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Tuesday, 4 May, 2004

Senior General Than Shwe attends Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony of Thabbyinnyu Stupa in Mayangon Township

YANGON, 3 May—The Shwehtidaw hoisting and consecration ceremony of Thabbyinnyu Stupa built in Mayangon Township here was held at the stupa this morning, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, member Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, members of Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Theravada Ovadacariya Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, academic and administrative Sayadaws of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon), Pro-Rector Sayadaw of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Chairman Sayadaw of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee and



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and party hoist tiers, Hsathwaphudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop Thabbyinnyu Stupa through a decorated carriage. — MNA



Chairmen Sayadaws of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committees (All Ganas).

Also present on the occasion were Presiding Nun of Dhammesaka Nunnery in Mayangon Township Daw Dhammesi and nuns, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-

Gen Tin Oo, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the

State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Maung Bo and their wives, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and their wives, Chair-

man of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, the ministers, members of Thabbyinnyu Stupa Construction Committee, the Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, senior military

officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and officials, the Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council and the Chairmen of the Township Peace and Development Councils in the district, religious organizations and social organizations, wellwishers, guests and local people of the Townships in Yangon West District.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*.
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PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 4 May, 2004

For conservation of environment

The Union of Myanmar is endowed with land and water resources and possesses good environment.

As there is environmental degradation in the world, priority is being given to environmental conservation in international communities.

In Myanmar, a department was formed under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conserve the environment systematically. In order to promote the activities for environmental conservation, the Environmental Conservation Committee comprising various groups from related ministries was formed and duties were assigned.

A coordination meeting on conservation of environment was held at Zeya Thiri Beikman on Konmyinttha on 1 May, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

In his speech the Prime Minister said that all are to make concerted efforts for conservation of natural environment including rivers, creeks and forests and sea and for preventing invaluable living and non-living natural resources from falling into ruin as a national task.

Myanmar possesses good natural environment such as major rivers including Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittaung Rivers flowing throughout the country, mountain ranges the length and breath of the country and forests of various kinds of invaluable timber cover the whole nation.

Moreover, Myanmar is rich in precious stones such as jade, sapphire and ruby and above and underground resources such as mineral, petroleum and natural gas.

Above and underwater resources including unspoiled and uninhabited islands, coral reefs of Myanmar waters and living and non-living things, snow-capped mountains in the north of the country are the good natural environment of Myanmar.

Natural resources and natural environment can be spoiled naturally or by human action. Therefore, the Government is paying serious attention to environmental protection and conservation.

We would like to urge all the officials concerned and the people to actively take part in endeavours for environmental conservation as a national duty.

World Red Cross Day — 2004

ကမ္ဘာ့ကြက်ခြေနီနေ့

ခွဲခြားဆက်ဆံ မပြုရန်
ကြက်ခြေနီ၏စိတ်ထားမှန်

Stop Discrimination

8 May 2004

Myanmar Red Cross Society

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံကြက်ခြေနီအသင်း

ထူးချွန်ကြက်ခြေနီတွေ့ဆုံပွဲ

မေလ (၅) - (၁၁) ရက်

အမှတ်(၂) အခြေစိုက်ညာအထက်တန်းကျောင်း၊ လသာမြို့နယ်၊
ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

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



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe offers Seinphudaw and offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Rajinda. (News page 1) — MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe sprinkles scented water on tiers of Shwehtidaw, Hsathwaphudaw, Hsaemyatnadaw and Seinphudaw. (News page 1) — MNA

Energy Minister inspects connection of 14-inch natural gas pipeline

YANGON, 3 April — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi arrived at the main natural gas station (Ywama) of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in Insein Township here this afternoon and looked into connection of 14-inch natural gas pipeline.

At the work site, the director (Engineering works) and the director (Production) of MOGE and officials reported to the minister on progress in connecting of the pipeline.

The minister next laid down the plans for distribu-

tion of natural gas to power stations, factories and plants in Yangon and other regions. Then, the minister gave necessary instructions and praised the staff for their efforts. As the 14-inch natural gas pipeline has been connected, natural gas produced

from Nyaungdon region can be distributed more to the factories and plants in Yangon and other regions.

MNA

Gambia Minister arrives

YANGON, 3 May — At the invitation of Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, a trade delegation led by Mr Edward Fingahdteh, Minister for Trade, Industry and Employment of Gambia, arrived here by air this evening. The delegation members were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and heads of departments.

In the evening, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone hosted a dinner to the guests at the Karaweik Palace. — MNA



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects new 14-inch natural gas pipeline at natural gas distribution station (Ywama) in Insein Township. — MNA

Nine US soldiers killed in Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 3 May— Nine US soldiers have been killed in a bloody 24 hours for US-led forces in Iraq, and Washington says it is still deciding which former general from Saddam Hussein's army to appoint to restore order in Fallujah.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he expected the Security Council to authorize a multinational force for Iraq to take over after the planned US handover of power to Iraqis on 30 June. In the worst attack on US forces on Sunday, six soldiers were killed in a mortar bombardment on a base in western Iraq. But US civilian Thomas Hamill escaped from being held hostage for three weeks by gunmen.

Top US general Richard Myers accused media of "very bad" reporting on Fallujah, saying US forces had not withdrawn and that General Jasim Mohamed Saleh, a commander in Saddam's Republican Guard, was unlikely to take charge in the Sunni city.

On Friday, US officers signalled Saleh would lead former

Iraqi troops to try to end a standoff with guerillas in the hotbed of anti-US resistance. Saleh drove into the city wearing his old uniform to cheers from residents.

"There's another general they're looking at (to take charge)," Myers, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, told ABC TV. "My guess is it will not be General Saleh... He may have a role to play, but that vetting has yet to take place." Myers's appearance on three different television shows seemed calculated to counter media reports suggesting US Marines had suffered a virtual defeat in Fallujah and had turned to Saddam's former generals to salvage the situation.

Internet

US officer says bloodshed in Iraq to carry on through next year

BAGHDAD, 3 May— A senior US military officer in Iraq warned there was no end in sight to the resistance, predicting more violent attacks against the coalition and its allies through national elections scheduled for January.

The officer called into doubt the coalition's claim the installation of an interim Iraqi government on June 30 would deflate the insurgency.

"The important thing to remember is it's only an interim government and it's not an elected government," the official said.

The officer warned that as elections creep up, the insurgents will step up their use of violence to influence Iraq's future.

January is "when the posturing will occur politically which will then link ... into the insurgency or other militaristic types of actions," the officer said.

The coalition has previously portrayed the insurgency as composed of hardened veterans of Saddam's elite security and intelligence services and foreign fighters and not in the terms of a nationalist movement.

The officer admitted there was no clear indication when the bloodshed might end. "I think it's too premature to say how long (the resistance) is going to last."

The officer pointed to the coalition's earlier prediction the resistance would lose its steam with Saddam's capture last December, saying borderline supporters of the deposed President would shed their allegiance to the old regime.

Instead, the fierce fighting in the flashpoint town of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, this past month showed the Sunni insurgency could regenerate itself.

The most remarkable development in Fallujah was the building of a strong bond between Iraqi and foreign fighters, the officer said. — Internet

Fallujah declares victory over US as families return

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 3 May— Eight-year-old Anas Mohamed wept as his father picked through the rubble where their family house once stood in the besieged Iraqi town of Fallujah.

"My books have been burned so how will I study?" he asked. "Where will we live? Where will we live?" he cried.

Anas, his two sisters, parents and aunt, were among thousands of residents of Fallujah, besieged by US forces for nearly one month, who returned home on Saturday.

The family blamed the destruction on US forces, who this week launched an aerial bombardment on the Golan

District where the rubble of their house now lay.

Many returning Fallujah residents found their homes damaged or destroyed, but saw the absence of American soldiers in their city as a victory over the US-led forces occupying Iraq.

Across the Arab world, Fallujah has become a symbol of resistance to the new US-led order in Iraq. Fallujah doctors say 600 of the city's residents were killed in fighting during

the siege.

Surveying the damaged walls and foundations of his house, Mohamed Shakir, father of two, said maintaining Fallujah's Islamic integrity by keeping US forces out of the town was worth paying the price.

"Reputations are not maintained without sacrifice," he said.

Hammad Makhlas, who returned home for the first time since the start of the siege, said: "Praise God. The

most important thing is that the town's dignity has been preserved with the defeat of the Americans".

US forces on Friday pulled back from some positions on the outskirts of the city, among the most loyal to ousted President Saddam Hussein, and entrusted security in the city centre to a former general in the former Iraqi Army.

A mosque minaret in central Fallujah hailed the "victory" of guerillas in the city over US forces.

"God has given this town victory over the Americans," loud speakers from the mosque's minaret announced across the roof tops. "This victory came by the acts of the brave Mujahedin of Fallujah who vanquished the American troops."

Gunmen holding their weapons aloft celebrated in the centre of the city, where US forces say they still want to root out guerillas, foreign fighters, heavy weapons and those who killed and mutilated the bodies of four American contractors.

"I'm certain that the Americans will not come back to the town after the people of Fallujah taught them some lessons," said Fallujah resident Fawaz Jabbar. — MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi man beats with his shoe a smouldering US Army military truck outside the city of Amarah, southern Iraq, on Sunday, 2 May, 2004. Two American soldiers were killed in the attack when Shiite militiamen blasted their convoy with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades near the southern city of Amarah. —INTERNET

Chinese Premier visits German car factory, dairy farm

MUNICH (GERMANY), 3 May — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, on his first visit to Europe since taking office, toured a Bavarian dairy farm and a high-tech German car factory at the start of an 11-day European trip on Sunday.

He has told Reuters he will try to persuade EU states to drop an arms embargo, and he will work to expand trade with the newly enlarged 25-member bloc.

Wen, who took office more than a year ago, has said his trip was also aimed at building trust and trade; and he kicked off in Germany, China's biggest trading partner in Europe.

