Established 1914

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

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay homage to Sayadaws at home and abroad

World Buddhist Summit commences on grand scale

YANGON, 9 Dec — A ceremony to commence the World Buddhist Summit in which Buddhist eminent Sayadaws from various countries, Chief Sayadaws of Buddhist Ganas and senior world Buddhism researchers and scholars will participate was held on a grand scale in Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township in Yangon this morning, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe.

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

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of the Union of Myanmar, Chiefs of Ganas, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, chairman Sayadaws of State and Division Sangha Nayaka Committees, presiding Nayaka Sayadaws of Pariyatti monasteries, Tipitakadhara Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, Theravada Buddhist missionary Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Dharmahandagarika Sayadaws, Tipitaka Kovid Sayadaws, the Rector and the Pro-rector Sayadaws of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, the Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Sayadaws from Yangon Division Abbot Training School, instructor Sayadaws of the cultural course, dictionary compiler Sayadaws, members of the Sangha from State Pariyatti Sasana Universities (Yangon and Mandalay), the Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Sayadaws from Yangon Division Abbot Training School, instructor Sayadaws of the cultural course, 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of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe.

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

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

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

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

All those who gather in this Maha Pasana Great Cave firmly believe that the timeless Teaching of Lord Buddha is very relevant and essential to save the humanity made up of craving, desire and suffering.

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

(See page 4)
PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 10 December, 2004

Make the most of favourable envirnoment for agricultural development

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

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

Besides national development tasks, the project for greening dry and arid regions including Magway District is also being implemented in accordance with the guidance by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. As a result, the re-greening of the region, farmers in the region had to rely on rain for agriculture. Now, a total of 29 dams has been built in the region, 13 out of them being in Magway District alone.

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

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

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

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

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

Cash donations ceremony of MWJA held

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

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

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

First meeting for National Immunization Days held

YANGON, 9 Dec — The first meeting of the Second Year Regionwise National Immunization Days Central Leading Committee was held at the Medical Research Department on Zwekaba Road this morning, attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

The minister made an opening speech. Acting Director-General of the Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung reported on functional tasks for region-wise National Immunization Days and Headmistress Daw Khin Kyu formally opened the new school building.

The head of the committee handed over the documents related to the building to Director-General of the No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu. Next, wellwishers provided cash for the school through the ministers.

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

All this needs to be known

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

BEPS gets new school building in South Okkalapa

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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People’s Desire

**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
Morocco seeks foreign investments from India

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

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

The two sides discussed a host of bilateral matters with focus on how bilateral trade could be bolstered, besides regional and international issues of mutual concern.

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

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


Morocco’s geo-strategic position, its strategic stability, economic openness and potential are viewed by New Delhi as favourable indicators for enhancing cooperation. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese State Councillor meets German guests

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

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

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

Iraq calls for tight controls on compensation to neighbours

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

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

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

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

Iraq’s neighbours are seeking a total of 87 billion US dollars to clean up oil lakes, restore coastlines and fish stocks, and address public health issues dating to the occupation and 1991 Gulf War. “Iraq is suggesting a mechanism to control the money,” Iraqi diplomat Muhad Hadi-Salman, who addressed the UNCC’s Governing Council, told Reuters.

“It would be a committee to discuss how to fulfil the environmental projects,” he said.

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

Situation in Iraq unlikely to improve

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

The assessments are more pessimistic than the Bush Administration’s portrayal of the situation to the public, government officials told the newspaper.

The classified cable — sent last month by the CIA’s station chief in Baghdad after the completion of a one-year tour of duty there — painted a bleak picture of Iraq’s politics, economics and security and restated briefings by Michael Kostiw, a senior CIA official, according to the Times.

The station chief cannot be identified because he is still working undercover, the Times added.

The cable, described as "unusually candid," cautioned that security in the country is likely to deteriorate unless the Iraqi government makes significant progress in asserting its authority and building up the economy, the paper said.

Spokesmen for the White House and the CIA told the Times that they could not discuss intelligence matters and classified documents. — MNA/Reuters

India, South Africa to ink trade pact soon

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

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

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

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

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

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

Designed with double deck carriageways, the cable-stayed bridge adopted the world’s first design of pylon type. It starts from the Sai Van Lake on the Macao Peninsula linking it to Taipa Island.

