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

### Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

---

**LPDR Prime Minister leaves**

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

Before their departure, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greeted Lao Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and party at the special lounge of Yangon International Airport. Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win presented a photo album on the goodwill visit and video tapes to the Lao Prime Minister.

Later, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR U Tin Oo, Lao-tian Ambassador Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and embassy staff, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department, Director-General U Thaung Tun of the Political Department and officials bade farewell to the Prime Minister of Lao PDR and party. — MNA

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

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

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General at the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Political Department U Thaung Tun and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

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

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

Matters related to mutual cooperation and cementing of friendly ties between the two nations were discussed. After the call, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng presented a Jade Buddha image, the gift of Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. Afterwards, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win had a documentary photo taken together with the guests. — MNA

---

**Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.** — MNA
World Buddhist Summit, which helps flourish loving kindness, compassion over the world

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

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

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

Now, Myanmar has opened a new chapter in the history of Buddha Sasana by hosting the Summit, at which local and foreign representatives are holding thorough discussions on the religious affairs, based on friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries.

Myanmar and its people have gained merits by taking full responsibility to host the Summit that will make religious history. At a time when treacherous development gap has been made in science and technology that can fulfill all the physical needs of mankind, it is required to create a better world with peace, stability and development by satisfying the spiritual requirements of human beings through the teachings of the Lord Buddha.

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

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

**Minister inspects factories in Yangon**

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

Next, the minister and party went to the soy bean and vinegar factory of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries in Hline Township, where he inspected production process and gave instructions to officials on the production of foodstuff in accord with GMP system and measures to be taken for quality control.

The minister and party also inspected the umbrella factory of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries. Later, the minister inspected the production of umbrellas and gave cash assistance to the senior staff members. He then inspected the production and packaging of candy and camphor balls.

**Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun meets officers of Customs Department — rkb**

**Yangon, 10 Dec —**

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun met with the Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar and staff at the department and enterprised meetings at the school of the Customs Department here yesterday.

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

**Tailoring courses conclude**

**Yangon, 10 Dec —**

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

Present were local authorities, departmental officials, and guests of social organizations. Five trainees successfully completed the advanced tailoring course while thirty trainees completed the basic tailoring course.

The courses are opened by the Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

Similarly, the women’s vocational training school in Myeik concluded its Advanced Tailoring course No 9 and Basic Tailoring Course No 37 this morning. The closing ceremony took place at the hall of the training school. Taninthayi Division PDC Chairman and also Coastal Region Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint delivered an address on the occasion. Present were departmental officials, local authorities, and guests of social organizations.

Three trainees and 42 trainees successfully completed the advanced course and the basic course respectively.

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

**All this needs to be known**

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Philippine House passes 2005 budget

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

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

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

Education got the top most five sub-sectors with 135.5 billion pesos; infrastructure, including roads, communication, energy, water, and flood control, 56.3 billion pesos; public order and safety, 54.3 billion pesos; social security and development, including pensions and gratuities, 40.1 billion pesos; and agriculture and agrarian reform, 25.9 billion pesos.

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

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

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

Singapore company wins US Army contract

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

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

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

Singapore to encourage new ideas from entrepreneurs

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

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

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

— MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to boost industrial development along North-South road

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

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

The country is developing some large-scale industrial complexes, such as bauxite mining in Dac Nong central highlands province and cement production in the northern provinces of Ha Tay and Hoa Binh as well as in the central provinces of Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh.

The road, which includes a 2,667-kilometre main route, a 500-kilometre western branch on the basis of the Ho Chi Minh Trail, is expected to further socio-economic development of 30 localities, from northern Cao Bang Province to southern Ca Mau Province.

The road, which is under construction, is designed to go through the 30 cities and provinces with a total length of 3,167 kilometres with an estimated investment of more than 33.6 trillion VND (over 2.1 billion dollars). After completion in 2010, some sections of the road will be upgraded into express-ways. — MNA/Xinhua

CIA fired me for not toeing Iraq line, says agent

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—A senior CIA analyst who was once decorated for his work on weapons proliferation in the Middle East has accused the spy agency of running his career as punishment for his refusal to adhere to official pre-war “dogma” on Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction, in a law-suit filed in a US district court.

