and Literary and Photo Awards.

The point of the exercise is to preserve national culture and character. In a sense, it is to implement one of the four social objectives laid down by the State: uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character.

To raise the level of Myanmar literature, the MWJA also organizes literary talk shows, book fairs, and ceremonies to pay respects to senior literati in various states and divisions.

Respects will be paid to 110 aged literati this year. Wellwishers are donating cash and kind to them. The making of donation in such a way is really a blessing because paying respects to due persons is meritorious. The literati of eighty something are those who have served dutifully the interests of race, religion and the Sasana with their literary might.

It is incumbent upon the youngsters to preserve the fine tradition of literature by paying respects to the learned of senior age. Wellwishers have donated K 3.32 million to the respect-paying ceremony for the literati to commemorate the Sarsodaw Day 1366 ME.

This being the case, such kind of ceremony should be held annually in Nadaw as part of maintaining the literary and cultural heritage the dutiful celebrated literati have handed down.

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နှင့်

(၂၆-၁၂-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့

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

Mass sports activities launched in Yangon Division

YANGON, 11 Dec — The walking race as part of mass sports activities in the second week of December were held at Aung San Stadium this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chair-

man of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Director-General U Thaung Htaik of the Sports and Physical Education Department, authorities and departmental officials participated in the walking race.

They started the race at the entrance in front of the grand stand and finished it at Aung San Stadium through the eastern

gate along Gyobu road, Kaba Aye Pagoda road, U Htaung Bo roundabout, the circular road of Kandawgyi gardens and upper Pansodan road. Next, athletes of Myanmar Sports Federations demonstrated their sports skills.

The women's and men's tug-of-war contests continued and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Member of the

Panel of Leading Patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and officials presented awards to the winners.

Over 50,000 people including health staff, students, members of MWA, MWCA, USDA, Red Cross and Auxilliary Fire Brigade took part in today's mass walking races.

MNA

Ceremony to mark International Mountain Day held



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung addresses ceremony to mark International Mountain Day.— MNA

YANGON, 11 Dec — A ceremony to mark International Mountain Day co-organized by the Ministry of Forestry and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization was held at Tawwin Hall of the ministry this morning, attended by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

Also present on the

occasion were Ambassadors from International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICMOD) member nations, Resident Representative of UNFAO Mr Tang Zhengping, officials from the Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry for Border Areas and National Races and De-

velopment Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, National Commission for Environment Conservation, Myanmar Forestry Resources Environment Development and Conservation Association and Association of birds preservation.

Minister for For-

estry Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivered an opening speech at the ceremony. Afterwards, Resident Representative of UNFAO Mr Tang Zhengping clarified matters related to International Day. Next, the minister and those present viewed around documentary photos of activities on hill regions displayed at the hall. — MNA

Early Childhood Training of Trainers concludes

YANGON, 11 Dec — A concluding ceremony of Early Childhood Training of Trainers organized by the Department of Social Welfare and Singapore International Foundation

was held at Pre-Primary School No 1 in Bahan Township this morning.

Professor Dr Khoo Khin Choo of Singapore International Foundation

made a speech at the ceremony.

Afterwards, Director-General U Sit Myaing of Department of Social Welfare and Dr Khoo Kim Choo of Singapore International Foundation presented the completion certificates of the training to the trainees. On behalf of the trainees, Daw L Nang Doi expressed gratitude. After the ceremony, the director-general, the trainees and guests viewed the practical

teaching works with the children.

Altogether 31 trainees from the Social Welfare Department, Education Planning and Training Department, No 3 Basic Education Department, Save the Children (UK), Save the Children (US), Childhood Foundation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) and YMCA attended the six-week course.— MNA



Director-General U Sit Myaing of SWD and officials view practical training for pre-primary school students.— SWD

All this needs to be known

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

Vietnam orders 10 more Airbus aircraft

HANOI, 10 Dec— Vietnam Airlines, the national flag carrier, has just signed a contract for an additional 10 Airbus A321s, raising the total orders for such kind of aircraft to 15, local media reported Thursday.

"The latest order for the A321 will enable us to meet the needs of a rapidly growing Vietnamese market," Vietnam Airlines president Nguyen Xuan Hien was quoted by local newspaper *Youth* as saying at the contract signing ceremony on Wednesday, adding that the carrier placed its initial order with Airbus for five A321 aircraft in October 2002.

The total cost of the 10 new A321s is not revealed, but estimated at some 625 million US dollars. The first is to arrive in Vietnam in 2006.

In addition to developing existing routes to Asia, Vietnam Airlines plans to conduct flights to England and the Far East of Russia, the report said, adding it will also open routes to the western region of North America with a weekly frequency of 3-4 flights per destination in late 2005 or early 2006.

By 2005, Vietnam Airlines will possess and lease 40 planes, and by 2010, the airline plans to increase its fleet to 75 aircraft, hoping to serve 10 million passengers and 190,000 tons of cargoes in the year, the report said.

From 2006 to 2010, it plans to record annual growth of 11 per cent in passenger transport and of 12.5 per cent in cargo transport, and make the five-year revenue of 6.3 billion US dollars.

Vietnam Airlines, which operates 20 direct international routes and three indirect ones, targets to carry roughly five million passengers, including 2.4 million foreigners, and 85,000 tons of cargoes, and gain revenues of 713.4 million US dollars this year. It served four million passengers and 74,000 tons of cargoes last year.

MNA/Xinhua



Vietnam Airlines President and CEO Nguyen Xuan Hein (L) and Christian Scherer, senior vice president business transactions and control and deputy head of commercial for Airbus, sign at the signing ceremony for the purchase agreement of ten A321 aircraft between Vietnam Airlines and Airbus in Hanoi on 8 December, 2004.—INTERNET

Two US soldiers killed as helicopters collide in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Dec— Two US soldiers were killed and four wounded when two helicopters collided at a military airfield in northern Iraq, the US army said.

A Black Hawk helicopter was on the ground at Mosul airfield when an Apache crashed into it, an army spokesman said.

The cause of the accident was under investigation, he said, adding that the wounded soldiers had all been returned to duty. He gave no further details.

Earlier Friday, the US marines said one of its men had been killed Thursday during an operation in Al-Anbar province.

Internet

1,286 members of US military killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec— As of Friday, 10 Dec, 2004, at least 1,286 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count.

At least 1,007 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador,

Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,148 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 898 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

Two soldiers died Thursday in a helicopter accident in Mosul.

Internet

Malaysian tourist arrivals up 61% in 10 months

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Dec— Malaysia's foreign tourist arrivals in the first 10 months of this year reached 13.07 million, up 61.1 per cent over the corresponding period last year, Tourism Minister Leo Michael Toyad said Thursday.

A total of 1.35 million foreign tourists visited Malaysia in October this year, an increase of 36.7 per cent over the 994,858 in October last year, while in January this year, the figure was 1.4 million, the highest in the last three years, the minister said in a statement released here.

"The rise in foreign tourist arrivals shows

their heightened interest in the country," he said.

Most of the foreign tourists in October were from Singapore (807,557), followed by Thailand (139,541), Indonesia (66,011), China (42,211), Japan (30,614), Brunei (29,466), Australia (19,888), United Kingdom (16,753), India (15,966) and Taiwan (13,328), according to the minister.

The tourism sector is a significant contributor to the country's economy in terms of foreign exchange earnings.

In 2003, the sector generated 5.6 billion US dollars from 10.6 million tourists while in 2004, with an estimated 15 million tourist arrivals, the revenue is expected to reach 7.89 billion US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

India, France to push economic ties

NEW DELHI, 10 Dec— France views India as a strategic country for trade and has adopted an action plan to expand its commercial and economic ties with the billion-strong nation, the *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted French Trade Minister Francois Loos as saying Thursday.

Addressing the 13th Indo-French Joint Committee meeting here with his Indian counterpart Kamal Nath, Loos said there was a need for closer interaction between the two countries to tap the vast potential in economic ties.

"The Indian market is largely unknown in France and opportunities in India are barely known in France," the visiting minister said.

The two sides later signed a joint statement that called for diversifying and expanding the pattern of bilateral trade and investments between the two countries, among a host of other issues of mutual interest.

Kamal Nath and Loos also had "frank and fruitful discussions" during which they not only broached on issues of mutual interest, but also raised some of their respective concerns, officials said.

The two sides also agreed to enhance cooperation in the area of geographical indication for agricultural products and discussed the issue of protecting Indian Darjeeling tea and its logo from misuse

in France.

Kamal Nath informed the French side about the liberal foreign investment policy of the Indian Government, but pointed out that while France was India's 9th largest investor in terms of approvals, the actual inflows were just a third of the amounts approved.—MNA/Xinhua

Japanese royal couple to visit Ireland, Norway in May

TOKYO, 11 Dec— Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will travel to Ireland and Norway in May to strengthen existing friendly relations between Japan and the two European countries.