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

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

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

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

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

Macao’s first cable-stayed bridge named “Sai Van”

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

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 10 December, 2004 3
We should rid the world of the roots ...

(from page 1)

Lord Buddha’s message of the four noble conduct—loving-kindness (metta), compassion (karuna), appreciative joy (mudita) and equanimity (upekkha)—is the best path that will lead humanity to peace and harmony. Those teachings are valid not only for Buddhist, but for all humankind, regardless of race or creed. This universal message of the Compassionate Teacher undoubtedly can save humanity from the brink of despair, and lead humanity to a peaceful and prosperous world in which everybody can live in happiness.

I am convinced that this summit will be instrumental in promoting and propagating the Buddha’s Teaching and will enable us to develop better understanding, friendship and cooperation among Buddhist nations, and contribute to bring about peace and happiness to all mankind by generating tolerance, loving-kindness and compassion in our world.

On this occasion, I extend my respectful greetings and best wishes to all the participants for the success of this auspicious summit. May all beings be well and happy.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife ...

(from page 1)

Senior General Maung Maung Lay Thet, Prime Minister of Myanmar, who is also the chairman of the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Vice-Chairman of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, and Chairman of the Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Universities Administration Council and Sub-committees, and the Chairman of the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), and Chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee, and their wives, respectively,

Senior General Than Shwe, Senior General Maung Maung Lay Thet, Prime Minister of Myanmar, and their wives, respectively,

of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng, Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Somsavat Lengsaviy, members of the State Peace and Development Council, respectively, and representatives of the People’s Democratic Republic of the Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan, Czech Republic, Romania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Thailand, Japan, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia, Sweden, Jamaica and Singapore.

Similarly, Daw Kyang Kyang, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bouonngh Vorachith, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Secretary of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng, Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Somsavat Lengsaviy, members of the State Peace and Development Council, respectively, and representatives of the People’s Democratic Republic of the Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan, Czech Republic, Romania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Thailand, Japan, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia, Sweden, Jamaica and Singapore.

MNA

Degree of success for getting peace depends on how much we can control lust, anger and delusion

YANGON, 9 Dec—The following is the message from the Chairman of the State Sangha Mahanayaka Committee, Union of Myanmar to the World Buddhist Summit:

May the auspiciousness, good health and happiness fall on the guests who come to attend the World Buddhist Summit for three days.

I feel reassured for the bright prospect of Buddha Sasana as I see all the delegates in spirit of unity are making great efforts for the perpetuation, promotion and propagation of Buddha Sasana.

If all Buddhists throughout the world actively cooperate with each other, Buddha Sasana will continue to flourish for so long. The thriving of Sasana is as bright as the light from one thousand suns and moons shone on earth.

The essence of Sasana is sila (moral precepts), samadhi (meditation) and dhamma (wisdom). If we analyze these three concepts we can elaborate as the Noble Eightfold Path: right understanding, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration.

Out of the Noble Eightfold Path, right speech, right action and right livelihood belong to the realm of sila (moral precepts). Right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration are the qualifications of samadhi (meditation). Right understanding and right thoughts are the components of dhamma (wisdom). The perpetuation of and flourishing of Sasana means the storing of Noble Eightfold Path, in the hearts of mankind. Sakyanuni Gotama Buddha maintained that without following Noble Eightfold Path, there could not be arahats and sotapanas (stream enterers). Only by means of Noble Eightfold Path, the fire of defilements can be extinguished. “Except in my Sasana, there should not be any arahats who realized the Dhamma,” so preached the Buddha in the Mahaparinibbana-sutta. Even the Buddha attained Enlightenment and obtained Buddhahood only as a result of following the Middle Way or Noble Eightfold Path. The Noble Eightfold Path can be compared to pure cold water, which can put out the fire of defilements.

The people in the world are afflicted with the fire of lust, anger and delusion and face with different kinds of problems and dangers. Peace cannot be achieved just by propagating. The degree of success for getting peace depends on how much we can control lust, anger and delusion. Therefore to establish a peaceful and prosperous world, the fire of lust, anger and delusion should be controlled not only by individuals, but also by making a great effort to propagate Noble Eightfold throughout the world.