He will also go to Belgium, Italy, Britain and Ireland.

Wen saw a farm in Eggertshofen that turns manure and other organic waste into enough electricity for 700 households before going to the headquarters of carmaker Audi AG.

He toured the Ingolstadt plant at Audi,

a subsidiary of Volkswagen AG, and was given demonstrations of laser welding techniques. Volkswagen announced plans to build a factory with its Chinese partner Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation near Shanghai that will produce 150,000 cars per year.

The EU was China's number three trading partner in 2003 and on Saturday completed a 10-country expansion that could make it Beijing's biggest trading partner.

But Foreign Ministry officials have said trade cooperation in may hinge in part on whether EU countries scrap the arms embargo on Beijing imposed in 1989.

MNA/Reuters

Nicaragua condemns US abuse of Iraqi prisoners

MANAGUA, 3 May — Nicaragua condemned on Saturday US soldiers violated the human rights of Iraqi prisoners, demanding severe punishment for the appalling abuse.

These soldiers' activities contravened the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Norman Caldera Cardenal told the Press. The Geneva Conventions, commonly known as the laws of war, sets out an internationally binding set of rules to guarantee minimum standards of treatment for prisoners of war and other detainees.

Cardenal also noted that US President Bush had said the treatment against Iraqi prisoners is unacceptable and the hand of justice must fall with all the weight of the laws over the guilty soldiers.

The Nicaraguan Government will send a "note" on this issue to the US Government on Monday, he added.

Nicaraguans were indignant on Friday as they saw the images of Iraqi prisoners being tortured and subjected to acts of cruelty and obscenity by the US soldiers.

MNA/Xinhua



US forces withdraw to the edges of Fallujah at the end of April 2004. — INTERNET

Iraq conflict poses daily minefield for journalists

BAGHDAD, 3 May—Iraq remains a minefield for journalists more than a year after the toppling of Saddam Hussein, with reporters facing violence and the threat of kidnap as they test the constraints of covering armed conflict.

"Hopes were high after the fall of the regime but everyone has begun to realise the complexity of the new situation," said local journalist Jassem Mohammed Mohsen.

The latest journalist to fall victim to the unrest gripping Iraq was a local reporter for the coalition-funded Iraqia television station who was killed along with his driver by US military fire north of Baghdad on April 19. A month before, two Iraqi journalists with the Dubai-based satellite television station Al-Arabiya were killed in Baghdad, also by shots from US soldiers.

Guerillas fighting the US-led occupation of Iraq have also media blood on their hands.

A French journalist, three Czechs and a

Japanese were kidnapped by armed groups, and later released, in a wave of hostage takings during a fierce battle in the Sunni Muslim stronghold of Fallujah in early April.

Last year was particularly deadly for journalists covering Iraq, where 15 were killed during the war and the bloody aftermath, according to press freedom groups.

After a period marked by the total absence of regulations, the media in Iraq is now subject to laws and a regulation authority.

Mohsen and his colleagues complain about a lack of professionalism among a new generation of journalists who appeared after the regime's fall and are working either for the many new publications or for the Western or Arab media. — *Internet*

Egypt, Iran get business council ahead of ties

CAIRO, 3 May — Egyptian and Iranian business leaders agreed on Friday to set up a joint council, anticipating an increase in commerce opportunities once their governments decide to restore diplomatic relations.

The presidents of the chambers of commerce in the two countries signed the agreement in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on the sidelines of an Islamic business conference, the official news agency *MENA* said.

Egypt and Iran have not had diplomatic ties for 25 years but earlier this year officials in both countries said a restoration of relations was approaching.

However, Egyptian officials said Egypt still demanded that Iran changed the name signs on a Teheran street named after the man who assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

The momentum for change appears to have dissipated since hardliners won Iranian parliamentary elections in February.

MNA/Reuters

Castro slams US over HR abuses at Guantanamo

HAVANA, 3 May — Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Saturday accused the United States of perpetrating what he branded as one of the most grotesque cases of human rights violations at Guantanamo.

At a May Day rally in Havana, Castro said the United States "kidnapped" and held 600 people at the Guantanamo Naval Base, the territory of 117.6 square kilometres occupied by the United States in eastern Cuba in early 20th Century. Those people, who were captured during the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, include citizens of countries that Washington considers allies, he noted. He said they remained in jail without previous trials, communication, identification, legal defence, or time limits. Castro also pointed out that the United States put those people at Guantanamo without

consulting the island's authorities. Cuba was "simply informed of the decision," he said. The United States could have taken the prisoners to its own soil, but it picked Guanta-namo to make "a strange contribution to civilization," Castro said in an apparently ironic tone. Ignoring their own human rights record, the United States committed the mistake of putting Cuba again in the accused box of the UN Human Rights Commission, he said. Cuba had proposed a probe into the situation of the detainees at Guantanamo in the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Commission but later dropped it. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Germany says protection of US bases to end

BERLIN, 3 May — German Defence Minister Peter Struck said Germany will stop protecting US military bases in the country at the end of 2004 and would not send troops to help a NATO force police Iraq, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

"We want to put an end to the German Army's protection of American installations by the end of the year," said Struck in an interview with *Welt am Sonntag*. "We're now

negotiating an end to the guarding process." A Defence Ministry spokesman said discussions about ending the German Army's policing of US bases had been going on since the start of the year.



Occupation forces destroyed several homes during the siege on Fallujah in late April 2004. — *INTERNET*

Daily Mirror stands by Iraqi prisoner abuse photos

LONDON, 3 May—The *Daily Mirror* newspaper stood by its report that British soldiers beat an Iraqi detainee and published new allegations on Monday about the abuse of Iraqi prisoners.

A number of political and media commentators have questioned the integrity of five black and white photographs published in the newspaper on Saturday, apparently showing British soldiers abusing a hooded Iraqi detainee arrested for stealing.

"Despite the whispering campaign and dodgy briefings that went on yesterday, the *Daily Mirror* has no doubt that the allegations made by the two soldiers who came to us were true," the newspaper said in an editorial on Monday.

The *Mirror*'s pictures on Saturday, which it said came from two soldiers in the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, showed soldiers apparently kicking, stamping and urinating on a hooded Iraqi. It said they were taken during an eight-hour beating in Basra, southern

Iraq, where Britain has around 7,500 troops.

The images were published days after pictures of US troops abusing Iraqi prisoners provoked anger around the world.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said on Sunday that a high-level investigation was under way and described the allegations as "terrible," echoing the views of Prime Minister Tony Blair and Britain's top general, Sir Mike Jackson.

The *Mirror* also published responses to claims that its pictures were fakes. Questions had been raised about the type of rifle seen in the photographs, the soldiers' clothing, the lack of visible injuries on the prisoner and the truck in which the beating was alleged to have taken place.

Internet

Nujoma says Africa land reform key to boost food supply

HARARE, 3 May — Namibian President Sam Nujoma said on Friday Africa could only produce enough food to feed itself if it redistributed land to benefit landless masses across the continent.

Namibia said last month it would start expropriating farm land.

"The African continent has the capacity to feed all her people and generate surplus food for exports to other parts of the world. It is only prudent for us to ensure that our people have access to land," Nujoma said as he opened an international trade fair in Zimbabwe's southern city of Bulawayo.

Land reform is a hot topic across several southern African countries where centuries of White domination have left much of the productive land in the hands of White minorities.

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is at loggerheads with Western countries over his forcible seizure since 2000 of large tracts for White-owned commercial farms for Blacks whom he says were dispossessed of the land during the colonial era.

Nujoma, who is due to stand down after elections later this year, and other African leaders have backed Mugabe's land reforms.

"I wish to make it categorically clear that those who criticize our land reform policies and strategies wish to perpetuate neo-colonialism, underdevelopment in Africa, and... subject our people to poverty hunger and disease," Nujoma said in a televised address.

MNA/Reuters



A man recovers his belongings in his damaged home in Fallujah on 2 May, 2004. *INTERNET*

MNA/Reuters

Spain's PM says Iraq should serve as lesson

MADRID, 3 May—Spain's Prime Minister said Sunday he hopes the deteriorating situation in Iraq will serve as a warning to countries against using preemptive wars in the future.

"The mission in Iraq, which is showing itself every day to be a failure, should serve as a lesson to the international community: preemptive wars, never again; violations of international law, never again," Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said.

Speaking before some 20,000 supporters at a meeting celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Socialist

party, Zapatero reiterated that he had ordered Spain's troops home from Iraq April 18, a day after he was sworn in, "because they should have never been sent there."

On Wednesday, the last 260 of the 1,300 Spanish troops who took part in the US-led occupation returned home. Another 1,000 soldiers remain in Iraq to pack up military hardware and ship it back to Spain. The

government says those soldiers will be in Spain by May 27.

Zapatero's predecessor as premier, Jose Maria Aznar of the conservative Popular Party, had supported the war in Iraq despite massive opposition in Spain. Spain did not take part in the invasion but sent in troops afterward.

Zapatero vowed his government would never break, nor support the violation of

international law in order to fight terrorism.

"The real and most efficient fight against terrorism is through the cooperation of all democratic countries, all free countries, in the United Nations with the cooperation of all and not via unilateral interventions, which only lead to failure," he told the meeting at a bullring on Madrid's outskirts.

Internet

UN head wants more international support in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 3 May—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Sunday urged more countries to join efforts to stabilize Iraq and said the United States was intensifying talks with France, Germany and Russia all of which opposed the war.

Annan said he believed the three key opponents of the US-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein weren't prepared "at this stage" to send troops to join US-led forces in Iraq. But he didn't rule out the possibility of their sending troops in the future. "It would be extremely helpful to the process if we can really internationalize the efforts in Iraq and bring in everybody," he said in an interview with Tim Russert on NBC television that focused largely on Iraq.