The unnamed agent, described as a 22-year veteran of the agency’s counter-proliferation department, accuses his former supervisors of demanding that he alter his intelligence reporting to conform to the views of CIA management in the run-up to the war on Iraq. The action marks the first time the CIA, which proclaimed that Saddam Hussein had stockpiles of WMD, has been publicly accused by one of its employees of exerting pressure to produce reports that would help the Bush administration make its case to go to war on Saddam.

US raps NATO allies for Iraq mission impasse

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said the expansion would go ahead as soon as US Marines, from the 1st Battalion of Bravo Company, open fire on guerrilla positions after they came under attack by small arms fire while conducting a series of raids hunting arms and guerrilla suspects south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad on 1 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

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

Internet
**GMS Learning Resource Centre launched in Phnom Penh**

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

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

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

Moreover, development-related multimedia publications, including online access to ADB documents and other GMS databases, are available at the LRC. The centre will also have video-conference facilities through which PPP professionals in the governments of the six countries of the GMS can conduct learning programmes and development management dialogue among GMS countries.

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

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

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

**Italian President visits Shanghai**

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

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

More than 200 Italian businessmen in Ciampi’s delegation held talks with their Chinese colleagues on the cooperation in the fields of energy, fashion, design, architecture, education and tourism. Chinese official statistics showed that Italy has established 206 direct investment projects in Shanghai with a contracted value of 300 million US dollars by the end of this October.

— MNA/Xinhua

**Thailand’s shrimp, chicken export prospect promising in 2005**

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

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

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

— MNA/Xinhua

**Masterpieces of French impressionist painters on display in Shanghai**

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

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

The 51 paintings include works by Claude Monet, Paul Cezanne, Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet and Alfred Sisley. Of the 51 works, 38 are provided by the Musee d’Orsay in Paris, 11 others are from other French museums, and one from the Most Hennessy Louis Vuitton Group, which is sponsoring the exhibitions in China.

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

The show attracted about 300,000 visitors in Beijing. The National Art Gallery in the nation’s capital had to extend opening hours every day, and at the end of the event, it set a record of nonstop operation for 36 consecutive hours to receive enthusiastic art lovers.

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

— MNA/Xinhua

**Russia supports Iraq in restoration of order**

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

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

“Russians are seriously concerned about processes taking place in the country with which Russia has had friendly relations for a long period of time,” Putin said. The President indicated that the relations between Russia and Iraq have been free from any ideology in the past few years. They have always been guided by the principles of friendship. Putin expressed hope that the current authorities of Iraq “will be able to pull the country out of” its crisis.

— MNA/Xinhua

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

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

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

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

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

“Northeast China enjoys good natural conditions and a wide range of catalogue for industry.” Zeng said. “Meanwhile, German companies have cutting-edge in fund, technology and management. The two economies are complementary and share broad industrial connection.”

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

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

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

Schroeder started visit to Japan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Before the collision, the fuel storehouse of the MSC Ilona was broken and leaked heavy oil.

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

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

Divers have been sent to plug the leak.

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

MNA/Xinhua

S Korean President makes surprise visit to troops in Iraq

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

Roh arrived in Kuwait on a special flight from Paris late Wednesday and then flew to Irbil in northern Iraq on a military plane along with a small entourage, the Presidential Office said.

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

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

China hopes Ericsson will do more to boost trade cooperation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

China’s Lenovo Group acquires IBM’s PC business

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

According to the agreement, Lenovo will acquire IBM’s entire global desktop and laptop computer research and development and manufacturing business.

In return, Lenovo Group will pay IBM 530 million US dollars in cash and grant it 600 million US dollars’ worth of Lenovo stocks, which will make IBM an owner of around 18.5 per cent of Lenovo shares.

MNA/Xinhua

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua
**Medical exports in Bangladesh grow 330% in three months**

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

According to the daily New Age on Thursday, a recent study of the country's Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) shows medicines worth 7.06 million US dollars were exported in July-September period of this fiscal, while that of the corresponding period of last fiscal stood at 2.14 million dollars.