The trip will coincide with the centennial of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Ireland and Norway, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said in a statement.

The weeklong official visit will be the royal couple's first to both countries since 1985 when they were crown prince and crown princess. — MNA/AP



US soldiers inspect the site of a car bomb attack in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, on 9 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

World Buddhist Summit ...

(from page 16)

Sayadaws from States and Divisions, presiding Nayaka Sayadaws of Pariyatti monasteries, Theravada Buddhist missionary Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, the Rectors of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and State Pariyatti Sasana Universities (Yangon and Mandalay), the Chancellor and the Rector of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, members of the Sangha from State Pariyatti Sasana Universities (Yangon and Mandalay), 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.

The ceremony was also attended by Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and wife Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers and their wives, the Chairman of Civil



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pay homage to Sayadaws on their arrival at Maha Pasana Cave.— MNA

Myanmar, the vice-mayor, diplomats from foreign missions, members of the Leading Committee, the Work Committee and sub-committee for Organizing the Summit, departmental heads, members of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Yangon City Development Committee, religious title recipient persons, Mahayana lay persons, journalists, members of the pagoda boards of trustees in Yangon, instructors of SPSU (Yangon), delegates

Canada, Cambodia, Czech, Laos, Britain, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, the Netherlands, China, Singapore, Romania, Russia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the US, Iran, Israel and Venezuela, delegates and observers.

Before the concluding ceremony, officials of the Religious Affairs Department ushered 18 members of the Sangha from Australia, Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Japan, Republic of Korea, Romania, India, Britain, the US, Germany and Czech Republic led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa, Secretary Vice-Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Joint Secretary Sayadaw Chairman of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Administration Board Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa, Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Ashin Silanandabhivamsa into the Maha Pasana Cave along Mingala Natlan passage through the southern entrance. At that time, the congregation paid homage to them and the State Orchestra played music.

At 1 pm, Staff Officer U Wint Aung of Myanma 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. Members of the Sangha and those present recited *Namo Tassa* three times.

(See page 5)



Sayadaws arrive at Maha Pasana Cave to attend third-day session of the World Buddhist Summit.— MNA

Service Selection and Training Board, Nepalese Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyaya, Cambodian Minister for Religious Affairs Mr Khun Haing, Sri Lankan Minister for Southern Provincial Council Mr Hemal Gunasekera and members, deputy ministers of

of Yangon East and West Districts, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, world senior Buddhist researchers and scholars from Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil,



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and congregation recite *Çiram Titthatu Lokasamim Gatha* at the concluding ceremony of World Buddhist Summit.— MNA



Vietnamese members of the Sangha recite Eight Victories.— MNA



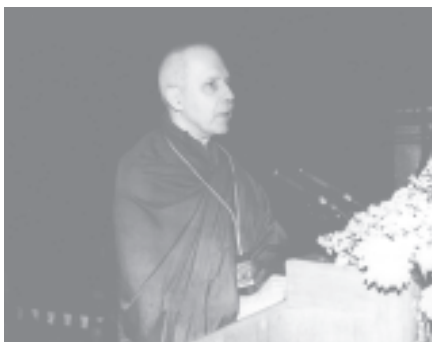
Members of the Sangha of Sri Lanka recite Paritta at World Buddhist Summit.— MNA

World Buddhist Summit ...

(from page 4)

Members of the Sangha of the Union of Myanmar and from abroad on the dais recited Three Verses of Saranagunagatha.

Ma Ei Ei Chun of MRTV sang the classical song titled "Htoo Machana" to the accompani-



Ven Uttama of Czech Republic thanks the host Myanmar for holding World Buddhist Summit.°

MNA

ment of nine harpists of Fine Arts Department. Afterwards, 108 bells around the cave sounded for nine times simultaneously. The significant bell on the leftside of southern Mingala Passage to the cave was also sounded to mark the World Buddhist Sum-

mit. Next, 25 members of the Sangha from the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka recited *Metta Sutta* and those present said *Sadhu*. Ven Sayadaw Sangasena of Kashmir State, India, supplicated on Buddhism in Ladakh with the use of audio-visual aids.

Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse extended greetings. (reported separately.)

Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Ashin Silanandabhivamsa read out the joint statement. (reported separately.)

Twenty one Sayadaws from the Union of



Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara recites Çiram Tithatu Lokasamin Gatha.— MNA

Myanmar, the Republic of India, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Mexico, Czech Republic, Australia, Thailand, the US, Romania, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Japan, Singapore, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Nepal and Cambodia led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmyebonsan Kyaung Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Ratthaguru Abhdhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Panñindabhivamsa approved the joint statement.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win supplicated on the Vote of Thanks.(reported separately.)

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on historical poem in commemoration of the World Buddhist Summit. (reported separately.)

Ven Uttama of Czech Republic thanked the Union of Myanmar for hosting the World Buddhist Summit. Seventeen members of the Sangha from Vietnam recited the eight victories. Next, Rector of ITBMU Sayadaw Dr Silanandabhivamsa delivered an Ovadacatha (reported separately.)

Members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara recited religious verses. The summit successfully came to a close at 3.35 pm.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Sri Lankan Prime Minister and wife, the commander and the ministers and their wives and officials paid respects to members of the Sangha from various Ganas and countries.—MNA



The third day session of the World Buddhist Summit in progress at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Yangon. — MNA

ORGANIZED BY



MYANMAR YACHTING FEDERATION

and the



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28th Blood Donors' Day

Great thanks to -
Generosity and respectable characters of yours.
You make the difference between life and death.

On behalf of those whose lives have been saved by yours.

National Blood Centre
Department of Health
Ministry of Health.

In Myanmar, Buddhism prevails for more than a thousand years

(from page 1)

The Fifth Buddhist Council was held in 1871 in Mandalay, Myanmar. The Sixth Buddhist Council held here in this cave in 1956 was the first Buddhist conference in which Buddhist leaders from all the Theravada countries took a vital role in editing and restoring the Tipitaka to its original version. Venerable monks from countries of Mahayana tradition such as China and Japan also participated in the great conclave. A World Buddhist Summit was held at Lumbini, Nepal, in 1998. In 2000 and 2002, the Second and Third World Buddhist Propagation Conferences were held in Thailand and Cambodia respectively.

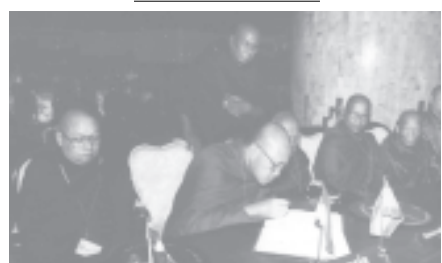
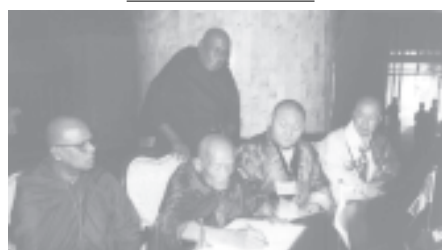
In the Union of Myanmar, where Buddhism has prevailed in its true form for more than a thousand years, this World Buddhist Summit was held at the great historic place of the Mahapasana Cave in Yangon from 9 to 11 December 2004. Prominent Buddhist Mahatheras and Heads of State attended the important Summit.

The objectives of this World Buddhist Summit are: to promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among Theravada and Mahayana Buddhists from different parts of the world; to maintain Buddhist teachings and practice; to promote Buddhist education based on the studies of Buddhist scriptures, to help bring about a peaceful world, and to propagate the original teachings of the Buddha in the world.

To this end, we the participants in this historic World Buddhist Summit hereby solemnly agree upon the following Objectives:

- * We are determined to preserve the Buddha Dhamma in its pristine purity
- * We will endeavour to promote and propagate the Teachings of the Buddha
- * We will strive for the protection, preservation and restoration of historic Buddhist monuments
- * We will contribute to bring about peace and prosperity in the world by spreading the Buddha's sublime message of loving-kindness, compassion and equanimity
- * We will endeavour to promote Buddhist unity and strive for friendship and mutual understanding among Buddhists all over the world
- * We will endeavour to promote Buddhist education employing modern methods and technology
- * We will endeavour to hold the Buddhist Conferences frequently to exchange ideas and promote understanding
- * We will endeavour to share the knowledge of Buddhist meditation with the people of the world for the sake of individual as well as world peace
- * We believe that more Buddhist centres should be established around the world to disseminate the original Teachings of the Buddha more effectively.