Internet



Residents of Fallujah celebrate on top of a truck in the centre of Fallujah, Iraq on 2 May, 2004. — INTERNET

Castro vows Cuban socialism to survive Bush

HAVANA, 3 May — Cuban President Fidel Castro on Saturday dismissed Bush Administration plans to speed up political change in Cuba and said his government — in power since 1959 — will continue building a socialist society at the US doorstep.

Castro said Cuba had survived the antagonism of the world's most powerful nation for 45 years and will continue to resist.

"This revolution will leave a lasting mark in world history and has nothing to be ashamed of," Castro said at a massive May Day rally in Havana's Revolution Square. The 77-year-old Cuban leader, dressed in military fatigues, spoke for almost two hours under a scorching sun. His brother and designated successor Raul Castro attended, also wearing a military uniform.

Castro accused the United States of committing

"genocide" and said peace in Iraq was not possible until American troops withdrew.

A Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba appointed by President George W Bush had until Saturday to hand the White House a set of recommendations for speeding up a post-Castro transition to democracy in Cuba. Miami's Spanish-language newspaper, *El Nuevo Herald*, reported last week that the 50-page report includes a proposal to cut by half the remittances that Cuban Americans can send their families in Cuba, from 300 US dollars to 150 US dollars a quarter. The remittances are

estimated to total one billion US dollars a year, a vital inflow of cash for Castro's economically-battered government. Castro said the Bush Administration was threatening steps to undermine Cuba's economy and destabilize the country. "To those who persist in destroying the Revolution, in the name of the immense multitude gathered here, I truly say to them, as at other decisive moments of our struggle: 'Long Live Socialism', 'Fatherland or Death', 'Venceremos' (We shall overcome)," Castro said in closing his speech.

MNA/Reuters

Georgia launches large-scale military exercises

MOSCOW, 3 May — Georgia on Friday kicked off major military manoeuvres near its renegade region of Abkhazia, raising tensions between the central and local governments and prompting rebellious regional leader Aslan Abashidze to declare a state of emergency.

The exercises were launched at about 2:00 pm Moscow Time (1700 GMT) in the Black Sea port of Poti, which is just 30 kilometres away from Abkhazia, the *Interfax* news agency reported.

The news agency said some of the manoeuvres will be conducted within two to three kilometres to the border separating Abkhazia and the rest of the former Soviet republic.

Over 2,000 Georgian servicemen from the ground, na-

val and Coast Guard forces, 30 tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery systems, and over 15 naval ships will participate in the three-day exercises.

The manoeuvres, which are held annually near Poti, include a search and rescue operation, evacuation of people from a crisis area and a landing of a naval unit at Kulevi training ground near Poti, the *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported.

Georgian President

Mikhail Saakashvili is expected to observe the manoeuvres along with other senior officials and some foreign ambassadors.

Although Georgian officials have repeatedly claimed the exercises are in no way against Abkhazia, but Abashidze declared a state of emergency on Friday, saying the military exercises should not develop into aggressive actions against the local administration.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi kidnappers say will not harm Italians

DUBAI, 3 May — An Iraqi Islamist group has said it will not harm three Italian hostages it is holding, after murdering a fourth last month, a statement sent to Arabic television station Al Jazeera said on Saturday.

"They are telling the Italian people that they appreciate how the Italian people went onto the streets and now they are not going to harm the hostages," a spokesman for the Qatar-based channel told *Reuters*.

Relatives and friends of the three Italians gathered on Thursday for a peace march in Rome which they hoped would convince the kidnappers to free them.

Salvatore Stéfio, Umberto Cupertino and Maurizio Agliana were captured more than two weeks ago outside Baghdad, where they were working for a private US security firm.

A fourth Italian kidnapped with them was murdered after the captors demanded Italy withdraw its 2,700 troops from Iraq.

The statement, which Al Jazeera said was signed in

the name of a group called the "Green Brigade", said it would release the hostages if the Italian Government helped to release members of the group held by Kurds in north Iraq.

"It says, 'We will free them if your government negotiate with Kurds in north Iraq to release "Green Brigade" people in Arbil and Sulaimaniya'," the spokesman said. — MNA/Reuters

Ugandan, Burundian Presidents satisfied with peace process

KAMPALA, 3 May — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and his Burundian counterpart Domitien Ndayizeye highly spoke of the peace process in Burundi at a joint Press conference, held here Friday at the end of their talks on bilateral relations and regional issues.

Museveni, who is also the chairman of the Great Lakes initiative on Burundi, told the Press conference that he is particularly satisfied with the positive steps so far made by the Burundian parties that signed the Arusha peace protocol, mediated by former South African president Nelson Mandela in 2000.

He urged Burundian anti-government forces to join the peace process and build everlasting peace in the Central African country.

Museveni said that the Great Lakes Region will help strengthen Burundian military forces to enable it to execute its mission of pacifying the country for the benefit of

not only the Burundian people but also the region in particular and Africa in general.

Ndayizeye told the Press conference that his transitional government has made tremendous achievements since assuming power one year ago, saying peace is prevailing in 97 per cent of the country.

He said the transitional government will soon meet all the parties in the country in order to arrive at an agreement on the country's Constitution that will pave the way for elections. Accompanied by his Minister of External Relations and Cooperation and Minister of National Defence, Ndayizeye concluded his one-day working visit to Uganda on Friday. — MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi family returns with their belongings to their home in Fallujah, 37 miles, (60 kilometres) west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 2 May, 2004. — INTERNET

Fallujah confusion as toll mounts

WASHINGTON, 3 May—America's top soldier has contradicted officers on the ground in Iraq by denying a Saddam-era general has been given control of the city of Fallujah.

Gen Richard Myers, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he did not believe Gen Jasim Saleh would pass the vetting process for taking command.

Gen Saleh has been in the city with 200 Iraqi peacekeepers since Friday.

Nine US soldiers died in attacks on Sunday, taking to 12 the death toll for the first two days of May.

April saw the highest US combat losses in Iraq since the invasion last March, with 129 killed.

In the bloodiest attack on

Sunday, two mortars hit an unidentified base in western Iraq, killing six soldiers.

US marines would only say that the base was located two hours' drive west of Fallujah, itself 50km (32 miles) west of the capital Baghdad.

I saw blood all over, I didn't know whose it was, mine or other people's

"I didn't know who was dead and who was wounded," an unnamed 27-year-old survivor was quoted as saying by Reuters news agency.

"I knew it was a mortar from the black smoke... It was a bad day."

The witness said two bombs had fallen, the second directly on soldiers seeking shelter after the first blast.

A survivor quoted by AFP news agency described a scene of chaos:

"When it hit, everybody went down, took cover, there were people screaming. It knocked me off my feet... I saw blood all over, I didn't know whose it was, mine or other people's." —Internet

Media fury at abuse of Iraqis

BAGHDAD, 3 May—Many Arab media sources have reacted with rage to the photos in Western media showing the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US and British soldiers.

The two key TV news channels in the Middle East, al-Jazeera and al-Arabiya, made the American photos their lead story on Saturday.

"The pictures released by the US CBS news network showing repulsive and immoral practices by US soldiers against Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison have caused a great shock and dismay," al-Jazeera's news announcer said.

"If the photos were a shock to the world public opinion, the shock in Iraq and Baghdad in particular has been much greater," its Baghdad correspondent Al-Habib al-Ghuraybi continued.

"The Iraqis considered the images as an abuse of the Iraqis' humanity and dignity, which is meant to humiliate and insult them on top of the occupation imposed on them. Iraqi citizens are very angry

and ready to move at any moment. This may also hold true for the armed fronts," the correspondent said. Al-Jazeera also highlighted the *Daily Mirror's* reports and pictures of abuse by British troops. Al-Arabiya TV reported that Britain was to launch an inquiry.

The bizarre and immoral practices of the US occupation become clearer day after day. Both the pan-Arab TV channels cited US President George W Bush expressing "deep dismay at the pictures" and Prime Minister Tony Blair's words of condemnation. Al-Arabiya TV aired the response from Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's envoy to Iraq. "I did not actually see the tape, but I heard about it. Of course, these acts are disturbing and totally unacceptable," he said.

Internet



An Iraqi man holds a stick as he approaches a burning US Army military truck outside the city of Amarah, southern Iraq on 2 May, 2004. — INTERNET

Iraq costs surge, may force Bush to shuffle funds, seek more

BLOOMBERG, 3 May—US military operations in Iraq may be \$4 billion over budget by August, forcing President George W Bush to shift money from other Pentagon accounts or ask Congress for more money before the November election, say Republican and Democratic lawmakers.

"If the tempo of combat stays like it has been since early April, they'll have to increase the troops strength and they'll need a supplemental budget of well over \$75 billion," said Representative John Murtha, 71, a member of Congress from Pennsylvania

since 1974 and the senior Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee panel that approves defence spending. The monthly cost of the war is approaching \$6 billion, at least \$2 billion more than Bush projected two months ago, said Senator Lincoln Chafee, 51, a first-term Republican from Rhode Island who is chairman of the Foreign Relations subcommittee that oversees Iraq. The Pentagon has spent more than \$70 billion in Iraq since January 2003, according to data provided by the Pentagon comptroller. The Pentagon stepped up shipments last week of M1 Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M-16 bullets following insurgencies in Fallujah and cities near Baghdad that pushed the Army and Marines into their fiercest battles since Bush declared an end to major combat a year ago Saturday. At least 128 servicemen were killed in April, the worst monthly toll yet. — Internet

A British soldier on patrol in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 1 May, 2004.

INTERNET



Zambian "AIDS" patients to receive anti-retroviral treatment

LUSAKA, 3 May—Over 100,000 AIDS patients in Zambia will receive anti-retroviral treatment (ART) by the end of 2005, if an international programme to increase ART accessibility materialize, Zambia Health Minister B Chitwuo said here Friday.