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

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

The first-ever market mission comprising Bangladesh exporters visited Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi recently, and fetched spot orders worth 600,000 US dollars for medicine. More such orders are in progress, as by February 2005 the EPB will send a second such mission to Africa which will visit Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Morocco and Algeria, said Mohammed, the report said.

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

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

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

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

**China Southern Airlines opens flights between Wuhan, Paris**

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

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

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

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

The flight will take off from Wuhan at 6.20 pm each Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. The return flight will leave Paris at 13.30 a.m. local time each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

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

**Members of US special operations task force disciplined**

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

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

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

All four were reprimanded for other responsibilities and two were removed from the unit, Di Rita added.

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

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

**Singapore to strengthen business ties with Iran**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In his report to the local authority in Manokwari, Thery said the cave was found in the mountainous area of Lina and is 2,000-metre deep from the entrance against 1.610 metres of the Jean Bernard cave, the report said.

MNA/Reuters
The World Buddhist Summit

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

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

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

Myanmar is a land where Pariyatti, Patipatti and Vipassana are able to take shelter from the Dhamma. Some of the eminent monks including Leti Sayadaw, Mahasi Sayadaw, Mogok Sayadaw and Hpa-Auk Sayadaw were renowned even in other nations for their vipassana practices. Thus, Myanmar is like a place where gems of fine quality can be found.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Translation: MNA)

Kyemon: 9.12.2004

Commerce Minister and diplomats view booths on export promotion

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

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

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

Next, officials of foreign companies gave their own views.

Matters related to marketing between foreign companies and local companies were discussed. Those present viewed fruits, fish and meat and agricultural products on display.

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

MICTDC holds annual general meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Before the second-day session, officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs ushered 18 Sayadaws from Australia, Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Japan, Korea, Romania, India, Czech Republic, the UK, the US and Germany led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kumara, Joint Secretary Chairman of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Administration Board Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa, Rector of ITBMU Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Ashin Silanandabhivamsa into the Maha Pasana Cave through the southern entrance along Mingala passage. At that time when they entered the cave, the congregation paid homage to them and the State Orchestra played music.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and scholars took part in the discussions. The resource Sayadaws and Khikkhu Sanghasena of India, Dr Nyi Nyi of the UK, Nun Daw Aggadats of Germany, Nun Daw Dr Siyananda-rabhivamsa presided over the discussions. Chief of Foreign Language Faculty of ITBMU, U Sao Tun Hmint Win supplicated on Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, India, the US, ROK, Bangladesh and Australia and observers.

The Group-1 presents the topic “Buddhism and Its Relevance to the Present World”, — MNA

The Group-3 presents the topic “Promotion and Propagation of Buddhism”, — MNA

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

The Group-2 held its discussions at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Discussion chairman Rector of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Dr Nandamalabhivamsa delivered a speech. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indaka of the US, Ashin Pannavaro of Myanmar, Ven Pannavaro from the Theravada Perspective, Bhaddanta Lokanatha of Jamaica on Buddhist Meditation and World Peace, and Professor Dr Min Tun Mon on Breakthrough in Tranquillity Meditation and Breakthrough in Insight Meditation.

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

The Group-4 presents the topic “Buddhist Meditation and World Peace”, — MNA

Bio-data of Prime Minister...

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

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

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

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

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

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

He is married to Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse. They have three sons. — MNA
Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister calls on PBANRDA Minister

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

Matters discussed included rural development, development of border areas and cooperation in rural and border areas development work. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Brig-Gen Than Tun, Director-General of Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Col Than Sve, Director-General of Development Affairs Department Col Myo Myint, Director-General of Education and Training Department Col Than Win and officials.

On arrival, the visiting Cambodian delegation was welcomed by Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Director-General of Development Affairs Department Col Than Swe and officials.

Cambodian Dy PM tours Yangon

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

On arrival, the visiting Cambodian delegation was welcomed by Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Director-General of Development Affairs Department Col Than Sve and officials.