**The Gerat Mahapasana Cave, Kaba Aye,
Yangon, Union of Myanmar**
Dated: 2548 of the Buddhist Era, 11 December 2004



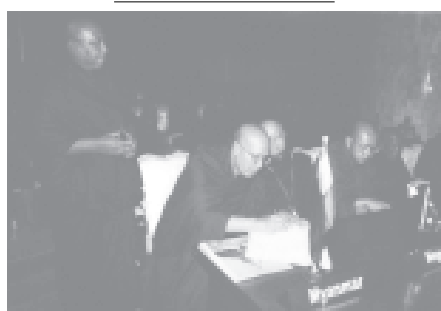
The above photos show Most Venerable Sayadaws from various countries signing their signatures in the Joint Statement of World Buddhist Summit.— MNA



Participants to the Summit agree the following objectives

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The photos (L and R) show Most Venerable Sayadaws from various countries signing their signatures on the Joint Statement of the World Buddhist Summit.— MNA



Summit has brought unity among Theravada Buddhist countries paving way for mutual cooperation among Theravada countries



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse extends greetings at the concluding ceremony of the World Buddhist Summit.— MNA

YANGON, 11 Dec — *The following is the full text of the address delivered by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse at the World Buddhist Summit today:*

Most Ven Maha Sangha
Excellency the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar
Hon Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Guests
Ladies & Gentlemen

It is my distinct honour to be here to attend the World Buddhist Summit today. May I thank the Government of the Union of Myanmar for organizing this most auspicious and timely event and I wish to thank you for inviting me for the Summit.

To quote from the Maha Mangala Sutra,
**“Kalena Dhamma Savanam
Etam Mangala Muttamam”**

Lord Buddha has preached the benefits and the importance of listening to Dhamma discourses at the suitable time. Thus, I consider the Summit as a well-timed event, to reflect on Lord Buddha's message of love and compassion as the fundamental maxims for the creation of a peaceful mind among human beings thus creating a peaceful world.

I firmly believe that such a Forum will be helpful to alert the sensible Buddhist to organize themselves to avert erosion of Buddhism and to address the glaring problems facing the contemporary Buddhist. It will also help to re-invigorate the Maha Sangha so that there will prevail a progressive and a learned leadership, to propagate the Dhamma.

Regarding the relations between the two countries, Myanmar and Sri Lanka are steeped in history based on Theravada Buddhism. Our relations date back to the 4th century, when the Myanmar monks had frequently visited the Maha Vihara of Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka to learn orthodox traditions and to continue in their own country.

In the 11th century, during the regime of King Anawrahta of Myanmar, the sacred scripture ‘Tripitaka’ was sent to Myanmar by King Vijayabahu of Sri Lanka. It may be recalled with gratitude, that owing to the untiring efforts and the perseverance of the Bhikkus of Sri Lanka, that it was made possible to produce the written Tripitaka, which was earlier preserved only through oral tradition. Since this time, there has been no turning back, and the two countries were intertwined with the golden thread of Theravada Buddhism.

Therefore, it is our fervent hope and the wish of the Government and the people of Sri Lanka to cherish

and to further consolidate the cultural bonds that had prevailed between the two countries over the centuries.

Further, I am pleased to observe the manner in which the Summit has brought unity among Theravada Buddhist countries paving the way for mutual cooperation among the Theravada countries.

Let this Summit be a reminder to the world that Buddhism is not only a religion but a whole civilization with a rich cultural heritage, and a code of ethics having the ability to mould human beings to face the

I firmly believe that such a Forum will be helpful to alert the sensible Buddhist to organize themselves to avert erosion of Buddhism and to address the glaring problems facing the contemporary Buddhist. It will also help to re-invigorate the Maha Sangha so that there will prevail a progressive and a learned leadership, to propagate the Dhamma.

daunting tasks of the modern day.

Let this Summit be remembered as a forum, which projected Buddhism as a dynamic force, which has influenced the receptive mind for the last two thousand five hundred years, and projecting its relevance in the present day's context.

As we are getting ready to conclude the Summit, I firmly believe that all of us will be bound by the strong ethics of Buddhism.

May I wish the World Buddhist Summit every success. May the Noble Triple Gem Bless you!

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and party. (News on page 1)—MNA

World Buddhist Summit ...

(from page 1)

In this Summit, Buddhist leaders delivered speeches and presented papers. The participants also took part in the four group discussions to discuss "Buddhism and Its Relevance to the Present World", "Buddhist Education", "Promotion and Propagation of Buddhism", and "Buddhist Meditation and World Peace".

In other words, the participants discussed the ways and means for the perpetuation, promotion and propagation of the Buddha Sasana in its pristine purity, and adopted a joint statement.

In the Joint Statement the participants have agreed to preserve, promote and propagate the Teachings of the Buddha; to protect and preserve historic Buddhist monuments; to promote Buddhist education; to promote Buddhist unity; and to strive to propagate the Teachings of the Buddha to contribute to bring about peace and prosperity in the world.

The Summit has come to a success only because all the participants discussed with patience and forbearance, politeness, loving-kindness, compassion and optimism in accordance with the Teachings of Lord Buddha.

I strongly believe that this gathering of

Buddhists from various countries will foster friendship among Buddhists and will promote unity and mutual understanding. This in turn will lead to a closer cooperation among the Buddhists in the future.

It is my sincere hope that all the Mahatheras and Buddhist leaders, with loving-kindness, patience and forbearance, will strive for the prevalence of peace and stability and the four modes of sublime living and loving-kindness, patience and forbearance in their respective countries and all over the world.

The sublime message of the Buddha can heal the burning hearts of mankind and put an end to extremism, intimidation and armed conflicts.

The World Buddhist Summit will come to a glorious end very soon. It is highly delightful and something to be proud of the Government and the people of the Union of Myanmar because of the fact that Myanmar is the sole sponsor of this Summit. I would also like to say that the success of the Summit is due to the support, cooperation, patience and forbearance of all of you.

My special thanks go to the heads of states, ministers and ambassadors—especially H.E. Mr Bounnhang Vorachit, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, H.E. Dr. Thaksin Shinwatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, and H.E. Mr. Lu Lay Sreng, Deputy Prime

Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and H.E. Mahinda Rajapakse, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka who arrived in time to this Summit.

Buddhist leaders and statesmen who could not participate in this Summit supported us by sending goodwill messages. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their invaluable support.

The Mahatheras and the staff from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, with the support and assistance of the ministries concerned, worked hard for the success of this Summit. I would like to congratulate all of you for your hard work and dedications. My special thanks also go to Ven. Dr. Nyanissara for his invaluable help throughout the preparation of the Summit.

In conclusion I offer my sincere wishes:

- * May all the Buddhist leaders attending the Summit be blessed with physical wellbeing and spiritual tranquillity.
- * May the Dhamma of the Omniscient Buddha be like unto the luminescence of the sun and moon and be long lasting.
- * May all of you be able to contribute to bring about peace, stability, justice and prosperity in the world.

MNA



Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung attending the dinner. —MNA

Dinner hosted to honour success of World Buddhist Summit

YANGON, 11 Dec — The Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Union of Myanmar hosted a dinner in honour of the success of the World Buddhist Summit at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township here this evening.

The dinner was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, the member ministers of the Leading Committee for organizing the Summit,

the Yangon mayor and members of the work committee and sub-committees, ambassadors of foreign embassies, Japanese wellwishers who donated the cars to be used for the Summit, Myanmar business groups of Japan and observers, lay persons of Sayagyi U Goenka from various nations, representatives of social organizations, delegates from foreign countries to the Summit, Sasana Nuggaha title recipients, interpreters of ministries,

academics of universities and invited guests.

During the dinner, Chairman of the Leading Committee Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung expressed thanks to those present for their participation in the World Buddhist Summit. After the dinner, artistes of the Fine Arts Department entertained the audience with variety of dances.

MNA

Historical Poem Commemorating the World Buddhist Summit

YANGON, 11 Dec — The following is the Historical Poem commemorating the World Buddhist Summit.

Myanmar is a country full of mountains and rivers with scenic beauty. Endowed with abundant natural resources, Myanmar produces a variety of agricultural products, different kinds of precious stones such as rubies and sapphires. Myanmar exists as a dignified country in the family of nations with flourishing Buddha Sasana. Many stupas testify thriving of Buddhism and the extent of piety and loving-kindness of Myanmar people. Because of Buddhist teaching Myanmar people are so disciplined and cultured in their thought, speech and

action. As a result of a cultural heritage left by our ancestors, present-day Myanmar is full of old and new religious buildings with flowering of scriptural studies. The World Buddhist Summit takes place in peaceful and stable Myanmar. At the Summit many delegates from different nations attempt to find ways and means to reach the common goal of peace. The opening of

the conference falls on the 13th Waning of Tazaungmon (Thursday) 1366 Myanmar Era. This is the time of bountiful harvest. For Myanmar people holding of the World Buddhist Summit is unforgettable. The World Buddhist Summit is held on a grand scale that it will be a historical record for Myanmar, which will last until the end of the world.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung reads out the poem. —MNA

Teaching of the universal love, i.e., love for all beings can be, will be taught to the world



ITBMU Rector Dr Ashin Sila Nandabhivamsa delivers concluding remarks. — MNA

YANGON, 11 Dec—The following is the closing speech delivered by Dr Ashin Sila Nandabhivamsa, Rector Sayadaw, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Dhammapala Hill, Mayangon, Yangon, at the closing ceremony of the World Buddhist Summit today:

The Buddhist Summit will be brought to a glorious end a few moments from now. As you know the Government of Myanmar and its people have spared no effort both physically and financially to make it a success and I hope that has been accomplished quite well. But however much they have endeavoured, if there were no participants it would come to nothing. Now that you have participated in this historic event quite enthusiastically as speakers, panellists, discussionists and so on, this Summit has come to a resounding success. Therefore the success is due to both the Government and people of Myanmar on the one hand and the participants like you on the other.