Speaking at a meeting of Zambian and Holland health workers, Chitwuo said Zambia has recently joined the Global 3 by 5 ART programme jointly sponsored by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, whose aim is to have three million people in the developing countries on ART by the end of 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့စွယ်စုံကျမ်းတိုက်ရိုက်

UK soldiers 'swapped abuse photos'

BAGHDAD, 3 May—British soldiers have swapped hundreds of photos showing brutality against Iraqi captives, it has been claimed.

The allegations were made by two soldiers who gave the *Daily Mirror* torturing an Iraqi prisoner.

Army sources have raised doubts about whether the images are genuine.

But the two serving members of The Queen's Lanca-

shire Regiment have stood by their story and say: "The Army knows a lot more has happened."

One said: "Maybe the officers don't know what is going on—but everybody else does. I have seen literally hundreds of pictures."

Doubts were cast over the weekend about photos published in Saturday's *Mirror* appearing to show a hooded man being struck with a rifle butt, urinated on and having a gun held to his head.

But the two soldiers who gave these images to the paper say they represent only the tip of the iceberg.

In Monday's *Mirror* the soldiers, who wish to remain anonymous, claim many pictures were destroyed in September when the troops' luggage was searched as they left Iraq.

They also detail other alleged incidents of brutality towards local people, including a baton attack which left a prisoner with a compound fracture to his arm. —Internet

Coal mine death toll rises to 36 in north China province

TAIYUAN, 3 May—The body of the last miner trapped in a coal mine by a blast in Xixian County of north China's Shanxi Province was found at 19:45 Saturday.

The death toll of the coal mine blast reached 36.

There were 49 miners working underground when the gas explosion occurred around 7:40 am Friday at the Liangjiahe Coal Mine in Xixian County, and 13 miners have been saved from the mine located in the outlying mountainous areas. A medical team sent by the central government has arrived there and the investigation into the

cause of the blast is underway. Linfen City of Shanxi Province, where Xixian County is located, shut all coal mines after the blast.

The city government told Xinhua Saturday afternoon that 17 inspection teams have been sent to order all coal mines to stop mining.

The government will launch a checkup on their security facilities, the source said. MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria bans importation of mobile phone cards

LAGOS, 3 May—Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has ordered mobile phone service providers to stop importation of plastic recharge cards, saying the ban could reduce the drain of the country's foreign exchange.

Obasanjo made the declaration at a meeting with telephone operators in his office Friday, local newspaper *Saturday Punch* reported on Saturday.

He said the ban, to be effective as of January 2005, would also promote local production of the cards and provide job opportunities for unemployed Nigerians.

In a bid to protect local infant industries, Nigeria,

Africa's most populous country, has announced to ban importation of over 100 items including textiles and garments and footwear since 2002. "What is important is that we also need to protect our economy and that's the kind of thing the President has done when he banned all the things we can do without," said presidential spokeswoman Remi Oyo.

MNA/Xinhua



Buddhists pour water at Bo tree on Sule Pagoda on 3 May. — NLM



Buddhists pour water at Bo tree on Shwephonepint Pagoda on 3 May. — NLM



Buddhists pour water at Bo tree on Botahtaung Pagoda on 3 May. — NLM



The 21st Ceremony for pouring water at Bo tree on Shwedagon Pagoda held on 3 May. — NLM



Buddhists pour water at Bo tree on Maha Wizaya Pagoda on 3 May. — NLM

India's nuclear programme not aimed against anybody

JHAJJAR 3 May — Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Sunday asserted that the country's nuclear programme was not aimed against anybody but will not tolerate any aggression from any country.

Addressing a rally here in the northern state of Haryana, he said when his government conducted nuclear tests in 1998, the whole world realized India's potential.

"But we told them there is no need to worry as it (nuclear bomb) is not against anybody," Vajpayee said adding "but anybody

uses it (nuclear bomb) against us, we will not allow it too."

He said his National Democratic Alliance government had paid due attention to development in science and technology sectors.

Due to the efforts of scientists along with those of farmers, the country's

foodgrain production has increased manifold providing a comfortable situation, the Prime Minister said.

He said foodgrain production needed to be increased further to ensure proper food quota for the entire population which is rising.

MNA/PTI

India's research institutes begin rice genes project

MADURAI, 3 May — India's five educational and research institutes will begin this year a 66.9 million rupees project aimed at studying and modifying the genes of rice, a probe that will lead to development of high-yielding rice.

Thousands of genes would be studied to isolate the genes that increased production during the research to be taken in the next five years at a cost of 66.9 million rupees, according to an official of the Madurai Kamaraj University. The timing of

the research is significant — the current year has been declared 'International Year of Rice'. The Department of Biotechnology of the central government would provide common platform for the research programme titled — "Gene expression profiling during flower and

seed development and functional validation of identified genes". The role of Madurai Kamaraj University would be to help in genetic transformation of rice, while the Delhi University would carry out genome sequencing.

MNA/PTI

Westerners killed in shooting spree in Saudi firm

YANBU (Saudi Arabia), 3 May — Workers at a petrochemical site used their passes to access the complex and kill five.

Western engineers in a shooting spree in the Saudi oil city of Yanbu on Saturday, the Interior Ministry said.

Shouting "God is Greatest" the gunmen killed two Americans, two Britons and an Australian working for the Swiss-based ABB Lummus in the Red Sea city, the first attack on an oil facility in the world's largest oil exporter.

MNA/Reuters



Religious Associations at Maha Wizaya Pagoda to pour water at Bo tree on the pagoda on 3 May. — NLM

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

Donate blood

Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 1)

Next, Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Thayet Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara invested the congregation with the Nine Precepts.

Members of the Sangha recited *parittas*.

After that, Senior General Than Shwe presented Seinbudaw to be hoisted atop the stupa and offertories to State Ovadacariya Shwekyin Nikaya Joint Sasanabaing Sayadaw Bhaddanta Rajindabhimamsa.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe presented Tripitaka treatises to Presiding Nun of Dhammesaka Nunnery Daw Dhammesi.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented Hngetmyatnadaw and offertories to Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented Hsatthwaphudaw and offertories to Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Insein Ywama Pariyatti Sarhintaik Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandavamsa.

General Thura Shwe Mann presented 11th tier of Shwehtidaw and offertories to Presiding Sayadaw of Pazundaung Bhayaphyu Kyaungtaik Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Narindabhimamsa.

Later, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Commander and ministers presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Dr

Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo and wives of members of the State Peace and Development Council presented robes and offertories to nuns.

Next, Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara delivered a sermon and Senior General Than Shwe and party and the congregation shared the merits gained.

Flanked by regal processions, Senior General Than Shwe conveyed Seinbudaw to be hoisted atop the stupa, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye Hngetmyatnadaw, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt Hsatthwaphudaw, General Thura Shwe Mann 11th tier of Shwehtidaw, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Commander, ministers and deputy ministers tiers of Shwehtidaw clock-wise the stupa and carried them to Maha Mingala pandal where Shwehtidaw is going to be hoisted.

Next, the Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony continued.

Senior General Than Shwe sprinkled scented water on tiers of Shwehtidaw, Hsatthwaphudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw.

After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, and members of the State Peace and Development Council sprinkled scented water on tiers of Shwehtidaw, Hsatthwaphudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw.

At the auspicious time, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, General Thura



Senior General Than Shwe conveys the Seinbudaw at the Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and party offer 'soon' to Sayadaws. — MNA

Shwe Mann and wife, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, deputy ministers and wellwishers led by Senior General Than Shwe hoisted 1st tier of Shwehtidaw atop the stupa through a decorated carriage.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife and the congregation led by Senior General Than Shwe hoisted tiers of Shwehtidaw,

Hsatthwaphudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the stupa through a decorated carriage.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hoisted tiers of Shwehtidaw, Hsatthwaphudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the stupa and put religious objects into Seinbudaw.

Next, he sprinkled scented water on Seinbudaw, Shwehtidaw, Hsatthwaphudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win sprinkled scented water on

tiers of Shwehtidaw, Hsatthwaphudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw.

Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt dispensed metta while the congregation recited religious verses.

The ceremony ended with the three time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu*.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the success of the ceremony.

After that, the conse-

cration ceremony followed in the chamber of the stupa.

Chancellor Sayadaw of Thitagu International Buddhist Missionary Bhaddanta Dr Nanisara and members of the Sangha consecrated the stupa.

Next, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and party offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha who were present on the occasion.

MNA



Sayadaws consecrating the Buddha images at the Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony. — MNA



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offers Hngetmyatnadaw and offertories to a Sayadaw.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw and sprinkles scented water on them atop Thabyinnyu Stupa. — MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann presents offertories to a Sayadaw.
MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win of the State Peace and Development Council sprinkles scented water on Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop Thabyinnyu Stupa. MNA



Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sprinkle scented water on Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop Thabyinnyu Stupa. — MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein of the State Peace and Development Council sprinkles scented water on Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop Thabyinnyu Stupa. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 3 May — Under the industrial cooperation programme between Myanmar and Thailand, at the invitation of Minister of Industry Mr Pinij Jarusombat of Thailand,

Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung left for Thailand by air this morning.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon Inter-

national Airport by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, directors-gen-

eral, managing directors of the department and enterprises under the ministry concerned and their families.

The Myanmar delegation included Managing Director of Myanma Ceramic Industries U Soe Yi, Deputy Director-General of Regional Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department U Al Zaw Shan, General Manager of Myanma Textile Industries U Ye Win, General Manager of Pharmaceutical Industries U Tin Maung Win, General Manager of Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries U Thein Win and Assistant General Manager of Myanma Textile Industries U Ko Ko Lwin.

MNA



Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung being seen off at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

UMFCCI General Secretary meets Chinese guests

YANGON, 3 May — The visiting six-member delegation headed by Mr Zhang Zhendong, Vice Secretary General of China-ASEAN Expo Secretariat of GUANGXI, the People's Republic of China, called on General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and

Industry and executives at the UMFCCI office this morning.

