A US Army soldier stands guard at al-Sina’a soccer field while a large crowd gathers at the gate in Baghdad’s Shi’ite suburb of al-Sadr city, on 21 Oct. —INTERNET

Un warns of out-of-control “AIDS” problem in Ecuador

QUITO (Ecuador), 20 Oct — The spread of AIDS in parts of Ecuador’s most populated province is reaching levels comparable to those seen in Africa and the Caribbean a decade ago, and could mushroom into a national epidemic if left unchecked, United Nations officials warned Tuesday.

“In 10 or 15 years, if there isn’t important prevention work, we are going to have a frightening epidemic,” said Paul Martin, a UN Children’s Fund representative, told reporters.

“In certain zones on the coast in Guayas the levels of AIDS infections are approaching levels reached 10 years ago by Africa and the Caribbean,” he during a Press conference called by the world body to draw attention to the problem. Those two areas are reeling from the spread of the HIV virus.

He said the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS has budgeted 14 million US dollars for Ecuador, but added that Ecuadorian authorities have been slow to define the role of programmes to fight the spread of the disease. — MNA/AP

US, allies must learn lessons from mistakes in Iraq

LONDON, 20 Oct — Washington and its allies must learn lessons from mistakes in Iraq on how to manage the aftermath of war, the International Institute for Strategic Studies said on Tuesday.

In The Military Balance, an authoritative, yearly handbook which lists the capabilities of the world’s armed forces, the London-based think-tank said last year’s invasion of Iraq was a success, but that the occupation afterwards was flawed.

“In the post-conflict phase and in peace-support operations, the ‘hearts and minds’ of a population become the ‘territory’ that has to be captured and held,” the editor Christopher Langton wrote in the introduction.

“Governments need to realize that such operations are manpower-intensive, as the human component replaces the weapon system as the key enabler to success.”

The United States should learn from Iraq that it needs more manpower with extra skills adopted to "post-conflict" situations. Inadequately trained reservists or private military companies are no substitute for well-trained regular troops. "Having started with a fast and successful warfighting campaign, Operation Iraqi Freedom provided some key lessons for the US and its allies concerning post-conflict operations," the report said.

"Firstly: post-conflict and peace-support operations in all their phases are manpower-intensive and require extra skills in addition to those used in the warfighting phase — as well as a fast transition from a combat posture to one which demands that support to the civilian populations becomes paramount."

"Secondly: the use of partially trained reservists, or reservists with the wrong skills, is no substitute for fully trained soldiers, as the US learned to its cost in the Iraq prison scandal," it said.

US military policemen involved in abusing Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib Jail have included reservists who say they were inadequately trained.

"The war in Iraq has also seen proliferation of so-called "private military companies" — commercial contractors providing security services that in previous wars would have been supplied by troops.

But the report said the Iraq experience had shown that the private companies could not "provide the answer to the manpower problem" because of a "lack of oversight on their activities". — MNA/Reuters

Annan warns of crackdown on guerrillas in Iraq

LONDON, 20 Oct — A crackdown on guerrillas in Iraq hotspots like Fallujah must be carefully conducted to avoid losing a battle for the hearts and minds of Iraqis, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Tuesday. "In these kind of situations you have two wars going on," he said. "You have the war for minds and hearts of the people as well as efforts to try and bring down the violence."

"The two have to go together and it has to be calibrated in such a way that you are able to move the people along with you. I hope that approach is also the one that is being pursued by the government and others," he told a news conference with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. — MNA/Reuters

Four arrested in northern Greece for drug trafficking

ATHENS, 21 Oct — Four people, including two foreign nationals, were arrested for involvement in drug trafficking late Monday in northern Greece, semi-official Athens News Agency reported on Tuesday.

"Firstly: post-conflict and peace-support operations in all their phases are manpower-intensive and require extra skills in addition to those used in the warfighting phase — as well as a fast transition from a combat posture to one which demands that support to the civilian populations becomes paramount."

