Established 1914

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

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and 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

Myogyi Dam will supply water for Greening of Meiktila Plain
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects development projects in Kyaukse District

YANGON, 10 Nov—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of the SPDC Office, left here by air and arrived at Mandalay yesterday morning.

Together with Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, departmental heads and local authorities, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the 300-acre monsoon paddy field in Kanchaw Village, east of Mandalay International Airport, in TadaU Township. Officials reported on land reclamation and cultivation of monsoon paddy. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to the officials.

With water from Thittetkon Diversion Weir, monsoon paddy will be cultivated in the rainy season and other crops in summer. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into extension and maintenance of Kyaukse-Mandalay International Airport Road. On arrival at Kyaukse City Hall Construction Project, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports by Project Manager U Tin Ko Ko on work progress.

Ayeyawady Division targets to cultivate 3.6 million acres of monsoon paddy and 1.43 million acres of summer paddy

YANGON, 10 Nov—A ceremony to present prizes for outstanding performance in agriculture and other fields was held at the town hall in Pathein, Ayeyawady Division, yesterday. Present on the occasion were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe, Director-General of Settlements and Land Records Department U Win Kyi, Secretary, Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Thein Hlaing, division level officials, local authorities, members of social organizations, prize-winners and guests.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing made a speech, saying that the division has 4.884 million acres of arable land. The division has laid down objectives — to increase per acre yield, to extend sown acreage and to minimize loss and wastage — in order to boost its food production, the commander stated. He went on to say that up to now, Ayeyawady Division has put over 3.5 million acres of land under monsoon paddy for this season. Efforts are being made to meet the monsoon paddy cultivation target of 3.6 million acres and summer paddy cultivation target of 1.43 million, he said.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Minister inspects power generation through use of bio gas

YANGON, 10 Nov—Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min together with officials arrived at Pyinmabin Pedigree Pig Farm in Mingaladon Township yesterday afternoon and inspected generating of electricity through bio gas tested by Cottage Industries Department, where they were conducted round by Superintending Engineer U Mya Than and Director-General U Sein Than.

Technicians of CID joined the Japanese colleagues to generate electricity through bio gas. Methane gas can be produced from excrement of pig. 15 kilo watt of electricity can be produced by running 24-kilowatt engine and 20-kilowatt dynamo through methane gas. This generated electricity can light 400 four-foot fluorescent lamps. Measurements are being taken for supply of electricity to industries and rural areas. Residue produced from bio gas can be used as good fertilizer in cultivation.

Rules for Armed Forces Day commemorative poem contest announced

YANGON, 10 NOV—Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2005, the Poem Contest Organizing Sub-committee under the Poem and Arts Competition Organizing Work Committee, chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, announced today to hold the Poem Contest to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The contestants can present objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, matters related to fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, historic events occurred in the periods of Konbaung Era (AD 1824), Independence Era (1948-1968) and the State Peace and Development Council, endeavours of the State Peace and Development Council in religious affairs, construction, peace negotiation and drug elimination sectors.

The entries will be scrutinized with three sectors—theme style, presentation and composing. The poem contest will be divided into two categories.

Those who have won first second or third prizes in the Poem Contest to mark the Armed Forces Day and the National Motto Contest, Sarpay Beikman Memorial Award Contest and the poem contest of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Contest and National Literary Award winners may participate in the level-1 and those who did not win the prizes may take part in the level-2.

Those who did not win the prizes can participate in the level-1. However, one contestant may take part in one level only, and the level number must be written on the entry.

There will be two events at the level-1—the long poem and the short poem. The contestant can participate in both or one of them. However, it must be one entry for one event.

The short poem must be between 100 and 300 stanzas and the long one between 1,000 and 2,000 stanzas. The entries must be in line with the rules. The free verse and modern poems will not be accepted.

The poem must be written on one side of paper and the two copies of the entry must be submitted.

And, the entry must be attached with the name of the contestant, pen-name, names of parents, education, occupation and address together with three 2″ x 2½″ size colour photos.

The entry must be in original creation and has not featured in any publication yet. The State has authority to use the prize-winning works.