And they discussed matters pertaining to business cooperation, Myanmar entrepreneurs' participation in China-ASEAN Expo to be held in Nanning, Guangxi, the PRC, from 3 to 6 November and other arrangements for the expo.— MNA



Business discussion between China ASEAN Expo Secretariat and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry in progress. — MNA

Pagodas teeming with host...

(from page 16)

School of Theingyi Market and watered the Bo Tree. Next, members of the pagoda board of trustees, religious associations and the public poured water at the Bo Tree.

Likewise, a ceremony to pour water at the Bo Tree was held at Botahtaung

Kyaikde-up HsawdawU Pagoda on the platform of the pagoda this morning. It was attended by Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters Commodore Maw Thein and wife, members of the pagoda board of trustees, religious and social organizations, and people from all

walks of life.

At first, Chairman of Sangha Nayaka Committee of Hseikkkan Township Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. Sayadaws also recited metta sutta, followed by Ovadacatha given by the Chairman Sayadaw. Under the supervision of Sayadaws, the congregation threw water at the Bo Tree.

Such ceremonies were also held at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) in Mayangon Township, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Shwebonpint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township, Ngahtatgyi Pagoda in Bahan Township, Kyaikkasan Hsawdawshin Pagoda in Thingangyun Township, Atula Dipati Maha Muni Thakya Koehtatgyi Pagoda in Sangyoung Township, Mogaung Pagoda in Yankin Township, Kyaikwaing Pagoda in Mayangon Township, and Thadukan Pagoda in Shwepyitha

Township.

Moreover, pagodas here were crowded with pious people pouring water at Bo Trees there. Monasteries and meditation centres were also packed with sabbath keepers as well as with those doing meritorious deeds. In particular, Shwedagon Pagoda was packed with devotees.

MNA

Third ceremony to pour water at...

(from page 16)

and Staff Officer U San Thin Hlaing of Religious Affairs Department acted as master of ceremonies.

The ceremony started with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. Chairman of pagoda board of trustees Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja U Shein Aung Bo invited the *Devas* and recited Buddha Bhiseka Gatha.

At the auspicious time, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and

party poured water at the Bo Tree.

Men in ceremonial costumes of Brahmans, Devas and Kings of Nagas and Kings of Galon Birds recited Gathas and poured water at the Bo Tree in the eastern, southern, western and northern points respectively.

Afterwards, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Than Hla sent the *Devas* back to their respective celestial abodes and the ceremony came to a close. — MNA

Karateo competition to be held

YANGON, 3 May— Under the leadership of Sports and Physical Education Department, the Ministry of Sports, Junior Karatedo competition (2004) organized by Myanmar Karatedo Federation and sponsored by Loi Hein Co., Ltd., will be held at Aung San Stadium on 29 and 30 May here. The competition will be divided into three levels — boys' & girls' events (age 15-20), (under 15) and (under 12).

Those wishing to take part in the competition are to enlist at the MKF(Aung San Gymnasium) by 2 pm on 25 May. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe pay homage to the Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image. — MNA



Prime Minister attends ceremony...

(from page 16)

and wife Daw Htay Htay, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Bo Gyi and wife Daw Than Than, Thiri

Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Than Naing and wife Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Kyi Kyi Swe, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara

U Chu Than and wife Daw Win Kyi, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Thaing Win and wife Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw

Htay Htay Nyunt and Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Zeya Thuya Mon and wife Daw Khaing Khaing Myint presented K 500,000 each for the white elephants

to Director of Forest Department U Myint Swe.

Next, Taingya U Than Hla recited religious verses and The Taingya team blew crunch three times.

The Prime Minister then performed rituals of golden and silver shower to mark the success of the ceremony.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt feeds white elephants. — MNA

Road and bridge construction inspected in Bago

YANGON, 3 May — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials concerned left here this morning and inspected road works along No 2 Highway during the open season.

After inspecting Yangon-Bago road, the minister looked into the chosen site for axis of Kawa bridge to be built on Kawa-Htonegyi road and officials concerned conducted him round there.

Next, the minister gave instructions on measures to be taken for the durability of the banks of Bago River in cooperation with Navigation Control Group as there had been bank erosions.

Kawa bridge across Bago river links Kawa with Htonegyi. On completion, Htonegyi-Kawa-Thanatpin-Khayan can be reached easily from Yangon-Bago highway road and Mandalay-Mawlamyine-Hpa-an, from Bago. — MNA

Don't smoke

US-led forces ring Iraq oil ports with warning zones

DUBAI, 3 May — US-led forces are protecting Iraq's Gulf oil terminals with "warning zones" set up after last week's suicide attacks on the main Basra export facility.

The Bahrain-based Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) said in a statement to shippers that coalition maritime forces were prepared to use "deadly force" against violators of the zones.

Warning zones extending 3,000 metres from both the outer edge of the Basra Oil Terminal and the neighbouring Khor al-Amara terminal have been established, the statement issued on Saturday said.

Ships are advised to stay clear of the warning zones for all but essential transit, which will require contact with coalition maritime security forces.

The warning zones are

in addition to exclusion zones which extend 2,000 metres from the outer edges of the terminals.

Iraq's southern oil exports have been restored to their previous level of around 1.8 million barrels per day (BPD) after the attacks.

At least one oil platform sustained damages when bombers in three boats blew themselves up in and around the Basra terminal.

The offshore terminal reopened one day after the attack. Khor al-Amara, which has been exporting a few hundred thousand barrels per day, was also closed temporarily.

MNA/Reuters

US soldier killed in bomb attack in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 May — A US soldier was killed and 10 others were wounded Sunday in a bomb attack on a coalition military base near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, the US military said in a statement.

"One US soldier was killed and 10 were wounded during an improvised explosive device and small-arms attack on a coalition base near Kirkuk at around 9 a.m. (0500 GMT)," the statement said.

This was the fifth US soldier that had been killed in the past 24 hours, bring to at least 745 the number of US soldiers being killed in Iraq since the start of the

US-led war on Iraq in March 2003.

Earlier, according to the US Army spokesman, two of its soldiers were killed when their convoy was attacked with small fire arms and rocket-propelled grenades in the city of Amara, 360 kilometres south of Baghdad, at around 7:00 p.m. (1500 GMT) Saturday.

Another two US soldiers were killed in an attack in the northwestern part of Baghdad at dawn Sunday, the spokesman said.

More than 10,000 Iraqis were also estimated to have been killed since last March in all kinds of violence in Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

Jiangsu Province maintains rapid economic growth in 1st quarter

NANJING, 3 May — East China's Jiangsu Province witnessed a fairly fast economic growth in the first three months of this year, with its gross domestic product reaching about 295.6 billion yuan (about 35.6 billion US dollars), up 14.6 per cent year on year.

That growth rate in first quarter was one percentage point higher than the same period of 2003, according to the latest figures of the Jiangsu Provincial Bureau of Statistics.

A bureau spokesman said that they remain optimistic towards a bullish trend of economic expansion in future given its growth rate, economic structure, quality and revenue. In the first three months, Jiangsu continued its good momentum of rapid growth in its industrial output, with the industrial added value totalling 138.5 billion yuan (about 16.7 billion US dollars), a year-on-year increase of 25.9 per cent.

Strong investment continued to fuel local economy in Jiangsu, which

accounts for about one tenth of China's total economy, over the first three months.

The province's total investment in fixed assets amounted to more than 142.3 billion yuan (some 17.1 billion US dollars), up 63.8 per cent year on year.

Besides foreign investment's year-on-year rise of 70.8 per cent, private investment had picked up their strength and constituted about half of the province's total investment, a rise of 82.4 per cent over the same period last year.

Investors continued to show their interests in Jiangsu's industrial sectors in the first quarter, with investment in energy and raw materials both posting marked increases, noted the bureau. — MNA/Xinhua

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

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

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စိန်ရတနန်းမ၊ ၂၀၀၄-ခုနှစ်၊ မေလ(၄-၇)ရက်

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ခရီးသည်တင်ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား မြို့တွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည်ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတ်မှတ်ခေါက်ရေနှင့်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီထုတ်ပေးထားပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများအတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက်တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညှဉ်းတွင် ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနံပါတ်များသို့ တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

- (၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)
- (၂) ကြံ့မဲကြံ့နုနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး (ဖုန်း ၉၃၁၂၅/၂၅၁၂၅)
- (၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

(ဖုန်း ၅၄၁၉၀၅/၅၄၁၉၀၄)

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့်ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကျွံစွာနှင့် စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သောရောဂါများမှာ အသည်းရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည်းခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအန်ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြောထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ -

၁။ ကယောင်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremors)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ဓန့်မှန်နိုင်စွမ်းမရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံလေးများကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုမိုများများနွှာကိုယ်ပေါ် ချစ်ခင်သွားသလိုစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိဘဲ နာထဲတွင် ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ စော်ကားမော်ကားသံများ ကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinations)။

၃။ အတက်ကြွရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits)

(ဝက်ရူးဖြစ်ရောဂါကဲ့သို့တတ်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း

(Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချို့ယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက်ရုံဖြင့် ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)။

၈။ မိမိ၏ဇနီးကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများ ဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Morbid Jealousy)။

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှုကျူးလွန်သည်အထိ ဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။

အထက်ပါဆို ကျိုးများကို မစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကို စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန် တိုက်တွန်းအပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေးဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေးဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Carpet industry thriving in Qinghai Province

XINING, 3 May — Local carpet industry alive with traditional Tibetan traits brought 10 million US dollars of foreign exchange to northwest China's Qinghai Province in 2003, according to the provincial statistics department. A major habitat of people from the Tibetan ethnic group besides the Tibet Autonomous Region, Qinghai Province turned out approximately 200,000 square metres of top-quality

Tibetan carpet last year.

More than 16,000 local craft people were employed in the trade, with a combined personal income of 56 million yuan (about 6.75 million US dollars) last year.