"Secondly: the use of partially trained reservists, or reservists with the wrong skills, is no substitute for fully trained soldiers, as the US learned to its cost in the Iraq prison scandal," it said.

US military policemen involved in abusing Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib Jail have included reservists who say they were inadequately trained.

"The war in Iraq has also seen proliferation of so-called "private military companies" — commercial contractors providing security services that in previous wars would have been supplied by troops.

But the report said the Iraq experience had shown that the private companies could not "provide the answer to the manpower problem" because of a "lack of oversight on their activities". — MNA/Reuters

A powerful typhoon drenches southern Japan; at least seven injured

TOKYO, 20 Oct — A powerful typhoon lashed southern Japan with heavy rain, prompting the evacuation of thousands of households and leaving thousands more without electricity. At least seven people suffered minor injuries and one went missing

Typhoon "Tokage" was just south of the southernmost main island of Kyushu early Wednesday and was headed for Japan’s main islands with sustained winds of 144 kilo- metres per hour (89 miles per hour), the Meteorologi- cal Agency said.

"Tokage", the Japanese word for lizard, was the recent eighth typhoon to hit Japan this year. Two additional typhoons had been downgraded to tropical storms by the time they reached the archipelago.

The typhoon was ex- pected to reach southwestern main island of Shikoku and perhaps the Tokyo re- gion by late Wednesday, the agency said. It warned that waves of up to nine metres (30 feet) could hit southern coastlines, and as much as 500 millimetres (20 inches) of rain could fall in parts of Kyushu and Shikoku islands through Wednesday.

In Miyazaki Prefecture (state) on Kyushu, a 63-year-old farmer went missing after he went outside to check his fields. The typhoon in- jured seven people as it passed Japan’s southern is- land of Okinawa—about 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

Four had head injuries, two had fingers broken in doors blown shut by gusts and one man suffered a deep gash in his arm during a boating accident sparked by rough waves, prefectural (state) police spokesman Tatsuki Yara said. — MNA/AP

Powerful typhoon drenches southern Japan; at least seven injured

TOKYO, 20 Oct — A powerful typhoon lashed southern Japan with heavy rain on Wednesday, disrupting air traffic, prompting the evacuation of thousands of households and leaving thousands more without electricity. At least seven people suffered minor injuries and one went missing.

Typhoon "Tokage" was just south of the southernmost main island of Kyushu early Wednesday and was headed for Japan’s main islands with sustained winds of 144 kilo- metres per hour (89 miles per hour), the Meteorologi- cal Agency said.

"Tokage", the Japanese word for lizard, was the recent eighth typhoon to hit Japan this year. Two additional typhoons had been downgraded to tropical storms by the time they reached the archipelago.

The typhoon was ex- pected to reach southwestern main island of Shikoku and perhaps the Tokyo re- gion by late Wednesday, the agency said. It warned that waves of up to nine metres (30 feet) could hit southern coastlines, and as much as 500 millimetres (20 inches) of rain could fall in parts of Kyushu and Shikoku islands through Wednesday.

In Miyazaki Prefecture (state) on Kyushu, a 63-year-old farmer went missing after he went outside to check his fields. The typhoon in- jured seven people as it passed Japan’s southern is- land of Okinawa—about 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

Four had head injuries, two had fingers broken in doors blown shut by gusts and one man suffered a deep gash in his arm during a boating accident sparked by rough waves, prefectural (state) police spokesman Tatsuki Yara said. — MNA/AP
Germany rules out deployment of troops in Iraq

LISBON, 20 Oct — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder affirmed on Tuesday his country will abstain from sending troops to Iraq but will continue to support international efforts to stabilize the Arab country.

During a joint Press conference at the end of his meeting with Portugal’s Prime Minister Pedro Santana Lopes, Schroeder expressed his wish for Iraq to be free and in peace.

Schroeder, in his first visit in Portugal, said although his country has deployed police and military forces in Saudi Arabia, it will not do the same in Iraq. Germany is one of the main countries in the European Union (EU) opposing the US invasion of Iraq.