This Summit is convened on the principle of unity among Buddhists regardless of their being Theravada or Mahayana or Vajrayana, etc. We have invited delegates from thirty-four countries and as a record, I would like to read the names of those countries here. The names of the countries will be in alphabetical order. They are:

Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Peoples Republic of China, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, South Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Socialist Republic of Sri

Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, USA, Vietnam, and Union of Myanmar.

If you look at the list you will notice that the Buddhist Summit has invited quite a lot and all attended the Summit with a good will. It is a great achievement of the Myanmar Government and people if we take into account that the other co-sponsor has pulled out of this Summit.

To tell you the truth, it is not at all possible for all Buddhists to become one again without the labels Theravada, Mahayana, Vajrayana, etc., but we have some Teachings of the Buddha in common, for which every Buddhist is likely to admit that they are authentic teachings of the Buddha. On these we will concentrate and spread to the world both in our countries and in foreign countries. For example, the teaching of the Four Noble Truths: Every Buddhist Sect believes that it is the authentic teaching of the Buddha and so we can cooperate in teaching it to the world. The Noble Eightfold Path which is one of the Four Noble Truths is an important one and we must practise first ourselves and then teach them to the world. The impermanence of all things conditioned, suffering nature of all things conditioned and non-soul nature of all things both conditioned and unconditioned which are also accepted by all Buddhists are another subject which we all agree and so we can teach them too. The

The other thing is commercial companies using the Buddha image and other Buddhist Symbols in commercial objects to promote their sales. We must tell them without being rude or violent to leave Buddhists alone and not to desecrate our sacred objects in commercializing their commodities.

teaching of the universal love, i.e., love for all beings can be and will be taught to the world, first practising ourselves and later teaching to the world. There are other teachings as well that are accepted by all sects of Buddhism and we can make effort to teach them. With the principles of Buddhism which are after all universal principles, the world can be made into a place where peace and harmony prevail, and people can live their lives without worry and anxiety.

As to educating the peoples of the world we must say that the First Fellowship of Buddhists held in 1950 in Colombo unanimously decided the term Hinayana should be dropped when referring to Buddhism existing in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar,

Cambodia, Laos, etc. I would like to add that the term Hinayana should be dropped from usage altogether since it implies that the person who used that term thinks that those termed Hinayana are inferior to the Mahayana and Vajrayana. In these days it is not a good manner to refer to others rather than one's own as inferior. And also for the sake of unity we would avoid it altogether in our speeches, books and so on.

The other thing is commercial companies using the Buddha image and other Buddhist Symbols in commercial objects to promote their sales. We must tell them without being rude or violent to leave Buddhists alone and not to desecrate our sacred objects in commercializing their commodities.

We are grateful to the Government of Myanmar for permitting us to use the Internet, the expediency of which made work smooth. Without that the Summit would not run so smoothly. In the future also I hope that the Government will allow us to use the Internet in propagating Buddhist Teachings to the world. As of today I am talking by phone the Patimokkha to the students in Taiwan, Mexico and America. I talk through the phone because the place where I live, Half Moon Bay in California, has no adequate phone connection by computers yet, but my students listen to my talk through their computers, and they said that my voice was very clear. Thus talking through the Internet can reach many listeners, without myself ever leaving my place.

Last but not least, I understand that it is arranged for you to go on a pilgrimage to Bagan and Mandalay with the compliments of Myanmar Government and people. You will find many interesting things, especially the archaeological things of religious interest. It is good to know even a little of their culture when you learn something about their religion. I hope you will find many things there. When you visit Bagan, I would like to ask you to make it a must to see two inscriptions in Bagan. One is called Rajakumara or Myazedi inscription. It has a parallel in Egyptian Archaeology.

You know the Rosetta stone. It was written in three languages and it was through this inscription that Egyptologists could decipher the hieroglyphs of Egyptian language. Quite similarly, Rajakumara or Myazedi inscription was written in Pali, Pyu, Mon and Myanmar languages on its four sides. It was from this inscription that Myanmar people were able to decipher to some extent the Pyu language.

(See page 11)

Round table discussions of World Buddhist Summit held

YANGON, 11 Dec—Leading Buddhist monks of various Ganas at home and abroad today held round table discussions on promotion and propagation of the Buddhist Sasana, at the third-day morning session of the World Buddhist Summit, organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, that continued for the third day at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill here.

Present on the occasion were rector Sayadaws of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, the State Pariyatti Sangha Universities (Yangon) and (Mandalay), the Chancellor Sayadaw and members of the Sangha of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, local and foreign leading Buddhist monks and representatives, Buddhist professors of Nalanda University in India, Chulalongkorn University in Thailand and Oxford University in Britain, senior Buddhist researchers and observers from various countries.

The members of the Sangha from Lao PDR recited Metta parittas.

Rector of the International Theravada Bud-

dhist Missionary University Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Ashin Sila Nandabhivamsa presided over the round table discussions, while Ven Dr Dhammasami of



Ven Sangasena of India presents the paper "Buddhism in Ladakh". — MNA

Britain acted as MC.

President Sayadaw of the Bhavana Society in West Virginia, the US, Dr Gunaratana presented the paper "Buddhist Meditation and World Peace", Ven Nyannapunnika of Nepal, the paper "Existence of the Buddha Sasana", and Ven Sitala of Siberia, Russia Federation, the paper "the Buddha Sasana of Russia Federation".

Ven Nyannapunnika of Nepal, Dr Ashin Nanda Malabhivamsa of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Rector of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dr Sila Nandabhivamsa and President of the Bhavana Society in Virginia, Ven Dr Gunaratana, read out reviews of group-wise discussions held the previous day.

The venerable monks and representatives from 38 nations made suggestions and held talks on the draft of joint-declaration of the Summit.

Next, Dr R Panth of Nalanda University, Vihari State of India presented a brief account of the university with the use of audiovisual aids, and the morning session went into recess. — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Sri Lankan counterpart

YANGON, 11 Dec— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win received Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse, who had attended the World Buddhist Summit, at the Mingalar Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw at 7 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were 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, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka U Than Tun, Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

The guest was accompanied by Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr D.M.M Ranaraja.—MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and party. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse inspect the Guard of Honour. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win welcomes Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and wife Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse and party at the airport. — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win welcomes...

(from page 16)

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and wife, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr DMM Ranaraja and embassy staff, Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka U Than Tun and wife, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

When the aircraft of the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and wife and party landed at 9 am, students of the University of Culture presented a banquet to them. Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife and party cordially welcomed the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and wife and party. Afterwards, the two Prime Ministers went to the dais in the hall of the airport and took the salute of the Guard of Honour. At that time, the State Band played national anthems of the two countries alternately. Next, the two Prime Ministers in-

spected the Guard of Honour.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greeted members of the goodwill delegation of Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister also greeted Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife and party and staff families of the Sri Lankan Embassy.

When the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and wife and party left for the hotel in a motorcade, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party saw them off.

MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse take the salute of the Guard of Honour. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe host dinner in honour of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and wife Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse. — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win hosts dinner in honour of Sri Lankan Prime Minister and party

YANGON, 11 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe hosted a dinner in honour of Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and wife Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse and party, who attended the World Buddhist Summit, at the reception hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw at 7.15 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen

Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, ministers, the Deputy Minister for Education, the Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar and their wives, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department.

Before and during dinner, artistes presented entertainment to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan Modern Music Troupe. After the dinner, artistes of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture presented Myanmar traditional dances.

