Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Indonesian President

YANGON, 20 Oct—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who has been elected as President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends felicitations to Vice-President of Indonesia

YANGON, 20 Oct—Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Jusuf Kalla, who has been elected as Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam project is being built by the Construction Group-4 of the Irrigation Department on Pyu Creek in Pyu Township. The diversion tunnel of the dam will be 2,480 feet long and 12 feet in diameter.

A & I Minister inspects Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam project

YANGON, 20 Oct — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo on 18 October arrived at Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam project being built by the Construction Group-4 of the Irrigation Department on Pyu Creek in Pyu Township and inspected the site chosen to build the main dam and diversion tunnel.

At the briefing hall, Director U Maung Maung Tin and Director-General U Kyaw San Win of the Irrigation Department reported on construction of diversion tunnel and spillway, estimated time of construction period and construction work.

The minister fulfilled the requirement. Engineers conducted the minister round the construction site of the diversion tunnel which is 2,480 feet long and 12 feet in diameter. Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo gave instructions on timely completion of work and work site safety.

Later, the minister and party proceeded to No 7 Sugar Mill (Otwin) in Otwin Township and inspected test run of the mill. The deputy factory manager reported on production process of the mill.

Development of Yangon International Airport inspected

YANGON, 20 Oct—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor of Yangon City Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, together with Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and officials, inspected preparations for growing flowery plants between the runway and taxiway of Yangon International Airport.

Officials reported on land preparation and water supply. The minister and the mayor attended to the needs. The minister and the mayor inspected land preparation tasks along the runway and interior decoration at the departure lounge. Next, they inspected drawing of traffic signs on the runway.—MNA

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

**Thursday, 21 October, 2004**

**National consolidation through border areas development**

Myanmar is a nation where the national brethren have been living in unity throughout the successive eras of history countable in years by the thousand, and their historical tradition of living in weal or woe and with Union Spirit is firm till now.

With this fine tradition, all the countrymen will have to safeguard the Union for its perpetuation, as it is their national duty.

Hence, the Government has been giving priority to harmonious development of all the national races and further strengthening of the national solidarity, while paving the way for all the fellow citizens to take part more in the national defence and development duties.

It is also paying special attention to development of border areas and national races in its drive to strive for enhancing national solidarity with greater efforts. The Government has launched the project to develop border areas and national races in 1989, and since then it has been in progress in building infrastructures to improve regional transport facilities, raise the social standard of the national races, and further cement the national unity. To this date, it has already used over K 56,000 million and over US $ 550 million for the project.

Thanks to the Government’s endeavours in providing infrastructure, certain number of villages in remote border areas have become modern towns, and large stretches of vacant and fallow lands have been transformed into commercial farms. Apart from its project for progress of border areas and national races, the Government is also implementing five rural development tasks and the 24-development zone project covering every part of the Union.

Together with the progress in all the regions of the Union including the border areas and rural areas, all will have to make efforts to run the regional administrative machinery and economic, social, health and education sectors more smoothly and effectively, and with greater acceleration.

As the rapid developments the nation has seen in the economic and social fields of border areas are the results of the leadership and support of the Government and the harmonious efforts of the national race leaders and the entire countrymen, we would like to urge all departmental personnel, local authorities and national people to continue to work with added momentum for progress and prosperity of border areas, with the aim of further cementing the national unity.

---

**YANGON**

20 Oct— A ceremony to open the Partnership Meeting of National Red Cross Societies hosted by Myanmar Red Cross Society was held at Traders Hotel this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, President Dr Kyaw Win and EC members of MRCS, departmental heads and officials of NGOs, delegates from International Committee of the Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross.

---

**YANGON**


The new self-reliant library in Loikaw Township was opened in Chike Village-tract in Loikaw District, Kayah State, on 14 October at Huythama Village Peace and Development Council Office.

The opening ceremony was held at the village. Photo shows Headmistress Daw May May Sein presents a certificate of honour to a donor who donated K 100,000 for the school. — (1)
US military deaths in Iraq rise to 1,103

WASHINGTON, 19 Oct—As of Tuesday, 19 Oct, 2004, at least 1,103 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 846 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is 1 higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am Tuesday. The British military has reported 67 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 965 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 737 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 8,016 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department’s weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

One soldier died from a non-combat injury Monday at a base in Diyala Province. The soldier was found in his living quarters after he did not return to his guard post.

Number of US troops wounded in Iraq war tops 8,000

WASHINGTON, 19 Oct—The number of US troops wounded in Iraq since military operations began in March 2003 has topped the 8,000 mark, according to figures released by the Pentagon on Tuesday.

The total of 8,016 is more than double what it was six months ago when the insurgency suddenly accelerated. On 5 April the number wounded in action stood at 2,988; by 26 April it had grown to 3,864. The US military death toll almost doubled in that same period, standing at 1,102 as of Tuesday, by the Pentagon’s count. On 2 April it stood at 598. The wounded toll has grown by several hundred a month since April. It surpassed the 5,000 mark in early June and crossed the 7,000 mark in early September. —Internet

Macedonian government working on return of Macedonians in Iraq

****| MIA, 19 Oct—After Monday’s news about the death of two Macedonians in Iraq, the Macedonian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Dusko Uzunovski informed Tuesday that the ministry was working on the return of 19 Macedonians working there, the MIA news agency reported.