Construction of water-treatment plant inspected

YANGON, 10 Dec—Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by officials, inspected the progress of the water-treatment plant project in Botataung township this morning.

Officials of the project reported on construction of the plant and conducted the mayor around the project, which is being implemented by YCDC. At the briefing hall, the mayor met with officials and technicians of the project and urged them to work hard as the plant was the first of its kind in Myanmar.

Myanmar delegation returns home

YANGON, 10 Dec—The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint arrived back here by air this evening after attending the ASEAN Ministerial Meetings in Phnom Penh in Cambodia on 7 December.

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

Education Minister encourages students

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

They were physically and spiritually weak.

The Minister, the Deputy minister and party cordially greeted the students and instructed them to try to be outstanding ones. Headmistress of Dagon BEHS No 3 Daw Mother Hein and Principal of Mary Chapman's School for the Deaf Daw Khin May Sint reported to the Minister on matters related to learning of the students.

Next, the minister and party inspected the library and School health booth in the school compound and gave necessary instructions. Afterwards, the Minister and party inspected the construction of new school building and fulfilled the requirements.

Altogether 48 students who are physically and spiritually weak are learning in the school.
Wood-based industries inspected

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

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

The minister also visited Myanmar Furniture Co Ltd in Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone, and the Myanmar Technologies Industry Co Ltd and Lin Win Co Ltd. In his inspection tour of the wood-based factories, the minister urged factory officials to make arrangements for finding new foreign export markets for a variety of timber including teak. — MNA

Religious Affairs Minister receives Nepalese guests

YANGON, 10 Dec — The minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received a delegation of Nepalese guests at his office today.

Matters related to religious affairs between the two nations were discussed. Also present on the occasion were Nepalese Chargé d’Affaires ai to Myanmar Dr Dilid Kumar Pasdel, Director-General of Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint and Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Susana U Sam Lwin and officials. — MNA

Tourist Security Course concludes

YANGON, 10 Dec — The Tourist Security Course No 9/2004 organized by Myanmar Police Force (MPF) concluded at the Ministry of Home Affairs this morning, with an address by Deputy Director-General Col Zaw Win of MPF, on behalf of the director-general of MPF.

On the occasion, the deputy director-general presented awards to outstanding trainees. The course was attended by 40 police officers.

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

Sanyo electrical equipment introduced

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

On the occasion, U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing, Company Managing Director, explained extended distribution of electrical appliances, Li-Col Zaw Weit (Retd), quality and grantee of the goods and services to be provided to customers and distribution of goods at a reasonable price.

Next, the guests viewed Sanyo brand air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines and other electrical equipment produced by Sanyo Electronic Corporation of Japan. Sanyo electronics sales centre of OK Myanmar Co Ltd is opened at Dagon Tower near Shwedagon traffic lights in Bahan Township. Its service center is opened on Maha Bandoola Park Street (Middle Block) in Kyauktada Township. For purchase of the goods, dial 544464, 544465 and 558291 and for services, call 376997 and 384748. — MNA

Infants, children immunized against measles

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

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

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

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

Self-reliant libraries set up in rural areas

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

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

On 19 November, with the assistance of Moeyno Township Information and Public Relations Department, a self-reliant library was opened on 19 November in Kayinchaunggon Village in Moeyno. At the opening ceremony, local people also provided books on general knowledge and cash assistance for the library. Similarly, Mawleik Township IPRD also established a library on self-reliant basis in AuZeGon Village in the township on 18 November. Head of the township IPRD inaugurated the library. At the opening ceremony, wellwishers also provided books on general knowledge and journals for the library. — KYEMON
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3/MRL/Locomotive (M)</td>
<td>IN-SERVICE</td>
<td>4 - Nos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

3. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51’ Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon from 14.12.2004 during working hours.

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

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon

INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER No. 09/ME-2004-2005

Sealed Tenders from eligible Suppliers are Invited for the supply of Reconditioned Hino 7C/HO 7D Engine With Gear Box (20) sets and 1 Ton Rear Axle Assely (14) sets Prices are Tendered 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)

Road Transport

RARE TURTLE FOUND IN EASTERN INDONESIA

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

WWF researcher John Maturbongs said the red-ear slider, (Trachemy scripta elegans) in waters of the northeasternmost province of Papua, a researcher said Wednesday.