After the entertainment programmes, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and wife presented a bouquet to the artistes and had a documentary photo taken together with them.—MNA

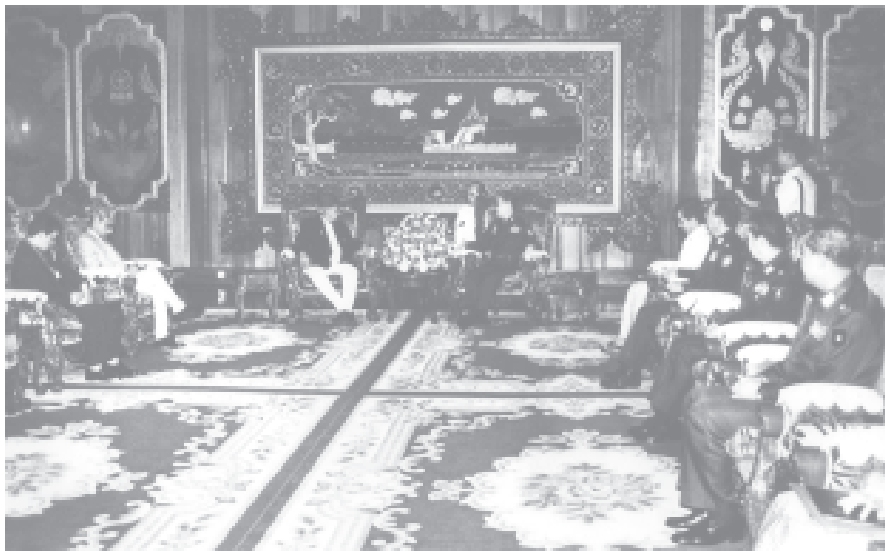
PM Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Nepalese Minister

YANGON, 11 Dec — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win received Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyaya at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinttha this morning.

Present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Director-

General at the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Charge d' Affaires of the Nepalese Embassy to Myanmar Mr Dilip Kumar Paudel.

MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Nepalese Minister Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyaya.— MNA

Teaching of the universal...

(from page 9)

'The subject written was just the dedication when King Kyansittha was ill and his son wanted it to dedicate the Buddha image before the King dies.

The other inscription was the Shwegugyi inscription, in Shwegugyi Pagoda in Bagan. In the pagoda were inlaid two slabs of inscription on each side of the wall in the inner pagoda. It was put there by King

Alaungsithu, the donor of the pagoda. The inscription contains one hundred elegant Pali verses expressing his compassion for all beings who were suffering in the round of rebirths and inspiring for Buddhahood.

It is indeed a rare experience that one sees the inspiration for Buddhahood on an inscription. It clearly shows that Buddhahood was not unknown to Theravada Buddhists and here the King himself was inspiring for Buddhahood. In the end the inscription ends with two additional verses in Sanskrit.

These are the highlights you will see on your pilgrimage.

In conclusion we would like to thank all of you for participating in this Historical Summit, and to all the staff and others from top to bottom who made every effort for the participants to be comfortable, and also we must not forget to thank Sitagu Sayadaw and his staff who from the very beginning to the end worked hard to make the Summit what it is, leaving no stones unturned in doing so.

May you all be well, happy and peaceful!

May the Dhamma prevail in the world!

May the Original Teachings of the Buddha continue to exist in its pristine purity! —MNA

CNG stations under construction in Yangon

YANGON, 11 Dec—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi this afternoon inspected building of Compressed Natural Gas filling stations being undertaken by the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise in Ahlon and Kyaikkalo.

Officials concerned reported on progress of building stations and arrival of imported items. The Minister instructed them to systematically supervise the tasks for

timely completion of the buildings and ensuring technical security, and inspected construction tasks. So far, two CNG filling stations have been constructed in Insein and Thamaing. The MOGE is building another five CNG filling stations in Ahlon, Bayintnaung, Kyaikkalo, Dagon Myothit (North) and Thakayta. Plans are under way to construct more three stations in Yangon City. —MNA

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
Second best time is now.**

Iris scans catch 25,000 illegal immigrants in UAE in three years

ABU DHABI, 10 Dec—Iris-recognition systems installed at checkpoints across the United Arab Emirates (UAE) foiled 25,000 immigrants trying to enter the country illegally over the past three years, the official news agency WAM reported Thursday.

The illegal immigrants were trying to reenter the country after having been deported, Mohammad Humaid Al Mualla, head of the iris-tracking system at Abu Dhabi police was quoted as saying.

"They attempted to return to the country after they changed their names, passports and obtained job or visit visas," said Al Mualla.

On whether the system can be fooled, Al Mualla said iris scans are more accurate than any

other computerized means of identifying people, such as fingerprints or face or voice recognition systems.

The hi-tech system has been installed at 32 posts across the country in the terminals of international airports, residency departments and all the seaports, a number of police stations, prisons and deportation cen-

tres.

It helps prevent illegal immigrants, who have been deported, from returning and prevent wanted criminals from leaving the country regardless of the identification documents they use. It also tracks the movements of prison inmates, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Samsung develops world's fastest memory chip

SEOUL, 10 Dec—Samsung Electronics Co., the world's No 2 semiconductor manufacturer, announced Thursday it has developed the world's fastest memory chip with a wide range of graphics applications.

Samsung Electronics said it produced samples of a 512-megabyte double data rate (DDR) 3 dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chip that it claims is the fastest available in the same class of chips.

The new chip can process data at a speed of 1.6-gigabits per second, the company said in a statement.

The new DDR3 DRAM reduces power consumption by 50 per cent and increases

memory capacity and efficiency while doubling performance, the statement said.

The company plans to begin mass production of the 512-megabyte DDR3 DRAM next year, it said.

According to market researcher Mercury, the worldwide market for graphics DRAMs is expected to grow 30 per cent from this year to 1.5 billion US dollars next year, of which DDR3 DRAMs will account for about 30 per cent. —MNA/Xinhua

Six dead, 17 injured after fall from broken lift in N-W China

Xi'an, 10 Dec—Six were killed and 17 were injured after falling off a lift at noon Wednesday at a construction project in northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

Twenty three guests of the opening of a car exhibition hall located at the Meilian Garage in Xi'an, the provincial capital, were invited to inspect the roof of the hall by riding a lift meant to carry construction materials.

When the lift reached the second floor, a steel cord broke and the lift tilted. All the 23 fell off and six were crushed to death by a board, which had fallen off the lift.

The other 17 people were injured and rushed to two hospitals. Their conditions are not yet known.

The cause of the accident is under investigation. —MNA/Xinhua

IDB to contribute \$130m to Egyptian projects

CAIRO, 10 Dec—The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will contribute 130 million US dollars to Egypt's petroleum, aluminium and cement sectors, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported Thursday.

The IDB will give Egypt's General Petroleum Authority 50 million US dollars to import, process and re-export crude oil, Egyptian Minister of Planning Othman Mohammad Mohammad Othman was quoted as

saying after a meeting with IDB President Ahmed Mohamed Ali.

Another 50 million US dollars will be given to an Egyptian aluminium company and the remaining 30 million US dollars to Helwan Cement Com-

pany, he added.

The two officials also agreed that the Bank would hold a meeting sometime later in Egypt to discuss the Bank's aid plans for private and public sectors.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria pledges \$75m for health sector

LAGOS, 10 Dec—At least 75 million US dollars has been pledged to support the health sector in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, in an effort to hasten the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

To ensure success, a joint three-tier budget, involving the federal and state governments as well as donor agencies, will be adopted, Funke Adedoyin, Minister of State for Health, was cited by the *News Agency of Nigeria* on Wednesday as saying.

"Already, Nigeria was 'scaling up its health activities in 14 pilot states where indices indicate that there have been a steady increase on child mortality and HIV/AIDS prevalence', Adedoyin said.

Listing the names of the 14 states such as Ogun, she noted that it appeared there have been incidences of "cross-transfer" of the HIV/AIDS pandemic along border states.

Nigeria is now one of the world's hardest hit by

HIV/AIDS. The Health Ministry said about 2.3 million people have already died of AIDS while 3.8 million others are carriers of the HIV virus.

The West African country of some 130 million is also annoyed by other diseases including malaria.

The health crisis in Nigeria and other developing countries is worrying the United Nations, which approved the eight MDGs in 2000. Among them are the reduction by two-thirds of the mortality rate among children under five, the reduction by three-quarters the number of women who die in childbirth and halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်လှည့်အားပေးပါ

IBM says business with Lenovo not to affect Mideast supplies

ABU DHABI, 10 Dec—IBM will maintain supplies of its desktops and notebooks to the Middle East during the acquisition process with China's Lenovo, the daily *Khaleej Times* reported Thursday.

In the short term there will be continuity in IBM's regional operations on new PC stocks to distributors, Sameh Fareed, manager of sales operations for IBM Middle East, Egypt and Pakistan was quoted as saying.

"There will be no branding issues after the acquisition process is over," said Fareed, add-

ing that the branding will remain IBM for the initial period.

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 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's equity stake. —MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese woman checks the price of Lenovo computers at a shop in Shanghai on 9 December, 2004. — INTERNET

UAE-China trade to reach \$8b by end of 2004

ABU DHABI, 10 Dec—The trade volume between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and China is expected to reach eight billion US dollars by the end of this year, local *Khaleej Times* daily reported Thursday.