The entries are to be sent to Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Rtd) (Myanmar Maung Naing Moe), Chief Editor, Naingngan Gonyi Literary House, Sarpay Beikman, 531, Merchant Street, here, Tel: 374532, not later than 31-1-2005.— MNA

Dipavali Day reception held

YANGON, 10 NOV-—Myanmar-Indian Traders Club yesterday hosted a reception to mark the Dipavali Day for 2004 and the New Year 2005 at Sedona Hotel here. On the occasion, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano on Monday called on Chief Justice U Aung Toe.

“Those who did not win the prizes can participate in the level-1. However, one contestant may take part in one level only, and the level number must be written on the entry. There will be two events at the level-1—the long poem and the short poem. The contestant can participate in both or one of them. However, it must be one entry for one event. The short poem must be between 100 and 300 stanzas and the long one between 1,000 and 2,000 stanzas. The entries must be in line with the rules. The free verse and modern poems will not be accepted. The poem must be written on one side of paper and the two copies of the entry must be submitted.

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Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 10 NOV—The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce. One 200 feet deep-inch diameter tube-well costs K500,000; one 400 feet deep-inch diameter tube-well costs K1,000,000; and one 200 feet deep-four inch diameter tube-well costs K500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420) and the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118).— MNA

Japanese Ambassador calls on Chief Justice

Chief Justice U Aung Toe receives Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano.— MNA

Chief Justice U Aung Toe received Mr Nobutake Odano, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, today at the former’s office here. Also present were Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe and Director-General of the Supreme Court U Soe Nyunt.— MNA

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

President’s Office, Myanmar
**Thirteen US soldiers killed in Iraq**

**Baghdad, 9 Nov** — Ten US soldiers have been killed in Fallujah with three other US military personnel killed in other parts of Iraq, according to the US military.

About a dozen US troops have been killed so far in the offensive against the Iraqi city of Falluja, US Lieutenant General Thomas Metz said on Tuesday without giving a precise toll.

According to Pentagon figures, some 10 soldiers were also wounded in and around Falluja. "Friendly casualties are light," Metz said in a video teleconference briefing from Iraq.

The US military reported that two Iraqi soldiers of the interim army had been killed in the attacks on Falluja. "Enemy casualties, I think, are significantly higher than I expected," Metz added, but declined to provide a number.

Three US military personnel were also reported killed in Mosul and Baghdad on Tuesday. Fighting has increased in and around the northern city of Mosul.

"One Task Force Olympia soldier was killed and a second service member later died of wounds following a mortar attack on a Multi-National Base in Mosul at approximately 10:00am (0700 GMT) today," a statement said.

"A civilian contractor was also wounded in the attack was evacuated to the military hospital in Baghdad," the statement added.

A US soldier succumbed to his wounds sustained during a firefight with Iraqi fighters in Baghdad, AFP reported.

A total of 14 Americans have been killed in the past two days across Iraq, including five in and around Falluja.

The latest US deaths brings to 1140 the number of US troops killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to Pentagon figures.

In a separate development, anti-US fighters took control of the centre of the Iraqi city of Ramadi after 24 hours of clashes with US forces, an AFP correspondent has said. The US military could not immediately be contacted for comment.

Seven US troops were wounded in clashes in Ramadi/US forces withdrew Tuesday around 2:00pm (1100 GMT) from Ramadi's main streets to their bases east and west of the city, the correspondent said.

Earlier, five US troops were wounded in Ramadi when mortars hit several civilians, the military said.

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### Sunni party quits interim government

**Fallujah, 9 Nov** — Iraq's official Sunni Muslim political party has quit the US-backed government in protest over the assault on Fallujah.

A spokesman for the Islamic Party, Iyad Samara, said top party officials had met earlier in the day with Prime Minister Iyad Allawi to demand he stop the Fallujah offensive and try to negotiate a peaceful settlement with fighters there. When the talks failed, the party saw no justification to remain a part of the interim government and subsequently quit. The party's only member to hold a ministerial post abandoned the group, however, to keep his government position.

"The Islamic Party made the decision to withdraw from the government because of the military offensive in Fallujah, but I don't share this opinion and decided to quit the party and remain in my post," said Minister of Industry Hashim Al-Hassani.