Sakyanuni Gotama Buddha recommends in the Mahaparinibbana-sutta that if the Sangha meet frequently to work for the Sasana there is always prospect for success. Therefore by holding World Buddhist Summits frequently Buddhist leaders should discuss and draw plans for promoting and propagating the Sasana. All Buddhists should actively cooperate in this great endeavour to implement the plans for the promotion and propagation of the Sasana.

MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein sends the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe to World Buddhist Summit.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party pay homage to Sayadaws at World Buddhist Summit.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party pay homage to Sayadaws at World Buddhist Summit.— MNA

Czech Republic, Britain, the US and Germany led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Uggmyre-bonsan Monas- tery Sayadha Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhanna joti ka Bhaddanta Panthi- dhamvamsa, Secretary Vice-Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Aung Phyu Maha Saddhanna joti ka Bhaddanta Kumara, Joint Secretary Sayadaw Chairman of the Central Committee for State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Administration Board Nyaungdol Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhi- davamsa, Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Agga Maha (See page 5)
Lord Buddha’s teachings have historically inspired religious, social and political leaders in our two countries and other parts of the world.

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

I am happy to know that the World Buddhist Summit is being held in the Union of Myanmar during December 9-11, 2004. Lord Buddha’s teachings have historically inspired religious, social and political leaders in our two countries and other parts of the world. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Indian Nation, was deeply influenced by Lord Buddha’s precepts and teachings which have eternal truth and universal significance.

The Summit could be an occasion to renew humanity’s faith in Lord Buddha’s central message of “love for all lives”, which is a key to restoring peace on the globe. On this occasion, I extend my greetings and felicitations to all the participants and wish the Conference all success. —MNA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration, —MNA
Senior General Than Shwe and wife...

(from page 5) message of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Mrs Begum Khalida Zia; Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khon, the message of Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai; and Nepali Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyaya, the message of Nepali Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

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

On behalf of the Chairman Sayadaw of SSMNC, Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nanissara delivered a keynote speech. (The keynote speech of Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nanissara is reported separately.)

At 10.20 am, Senior General Than Shwe arrived at the Cave where they were welcomed by members 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, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Secretary of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Summit for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

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

Next, the Senior General cordially greeted Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Ministers and ministers from abroad. Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye left the Cave at 10.30 am. Next, the opening ceremony of the World Buddhist Summit followed. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win offered one Buddha image each to eight delegate Sayadaws from Germany, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Later, Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññinda-bhivamsa and members of the Sangha and Sayadaws from abroad posed for documentary photos together with Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Buddhist leaders from foreign countries, the Buddhist leaders, diplomats and members of the Leading Committee. The opening ceremony ended at 10.40 am.

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

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

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

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

It is a pleasure for me to be present at this august gathering of esteemed members of Maha Sangha, scholars, government representatives and Buddhists from different parts of the world. The World Buddhist Summit is undoubtedly an event of great significance for Buddhists of this region, who share the strong bonds of religious and cultural ties, and for Buddhists the world over. On behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, I wish to extend to the Government and people of Myanmar our warmest congratulations on the current World Buddhist Summit of great significance as it enables the Buddhist leaders to gather and exchange views on the preservation of the revered Buddhist faith.

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

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

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

HE Mr Bounnhang Vorachith

(See page 7)
We also have to help propagate that...

(from page 6)

successful hosting of this event. As a country where Buddhism has long

rooted and flourished, Myanmar is indeed qualified as one of the most

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

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

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

Buddhism is the religion of moderation and tolerance. A peace of mind
and the salvation from Attu (self) are the ultimate goals of all Buddhists
which could be achieved by means of Sīla, Samadhi and Pīnya. We, Bud-

dhists, are taught to abide by Sīla (the precepts), the first of which is to
refrain from killing. We are also taught, among other things, to observe the
four divine abidings, namely the loving-kindness (Mettā), compassion
(Karuna), sympathetic joy (Muditā) and equanimity (Upekkhā).

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

The current World Buddhist Summit is...

(from page 6)

even though the World Buddhist Summit at the same
time, I would also like to pay respect and congratulate all Buddhist representa-
tives from various countries and organizations for taking part in the Summit.