Santana, on the other hand, affirmed Portugal will abstain from sending troops to Iraq but will continue to support international efforts to stabilize the Arab country.

Road accident kills 14 in southern Iran

TEHERAN, 20 Oct — Fourteen people were killed and nine others injured in a road accident in the southern Iranian province of Hormuzgan Sunday night, the official IRNA news agency reported on Monday.

The accident occurred when a minibus collided with a Mercedes Benz truck and a Volvo flatbed trailer. Eleven people were killed on the spot and three of the injured rushed to the hospital died later of their wounds.

Police blamed the accident on the reckless driving of the minibus’s driver, who suddenly swerved to the right.

Iran has one of the highest road accident rates in the world. According to official statistics, road accidents kill one person every 24 minutes in the country. Hazardous road conditions and reckless driving lead to most of the accidents.

Italy not to participate in troop redeployment in Iraq

ROME, 20 Oct — Italian Defence Minister Antonio Martino said here Tuesday that his country will not take part in the US-proposed redeployment of coalition troops in Iraq.

He told reporters that Italy was unaffected by Pentagon plans to have non-American coalition forces in Iraq redeployed to different regions.

Asked whether Italian troops could be moved as part of a general reorganization of troops in Iraq, Martino replied: “It has nothing to do with us.”

A Pentagon spokesman disclosed on Monday that the United States has asked nations with troops in Iraq to study the possibility of moving some soldiers to other parts of the country in a bid to replace American soldiers, who could be freed for duties in other parts of the country “where they are needed.”

Italy has about 3,000 soldiers in Iraq, most of them stationed in or around the southern city of Nasiriya.

Jordan, Iraq to enhance bilateral ties

AMMAN, 20 Oct — Jordanian Prime Minister Faisal Al-Fayez here on Monday held talks with Iraqi Planning Minister Mahdi al-Hafidh on ways to further develop bilateral ties in various fields.

Speaking at a joint press conference, the two sides also confirmed their keenness to strengthen the strategic relations between the two countries.

The Iraqi minister said he briefed Fayez on the outcome of the meeting of the donor countries to help rebuilding Iraq, which concluded last week in Tokyo.

“We have established solid bases to cement cooperation between Jordan and Iraq,” al-Hafidh told reporters.

“Cooperation with Jordan will serve as an entrance for Iraq to develop its relations with the region and the world at large,” he said.

The new future relation will safeguard security and interests of the people in the two countries, he added.

He expressed his thanks for Jordan’s efforts in writing off Iraq’s debts and its continued support to obtain necessary finance from donor countries to rebuild Iraq.

Jordan will serve as an enabling environment for attracting FDI to the tune of 150 billion dollars in telecom, airlines, railways and power.

We have to create the right environment in which pub-private partnership can thrive,” he said.

Stressing that capital requirements in infrastructure were very large, he said airports and railways alone needed 55 billion dollars and 25 billion dollars respectively over the next ten years.

“With respect to Turkey’s entry to the EU, both Schroeder and Santana supported an EU proposal to start voting on the process in December. The EU will finally decide whether to start negotiations of Turkey’s entry to the group on December 17.

Schroeder insisted that German share in the EU budget cannot exceed its GDP growth of 1 per cent.

Regulatory framework for infrastructure to attract FDI

NEW DELHI, 21 Oct — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Tuesday said the government would set up a regulatory framework for infrastructure to create an enabling environment for attracting FDI to the tune of 150 billion dollars in telecom, railways and power.

“We are working towards creation of a regulatory framework in infrastructure sector that would be transparent and independent and based on international best practices,” he said inaugurating the third India-ASEAN business summit here.

“We believe the Indian economy can absorb up to 150 billion dollars of foreign direct investment in the infrastructure sector over the next ten years...” he said. We have to create the right environment in which pub-private partnership can thrive,” he said.

Stressing that capital requirements in infrastructure were very large, he said airports and railways alone needed 55 billion dollars in the next 10 years, and power and telecom 75 billion dollars and 25 billion dollars respectively in the next five years.