At the UAE-China Forum on Enhancing Trade and Investment Cooperation held Wednesday in Dubai, UAE's commercial city, officials announced the bilateral trade stood at 6.4 billion US dollars in the first 10 months of this year, compared with 5.8 billion US dollars in 2003.

The figure is expected to swell to 10 billion US dollars by the end of the next year, officials estimated.

A high-level Chinese trade delegation headed by Deputy Commerce Minister Wei Jianguo, which consisted of 120 officials and businessmen, participated in the forum, which focused on IT, telecommunication, pharmaceutical-

cal, civil engineering and construction, petrochemical industry, logistics, manufacturing and trade.

The forum is aimed at highlighting the facilities and investment opportunities between the UAE and China.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the UAE, bilateral economic and trade cooperation maintains a good momentum and new vitality is continually injected into the progress of Sino-UAE relationships, Wei stressed at the forum.

MNA/Xinhua

**Drive
safely**

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

France to launch CNN-style news channel in 2005

PARIS, 10 Dec — French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin announced Thursday at a news conference that France is to launch a CNN-style International Information (CII) channel in 2005, with a budget of 30 million euros (about 40 million dollars).

"I have decided to hold the common project made by (state-owned) France Televisions and (the private station) TF1. The new channel, wanted by President Jacques Chirac," Raffarin said.

The news channel was ordered by Chirac two years ago, and he hoped it could start in 2004, but the project has been delayed by arguments over its make-up, scale and cost. Raffarin also said

that the French Government is set to make an amendment to the 2005 budget adopted by Parliament to allow the channel to start with a budget of 30 million euros.

"The new channel will enjoy the advantages offered by France's leading television companies — private and public — in order to express the diversity to which our country is so deeply attached," Raffarin said.

MNAXinhua

Mysterious disease claims 18 lives in western Kenya

NAIROBI, 10 Dec — An outbreak of a mysterious disease has claimed 18 lives in western Kenya and scores of others are being treated in local health centres, Kenyan media reports said here Thursday.

The dead include two from Bungoma District and another from Mt. Elgon District, reported the *Standard* newspaper. Initial studies indicate that the victims had perforated intestines, a symptom associated with swamp fever, whose formal name is leptospirosis, the paper said.

Another 35 people have been admitted to hospitals in critical condition and are suspected to be suffering from the disease, it added.

In July, a rare fever known as leptospirosis claimed the lives of 27 people and affected nearly 180 others in western Kenya.

Leptospirosis is caused by bacteria found mostly in the urine of rodents, and those affected might have drunk water contaminated with rat urine, said Charles Nzioka, head of the Disease Outbreak Management Unit in Kenya's Health Ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

World's mobile phone subscribers total 1.5 billion

GENEVA, 10 Dec — Mobile phone subscribers around the globe totalled nearly 1.5 billion by the middle of this year, about one quarter of the world's population, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) said on Thursday.

The figure reflected a sharp surge in the mobile telephony business, especially in developing countries, over the first half of the decade, with subscribers doubling since 2000, according to the United Nations agency's annual report. The ITU said the growth in mobile phone subscribers had outpaced that for fixed lines, who totalled some 1.85 billion today against one billion at the start of the century, and was also outstripping the rate of increase in Internet users. Driving the mobile phone phenomenon, according to the report, was a rapid rise in subscriber numbers in

three of the world's most populous nations — China, India and Russia.

And by the middle of the year developing countries as a whole had overtaken rich nations to account for 56 per cent of all mobile subscribers, while accounting for 79 per cent of growth in the market since 2000.

By July this year, China was reporting 310 million users — about one-quarter of its total population and more than the entire population of the United States, the ITU said. India, with a much smaller current subscriber base, was beginning to experience exponential

growth, seeing an increase of 11 million, or 25 per cent, so far this year to reach a total of 44.5 million subscribers.

In Russia, according to the report, mobile phone subscriber numbers jumped from 36.5 million a year ago to 60 million by September of this year.

The value of global mobile business reached 414 billion US dollars in revenues in 2003, a ten-fold increase in the decade since 1993, while over the same period the overall telecommunications sector grew by an average of 8.8 per cent to reach 1.1 trillion US dollars.

MNA/Reuters



People admire a life-sized inflated whale shark on display in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad, on Oct 22, 2004. — INTERNET

English becomes truly "world language"

LONDON, 10 Dec — Two billion people, a third of the population of the planet, will be learning English in the next decade giving it the full status of the "world's language", a research report published Thursday reveals.

Although the surging number of English learners could peak in 2010, by 2015 half of the world's population could be speaking English, says "The Future of English" report produced by the state-funded British Council.

This growth will see French declining internationally while German is set to expand, particularly in Asia, said researcher David Graddol, who added that Chinese, Arabic and Spanish are also going to be "key international languages" of the future.

"The world is rapidly becoming multi-lingual and English is only one of the languages people in other countries are learning," Graddol said in a BBC interview.

The report looked especially at how countries around the world are including English-language learning in their school systems. —MNA/Xinhua



Nelly performs 'N Dey Say' at the 2004 Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on 8 December, 2004. R & B singer Usher, who scored the biggest album of the year and four No 1 singles, picked up 11 trophies at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas on Wednesday, with Alicia Keys, OutKast and Grammys frontrunner Kanye West also sharing in the spoils.

INTERNET

Usher picks up 11 trophies at Billboard Music Awards

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec — R&B singer Usher, who scored the biggest album of the year and four No 1 singles, picked up 11 trophies at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas on Wednesday, with Alicia Keys, OutKast and Grammys frontrunner Kanye West also sharing in the spoils.

The televised event, which took place at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, honours artists based on their performance in music industry trade publication Billboard's weekly music charts, so the outcomes were not surprising.

Usher's album "Confessions" has sold 7.1 million copies in the United States since its release in March. He recently became the first artist in 34 years to top the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart four times in a calendar year. Last month, he swept the American Music Awards and the MTV Europe Awards.

The 26-year-old singer (last name: Raymond) added to his trophy collection with Billboard awards in such categories as artist of the year, album of the year, and Hot 100 single of the year for "Yeah!" (featuring Lil Jon & Ludacris).

"It's been about 10 years since we started, and we knew this would happen," Usher said. "We don't put out a record without a number one record, do we?" R&B singer Keys walked off with seven Billboard awards, hip-hop duo OutKast five and rapper West four. Usher went into the event with nods in 13 categories, followed by Keys with 12. OutKast and West had seven each.

The day before, West received 10 Grammy nominations, while Usher and Keys will each vie for eight Grammys. Winners of the music industry's most prestigious awards will be announced in Los Angeles on 13 February.

In a sign of the times, Billboard inaugurated an award for ringtone of the year, with the prize going to rapper 50 Cent's infectious dance hit "In Da Club". —MNA/Reuters

Chinese Govt to sponsor 7,245 to study Abroad

CHANGSHA, 10 Dec — China will sponsor 7,245 people to study abroad in 2005 in the fields of science, technology, culture, education and management, according to the China Scholarship Council (CSC).

The number, about 3,100 more than that of 2004, is the largest in the past more than two decades.

The CSC said the application and approval process for government funding will take place from January 5 to March 10, 2005. Details are available on the council's web site. —MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Northern Ireland plays Canada to tune up for World Cup qualifier

LONDON, 11 Dec— Northern Ireland will play Canada in a soccer friendly in Belfast on February 9 to tune up for its World Cup qualifier against England, the Irish Football Association said Friday.

The match was arranged after Scotland declined an invitation, as Northern Ireland will play England on March 26.

In their last meet, Northern Ireland tied Canada 1-1 in April 1999. — MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN-India rally cars arrive in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 11 Dec— Sixty cars participating in the ASEAN-India rally arrived here on Friday after travelling 8,000 kilometers of asphalt highways, unpaved roads, mud tracks and mountainous terrain.

Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong welcomed the 300 participants and said that the journey has broken the psychological barrier that India is a distant land, separated from Southeast Asia by the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.

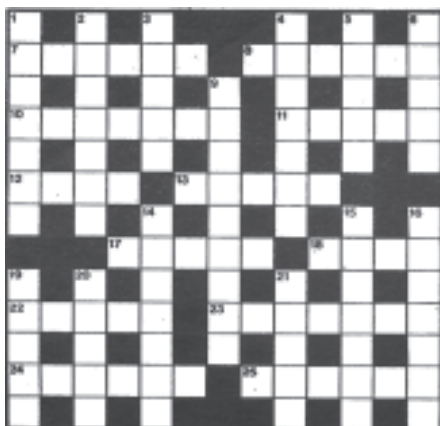
The transnational car rally, the first of such a large scale in this region, is organized with the aim to strengthen relationship between India and members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"India is increasing its weight and influence in the region," said Goh at the welcome ceremony, adding that a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which is under negotiation between India and ASEAN, will enhance India's presence in Southeast Asia and strategically link South Asia with Southeast Asia.