"To withdraw would not serve the interests of the Iraqi people." US-led forces have moved deep into Fallujah since launching a major assault to retake the city Monday, as the US-backed government struggles to restore order ahead of national elections planned for January. Calls for boycott earlier, the Association of Muslim Scholars (AMS) an influential Iraqi group, urged Iraqi security forces not to fight alongside US troops storming the besieged city of Fallujah. "We call on the Iraqi forces, the National Guard and others who are mostly Muslims ... to beware of making the grave mistake of invading Iraqi cities under the banner of forces who respect no religion or human rights," the AMS said in a statement Monday. "Beware of being deceived that you are fighting terrorists from outside the country, because by God you are fighting the townspeople and targeting its men, women and children and history will record every drop of blood you spill in oppressing the people of your nation," the AMS said.

### British soldier killed in Iraq as casualties mount up

**London, 8 Nov** — A British soldier was killed in Iraq, officials said, the third serious incident to hit the Black Watch regiment in the few days since it began patrolling a dangerous US-held zone of the country.

At 6.30 pm Iraqi time (1530 GMT), the soldier died when a British Warrior armoured car was hit by a roadside bomb north of the Black Watch's new base, Camp Dogwood, a Ministry of Defence spokesman in London said.

"The Warrior left the road, its wheels destroyed on one side, and one soldier was killed and two others injured, neither seriously," he said in a statement.

On Thursday, just two days after the 850-strong British battle group began full operations at the base, just southwest of Baghdad, three other soldiers were killed and eight injured in a suicide bomb attack near the camp.

Then on Sunday, two more Black Watch troops were seriously wounded in another suicide attack.

"The mounting casualties have left British Prime Minister Tony Blair facing intense pressure over his decision to approve the Black Watch's redeployment from the relatively safe south of Iraq to relieve US forces near the insurgent town of Mahmoudiyah. Blair, a sizeable part of whose Labour Party was extremely uncomfortable with his decision to support last March's US-led invasion of Iraq, has faced criticism from both soldiers' relatives and some opposition politicians.

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, expressed his sympathy for the Scottish-based Black Watch, while lambasting Blair.

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**US troops storm into heart of Fallujah in biggest battle since Iraq war**

**Fallujah, 9 Nov** — US troops with crack Iraqi soldiers surged into the heart of Fallujah in a hail of explosions and gunfire on the second day of the largest operation in Iraq since last year's US-led war.

"They are less than one kilometre (half a mile) from the centre," a high-ranking US military officer told AFP.

Thousands of US and Iraqi troops poured in after Prime Minister Iyad Allawi authorised an all-out offensive to retake the Sunni Muslim city from rebels and restore order ahead of elections promised by January.

Shelling across Fallujah, a symbol of the insurgency that attacks the US-backed government on a daily basis, escalated as US troops advanced on the centre, fending off mortar and anti-aircraft fire.

As columns of smoke plumed skyward, insurgents fought back elsewhere in Iraq, killing at least two Iraqis in a suicide car bombing against a national guard base and wounding several policemen in assaults on two police stations.

Suni and Shiite figures have condemned the assault, dubbed Operation Phantom Fury, with one Sunni political party threatening to quit the government unless it was halted.

In a two-pronged assault, thousands of US troops poured into the northwestern Jolan neighbourhood and the Askari district in the northeast — where they took control of the city's station overnight.

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Private Mac Smith mans an observation post in a bombed out building on 9 Nov, 2004, at a forward operating base near Camp Dogwood, Iraq from where British forces monitor movements to and from the embattled city of Fallujah. — Internet
Guerillas attack police stations in Iraq's Baquba

BAGHDAD, 10 Nov — Gunmen today fatally shot a provincial council member in central Iraq as he was breaking his fast in a restaurant, police and hospital officials said.

Mr Iliyan was having his iftar, the traditional sunset meal which breaks the daylong Muslim fast during Ramadan, about 5.30pm (local time) in the western Qalaa neighbourhood of Samarra when he was gunned down, said police Major Saadoun Ahmed said.

Mr Iliyan had escaped a previous assassination attempt, Major Ahmed said.

Government officials are frequent targets of guerrillas who often accuse them of collaborating with the Americans.

Samarra is about 95km north of Baghdad.

1,145 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov — As of Tuesday, 9 Nov, 2004, at least 1,145 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 877 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians. The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department’s tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,007 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 768 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military: _Two soldiers were killed Tuesday in a mortar attack in Mosul, Iraq._

_Colombian police captured rebel chief_

BOGOTA, 9 Nov — Colombian police have captured the head of the urban militias in Bogota of the leftist rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Jose Buritica, officials said Monday.