This, he said, provided a large window of opportunity for ASEAN business to invest in India and was necessary not only for efficient use of our resources but also efficient management and running of infrastructural services.

The government has decided to step up economic growth to 7-8 per cent over the next decade for which every effort would be made to promote investment by creating a climate conducive to investors, he said.

Uganda earns more from cocoa export

KAMPALA, 20 Oct — Cocoa export earnings are expected to rise from 7.3 million US dollars in 2003 to over eight million US dollars by the end of this year’s cocoa season on 31 October, Uganda Cocoa Development Project (UCDP) has said.

Cocoa is non-traditional export commodity in the East African country.

UCDP national coordinator John Musisi was quoted Wednesday by local Press as saying that “since 2000, we have intensified the drive to increase acreage, production and the quality of Uganda’s cocoa”.

“This has already paid off because the country exported 4,500 tons of cocoa last year, up from 4,200 in 2002. By the end of this cocoa year, we will have exported over 5,000 tons,” he said.

He said following massive planting and training in new production techniques, yields per hectare had doubled from 500 kilos to 1,000 kilos — MNA/Xinhua

Jordanian minister says country can absorb more FDI

AMMAN, 20 Oct — Jordanian minister for tourism and industry Faisal Al-Fayezy said Tuesday that his country could absorb up to 150 billion dollars of foreign direct investment over the next 10 years.

He said Jordanian projects needed 55 billion dollars in the next 10 years, and power and telecom 25 billion dollars.

“With respect to Turkey’s entry to the EU, both Schroeder and Santana supported an EU proposal to start voting on the process in December. The EU will finally decide whether to start negotiations of Turkey’s entry to the group on December 17.

Schroeder insisted that German share in the EU budget cannot exceed its GDP growth of 1 per cent.

Regulatory framework for infrastructure to attract FDI

NEW DELHI, 21 Oct — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Tuesday said the government would set up a regulatory framework for infrastructure to create an enabling environment for attracting FDI to the tune of 150 billion dollars in telecom, railways, railways and power.

“We are working towards creation of a regulatory framework in infrastructure sector that would be transparent and independent and based on international best practices,” he said inaugurating the third India-ASEAN business summit here.

“We believe the Indian economy can absorb up to 150 billion dollars of foreign direct investment in the infrastructure sector over the next ten years...” he said. We have to create the right environment in which pub-private partnership can thrive,” he said.

Stressing that capital requirements in infrastructure were very large, he said airports and railways alone needed 55 billion dollars in the next 10 years, and power and telecom 75 billion dollars and 25 billion dollars respectively in the next five years.

This, he said, provided a large window of opportunity for ASEAN business to invest in India and was necessary not only for efficient use of our resources but also efficient management and running of infrastructural services.

The government has decided to step up economic growth to 7-8 per cent over the next decade for which every effort would be made to promote investment by creating a climate conducive to investors, he said.

MNA/PTI

Uganda earns more from cocoa export

KAMPALA, 20 Oct — Cocoa export earnings are expected to rise from 7.3 million US dollars in 2003 to over eight million US dollars by the end of this year’s cocoa season on 31 October, Uganda Cocoa Development Project (UCDP) has said.

Cocoa is non-traditional export commodity in the East African country.

UCDP national coordinator John Musisi was quoted Wednesday by local Press as saying that “since 2000, we have intensified the drive to increase acreage, production and the quality of Uganda’s cocoa”.

“This has already paid off because the country exported 4,500 tons of cocoa last year, up from 4,200 in 2002. By the end of this cocoa year, we will have exported over 5,000 tons,” he said.

He said following massive planting and training in new production techniques, yields per hectare had doubled from 500 kilos to 1,000 kilos — MNA/Xinhua

Regulatory framework for infrastructure to attract FDI

NEW DELHI, 21 Oct — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Tuesday said the government would set up a regulatory framework for infrastructure to create an enabling environment for attracting FDI to the tune of 150 billion dollars in telecom, railways, railways and power.