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

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic has 5.6 million inhabitants, out of
which 75 % are Buddhists. Nevertheless, the Lao Buddhist people as well as other
religious believers or atheist people have always manifested a sense of mutual
respect thus enabling the entire Lao society to enjoy cordial friendship, harmony
and mutual help while jointly safeguarding and driving the nation towards
prosperity as defined by the Government policy. I would like to congratulate and express my high appreciation to the
Myanmar Government for establishing the International Theravada Buddhist
University that opened its doors six years ago. It is both a learning and
dissemination center of Buddhist teachings for the people of the world. A number of Lao monks and nuns studied here and so are currently following their study
in this University.

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

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

YANGON, 9 DEC—The following is the message sent by Prime Min-
ister of the Royal Government of Cambodia to the World Buddhist Summit,
today:

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

It is my conviction that all the Buddhist including those from Cambo-
dia still remember with deep gratitude the holding of the Third World Bud-
hist Summit in December 2002, in Phnom Penh of the Kingdom of the
Cambodia, and patronized by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preach
Norodom Sihamouk, the King of Cambodia, in the Throne Hall. The outcome
of the Third Buddhist Summit reflects a unified consolidation of Buddhist
around the world in their cooperation to support and promote faith in Bud-

dhism, for the cause of peace, stability and harmony among people living in
a society.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The congregation seen at the World Buddhist Summit. —MNA

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

MNA
Only teachings of Lord Buddha…
(from page 16)
The Maha Pasana Cave is of great significance in the annals of Buddhism. In 1954 about 2,500 Sangharajas, Maha Theras from the five Theravada Buddhist countries assembled in the Great Cave for the Sixth Buddhist Synod. At the conclusion of the Synod in 1956, this cave was also the venue where Theravada and Mahayana Buddhist leaders from Theravada and Mahayana countries assembled to celebrate the 2500th Anniversary of the Buddha Sasana.

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

At this World Buddhist Summit, leaders will exchange views on matters of Buddha Sasana on the basis of mutual friendship, cooperation and forbearance. This coming together for the exchange of view is a major milestone in the history of Buddhism. Despite different traditions, sects and practices, we are all sons and daughters of the Sakayummi Buddha. We have the same objectives to understand the Four Noble Truths and to realize Nibbana.

In the Buddhist scriptures, we note four Sangha Synods during the lifetimes of four Buddhas—Kakusanda, Konagamana, Kassapa and Lord Gotama. In all these Synods, the Enlightened Ones preached the virtue of patience, forgiveness, loving-kindness, compassion and the avoidance of evil—in deed, speech and thought, as the basic principles for the propagation of Buddhism. I believe these admonitions by successive Buddhas will continue to remain as fundamental principles today in the dissemination of the Buddha’s teachings.

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

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

While social development can be achieved through science and technology, mental... (See page 13)

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

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

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

The Amarapura Maha Nikaya was established in Sri Lanka in the year 1803 after the visit of the Most Ven’ble Yelitara Gnanatissa Maha Nayake Thero to the City of Amarapura in Burma (now known as Myanmar) and obtained the Higher Ordination from the Dhamma Rajadhi Rajaguru Sangarahaya Maha Nayake Thero at the Swarnaguna Sama Mulaka in Amarapura City. Since then the services rendered by the Maha Sangha of the Amarapura Maha Nikaya for the spiritual upliftment of the people of our country have been most outstanding and well recognized. We as Sri Lankans wish to place on record our appreciation of these services with a deep sense of gratitude. All Sri Lankans look forward to the continuation of this noble mission by the Maha Sangha of the Amarapura Maha Nikaya with dedication and commitment in the future too.

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

May all beings be well and happy.
MNA
Keynote Speech by Venerable Dr. NYANISSARA Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Sagaing Hills, Myanmar

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

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

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

This World Buddhist Summit is the most religious significance in the world. For this important occasion, both Mahayana and Theravada Buddhist around the world give spiritual support for the successful holding of the World Buddhist Summit express their desire to attend the Summit. It would not be too much to say that the World Buddhist Summit bears many characteristics of the Seventh Buddhist Council, with Myanmar as centre of Buddhism for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the original teachings of the Buddha.