Buritica, alias Carlos Guevo, confessed having participated in the kidnapping and murder of the girl, Daniela Venegas, from Panama, who was kidnapped on 5 October, 2003.

He said the murder of the girl “was ordered by Romala”, head of the Eastern Bloc of this guerrilla organization.

Police believe Buritica is also involved in the attacks on the night club El Nogal, and another place of the “pink zone” of north Bogota, as well as the attack with a bomb bicycle on a police station of the Fatima neighbourhood, south of this capital.

Buritica is considered to be one of the close men of the two most important FARC chief-tans, Mono Jojoy and Romala.

Two US soldiers killed in mortar attack on mily base in Mosul

MOSSUL, 9 Nov — Two US soldiers were killed in a mortar attack on a military base in Mosul, a city in northern Iraq, the US-led coalition press office said in an e-mailed statement from Baghdad.

One soldier was killed at the time of the attack and the other died of wounds sustained in the assault, which came at about 10 am local time, the military said.

A civilian contractor was wounded in the attack and evacuated to a military hospital in Baghdad, the statement said. None of the victims was identified.

The deaths came as US and Iraqi troops in west-central Iraq battled for control of Fallujah, a city held by guerrillas and one the US and interim Iraqi governments say must be pacified for national elections to take place in January.

Iran council member shot dead

BAGHDAD, 10 Nov — Gunmen today fatally shot a provincial council member in central Iraq as he was breaking his fast in a restaurant, police and hospital officials said.

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Government officials are frequent targets of guerrillas who often accuse them of collaborating with the Americans.
Bush Admin suffers setback in Guantanamo Bay trials

WASHINGTON, 9 Nov— A federal judge’s ruling that sidetracked the Bush Administration’s plan to prosecute foreign enemy combatants is the latest in a string of legal defeats for the government.

Some legal observers saw more roadblocks ahead, but a conservative-oriented group predicted the decision would be reversed because of the President’s constitutional powers.

A judge in Washington said the military short-circuited the rights of Osama bin Laden’s driver, Salem Ahmed Hamdan, 34, of Yemen. Last month, another judge rebuked the government for limiting foreign detainees’ access to lawyers.

The administration has defended to the Supreme Court its detention of hundreds of men in Cuba without constitutional protections, and lost in a landmark ruling this summer.

“The government keeps trying to push the edge of the envelope,” said Neal Sonnett, a Miami defense attorney who has monitored some Guantanamo Bay proceedings for the American Bar Association.

He predicted more losses for the Bush Administration, which is holding military trials for a few of the suspected terrorists. The process was halted Monday, after the decision by US District Judge James Robertson, who served in the Navy.

The Bush Administration immediately said it would appeal. The government has been holding 550 prisoners from more than 40 countries, some for nearly three years. Only four have been charged, including Hamdan, who says he never supported terrorism but did work as bin Laden’s driver.

Robertson said Hamdan has not been given a chance to show he is a prisoner of war and entitled to far more legal protections, most notably the right to appeal all the way to the Supreme Court.

“This is a major speed bump,” said Scott L Silliman, a former Air Force attorney and Duke University law professor.

The decision puts the spotlight on President George W Bush’s plan for military commission trials for foreign terror suspects. Defense attorneys have said the rules are so vague that a fair trial is impossible.

Many legal and civil rights groups have criticized the plans, and lawyers representing detainees have filed lawsuits like the one involving Hamdan that prompted Monday’s decision.

Suicide car bomber kills five policemen in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov — A suicide car bomber killed five policemen on Monday outside a hospital where victims of two church bombings earlier in the night were being treated, police said.

At least three people were killed and 40 injured in two car bomb explosions outside the two churches in central Baghdad. Hospital officials said. The victims from the church bombings were taken to Yarmouk hospital, where a suicide bomber later drove into four police cars parked outside the entrance. A wave of bombings hit the Iraqi capital Monday as US forces launched an all-out assault to capture the rebel-held city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad.

At least 35 people wounded in explosion in southwestern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov — An explosion outside a Catholic church in southwestern Baghdad on Monday evening wounded at least 35 people, police and hospital sources said.