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

Maturbongs said about two species of rare turtles were known to be found in the wild in Indonesia, the Trachemy scripta elegans and the Trachemy terrapen.

The two species are brightly coloured as hatchlings and adolescents, but become dull in adulthood.

The red-ear slider is estimated to be about four years old.

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

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

INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER No. 09/ME-2004-2005

Sealed Tenders from eligible Suppliers are Invited for the supply of Reconditioned Hino 7C/HO 7D Engine With Gear Box (20) sets and 1 Ton Rear Axle Assely (14) sets Prices are Tendered 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)

Road Transport

RARE TURTLE FOUND IN EASTERN INDONESIA

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

WWF researcher John Maturbongs said the red-ear slider, (Trachemy scripta elegans) in waters of the northeasternmost province of Papua, a researcher said Wednesday.

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

Maturbongs said about two species of rare turtles were known to be found in the wild in Indonesia, the Trachemy scripta elegans and the Trachemy terrapen.

The two species are brightly coloured as hatchlings and adolescents, but become dull in adulthood.

The red-ear slider is estimated to be about four years old.

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

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

IDB to approve credit for Customs-modernization in Venezuela

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

In a statement cited by Foreign Trade & Industry Minister (ISS), the bank will provide the funds to equip customs procedures.

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

Visiting IDB representative Marcio Carsel said that the bank’s board of directors appears ready to approve the loan before the end of the year.

The Customs project is estimated to be ready by early 2005.

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE

MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Telephone: 293147, 296507, 295754

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

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

Krzyztof Dzienniak, 24, rolled into Microsoft’s Redmond, Washington campus on Monday after setting off from New York in late August to raise money for seven-year-old Monika Mosur, who was born with hydrocephalus, and Patrycja Bialkowska, a 10-year-old who lost a foot in an accident.

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

Fire causes explosion in New York power station

NEW YORK, 9 Dec — A power station in the East Village, New York City, was rocked by a series of explosions Wednesday morning after fire broke out in one of the station’s transformers.

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

ADVANCE CONTAINER SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

S Korea to select candidates for first astronaut

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

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

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

BLOOD

DONATE BLOOD

S Korea to select candidates for first astronaut

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

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

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

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

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

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

China has an estimated 840,000 people infected with HIV, among whom 80,000 have full blown AIDS. Since a large number of the HIV carriers got infected in the mid-1990s, many of them have begun to show AIDS symptoms and are in urgent need of treatment.

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

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

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

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

“As we carry out a massive relief and rehabilitation efforts, we are setting our sight on the formulation of a more comprehensive national policy that would protect lives, property and crops, uphold environmental laws and sustain vulnerable communities over the long-term,” she said. She said that the government is determined to carry on with its double task of fighting poverty and ensuring human security and development.

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

S Africa takes measures to attract more overseas tourists

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

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

Mocetse Mosola, CEO of South African Tourism, said, “Our intention is to leverage our new brand at the highest levels world-wide.”

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

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

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

Report says 15% of Zambian children are orphans

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

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

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

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

The report quoted a
Bolivar beat Boca Juniors-1 in Copa Sudamericana final

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

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

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

Bolivar had hoped to take greater advantage of the 3,600 metres’ energy-sapping altitude of La Paz but Argentine Chiorazzo said: “People here always want to win three or four nil and so do we, but there are rivals who are really difficult.

“The important thing was to have won.”

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

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

Lyons ease past Sparta to top group

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

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

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

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

Malaysia beats East Timor in Tiger Cup

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

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

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

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

Fenerbahce beat depleted Man Utd 3-0

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fenerbahce beat depleted Man Utd 3-0

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

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

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

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

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

Fenerbahce beat depleted Man Utd 3-0

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

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

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

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

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

Fenerbahce beat depleted Man Utd 3-0

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

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

“The young players...
Indonesian car sales drop 30.8% in November

JAKARTA, 10 Dec — Car sales in Indonesia dropped by 30.8 per cent to 35,141 units in November when compared with the preceding month, but year-on-year sales in the first 11 months climbed 32.2 per cent, a local newspaper reported Thursday.