Started from Guwahati in Northeast India on November 22, the cars have gone through India, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Singapore, and will proceed by ferry to the final destination in Batam, Indonesia, on Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 7 Flower fertiliser
- 8 Whinnies
- 10 Go backwards
- 11 Norwegian inlet
- 12 Noisy
- 13 Contest
- 17 Seat
- 18 Male swine
- 22 Top of the head
- 23 Dig up
- 24 Egg dish
- 25 Chosen profession

DOWN

- 1 Glitter
- 2 Taste
- 3 English king
- 4 Flawless
- 5 Incite (3,2)
- 6 Spoken in an undertone
- 9 Use a tonic (anag.)
- 14 Part of a church
- 15 Wooded
- 16 Toxophily
- 19 Deep shovel
- 20 Channel port
- 21 Rot

Arsenal can do favour by putting brakes on Chelsea's title surge

MANCHESTER (England), 11 Dec— Manchester United are hoping arch-rivals Arsenal can do them a favour by putting the brakes on Chelsea's title surge at Highbury on Sunday.

Fourth-placed United play at Fulham on Monday and will have the chance to close a nine-point gap on Premier League leaders Chelsea if they fail to beat Arsenal.

"One of the top three are going to drop points, maybe two of them, so we have to make sure that if they draw we capitalize," United defender Phil Neville told reporters on Friday.

"I think in an ideal world a draw would be the best result so we can get closer to both.

"If not, then probably an Arsenal victory so we can get closer to Chelsea too, because they are the team that's out in front at the moment."

United manager Alex Ferguson is also looking for

Chelsea, who have lost just once in the League this season, to slip up.

"They have a big squad and their form is good at the moment," said Ferguson. "They have not had a blip and we hope that at some point they are going to get a blip and hopefully at that time we can capitalize on it.

"We've been buoyed by our own form over the last few weeks and we know this is an opportunity with Chelsea and Arsenal playing each other.

"But it's very early to look upon it as conclusive in terms of who's going to win the league. I think three or four teams are still in it.

"We had a situation like this a couple of years back and then it frittered away to two, Arsenal and ourselves again.

"It could very well happen again, but at the moment it looks as if three teams in particular are going to contest it."

United go to Fulham on the back of four straight league wins, although a below-strength side were beaten by Fenerbahce in the Champions League on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

Okacha, Eto'o, Drogba likely to vif for African Footballer of Year

JOHANNESBURG, 11 Dec — The five finalists for the 2004 African Footballer of the Year are to be announced on Sunday with the Nigerian captain Jay-Jay Okocha expected to be among the front-runners.

Other finalists are likely to include Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o, who plays for Barcelona, and Chelsea's Didier Drogba of the Ivory Coast.

Okocha, who plays for Bolton Wanderers in the English Premier League, was named as best player at the African Nations Cup finals in February.

The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony on 15 February.

MNA/Xinhua

Liverpool determined to hold Gerrard

LONDON, 11 Dec— Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry has warned Chelsea and every other interested club that Steven Gerrard will not be sold at any price.

The England international Gerrard was back in the spotlight after inspiring Liverpool to an amazing UEFA Champions League victory over Olympiakos. And immediately Chelsea were reported to be ready to renew their interest after narrowly failing to sign the 24-year-old in the summer with a 35 million pound bid.

Liverpool were staring elimination in the face against the Greeks when Gerrard crashed in an unstoppable 25-meter drive which booked Liverpool's place in the knockout stages.

Parry knows the vultures may be circling, but he insists the midfielder will not be sold and is convinced manager Rafa Benitez can bring honours back to the four-times European champions.

MNA/Xinhua



Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry has warned Chelsea and every other interested club that Steven Gerrard (pictured) will not be allowed to leave at any price.—INTERNET

Lazio to play next European home game behind closed doors

LONDON, 11 Dec— Lazio will have to play their next European home game behind closed doors following racist abuse by their fans, UEFA announced on Friday.

Real Madrid have also been fined 9,780 euros (12,990 US dollars) after racist behaviour by some of the club's fans during a Champions League match against Bayer Leverkusen last month.

European soccer's governing body said Lazio's one-match ban was imposed for "racist abuse and crowd disturbances" during the UEFA Cup match against Partizan Belgrade on 25 November.

It said on its web site that the trouble had included "missile throwing and flares being set off, clashes with police and a stabbing incident".

Lazio, who have been punished three times for racism offences, were knocked out of the competition in the group stage earlier this month, so the ban will be carried over to the club's next European campaign.

Partizan were fined 5,200 euros after their fans threw flares during the 2-2 draw at the Stadio Olimpico.

The incidents at Real's match against Leverkusen in the Bernabeu on 23 November, when fans were seen making Nazi salutes came and abusing the German club's Black players, came just days after England players suffered "monkey chants" in a friendly against Spain in the same stadium.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia to ratify ILO Convention on Seafarers

JAKARTA, 11 Dec — The Indonesian Government is expected to ratify the Convention on Seafarers Identity Documents in the near future in a bid to protect the rights of Indonesian seafarers to job opportunities in foreign shipping fleets.

A national workshop concerning the International Labour Organization (ILO) convention will be conducted here next week in conjunction with the government's plan to ratify it, *The Jakarta Post* reported Friday. The workshop will be organized by the ILO, in cooperation with the government, the Consortium of Indonesian Manning Agencies (CIMA), the Indonesian National Shipowners Association (INSA) and the Indonesian Seafarers' Union.

A number of government representatives as well as employers and workers organizations will discuss the provisions of the convention and the implications of its implementation here.

Indonesia is among the countries that provide the largest number of seafarers to the world's merchant marines. There are around 130,000 Indonesian seamen working overseas. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Singapore, Sweden conclude countermine exercise

SINGAPORE, 11 Dec — The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and the Royal Swedish Navy (RSwN) concluded on Friday their ninth annual Mine Countermeasures (MCM) Exchange Programme in the island state. A statement issued by the Defence Ministry on Friday said the exchange programme included a Command Post Exercise and presentations by the two navies on MCM-related subjects.

It said that the successful conclusion of the 12-day programme starting from 29 November reflects the good relations and long-standing cooperation between the RSN and RSwN. Under the code name of Lejon Singa, the programme has been conducted since 1996 with the aim to provide opportunities for the RSN and RSwN to share expertise in MCM operations.

The statement said that programmes such as Lejon Singa are part of the regular exchanges that have strengthened professional ties and fostered friendship among participants. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Indonesia to speed up efforts against corruption

JAKARTA, 11 Dec — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who has made wiping out graft one of his top priorities, on Thursday launched a new scheme to combat corruption among government officials. Announcing a "National Anti-Corruption Day", Yudhoyono ordered key ministerial departments to beef up supervision of state coffers and stop the funds leaking. Among the measures was a plan to conduct electronic procurement of goods in selected departments to cut red tape and increase transparency of transactions between officials.

"I am optimistic that our bad reputation in corruption, the world's bad judgment of Indonesia, in time will change and we will have a respectable position in the world," Yudhoyono said in a speech.

Since he took office on 20 October, some critics have accused Yudhoyono of moving too slowly in tackling the graft that has made Indonesia the fifth most corrupt country in the world according to global graft watchdog Transparency International.

Yudhoyono's statement came two days after authorities arrested the governor of restive Aceh Province in a case involving alleged corruption.

The President has also given his approval for the investigation into a dozen other officials over suspected graft, including a member of Parliament and senior regional officials. But many Indonesians and foreign businessmen, used to rhetoric from Indonesian leaders on fighting graft, will not be convinced until they begin seeing some high profile figures convicted in court. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Briton sentenced to two years in jail in drug scandal

SINGAPORE, 11 Dec — A British magazine editor who was arrested in a high-society drug bust pleaded guilty Friday and was sentenced to two years in jail. Nigel Simmonds, editor of *Singapore Tatler* magazine, was arrested October 8 with more than a dozen other suspects, including award-winning French

chef Francois Fabien Mermilliod. An assortment of drugs were seized from the suspects, including cocaine, ecstasy and marijuana. Simmonds pleaded guilty to drug consumption and possession in a court appearance. Singapore has some of the world's strictest drug laws. *MNA/AP*

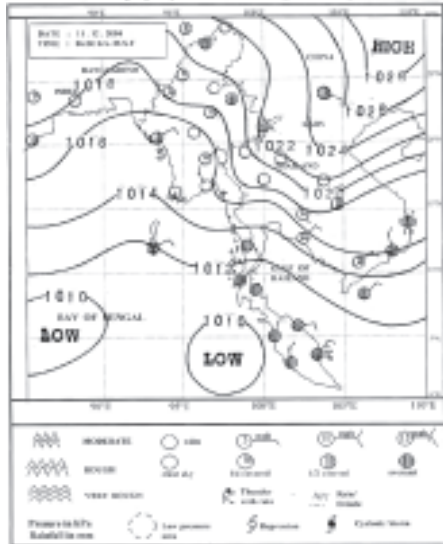
Asleep in Jesus Daw Sybil Aged (70)

Beloved wife of U Myint Shwe W.O II (Retd., Myanma Navy), beloved mother of Terrence Aung Gyi, Evelyn Khin Khin Gyi, Edna Yin Yin Gyi, Joseph Aunt Gyi & Daniel Htin Gyi was called to her heavenly home on 11-12-2004 (Sat) 3:55 pm at Yangon General Hospital (Y.G.H).