“We are working towards creation of a regulatory framework in infrastructure sector that would be transparent and independent and based on international best practices,” he said inaugurating the third India-ASEAN business summit here.

“We believe the Indian economy can absorb up to 150 billion dollars of foreign direct investment in the infrastructure sector over the next ten years...” he said. We have to create the right environment in which pub-private partnership can thrive,” he said.

Stressing that capital requirements in infrastructure were very large, he said airports and railways alone needed 55 billion dollars in the next 10 years, and power and telecom 75 billion dollars and 25 billion dollars respectively in the next five years.

This, he said, provided a large window of opportunity for ASEAN business to invest in India and was necessary not only for efficient use of our resources but also efficient management and running of infrastructural services.

The government has decided to step up economic growth to 7-8 per cent over the next decade for which every effort would be made to promote investment by creating a climate conducive to investors, he said.

MNA/PTI
In its drive for achieving progress in all sectors, the Government of the Union of Myanmar has laid down and implemented the 12 political, economic and social objectives, in which, “Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well” is included in the four economic objectives. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, on its part, is launching research work and survey projects.

The dry weather has formed a barren plain between Pakokku and Myaing townships in Pakokku District, Magway Division. The ministry officials conducted a field tour of the region as the Head of State had given guidance to regenerate forests in it and to produce enough food for local people by damming the natural watercourses there to store water in man-made and natural lakes during the monsoon.

Staff of the Irrigation Department of the ministry are also building six dams — Taung and Imbat dams Pakokku Township, Magyeesu, Thitkyitaw, Thirinanda and Kwinna dams in Myaing Township — on creeks flowing on both sides of the road. The ID has planned to build seven dams in Pakokku Township, six in Myaing Township, three in Yesagyo Township, and 16 in Pakokku District totaling 47, that will irrigate 7,592 acres of crops. Seventeen dams have been completed in the district up to now, and they have the capacity to irrigate 2,507 acres of land. The remaining 30 under construction will irrigate 5,098 acres of land. They will be completed during the period from fiscal 2004-2005 to 2006-2007. Of the facilities being constructed in Pakokku District, the completed Thirinanda and Thitkyitaw dams in Myaing Township will be opened as the 166th and 167th facilities built in the nation during the time of the Tatmadaw Government.

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
- Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
- Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.
- Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.

Build 29 dams to this date in the division since the Tatmadaw Government’s assumption of the State duties in 1988. Of them, only two have not commissioned into service yet, and they will be launched soon. The facilities, built at a cost of over K 13.800 million, irrigate over 170,000 acres of crops annually.

The Government has been building irrigation facilities in the interest of both the nation and the people. Thanks to the facilities and transport development, agriculture and trade and business have been developing region-wise, resulting in the increase of the per capital income of the local people.

*********
(Translation: TMT)
Myanma Alinn: 21-10-2004
Forestry Minister, Mayor open...

(from page 1)

Next, U Nay Win Swe reported on establishment of the factory in August. The minister, the mayor and party went to the Finished-Wood Products Factory of National Wood Industry Ltd. Managing Director U Win Tun, Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing and U Kyaw Win of National Wood Industry Ltd formally opened the factory. The Mayor unveiled the plaque.

The minister and the mayor heard reports on matters related to the factory by U Kyaw Win and inspected the factory. The factories will manufacture value-added products, parquet and decking and export of these products to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, Denmark, Italy, France and Spain of Asia and Europe markets.

232 drug-related cases exposed in August

YANGON, 21 Oct —
The Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed 232 drug-related cases in August 2004. The authorities seized 17.546 kilos of opium in 97 cases, 45.8255 kilos of opium oil in 7 cases, 6.7042 kilos of low-grade opium in 15 cases, 0.9731 kilo of marijuana in 9 cases, 2.4 litres of Phensydyl in 3 cases, 5625129 stimulant tablets in 48 cases, 118 kilos of ephedrine in one case, 0.0337 kilo of stimulant powder in two cases, 0.042 kilo of speciosa in one case, 2 bottles of diazepam in one case, 30 bottles of buprinorphine (injection) in 20 cases, 20 cases of failure to register and other two cases.