All car producers reported an increase in November sales except for Toyota. Suzuki with 73,025 units, Honda with 42,491 units, Daewoo with 42,345 units and Isuzu with 21,383 units.

Gakindo Chairman Bambang Trioed said the association had expected a drop in monthly sales in November and December, as people allocate more funds for holidays trip. MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia hosting Int'l Junior Science Olympiad

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

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

The Olympiad, which will run through December 14, takes “Einstein,100 years” as its theme to commemorate the contribution of Albert Einstein to science. There are 181 students from 30 countries and regions who are aged between 12 and 15 years old participating in the event.

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

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

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

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

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

During the closing ceremony on December 13, the best students will be awarded with trophies and medals. “Trophies will be given for Best Theory, Best Experiment and absolute categories,” said IJSO coordinator Hidayat Muchtar. — MNA/Xinhua

Filipino hostage in Iraq still alive

MANILA, 10 Dec — The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Thursday said that the kidnaped Filipino in Iraq, Roberto Tarongoy, is still alive and the rescue operation is also going on. Quoting Undersecretary Rafael Seguis who heads the negotiatiung team in Iraq, DFA spokesman Gilbert Asuque said that the negotiators have gotten to the Iraqi hostage-takers and that they are exerting all effort to free him continuosly.

Asuque said in a radio interview, “The instruction is to exert every effort to free Roberto Tarongoy and we will be there as long as needed.”

Asuque said that Tarongoy was among the foreign workers of a Sandi based company in Iraq who has been in captivity for over a month since November 1, the longest period in a Filipino hostage in Iraq since truck driver Angelo da Cruz was kidnapped there in July. The Iraqi kidnappers earlier demanded ransom of at least 12 million US dollars and the release of at least four Iraqi prisoners held by the US troops.

The US government urged the Philippine government to give in again to the Iraqi hostage-takers after a Philippine accountant and was kidnapped early this week in Iraq. MNA/Xinhua

Russian legislature approves 2005 budget

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

The draft was passed at 18.7 trillion rubles (643 billion dol-

WEATHER

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

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

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with 135mph and rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Taninthai Coast. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

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

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

WEATHER Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 11 December, 2004 15

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296684, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545. Administration 296161, Re-printing 297032 (Office) 297028 (Press).
YANGON, Dec — The second-day session of the World Buddhist Summit, being organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, in which Buddhist eminent Sayadaws from various countries, Chief Sayadaws of Buddhist Ganas and senior world Buddhism researchers and scholars are participating was held on a significant scale at Maha Pasana Cave Ordination Hall on Stirling Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of the Union of Myanmar, Chief Sayadaws of Ganas, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, State Central Working Committee of the Sangha member Sayadaws from Kayin and Mon States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, the Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, presiding Nayaka Sayadaws of Paramitya monasteries, members of the World Buddhist Summit continues

Bio-data of Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

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

Mr Rajapakse is the 19th Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. He is the second Political Leader from the South to be elevated to the prestigious office of the Prime Minister of the Sri Lanka. Mr Rajapakse led the Opposition in the 12th Parliament, and was successfully returned to the office at the 2004 April 2 election after obtaining 157,693 preferential votes from the Hambantota district. He led the Freedom Alliance candidates in the 12th Parliament to secure 157,893 votes.

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

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

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
Mr Mahinda Rajapakse. — MNA

Summit on world-wide coverage

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

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

The Group-1 discussed Buddhism and Its Relevance to the Present World at the Maha Pasana Cave. Present on the occasion were Ven Nañapumma of Sri Lanka, Sayadaws at home and abroad, Mahayana monks and nuns, Sayagyi Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja U Goenka, world Buddhist researchers and delegates, totalling about 300. Ven Nañapumma presided over the discussions and gave a speech. Leading speaker was Ven Dr Dhammasami (Oxford University).

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

INSIDE

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

Sein Yaungchi Sayadaw (Shwekyin Myo)