It is expected that the output of exquisite Tibetan carpet in the province would reach 400,000 square metres in 2005, with the earning from export hitting 20 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

"Mean Girls" debuts atop N America box office

LOS ANGELES, 3 May — Paramount Pictures' new release "Mean Girls" debuted atop North America box office over the weekend, according to studio estimates released Sunday.

The film, which tells about a clique of high school students, was expected

to rake in 25 million US dollars in the three-day weekend, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

The teenage girl audience has a lot of clout and a lot of discretionary income from somewhere.

MNA/Xinhua



မြန်မာနိုင်ငံစာပေနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းအဖွဲ့
ပဟိုဦးစီးအဖွဲ့အစည်းအဝေး ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်
မေလ(၁၁)ရက်မှ(၁၃)ရက်
ပြည်ထောင်စုခန်းမ၊ ကျိုက္ကဆံကွင်း
ရန်ကုန်မြို့

illegally carrying passengers, sinking on water as it was heading to the island. Police said the boat's pump was water poured in. "We found the bodies," a district police officer in the Province told *Reuters*. The bodies were among the 26 confirmed dead, an official said. About 70 people were rescued. Between 12 and 15, were on a boat that sank on May Day holiday weekend. The bodies were miles off Ca Mau Cape is well known for marine life. Some frantic children used mobile phones to call their parents for help as the boat went down, police said. The boat was thought to have been carrying nearly 200 people and at least 111 had been rescued, police said. The weather on the day of the accident was clear, as it was on Sunday. A couple that owns the boat had been detained for questioning. The boat was registered as a fishing vessel and was not allowed to ferry tourists, police said.

MNA/Reuters

မညာရူးပြင် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Vietnam opens Consulate General in Guangxi Province

NANNING, 3 May — The Vietnamese Consulate General in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, officially opened on Sunday.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Phu Binh said the establishment of the Vietnamese Consulate General in Guangxi is "a new milestone" in the history of China-Vietnam relations and also in the history of cooperative ties between Vietnam's border provinces and China's Guangxi.

Nguyen said that Vietnam and China are neighbouring countries with long traditional friendship. In recent years, with the joint efforts of the both countries, the Vietnam-China relations is advancing smoothly in the principles of building neighbouring friendship, expanding all-round cooperation, enhancing long-term and stable ties and facing up to the future.

To further bilateral ties between Vietnam and China, the two governments signed agreements in October, 2003 on Vietnam's opening consulates respectively in Kunming, capital city of Southwest China's Yunnan Province, and Nanning, capital city of

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, said the Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Vice-Chairman Li Jinzao of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Regional Government said, the trade and cooperation between Guangxi and neighbouring Vietnamese provinces have greatly expanded in recent years. With the progressing of the Sino-Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Free Trade Zone and Nanning's winning of the opportunity to host Sino-ASEAN Fair every year since 2004, Guangxi has become an attractive place for domestic and overseas investment.

The land border between Guangxi and Vietnam's three northern provinces totals 1,020 kilometres. Customs Statistics show that in 2003, trade volume between Guangxi and Vietnam reached 666 million US dollars, an increase of 36.9 per cent over that of the previous year, accounting for 81 per cent of Guangxi's total trade with the ASEAN.

MNA/Xinhua

China resettles 15 million residents for 80,000 reservoir projects

BEIJING, 3 May — China has relocated a total of 15 million residents for about 80,000 reservoir projects it has built during the past five decades since 1949, said Wang Shucheng, Minister of Water Conservancy.

The minister said China has properly handled the resettlement issues due to the efforts by the Chinese Government and the country's actual conditions. Unlike other countries, most reservoirs in China are located in poor mountainous areas, making the resettlement and construction much easier and cheaper, he explained.

Resettlement for reservoir projects has created opportunities for local residents to get rid of poverty, said the minister.

China began to help resettled residents find jobs through funding for industrial and agricultural projects after 1978. It used to offer relief or compensation package to relocated residents.

China has invited officials

from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to inspect the relocation programmes of residents for reservoir construction projects.

Citing as an example, the minister said China set up special organization in

charge of the resettlement of 1.1 million residents in Three Gorges Reservoir areas, who have been relocated to make way for the world's biggest Three Gorges dam project under construction.

MNA/Xinhua

One killed in coal mine collapse in western Turkey

ANKARA, 3 May — A coal mine collapsed in western Turkey on Friday, killing a miner and injuring two others.

Anatolia news agency quoted sources as saying that the mine, which belonged to the Buruyar Mining Firm, collapsed in Soma Town of western province of Manisa when a supporting column had dislodged.

Orhan Ilhan, 39, who had been married with two children, was killed after being trapped under debris, said the sources.

The sources added that Sukru Ermek, 37, and Huseyin Karakoc, 38, were injured and they were rushed to nearby hospital for medical treatment.

A full investigation into the collapse is under way.

MNA/Xinhua

New methods to detect breast cancer show promise

WASHINGTON, 3 May — New tests that measure water, oxygen and other breast tissue properties could be more effective than mammograms in diagnosing breast cancer, scientists said on Monday.

Researchers at Dartmouth Medical School used several types of electromagnetic waves to also gauge how normal breast tissue absorbed or scattered light.

By first measuring healthy breasts, the new techniques can eventually help researchers better understand and detect changes that could signal cancer, said the study's lead author, Steven Poplack.

"It's very important to know what normal is before you can begin to characterize what abnormal is," Poplack, a radiology professor at Hanover, New Hampshire-based Dartmouth, said in an interview.

The three types of energy waves tested included infrared light, microwaves and low-level electrical currents, according to the study

published in the May issue of the journal *Radiology*.

Mammograms, the standard test for breast abnormalities, use X-rays to take pictures of breast tissue.

Experts say mammograms do not work as well on dense breasts and can make it easy for doctors to miss very early-stage cancer in some women. Mammograms can also fail to distinguish between cancerous tumours and other thick matter, raising the risk of false positives, they say.

The new techniques measured normal tissue levels of oxygen and hemoglobin, which carries oxygen in the blood. Breast cancer tissue is "more active" Poplack said, and uses more oxygen and blood to survive.

Scientists also measured

cell membrane structure and the tissue's ability to conduct and store electrical charges. Poplack's team used the alternative technologies on 23 White women ages 40 to 79 who had a history of normal mammograms, the study said.

The five-year, seven-million-US-dollar study funded by the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute is part of a larger effort to find alternative ways to create images of the breast, principal investigator Keith Paulsen said.

The researchers, who are seeking another 10 million US dollars in National Cancer Institute grants, are working on a second study using the new techniques on women who have had abnormal mammograms.

MNA/Reuters

Study says breast feeding cuts US infant death 20%

CHICAGO, 3 May — Breast-fed children in the United States are 20 per cent less likely to die during the first year of life than those who are not nursed, according to a study released on Sunday.

Researchers at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences said they based their finding on a survey that included nearly 9,000 infant deaths in 48 states.

It found breast-fed babies were 20 per cent less likely to die between 1 and 12 months of life than those who were not, and that the longer babies were breast-fed, the lower the risk of early death.

Aimin Chen, a physician who was one of the authors of the study, said in an interview that the protective effect appears to come from the "package of child care skills" that goes along with nursing as well as the benefits of the milk.

He said data from 2000 show that 70 per cent of US newborns are breast-fed

when they leave the hospital and at 6 months almost one third are. But there are still racial and economic disparities in how widely the practice has been adopted.

Other studies have shown breast-fed babies are less likely to be overweight, have fewer behavioral problems and may show differences in intelligence. They also may grow up to have lower blood pressure.

Groups such as the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that all mothers breast-feed their babies for the first year, and two years if possible.

The study was published in the May edition of *Pediatrics*, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

MNA/Reuters

WHO meet to chalk out strategy to check animal-borne diseases

NEW YORK, 3 May — Health experts from various countries under the aegis of the World Health Organization will meet in Geneva next week to discuss measures to contain diseases like SARS and bird flu and identify its spread.

The three-day meeting, being co-hosted by World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Dutch Health Council, will consider improving surveillance, averting the occurrences and minimizing the impact of animal-borne diseases.

MNA/PTI

Malaysian police seize large quantity of pirated VCDs

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 May — Kuala Lumpur's Sentul District police have seized 353,000 pirated VCDs, featuring Tamil and Hindi movies, the largest haul in the city this year.

Speaking at a Press conference on Sunday, Sentul police chief A. Thaiveegan said the seizure, worth 3.5 million ringgit (921,052 US dollars), was made during two raids starting at 3 pm Saturday.

The police stopped a lorry in Jalan Kolam Air in the city following a tip off from a member of the public, the police chief said.

"Police detained its 26-year-old driver and seized 153,000 illegal VCDs. The driver will be charged under Section 18(4) of the Film Censorship Act," he said.

Upon questioning, the man led police to an apartment in Jalan Kolam Air, Off Jalan Ipoh here where police

seized another 200,000 illegal VCDs, he added.

There was no one in the apartment during the raid and police were looking for the owner of the illegal VCDs and also trying to identify the factory where the VCDs were made, according to the police chief.

"We know the name of the owner and hope the man will surrender to help police in their investigations," he said. — MNA/Xinhua



Arpapat Boonnarong (C) waves to the crowd after winning the Miss Jumbo Queen competition, at an elephant ground and zoo in Nakhon Pathom, south of Bangkok, on 1 May, 2004. The Jumbo Queen contest is held to select the contestant who best exhibits the characteristics of an elephant, by virtue of her grace, elegance and size, to lead the jumbo banquet and help elephant conservation causes in Thailand.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Ten-man PSG salvage goalless draw at Strasbourg

PARIS, 3 May—One man down for 50 minutes, Paris St. Germain salvaged a point in a 0-0 draw at Racing Strasbourg on Saturday to keep their Ligue 1 title hopes alive.

The Parisians, who boast the best defence away this season had Albanian international Lorik Cana sent off but avoided a defeat which would have jeopardized their title chances.

Strasbourg also had a player sent off, Pascal Camadini, but only in the dying seconds of the game.