The Macedonian authorities were in permanent contact with the competent foreign services and representatives in order to check up the information of the Macronian hostage, the MIA said. On Monday, “Al Jazeera” reported that the rebel group, Islamic Army of Iraq, killed two Macedonian hostages due to “espionage in favor of US forces”. In a Press release, the rebel group stated that their security forces arrested the two Macedonians at the moment when they were leaving a US base in Iraq. Basing on their interrogating and the documents they found, it was determined that the two Macedonians were spies for the US forces.

Macedonia, a country of the US-led coalition, has 32 troops stationed in north of Baghdad. In addition, there are hundred Macedonian citizens, whose accurate number has not been available, working in Iraq for foreign companies. —Internet

British Govt accused of delaying report of passive smoking

LONDON, 19 Oct—A leading anti-smoking group accused the British Government on Monday of sitting on a confidential report which confirms the health dangers of passive smoking.

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) said there is no longer any excuse to deny the health damage caused by inhaling other people’s cigarette smoke.

“Report show that Britain’s leading medical experts have concluded that second-hand smoke is a serious risk to public health. It is deeply worrying that the government has sat on this for months,” said ASH director Deborah Arnott.

The Department of Health denied any delay.

“It is not a cover-up. We are considering the evidence. It is not taking any longer than any other report would,” a spokeswoman for the department said. “It is not something we have sat on.”

Arnott said the report, which has now been leaked to the Evening Standard newspaper, should have been published in time to inform debate ahead of expected government proposals to deal with second-hand smoke.

Health experts have urged Britain to follow Ireland’s example and ban smoking in public workplaces, which would include bars, restaurants and pubs. According to ASH, the report concludes that “it is evident that no infant, child or adult should be exposed to second-hand smoke.”

It also found there is an increased risk of lung cancer for non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke of about 24 per cent and a greater likelihood of developing heart disease.

In children, passive smoking is linked to a raised risk of pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma, middle ear disease, decreased lung function and sudden infant death syndrome, ASH added.

The Department of Health spokeswomen said the evidence in the report was about smoking in the home, not public places.

“It is not about public places, specifically,” she added. But ASH said the findings of the leaked report are further evidence of the need for a smoking ban. It added that exposure to smoke in both the home and workplace is causing several thousand premature deaths a year across Britain as well as many thousands of illnesses.

Arnott added the report shows “the absurdity” of any exclusions from a smoking ban. Health Secretary John Reid is reportedly considering exempting some pubs and clubs where food is not served from a potential ban.

India, Iran to set up cooperation in energy, transit and trade

NEW DELHI, 20 Oct—India and Iran have agreed to step up cooperation in energy, transit and trade that will benefit the entire region, as Tehran appraised New Delhi of its efforts on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

These issues figured during talks Indian National Security Advisor J N Dixit had with Hassan Rouhani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council during his three-day visit to Iran that concluded on Tuesday.

The visit was part of the ongoing and regular consultations between the National Security Councils of the two countries, the External Affairs Ministry stated here on Tuesday. Rouhani had visited India in February this year.

The two leaders exchanged views on the enhancement and further consolidation of the “excellent” bilateral relations, it said.

The Iranian side appraised Dixit of Tehran’s efforts on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Dixit invited Rouhani to visit India. —MNA/PTI

An injured man lies on a bed at the general hospital following a shooting attack in the city of Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad recently.—INTERNET

India, Iran to set up cooperation in energy, transit and trade

NEW DELHI, 20 Oct—India and Iran have agreed to step up cooperation in energy, transit and trade that will benefit the entire region, as Tehran appraised New Delhi of its efforts on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

These issues figured during talks Indian National Security Advisor J N Dixit had with Hassan Rouhani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council during his three-day visit to Iran that concluded on Tuesday. The visit was part of the ongoing and regular consultations between the National Security Councils of the two countries, the External Affairs Ministry stated here on Tuesday. Rouhani had visited India in February this year.

The two leaders exchanged views on the enhancement and further consolidation of the “excellent” bilateral relations, it said.

The Iranian side appraised Dixit of Tehran’s efforts on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Dixit invited Rouhani to visit India. —MNA/PTI

An injured man lies on a bed at the general hospital following a shooting attack in the city of Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad recently.—INTERNET
British ministers accused of misleading Parliament on Iraq

LONDON, 19 Oct—Ministers were accused last night of misleading Parliament over the redeployment of British troops in Iraq to an American-controlled area. A decision to move the soldiers was made more than a week ago, defence sources said.

"It was decided and virtually under way," one said, describing the Government’s claim that no decision had been made as "nonsense". He added: "I think there is an issue over the extent to which they have misled Parliament."

The accusations will increase pressure on Tony Blair, who was struggling last night to contain the most serious backbench revolt he has faced on Iraq with many Labour MPs who supported the war opposed to the redeployment of 600 soldiers of the Black Watch.