With the benefit of hindsight I would like to draw your attention to the wonderful coincidence regarding the venue of this conference. This Mahapasana Cave has special historical and religious significance in the history of Buddha Sasana. In 1954, monks from five Theravada countries, namely, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand, convened the Sixth Buddhist Council in this very cave to celebrate the 2500th Anniversary of Buddha Sasana. Sangharajas, Heads of State and Prime Ministers of the five Theravada countries graced the occasion and read goodwill messages. Moreover, ten Mahayana countries including Japan participated in that great event. Today, forty-eight years after the convening of the Sixth Buddhist Council, both Theravada and Mahayana Buddhist leaders around the world are now gathering again in the same great cave and they will be discussing about Buddha unity and cooperation and propagation of Buddha Sasana.

The Buddha preached that frequent discussion, the two main sects of Buddhism, namely, Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism, are now meeting again at the Buddhist Summit to discuss the matters concerning the unity of Buddhists and propagation of Buddhism. Undoubtedly, the Buddhist Summit is sending powerful Buddhist messages of Great tolerance and Boundless compassion to the turbulent world where the strong rules over the weak and therein is reluctant to share with the poor.

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

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

Premium Prime Minister arrives

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

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

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

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

Dr Nyaniissa of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy. —MNA

Thai Prime Minister arrives...
YANGON, 9 Dec—The World Buddhist Summit, organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, took place on a grand scale at Chattha Sangayana Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill here this afternoon. The Summit was graced by the attendance of leading Buddhist monks of different Ganas at home and abroad. Also present were ministers of the Union of Myanmar and their wives, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, deputy ministers, members of the Leading Committee for the Summit, foreign Buddhism researchers, laity of Mahayana, members of religious and social associations, lay disciples of Ashin Dhamma Piya of India, lay members of mediation association of Sayagyi Goenkha, Mr Nakakina and party of Japan, Ven Zuiho Nakakina and party of Japan, and representatives of foreign nations.

Prior to the commencement of the Summit, 18 Sayadaws from Australia, Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Japan, Korea, Romania, India, the Czech Republic, British, the US and Germany led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee of Myanmar Aungmye-bonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abbhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abbhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Panlumbhivamsa, Secretary of the SSINC Vice Chancellor of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Nga-way Sayadaw Abbhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abbhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Joint Secretary Chairman of the Administrative Board of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abbhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa, were ushered to the venue, receiving the reverence of those present.

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

Members of the Sangha from Thailand recited Metta Paritatt. Rec-tor of Chulalongkorn University Phrasripariyat-ttimoli read the message sent by Thai Sangha Maha Raja Sayadaw His Holiness Somdet Phra Nansangyera. Respective representatives also read the messages of Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar (See page 13).

Opportunity given to get together followers of Buddhism around the globe

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

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

(From page 9)

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

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

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

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

When we look at the international situation, we will find everything is in ferment lacking stability in political, economic, social and military situation. The instability of the world starts with unstable state of each individual, whose unfulfilment of desires pave the way for tensions and war. The history of the world is full of wars waged by persons of unfulfilled desires.

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

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

Most Ven Dr Phra Maha Vichit Singharaj of LPDR—MNA

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

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

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

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

In many World Buddhist Conferences, world Buddhist leaders have tried every possible effort towards Buddhist unity and cooperation. Because of these world conferences, the Theravadins, the Mahayanaists and Tibetan Buddhists came to learn more about each other. Personal friendship and ties have also been forged. We need to take further steps towards drawing a concrete action plan to translate our words into action. (See page 13)
**CUBA, Dominican Republic to increase bilateral relations**

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

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

Carlos de la Nuez, economic consultant of the Cuban Embassy to the Dominican Republic, delivered a speech on “How to do business and invest in Cuba” before Dominican entrepreneurs.

Cuba’s trade was conducted with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Diplomatic sources said the value of the commercial exchange between Havana and Santo Domingo amounts to nearly 50 million US dollars, which should double as a consequence of the results of the Bilateral Commission which convened in Santo Domingo last November.

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

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

TENDER No. 009/ME/2004-2005

Sealed Tenders from eligible Suppliers are invited for the supply of Reconditioned Hino 7HC.7 7D Engine With Gear Box (20 sets) and 14 Ton Rear Axle Assembly (16 sets). Prices are to be quoted in Myanmar kyats Yangon.

(a) Tender Documents are available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport No. 375 Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar, commencing on 9th, December, 2004.