The blast destroyed the outer wall of St Bahnam’s Church and set the house next door ablaze, witnesses said.

A doctor at Yarmouk Hospital said 35 people had been brought in from the blast in the capital’s Dora District.

Police said a car bomb had detonated outside the church but witnesses said it appeared explosives were planted nearby.

Four Iraqis killed in car bombing attack west of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov — A car bomb detonated on Monday as US convoy was passing by in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi, killing at least four Iraqis and wounding over a dozen others, including a US soldier, witnesses said.

A Ramadi’s main hospital said it received four bodies and one wounded in the blast.

The US military had no immediate comment on the incident.

Ramadi, 100 kilometres west of Baghdad, was another guerrillas bastion other than the flashpoint city of Fallujah in the Anbar Province.

It remained on the top list of restive cities to be retaken before the national elections slated for January.

British public oppsn to Iraq war reaches record high

LONDON, 9 Nov— The British public’s opposition to the war in Iraq has reached a record high, according to an opinion poll in the Times newspaper on Tuesday.

The survey found 57 per cent thought taking military action to oust former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was wrong, compared to 31 per cent who supported it.

The same poll in April, 2003, a month after the US-led invasion, found nearly two-thirds of Britons supported the war, compared to 24 per cent who thought it was wrong.

Population questioned 1,504 people over the weekend after three British soldiers died in a suicide bomb attack at a checkpoint near the Sunni Muslim rebel stronghold of Fallujah. — MNA/Reuters

Jordan supports Iraqis to regain their sovereignty

AMMAN, 9 Nov — Jordan would stand firmly with the Iraqi people to regain their sovereignty, Jordan’s Government Spokeswoman Asma Khader said on Monday.

Khader said at a Press conference that Jordan would support the Iraqi people to alleviate their sufferings, build their institutions, achieve security and stability.

Jordan would not sever its relations with Iraq due to historical, social, economic and political considerations, she added.

Meanwhile, the spokeswoman said Jordan would seek more ways to promote the cooperative ties with Iraq in all fields.

She said the establishment of the Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Joint Committee last week was a fruitful move toward enhancing the cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. In addition, Khader said the Jordanian Government was following up with utmost concern the issue of the Jordanians kidnapped in Iraq.

Five Jordanian drivers were kidnapped by an unknown armed group last Tuesday near the Iraqi restive city of Fallujah.

Allawi says Fallujah curfew starts from 6 pm

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov — Iraq’s interim Prime Minister Iyyad Allawi said Monday that a curfew will be imposed on Fallujah from 6 pm (1800 GMT), indicating an imminent major offensive against the restive city, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad.

Four churches were hit in a string of bomb attacks in October that seemed designed to intimidate the country’s small but deep-rooted Christian community, already shaken by a series of church bombings that killed 11 people in August. Iraq’s 650,000 Christians, mostly Chaldeans, Assyrians and Catholics, comprise about 3 per cent of the population.

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Population questioned 1,504 people over the weekend after three British soldiers died in a suicide bomb attack at a checkpoint near the Sunni Muslim rebel stronghold of Fallujah. — MNA/Reuters

Army Nurse supervisor Patrick McAndrew tries to save the life of an American soldier by giving him CPR upon arrival at a military hospital in Baghdad on 9 Nov, 2004 but the soldier died. — INTERNET

A tank fires around into a building in this TV image as US troops entered the centre of Fallujah, Iraq, on 9 Nov., 2004. — INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters
Turkish PM calls on US to improve security in Iraq

ANKARA, 9 Nov — Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan asked US President George W Bush to take necessary measures to restore stability in Iraq, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Monday.

Erdogan told Bush over a telephone call that Turkey attached great importance to stability in Iraq, and necessary actions should be taken to restore peace in the war-torn country.

“Protection of national unity and territorial integrity of Turkey is important for Turkey, the region and international community,” Erdogan was quoted as saying.

Erdogan also congratulated Bush on his re-election, the report said.

Meanwhile, Turkish Daily News reported that unidentified gunmen killed a Turkish driver in northern Iraq on Sunday, bringing to two the number of Turkish victims who died over the weekend in attacks in the neighbouring country.