Funeral service will be on 12-12-2004 (Sun) at 1:00 pm at St Gabriel (S.P.G) Church, No 66 Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road Yangon and thence to Yayway Christian Cemetery for entombment.

(Buses will leave from the Church at 1:30 pm) Bereaved Family

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 11 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) above normal in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Eastern Shan, Kayah and Rakhine States and Bago Division, (5°C) below normal in Kayah State and Yangon Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namsam (2°C), Hakha (7°C), Putao, Pyn Oo Lwin and Loikaw (8°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 10-12-2004 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 11-12-2004 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-12-2004 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 10-12-2004 was (8.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 11-12-2004 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 East at (12:40) hours MST on 10-12-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 12-12-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Southern Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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-Taninthayi Coast. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas.

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

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-12-2004: Fair weather.



Sunday, December 12

View on today:

- 7:00 am
 1. Recitation of Parittas by Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 3. Morning news
- 7:05 am
 4. Nice and sweet Song
- 7:55 am
 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော် (၃၈) ခြောက်လ
- 8:10 am
 6. အတိအလင်း
- 8:20 am
 7. တံငါတံတား
- 8:30 am
 8. International news
- 8:45 am
 9. Say it in English
- 11:00 am
 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
 2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round-up of the Week's International news

11:40 am

4. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "သောတရား" (အပိုင်း-၅၁)

12:20 am

5. တစ်စုံတစ်ရာ

12:30 am

6. ဗဟုသုတ

2:00 am

7. အတိအလင်း

2:15 am

8. Musical programme

2:30 am

9. စောင်းချောင်းတစ်

2:45 am

10. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့ လိုက်ပါသော အချက်အလက် (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး) (ရုပ်ပုံ)

5:00 pm

5. Song of Yesteryears

5:15 pm

6. Musical programme

5:30 pm

7. Agricultural Source Country's Development

5:45 pm

8. Sing and Enjoy

6:30 pm

9. Evening news

7:00 pm

10. Weather report

7:05 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "ရုပ်ပုံအချက်အလက်" (အပိုင်း-၄၀)

7:35 pm

12. ကောင်းချီးပြည့်စုံ မြတ်ဘုရား ရွတ်ဂီ (အပိုင်း-၅)

8:00 pm

13. Islands of Dhamma

8:00 pm

14. News

8:00 pm

15. International news

8:00 pm

16. Weather report

8:00 pm

17. Tiger Cup ကောင်းချီးပြည့်စုံ လှူဒါန်းအခမ်းအနား (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရေး)

8:00 pm

18. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "အချက်အလက်" (အပိုင်း-၁)

8:00 pm

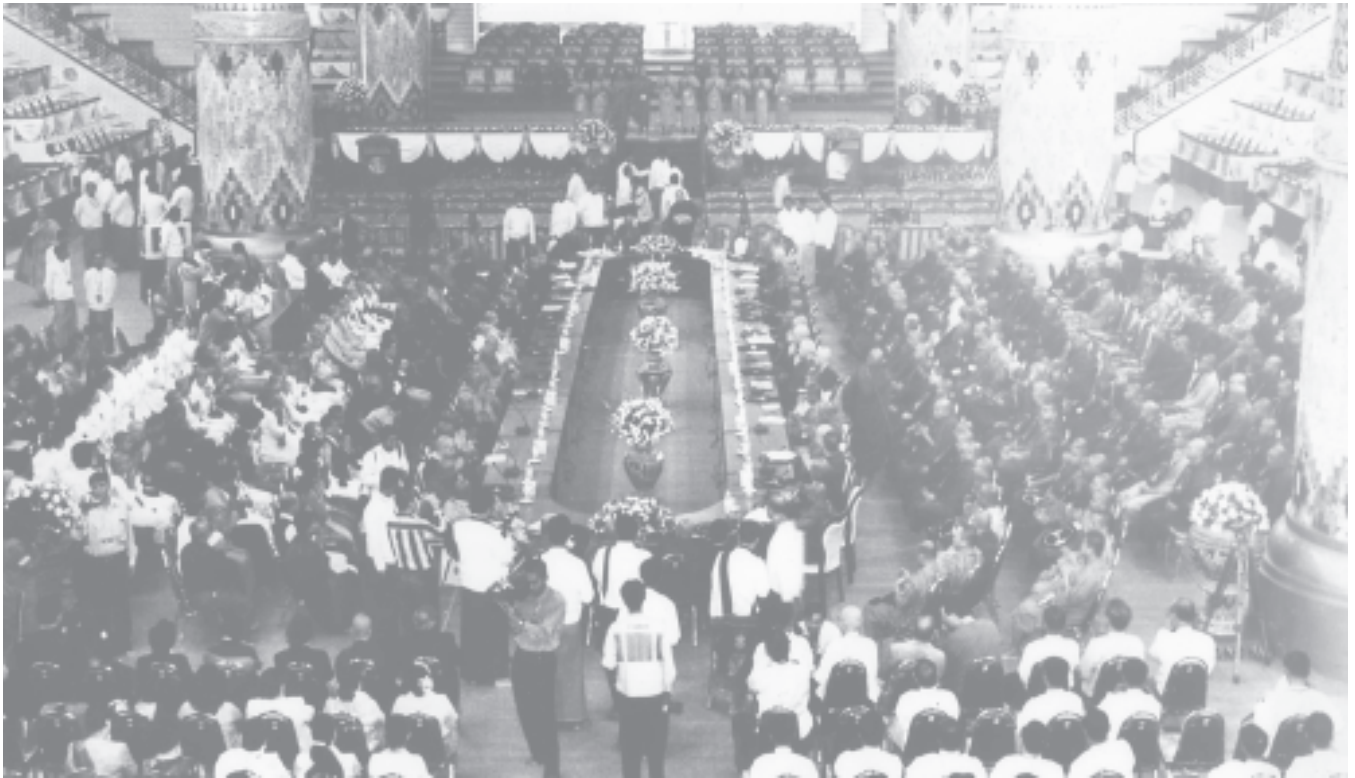
19. The next day's programme



Sunday, December 12

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Every Morning
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -I knew I love you
- 8:55 am National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am Music: -It's gotta be you
- 9:10 am International news
- 9:15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar: -Lion statue
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Story for children
- 1:50 pm Songs for children
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Music
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Latest Hits! -Sunshine
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



The round-table meeting of first-day session of the World Buddhist Summit in progress in Maha Pasana Cave.— MNA

World Buddhist Summit winds up successfully

YANGON, 11 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win made a supplication at the concluding ceremony of the World Buddhist Summit, in which Buddhist eminent Sayadaws from various countries, Chief Sayadaws of Buddhist Ganas and senior world Buddhism researchers and scholars attended at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township

this afternoon.

The Summit was organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Union of Myanmar with the purposes of the World Buddhist Summit: to promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries; to maintain Buddha's teachings and practice among the Buddhist countries; to promote Buddhist education based on the studies

of Buddhist scriptures in nations of the world; to create the peaceful world by the Buddhists for all humanbeing; and to propagate the original teaching of the Buddha in the world.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, State Central Working Committee of the Sangha member (See page 4)

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win welcomes Sri Lankan Prime Minister and wife

YANGON, 11 Dec — The Sri Lankan goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and wife arrived here by air this morning to pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar at the invitation of Prime

Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win.

The Sri Lankan Prime Minister and party were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, 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 and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife, (See page 10)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially welcomes Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse at the airport. — MNA

INSIDE

Pay respects to senior literati and preserve literary and cultural heritage

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PERSPECTIVES

5,070 more prisoners to be released

YANGON, 11 Dec — The State Peace and Development Council has dissolved the National Intelligence Bureau since 22 October this year.

It was observed that the NIB might have committed irregularities. After due review of the case, prison terms of 5,070 convicts have been suspended with effect from today, 11 December 2004, and they will be released from the respective prisons. It was the third time the convicts are released and the number has grown to 14,318 from 9,248. — MNA