(b) Tender will be closed on 20th, December, 2004 at (16:00) hours.

(c) The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders without furnishing reasons.

(d) Detailed information will be available at the office of the Procurement & Stores Department or Contact Phone No. (01-252574) (or) (01-376549)

**Turco-Russian cooperation contributes to peace in world**

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

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

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

“During the meetings, it is corroborated that both Turkey and Russia are willing to increase their relations to the level of multi-dimensional partnership,” said Süzer. — MNA/Al خمار

**British manufacturing output dips in 3rd quarter**

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

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

October’s output slid 0.5 per cent from the same month a year earlier, the biggest annual fall since August 2003. The declines were not expected as a consequence of the results of the Bilateral Commission which convened in Santo Domingo last November.

On behalf of the Dominican Republic, Hector Martinez, a senior official of the State and Trade Department, said the government is indeed interested in developing the commercial relations with Cuba. — MNA/Al الخمار
Keynote Speech by Venerable…

(from page 11) In future plan we should do more networking among us, especially we should form linkages among universities, monasteries and exchange scholars. International forums for Buddhist leaders are absolutely essential and should be regularly held for intellectual debates and exchange of ideas. We also should participate in these forums with understanding, patience and forgiveness to each other to reach our common goal.

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

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

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

Therefore, let us walk together in the common path with common values toward our common destination. I also pray that all the supreme Buddhist leaders and the delegates of the Buddhist Summit as a united group fulfill sublime mission with noble aims and objectives.

May the Buddhist leaders be able to do more for the promotion and propagation of Buddhism. May the Buddhist leaders help to solve the problems of mankind, while taking the Noble Path let us realize the Noble Truth of Cessation together.

May the Dhamma prevail everywhere. May original Buddhism exist in its purity. May the sentient beings be free from suffering. May sentient beings be well and happy.

May all the Buddhists work together for world Peace. Ciram tithatu lokasamanam, sammassambuddhasannam, tasamirn saggara navicci, hontu sabbepi parino.

May the teaching of the Enlightened One (the Buddha) last long in the world. May all beings pay their due respect to it always.

MNA

Only teachings of Lord Buddha...

(from page 8) attributes can be gained and peace and tranquility developed through the teachings of the Lord Buddha. It is most important to control at all times excessive greed, violent anger and pride.

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

I firmly believe that this World Buddhist Summit will be long lasting. Myanmar is a country which received the teachings of the Buddha in his lifetime. According to religious chronicles, the Buddha visited Myanmar three times. As a Theravada country, Myanmar has preserved the pristine purity of the Buddha’s teachings for over two thousand years. The Government of the Union of Myanmar has formed the Ministry of Religious Affairs with three departments and allocates budgets for the promotion and propagation of the Buddha Sasana. Throughout the country nearly five hundred thousand monks and nuns are engaged in scriptural studies and meditation practices at the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities, meditation centres, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and Sitagu Interna- tional Buddhist Academy. The nine major Sangha sects in the country have been brought together. They closely supervise Sasana work through the various levels of the Sangha Mahayaka (Committee).

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

I also would like to extend my cordial invitation to the Mahatheras, Buddhist leaders and observers who are attending this summit to visit Myanmar again. I warmly invite all to come to Myanmar for pilgrimage, study of Buddhist scriptures, meditation and research. We will do whatever we can to assist our honoured guests.

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

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

In conclusion may I express my wish that:

* The Truth of the Omniscient Buddha be known to the universe including the sun and moon and be long lasting.
* The Teachings of the Buddha be propagated throughout the world.
* Mankind be able to follow the Teachings of the Buddha and bring about World Peace, Justice and Prosperity.
* All the Buddhist leaders attending the summit are blessed with physical wellbeing and spiritual tranquility. — MNA

World Buddhist Summit continues...

(from page 10) Mr Li Jinjun, Malaysian Ambassador Mr Dato Cheah Sam Kip, UN Coordinator Mr Charles Petrie, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agisagalan, Pakistan Ambassador Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhury, Philippine Ambassador Mme Pheobe A Gong, Indonesian Ambassador Mr Oleg V Kabanov.