Tatmadaw regiments and units seized 0.003 kilo of opium in one case, 0.003 kilo of low grade opium in one case and 25 stimulant tablets. Myanmar Police Force seized 17.546 kilos of opium in 93 cases, 0.9549 kilo of opium oil in 7 cases, 6.7012 kilos of low-grade opium in 14 cases, 0.9731 kilo of marijuana in 9 cases, 2.4 litres of Phensydyl in 3 cases, 5.625,104 stimulant tablets in 48 cases, 118 kilos of ephedrine in one case, 0.0337 kilo of stimulant powder in two cases, 0.042 kilo of speciosa in one case, two bottles of diazepam injection in one case, 30 bottles of buprinorphine injection in one case, 20 cases of failure to register and other two cases.

The factories will manufacture value-added products, parquet and decking and export of these products to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, Denmark, Italy, France and Spain of Asia and Europe markets.

Myanmar youth bag 13 gold, 11 silver, two bronze in Wushu Competitions

YANGON, 21 Oct —
Altogether 12 Myanmar youths brought honour to the State bagging 13 gold, 11 silver and two bronze in the First World Traditional Wushu Competition held in People’s Republic of China from 18 to 20 October. The six-member team won a gold medal.

Victorious Myanmar Wushu Team. — NLM

The three-player team won one silver, Maung Thura Soe, Maung Kaung Htet Hein, Maung Kyaw Zin Thit, Maung Toe Wai and Maung Saw Win Hlut secured one silver each; Maung Soe Win Thein of Latha BEHS No 1 and Ma Thet Thet Naing of Latha BEHS No 2 secured two silver each and Ma Sandi Oo of Kamayut BEHS No 5 won one silver. Maung Khant Swe Fenyounchan, Matu (a) Turin and Fen Youn Hua by Muse Police Force.

On 23 August, acting on information, an anti-drug combined team searched Zaw Win (a) Haw Than San and authorities found 600 stimulant tablets. Futher inspection led to the search of the house of Zaw Win (a) Haw Than San and exposed 57400 stimulant tablets from 6 packets. Action was taken against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Hole-in-one

YANGON, 18 Oct — U Tin Lwin together with Lt-Gen Kyaw Than (Red) and U Tin Thaung scored hole-in-one at the 12th hole of City Golf Club on 14 October evening.—MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Opening ceremony of Finished-Wood Products Factory of NWS Company

Limited in progress. — MNA

Coord meeting on Performing Arts Competitions held

YANGON, 21 Oct —
The chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, sub-committee members and the team managers from the states and divisions held a coordination meeting this evening, attended by Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan. — MNA

Work Committee for Performing Arts Competitions Col Tint Hsan speaking at the coordination meeting. — MNA

Leading Committee for Performing Arts Competitions Col Tint Hsan speaking at the coordination meeting.

— MNA

Victorious Myanmar Wushu Team. — NLM

The three-player team won one silver, Maung Thura Soe, Maung Kaung Htet Hein, Maung Kyaw Zin Thit, Maung Toe Wai and Maung Saw Win Hlut secured one silver each; Maung Soe Win Thein of Latha BEHS No 1 and Ma Thet Thet Naing of Latha BEHS No 2 secured two silver each and Ma Sandi Oo of Kamayut BEHS No 5 won one silver. Maung Khant Swe Fenyounchan, Matu (a) Turin and Fen Youn Hua by Muse Police Force.

On 23 August, acting on information, an anti-drug combined team searched Zaw Win (a) Haw Than San and authorities found 600 stimulant tablets. Futher inspection led to the search of the house of Zaw Win (a) Haw Than San and exposed 57400 stimulant tablets from 6 packets. Action was taken against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Hole-in-one

YANGON, 18 Oct — U Tin Lwin together with Lt-Gen Kyaw Than (Red) and U Tin Thaung scored hole-in-one at the 12th hole of City Golf Club on 14 October evening.—MNA

All this needs to be known

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