In Sunday’s attack, the driver was burned alive after assailants hit his fuel tanker with rocket-propelled grenades near the Sunni Muslim city of Samarra, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Another Turkish driver died when a roadside bomb exploded near a Turkish fuel convoy on Saturday in northern Iraqi city of Mosul, some 400 kilometres north of Baghdad.

A total of 60 Turkish citizens have been killed in Iraq so far. — MNA/Xinhua

Poll shows Japanese Govt should withdraw troops from Iraq

TOKYO, 9 Nov — More than half the respondents to a poll said Japan’s Government should withdraw its troops from Iraq next month when the mandate for their reconstruction and humanitarian mission expires, the daily Mainichi Shimbun said on Monday.

Asked if the deployment should be extended beyond the December 14 deadline, 51 per cent said it should not while 27 per cent said it should, the paper said.

Japan’s Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, a close ally of US President George W Bush, has emphasized his determination to keep the 550 troops in southern Iraq, despite the worsening security situation.

The main opposition Democratic Party has called for the troops to come home next month and Koizumi’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is sharply divided on the issue. — MNA/Reuters

Russia launches new-generation space booster rocket

MOSCOW, 9 Nov — Russia launched a new-generation space booster rocket on Monday in a move that could eventually help send civilian cargoes into space, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The Soyuz-M2 booster lifted off from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in northwest Russia at 9:30 pm Moscow Time (1830 GMT), TASS said. It had been originally due to blast off in October.

Defence officials have said the new rocket would initially carry military satellites. If successful, it would also take commercial, civilian and scientific loads into orbit.

The move is also designed to bring most launches onto Russian territory and away from the Soviet-era base of Baikonur in Kazakhstan.

Cuba ends circulation of US dollar

HAVANA, 9 Nov — Cuba ended circulation of the dollar on Monday to reduce its vulnerability to US sanctions, and shops, restaurants, gas stations, hotels and other businesses began accepting only Cuban convertible pesos.

Cubans still have another six days to swap their dollars for the locally printed currency — pegged at par to the dollar — before facing a 10-per-cent exchange fee to be levied only on dollars, not other currencies. — MNA/Reuters

China announces grain production increase

BEIJING, 10 Nov — China’s grain production in 2004 will be substantially higher than last year, ensuring the “inevitable” realization of the anticipated goal of 455 billion kilos.

The State Council, or the central government, made the announcement at one of its latest conferences, admitting that the cheering increase of grain production is an obvious recovery from the decline of the previous years, and that gap still exists between the grain supply and demand.

“It is still an arduous and long-term task for China to encourage grain planting and safeguard grain security,” it said in a statement.

Annual grain production in China used to be around 500 billion kilos in the mid-1990s, evenly balancing the long-lasting grain shortage of the populous nation.

However, grain prices, along with grain production, have begun to drop, causing worldwide worries about a possible food crisis in China. — MNA/Xinhua

Syrian FM arrives in Ankara for talks on Iraq

ANKARA, 9 Nov — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara arrived in Ankara on Monday for talks on Iraq ahead of an international conference on the same issue scheduled later this month in Egypt.

Shara said he brought a message from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Necdet Sezer on recent developments in the Mideast region. The first international conference on Iraq is set to take place on 22-23 November in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Sheikh.

The conference, which precedes Iraq’s January elections, is to be attended by Iraq, Iraq’s neighbouring countries, China, the G-8 group of industrialized nations, the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Al-Shara will be received by President Ahmet Necdet Sezer and hold talks with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul. — MNA/Xinhua

Solanas says little prospect of Iraq holding elections on time

THE HAGUE, 9 Nov — EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, questioning the Western and Iraqi Government line, said on Monday there was little prospect of Iraq holding national elections on time in January because of deteriorating security.

“The situation from the point of view of security does not give much of a hope that that will be realized on the date,” Solana told reporters just three days after Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi gave EU leaders an upbeat forecast.

Solana said a 60-day emergency declared by Allawi to crush guerrillas would take the country almost to the date targeted for elections.

The US-backed Iraqi leader had given EU leaders “a picture of security that was probably more optimistic than the reality has shown”, the EU official said.