Next, Ven Pannavarro (Ashin Panpanava) of Buddha Dhamma Education Association of Australia read the paper on Buddhist Information, Education and Resources on Internet; Ven Dr Jinabodhi (Jina Bodhi) of Chittagong University of Bangladesh, Moral Philo- sophy of the Buddha and its Relevance to Contemporary World; Vice Khambo Lama of Mongolia Venerable Yo Mython, Buddhist in Mongolia; Dr Candia Varahibhasa of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University of Myanmar, Buddhism in the West; and Ven Joshio Adrian Cirlea of Romania, Buddhist - A Way to Live; Ven Ashin Uttama of the Czech Republic, Situation of Bud- dhism in the West; and Dr Punnobhasa of Sitagu Interna- tional Buddhist Academy of Myanmar, the paper of Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Ovadacariya of the International Theravada Bud- dhist Missionary University Honorary Professor Sayadaw Agga Maha Sasadatiga Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujaanadhitaratho Dr Ashin Nyanissara.

The agenda of the first-day session concluded at 4 pm. Members of the Sangha to the Summit, Deputy Minister for Reli- gious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials planted 36 Bodhi trees to mark the Summit around Maha Pasana Cave.

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

Yangon, 9 Dec — “From Myanmar, the Dhamma Land, Vipassana Spreads to the World” Exhibition opened

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

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

Next, Sayadaw and invited guests viewed around the exhibition.

Documentary photos of meditation camps all over the world including Myanmar established by S N Goenka were exhibited there. Moreover, Dhamma Pitha publications and guide books on meditation were also shown.

To mark the World Buddhist Summit, a bell is tolled for nine times. — MNA
Iranian footballer named Asian Player of the Year

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

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

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

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

Liverpool rout Olympiakos to advance with Gerrard’s late goal

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

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

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

Liverpool finished on 10 points in Group A along with Olympiakos but took second place thanks to their better head to head record. Monaco topped the standings while the Greek side go through to the Champions League group phase as well as the last four of the Athens Olympics.

Although they had

Real go through to knockout stage with Figo’s double

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monaco, meanwhile, who hammered Depor 8-3 in last season’s group stages, were content to soak up the pressure and wait for opportunities on the break. They gave a brief warning of their intentions when Javier Saviola slid a neat through pass to open the Depor defence and put their side ahead. Saviola sprinted clear into the Depor half, slipped the ball through to

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

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

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

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

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

From second left, AS Monaco’s players Francesco Totti and Vincenzo Montella of Italy celebrate their 2nd goal against Deportivo Coruna in Group A. —INTERNET

Italian striker Francesco Totti

While the Greek side go through, however, they had

Deportivo Coruna 5-0

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

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

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

YANGON, 9 Dec — Visiting Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party, accompanied by Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hul Phany and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the National Museum and Shwedagon Pagoda this afternoon. At 3.10 pm, the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and party arrived at the National Museum where Director-General U Myint Thein, Swe of Department of Cultural Institute and officials welcomed them. Next Director Daw Nu Mra Zan of the Museum conducted the visiting Deputy Prime Minister and party round the Thiba Thana Throne Booth.

At the booth of Yadanaobon Period and the booth of royal equipment, Curator Daw Mi Mi Thet Nwe and officials explained facts about the booths. Afterwards, the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister signed in the visitors’ book. The director-general presented a souvenir to the Deputy Prime Minister.

At 6 pm, the guests proceeded to Shwedagon Pagoda. Members of the pagoda board of trustees welcomed and conducted them round the pagoda. Next, the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and party offered flowers and lights to the pagoda and signed in the visitors’ book. In the evening, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win hosted a dinner in honour of the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and party at Hotel Nikko Royal Lake.

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

WEATHER

Thursday, 9 December, 2004

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

Maximum temperature on 8-12-2004 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 9-12-2004 was 56°F. Relative humidity in the Bay of Bengal 9.30 hrs MST on 9-12-2004 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 8-12-2004 was (8.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 9-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 were 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kabar Aye and 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from East at (13:30) hours MST on 8-12-2004.

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

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

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

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

At the outset may I express the happiness of the Government of the State Peace and Development Council and people of Myanmar on being able to share merit and for the honour of being able to take full responsibility to host this World Buddhist Summit which will go down in the annals of Sasana history.

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

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

(See page 8)