On 67 points, PSG remain one point behind Monaco, who won 2-1 at Nice on Friday, while leaders Olympique Lyon still lead the way on 69.

Defending champions Lyon have an ideal chance to break away when they play at Girondins Bordeaux on Sunday evening.

The police had to intervene in the stands at Strasbourg's Meinau Stadium when fighting broke out between rival Parisian fans. Police said some 30 fans were slightly injured.

Olympique Marseille's hopes of a guaranteed

UEFA Cup berth next season were seriously dented when they slumped to a 1-0 loss at home to lowly Metz.

The defeat, against the team with the worst record at the Stade Velodrome with 31 losses, was also embarrassing ahead of Marseille's UEFA Cup semifinal second leg at home to Newcastle United next week. The sides are level 0-0 after the first leg.

Algerian-born Mehdi Meniri scored Metz' goal with a header in the 26th minute. Marseille finished the game without defender David Sommeil, who was sent off on 70 minutes for two bookings.

It was Marseille's second defeat in a row and their fourth at home. The previous three losses were against the top three teams — Lyon, Monaco and PSG.

MNA/Reuters

Depor deal heavy blow to Real's title hopes

MADRID, 3 May—A second string Deportivo Coruna side dealt a severe blow to Real Madrid's title chances when they beat the champions 2-0 at the Riazor on Saturday.

A precise shot from striker Diego Tristan and a scorching free kick from defender Joan Capdevila secured Depor a morale boosting win ahead of their Champions League semifinal, second leg against Porto on Tuesday.

Real's misery was compounded by the sending off of influential midfielder Zinedine Zidane just before the break after he picked up a second booking for a pointless foul on Brazilian midfielder Djalminha.

The result means that with just three games to play Real remain in second place in the Primera Liga, a point behind leaders Valencia, who have a game in hand and host Real Betis on Sunday.

Valencia top the table on 71 points, Real have 70, third-placed Barcelona have 66 and Deportivo 65. If Barcelona win their game against city rivals Espanyol on Sunday they will close to within one point of arch-rivals Real.

Knowing that a win would give them the overnight leadership and put

pressure on Valencia, Real made an aggressive start against Depor, who were fielding a shadow side ahead of the Porto game.

Real's Luis Figo, given the all-clear to play despite being sent off in last week's 2-1 loss to Barcelona, swept in a dangerous cross from the right and fellow midfielder Esteban Cambiasso hit the post with an improvised volley after seven minutes.

The Portuguese international then set up Michel Salgado for a chance as he cut inside from the wing, but the Real right back fired the ball narrowly over the bar from the edge of the area.

Real began to flag, however, as the half wore on and Deportivo took full advantage by scoring in practically their first attack on 29 minutes.

Real keeper Iker Casillas blocked a low shot from Sergio after Djalminha had launched a rapid break and Diego Tristan was on hand to snap in the rebound with a precise strike.

MNA/Reuters

Atletico edge to 3-2 win over struggling Celta

MADRID, 3 May— Atletico Madrid moved up into sixth position in the Primera Liga and renewed their bid for a place in next season's UEFA Cup with a breathless 3-2 victory at home to relegation-threatened Celta Vigo on Saturday.

The result leaves Atletico three points clear of Osasuna, but the Navarans can reclaim sixth spot if they beat Racing Santander on Sunday. Celta remain in deep trouble in 19th place, a point behind Espanyol and Valladolid who have yet to play this weekend.

Second-placed Real Ma-

drid have the chance to claim provisional top spot in the table from leaders Valencia when they travel to Deportivo Coruna in Saturday's late match.

Atletico, who had gone into the game on a three-match losing streak, got off to a flying start, scoring two quick-fire goals inside the first six minutes.

Former Barcelona midfielder Nano cracked home a first time shot with barely a minute on the clock and Fernando Torres smashed home from close range after the visitors had failed to clear a free kick.

But Atletico eased up too quickly and Celta, who had won their previous two games, pulled one back just after the half hour when unmarked Serbian striker Savo Milosevic headed in after a free kick.

The goal sparked Atletico into life again and they restored their two-goal cushion seven minutes later when defender Jose Antonio Garcia Calvo poked in from close range.—MNA/Reuters

Dinamo beat key Croatian rivals Hajduk to go top

ZAGREB, 3 May—Branko Strupar's two superb headers paved the way for Dinamo Zagreb's 3-1 victory over Hajduk Split in a pivotal game for the Croatian title on Saturday.

The 33-year-old Croatian-born former Belgium forward scored in the 24th minute and again seven minutes from time, confirming he had brought an additional edge to Dinamo's attack this season.

Hajduk equalized with a 68th-minute penalty converted by midfielder Nenad Pralija after Dinamo defender Dino Drpic fouled striker Petar Krpan.

Strupar restored Dinamo's lead in the 83rd and Dario Zahora scored their third in the dying seconds.

The defending champions are now back at the top of the standings after chasing Hajduk for most of the season and they have good chances of staying there in the remaining three games.

If Dinamo and Hajduk, now with 69 points each, both win an equal number of points in the last three rounds, Dinamo will retain the title because of better head-to-head results. They have beaten Hajduk twice this season while losing only once.

MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's captain Patrick Vieira (top) outjumps Robbie Savage of Birmingham during their football Premier League match at Highbury in north London on 1 May, 2004.—INTERNET

Leicester down after Man City beat Newcastle

LONDON, 3 May — Leicester City were condemned to relegation after one season in the Premier League on Saturday despite a 2-2 draw at Charlton Athletic following Manchester City's 1-0 home win over Newcastle United.

With two games remaining they cannot catch fourth-bottom Manchester City, who took three priceless points against injury-hit Newcastle thanks to a Paulo Wanchope header.

Wolverhampton Wanderers will need a mathematical miracle if they are not to join Leicester in an immediate return to the First Division despite coming from behind to beat Everton 2-1. Leeds United, who visit Bolton Wanderers on Sunday, look favourites to join them in going down but still have an outside chance of staying up.

At the top, Chelsea consolidated their grip on second place with a 4-0 home win over Southampton. With two games remaining they are four points ahead of Man-

chester United, who lost 1-0 at Blackburn Rovers with a weakened team.

Arsenal, crowned champions almost a week ago, remained on course to go through the league season unbeaten after a 0-0 home draw with Birmingham City.

The champions have 83 points from 35 games. Chelsea, who face Monaco in the second leg of their Champions League semifinal on Wednesday, look certain to claim automatic qualification for the group stage of the competition next season as they moved on to 75 points from 36 games.

Manchester United, who put out almost a reserve side in at Blackburn, have 71 points, also with two games left. The battle for fourth place -- and the final Champions League qualifying slot -- has swung Liverpool's way. They have 53 points, the same as Newcastle, but can move clear with a home win over Middlesbrough on Sunday.

Aston Villa, sixth on 52 points are also in action on Sunday at home to Tottenham Hotspur.

From the bottom up, Leicester have 30 points, Wolves 32 and Leeds also 32 but with a game in hand. Manchester City, with a hugely superior goal difference than Wolves, have 38.

Tottenham and Everton are not absolutely safe on 39 points but Portsmouth, with 41, almost certainly are after they made it five wins and two draws from their last seven games with a 1-1 home draw against Fulham.

MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Joe Cole (R) battles Southampton's David Prutton for the ball, at Chelsea's ground Stamford Bridge in London on 1 May, 2004.—INTERNET

MRTV-3
**4-5-2004 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 9:06 Donation for Supply of
Water to Upper Myan-
mar
- 9:10 National News**
- 9:12 Myanmar Musical Or-
chestra (Bwe Song)
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Popa Mountain Park
- 9:25 Culture Stage "Dance
of the Couple"
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Kyaungtaung Waterfall
- 9:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "Two, Together"
- 9:42 Kayin Traditional
Weaving Industry
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 A Pilgrimage to
Dhammayangyi
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**4-5-2004 (Tuesday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Donation for Supply of
Water to Upper Myan-
mar
- 15:40 National News**
- 15:42 Myanmar Musical Or-
chestra (Bwe Song)

- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Popa Mountain Park
- 15:55 Dance of the Couple
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 Kyaungtaung Waterfall
- 16:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Two, Together"
- 16:12 Kayin Traditional
Weaving Industry
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 A Pilgrimage to
Dhammayangyi
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Archaeological Mu-
seum, Pakhangyi (II)
- 16:40 Naga Traditional Cul-
tural Showroom
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt Victoria
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 Ah Lin Ga Kyaw Swa
Cartoonist U Ba Gyan
- 17:10 Song
"To a Silvery Seagull"
- 17:12 Hpamarlan and Manaw
Dances of Rawan Na-
tional Race
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-II)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 19:36 Water Pouring Festival
in Bo Tree
- 19:40 National News**
- 19:42 New Hydrel Power
Project for Putao and
its environs
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Unforgettable Tradi-
tion of Pao National
Rakhine Traditional
- 19:55

- Cultural Dance Hon-
ouring Buddha
- 19:58 Blacksmith of Kayin
State
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Myanmar Modern
Song "Mesmerize
Your Longing Wish"
- 20:10 The Ancient City
Mrauk U
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Four Greatest Places of
Lord Buddha (Renun-
ciation Attainment of
Enlightenment)
- 20:25 Song "Myanmar"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Archaeological Mu-
seum, Pakhangyi (I)
- 20:40 Myanma Beauty &
Myanma Nature Photo
Contest
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Tour In Myanmar
"Mandalay"
- 20:55 Three Types of Dances
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Myanmar Marionette
"The Orge Dance"
- 21:10 Song
"What love is"
- 21:12 King Thayawaddy's
Bell
- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-I)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 21:35 Myanmar Musical Or-
chestra (Bwe Song)
- 21:40 National News**
- 21:42 Donation for Supply of
Water to Upper Myan-
mar
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Popa Mountain Park
- 21:55 Dance of the Couple
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 Kyaungtaung Waterfall
- 22:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Two, Together"
- 22:12 Kayin Traditional
Weaving Industry
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 A Pilgrimage to
Dhammayangyi