A group of 45 Labour MPs demanded a Commons vote before any decision was made. Amid signs that he was considering backing down, the Prime Minister insisted there was no political aspect and that no decision had been taken prior to a reconnaissance yesterday by British officers of the area where they would be based. —Internet

India, China to reshape int’l landscape in a few decades

WASHINGTON, 20 Oct — India and China will reshape the international landscape in the next few decades and the US should recognize and adapt to this new world order, a leading American columnist has said.

There have been two great shifts in the international balance of power over the past 500 years. The first was the rise of Western Europe, which by the late 17th century had become the richest, most dynamic and expansionist part of the globe. The second was the rise of the US, he said.

Right now, a trend of equal magnitude is taking place: the rise of Asia, led by China, which will fundamentally reshape the international landscape in the next few decades. "For the United States, whether it is preserving jobs or security, recognizing and adapting to the new world order is key," he said in an editorial in ‘Washington Post’ entitled "America’s Big Challenge: Asia."

India, too, he points out "is growing with impressive resilience and determination and because of its size, it adds another huge weight to the Asian balance."

With economic growth, said Fareed Zakaria, comes cultural confidence and political assertiveness. "The West has long taken Asia for granted, seeing it as an investment opportunity or a stage where Great Power rivalries could be played out, as in Vietnam and Korea. But this too will change."

China and India, he points out, are both proud and ancient civilizations. They also have large internal economies, not totally dependent on exports to the West. In the wake of the East Asian crisis of 1997, all the East Asian tiger economies collapsed but China and India grew solidly, even when demand from the West had dried up.

China’s ranking legislator urges better ties with Poland

WARSAW, 19 Oct — Ismail Amat, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress, has called for strengthened cooperation between China and Poland.

The senior Chinese legislator, who arrived here Friday on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Polish diplomatic relations, told Joseph Oleksy, Speaker of the Polish Lower House of Parliament, that the two sides should take the opportunity to push forward cooperation in all fields. Oleksy, for his part, said bilateral ties have developed smoothly with the joint efforts of both sides over the 55 years.

He noted that Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski’s 1997 China visit and Chinese President Hu Jintao’s trip to Poland last June have opened a new chapter in ties between the two countries. Poland stands ready to work with China to further such ties, he added.

Report says Iraq war increases terrorism risk

BEIRUT, 20 Oct — War in Iraq has increased the risk of terrorism against the West, at least for the short term, the International Institute for Strategic Studies said on Tuesday in its annual report on the world’s militaries.

The IISS has added a section on Osama bin Laden’s Al-Qaeda network to “The Military Balance,” its authoritative yearly defence handbook, which lists the size and capabilities of the world’s armed forces.

“Overall, the risk of terrorism to Westerners and Western assets in Arab countries appeared to increase after the Iraq war began in March 2003,” it concluded.

“With the military invasion and occupation of Iraq, the United States demonstrated its desire to change the political status quo in the Arab world to advance American strategic and political interests,” it said.

“Accordingly, the Iraq invasion was always likely in the short-term to enhance jihadist recruitment and intensify Al-Qaeda’s motivation to encourage and assist terrorist operations.” — Internet

Sustainable development of energy sources is China’s priority

BEIJING, 20 Oct — Sustainable development of energy sources is a priority of Chinese Government, said Qu Geping, chairman of China Environmental Protection Foundation at the World Petroleum Congress First Youth Forum here on Monday.

Along with an annual GDP growth rate of 9 per cent in the last 20 years, China also saw a soaring energy demand and deteriorating environment. According to Qu, in 2003 moderate or serious air pollution affected 59 per cent of the cities monitored in China. By late 2003, 30 per cent of China’s territory has been affected by acid rain and 30 per cent of water resources has been contaminated.

“China has taken strong measures to restrict energy-guzzling, pollution-generating companies and published a series of environmental protection criteria for enterprises. In the past five years, China has closed 84,000 companies failing to meet the standards.” Qu said.

In addition, new energy sources such as water power, wind power, solar energy and biomass have big potential for use in China. But now, these sources account for less than 1 per cent in China’s current energy use, Qu said. — MNA/Xinhua

Australian aid group worker kidnapped in Iraq

CANBERRA, 19 Oct — A British-born Iraqi aid worker who was kidnapped in Iraq was an employee of CARE Australia, the charity said.

Margaret Hassan, a dual British and Iraqi citizen, was abducted in Baghdad at 7:30 am.

CARE Australia had responsibility for running an aid program in the country.

CARE Australia said it was unaware of the kidnapping of foreigners.

A number of aid bodies have withdrawn foreign staff because of bombings and the kidnapping of foreigners. — Internet

An Iraqi man views damage to his house after it was hit during a US air raid conducted over the western city of Fallujah, on 18 Oct 2004. — Internet

An Iraqi man inspects the damage at a building in Fallujah, outside Baghdad, Iraq, on 18 Oct 2004 after US troops pounded the guerilla stronghold of Fallujah with airstrikes and tank fire overnight. — Internet

MNA/Xinhua