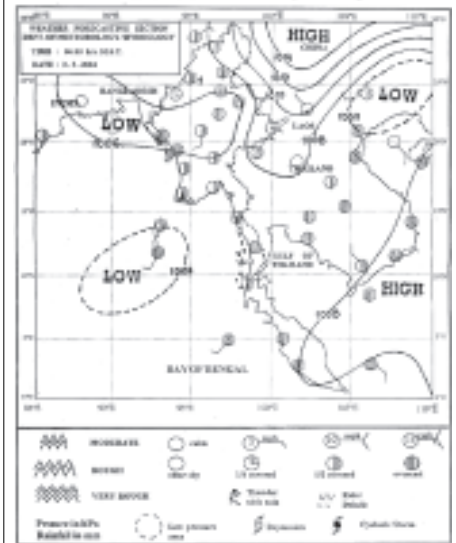
- 22:25 Song "Pleasant and
Greenish Lake"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Archaeological Mu-
seum, Pakhangyi (II)
- 22:40 Naga Traditional Cul-
tural Showroom
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt Victoria
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 Ah Lin Ga Kyaw Swa
Cartoonist U Ba Gyan
- 23:10 Song
"To a Silvery Seagull"
- 23:12 Hpamarlan and Manaw
Dances of Rawan Na-
tional Race
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-II)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**4-5-2004 (Tuesday) &
5-5-2004 (Wednesday)
Evening Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 Donation for Supply of
Water to Upper Myan-
mar
- 23:40 National News**
- 23:42 Myanmar Musical Or-
chestra (Bwe Song)
- 23:45 National News**
- 23:50 Popa Mountain Park
- 23:55 Dance of the Couple
- 24:00 National News**
- 00:05 Kyaungtaung Waterfall
- 00:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Two, Together"
- 00:12 Kayin Traditional
Weaving Industry
- 00:15 National News**
- 00:20 A Pilgrimage to
Dhammayangyi
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 00:30 National News**
- 00:35 Archaeological Mu-
seum, Pakhangyi (II)

- 00:40 Naga Traditional Cul-
tural Showroom
- 00:45 National News**
- 00:50 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt Victoria
- 01:00 National News**
- 01:05 Ah Lin Ga Kyaw Swa
Cartoonist U Ba Gyan
- 01:10 Song
"To a Silvery Seagull"

- 01:12 Hpamarlan and Manaw
Dances of Rawan Na-
tional Race
- 01:15 National News**
- 01:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-II)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER
Monday, 3 May, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Kayin States, Bago Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (44°C) each in Magway and Monywa, (43°C) each in Chauk, Minbu and Nyaung-U.

Maximum temperature on 2-5-2004 was 39.0°C (102°F). Minimum temperature on 2-5-2004 was 23.5°C (74°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-5-2004 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 2-5-2004 was (6.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 3-5-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 5 mm (0.20 inch) at Yangon Airport and 12 mm (0.47 inch) at Kaba-Aye and 5 mm (0.20 inch) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 2-5-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4-5-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers are likely in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-5-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon/evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-5-2004: Partly cloudy.

Asleep in Jesus
Daw Nant Mya Yi @ Gha Mya Yi (Yone Bauk) Age 97

Daughter of Mahn Tha Baw and Gha Yin Aye beloved wife of (Mahn Tun Yin) of Inn Ma, Myaungmya District, mother of Dr Charlemange-Daw Priscilla, Daw Dorothy-Saw Philip Myaing, Daw Virginia-(U Than Lwin), Daw Eleanor Lè Lè Win (French Embassy)-U Sonny (Fortune International) grandmother of (16) and great grandmother of (9). Passed away on 3-5-2004 Monday at 5:14 pm at Bld. No. 47, Room 14, Bahosi Housing Estate, Lanmadaw.

Funeral on Wednesday, 5-5-2004 at 10:00 am at Yay Way cemetery. **Bereaved Family**


**Tuesday, May 4
View today:**

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw U
Ottamathara
- 7:15 am**
2. တစ်နေ့တစ်နေ့၊ ဓမ္မာနုပဋိပက္ခ၊ အာရုံ
ဓမ္မာပုတ္တိတ၊ သဒ္ဓါသိရိယာတိဝံသ
(ယောဓရာဇာတိ)၊ ဓမ္မာနုပဋိပက္ခ
အပ်ဇာ၊ ဥပ္ပါသတ္တိပဋိပက္ခ
- 7:25 am**
3. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:30 am**
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
6. ကဗျာနိဂ္ဂဟာဉ်
- 8:05 am**
7. အကုပ္ပိဋ္ဌ
- 8:10 am**
8. Song of yesteryear
- 8:20 am**
9. လူနာတံတား
- 8:30 am**
10. International news
- 8:45 am**
11. Grammar Made Easy
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English For Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အဆသင့်တက္ကသိုလ် ယောဓရာ
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ
-ပထမနံပါတ် (သတ္တဗော၊ ရတုဗော)
အထူးမြို့နယ် (သတ္တဗော)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Dance of national race

- 5:30 pm**
7. Musical programme
- 5:40 pm**
8. ဓမ္မာနုပဋိပက္ခ၊ အာရုံ
ဓမ္မာပုတ္တိတ၊ သဒ္ဓါသိရိယာတိဝံသ
- 5:50 pm**
9. Sing and enjoy
- 6:30 pm**
10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
12. Musical programme
- 7:20 pm**
13. သားငါးရဲ့ ဖြူပြည့်အဖွဲ့
- 7:35 pm**
14. The Mirror Images Of
Musical Oldies
- 8:00 pm**
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ
"အနုပညာသိပ္ပံ" (အပိုင်း-၃၀)
19. The next day's
programme


**Tuesday, May 4
Tune in today:**

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: Boombastic
love (Bristney
Spears)
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: I count the
minutes (Natural)
- 8:50 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music: Joy & pain
(Ronan Kcating)
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music: Anyone of us
(Gareth Gates)
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch Time Music
- Smooth operator
(Sade)
- So much in love (All
4 One)
- Dsddy (Donna
Fargo)
- Remember me (The
blue boy)
- 9:00 pm** English Lesson:
Look Ahead (12)
- 9:15 pm** Article/Music
- 9:25 pm** Weekly sports reel
- 9:35 pm** Music for your
listening pleasure
- I'm all about you
(Aaron Carter)
- Life is good (LFC)/
Happy go lucky
(Steps)
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Pagodas teeming with host of devotees

YANGON, 3 May — Today is the Fullmoon Day of Kason. It was on that day that such coincidences occurred: the Gotama Bodhisatta was nominated by Dipankara Buddha to become Buddha; He was born; the Bo Tree appeared; and He passed away and entered into Parinivirna. The month of Kason blessed with all these religious significances.

The Fullmoon Day of Kason is termed as 'Buddha Day' because all the Bodhisattas attained omniscience after the thorough comprehension of the Four Noble Truths and reached Buddhahood on that day.

The Bo Tree is watered as it grew at the same time when the Bodhisatta Gottama was

born. And it is also under that tree that the Bodhisatta Gottama attained omniscience, won a victory over the Five Satans, and at the request of Ashin Ananda allowed to worship the Bo Tree as His stead after His entering into Parinivirna. Accordingly, the followers of Buddhism water the Bo Tree on the Fullmoon Day of Kason.

The 21st ceremony to pour water at the Bo Tree at Shwedagon Pagoda took place in the compound of the tree on the platform of the pagoda this morning. It was attended by Nyaungdon Pali University Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sobhana, Shwedagon Pagoda Ovadacariya Sayadaws, members of the

pagoda board of trustees, religious associations, and pilgrims from all walks of life.

On the occasion, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhana and offered provisions to Sayadaws. The Nyaungdon Pali University Presiding Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by the sharing of merits gained from good deeds.

After the Sayadaws had watered the Bo Tree, the religious associations and the congregation poured water at the Bo Tree.

A similar ceremony was also held at Sule Pagoda this morning. On the occasion, Sayadaws from the Maha Theindawgyi Pariyatti (See page 10)

Third ceremony to pour water at Bo Tree held on Mindhamma Hill

YANGON, 3 May — The third ceremony to pour water at the Bo Tree, which is on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township where the Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image is kept, took place on Mindhamma Hill this evening.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attended the ceremony and poured water at the Bo Tree.

Also present on the occasion were Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Lay The, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann of Member of the State

Peace and Development Council, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, wives of Members of the State Peace and Development Council, wife of Commander-in-Chief (Navy), wife of Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command and wife, Ministers and their wives,

the mayor of Yangon, Deputy Ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, members of division, district and township PDCs, boards of trustees, religious organization, social organization and pilgrims.

At the outset, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party paid homage to the Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image.

Next, the third ceremony to pour water at Bo Tree followed on Mindhamma Hill (See page 10)



Shwedagon Pagoda thronged with Buddhist pilgrims on 3 May (Fullmoon Day of Kason). — NLM

Prime Minister attends ceremony to sprinkle scented water on white elephants

YANGON, 3 May — A ceremony to sprinkle scented

water on white elephants — Yazagaha Thiripyitsaya Gazi Yaza, Theingi Malar and Yati Malar and donate cash to them was held at the Yadana white elephant house on Mindhamma Road in Insein Township this afternoon.

Present were Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Lay The, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, wives of members of the State Peace and Development Council, wife of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), wife of the Commander-in-Chief (Air),

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, the ministers and their wives, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, wellwishers and people.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sprinkled scented water on white elephants Yazagaha Thiripyitsaya Gazi Yaza, Theingi Malar and Yati Malar. Next, the Prime Minister fed the white elephants.

Wealthy couples from north, east, south and west Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Maung Maung and Daw Khin Lay Yi, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Nyan Lwin (See page 10)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe pour water at the Bo tree on Mindhamma Hill on 3 May. — MNA