Solana’s cast doubt not only on US and Iraq policy but also of the official declaration of last Friday’s EU summit, which endorsed the election timetable. — MNA/Reuters

British troops guard the perimeter after a car bomb injured three Iraqi Police officers in Baissa, Iraq, last Monday, on 8 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

CUBA ENDS CIRCULATION OF US DOLLAR

US Marines take position on the northern outskirts of Fallujah on 9 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET
Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project for irrigation and power generation

Location — Sedoktara Township, Magway Division

Irrigated area — 108,000 acres

Generating Capacity — 75 megawatts

Mone Creek Dam will be able to irrigate 108,000 acres of farmlands and generate 75 megawatts.

Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project in Sedoktara Township, Magway Division.

Control Room of the hydropower station of the Mon Creek Multipurpose Dam Project.
Myogyi Dam will supply...

(from page 1)

of the building. So far, about 95 per cent of the Project has been completed.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Myogyi Dam Project near Myogyi Village in Ywangan Township, Shan State (South), which is part of the Project for Greening of Meiktila Plain. Director of the Irrigation Department U Khin Maung Chit reported on preparations for the project; and Deputy Director-General of the Water Resources Utilization Department U Hla Myint Maung, on water supply system.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed officials to ensure meeting the set standard and complete the project as scheduled.

Lying on Zawgyi River near Myogyi Village, Ywangan Township, Myogyi Dam will be 2,270 feet long and 223 feet high on completion. The earthen dam will be able to store 271,850 acre feet of water and can generate 12 megawatts.

Ayeyawady Division targets to...

(from page 1)

Departmental personnel, national entrepreneurs and locals are to cooperate in implementing all-round development of Ayeyawady Division.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented reports on efforts to be made for realization of agricultural projects and arrangements to be made for rendering assistance and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on increased livestock breeding for development of meat and fish sector and rendering assistance.


Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe presented prizes to peasants for best performance in per acre yield.

After that, officials presented prizes to winners in agriculture and livestock and breeding sectors and 31 six-distinction winners in matriculation examination 2004.

Next, an outstanding peasant expressed his thanks and the ceremony came to a close. And the commander and ministers cordially greeted those present.

Commander views harvesting and winnowing in Khayon Village in Kyaikmaraw Township

YANGON, 10 Nov —Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, accompanied by officials, on 7 November inspected the digging of 6,400-foot long outlet canal in Khayon Model Village in Kyaikmaraw Township and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the commander and party also viewed harvesting and winnowing of monsoon paddy using machinery at the field of a farmer in Khayon Model Village and ploughing to cultivate summer paddy. At the model village, the commander held a meeting with departmental officials and locals. At the meeting, an official of the Myanma Agriculture Service reported to the commander on cultivation of monsoon paddy in this rainy season, measures taken to grow summer paddy and an official of the Agricultural Mechanization Department on use of machinery in agricultural sector.

Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung urged the officials to carry out more reclamation, to boost per acre yield using quality strains and to effectively use fertilizer and machinery. After hearing reports presented by the local farmers, the commander attended to the needs.

Later, the commander proceeded to Thanlwin Bridge construction project and inspected progress of the construction of motor road, rail road and motorway and railway on the bridge. He also inspected the progress of the construction of the approach road of the Thanlwin Bridge at Mawlamyine bank and cleanliness and beautifying tasks of the Strand Road.
USDA CEC Member tours Shan State (East)

Yangon, 10 Nov—CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Thein Swe met executives of Shan State (East) USDA in Kengtung yesterday morning.

In the afternoon, the CEC Member inspected the runway extension of Kengtung Airport. After hearing reports by the officials concerned, the Minister gave instructions on security, cleanliness of the airport and its environs, good public relations with the passengers, safety measures for the planes and inter-departmental cooperation. — MNA

Secretary-General meets USDA members

Yangon, 10 Nov—Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Aung Tun and officials inspected an experimental cultivation of 201-paddy strain in Pawrithat village, Tilaw village tract, Shwenyaung township on November 7.

Next, the township manager of Myanma Agriculture Service reported to them on features of 201-paddy strain and Shweyinaye paddy strain.

And the commander and the deputy minister inspected the paddy field and gave suggestions attended to the requirements.

Afterwards, the commander attended the harvesting competition of Shweyinaye monsoon paddy in Kyaw tar maung ngie village of Shwenyaung.

At the briefing hall, the commander and the deputy minister inspected samples of Shweyinaye paddy and combined harvesters and threshers manufactured from Ayeyahya industrial zone and viewed winnowing of Shweyinaye paddy.

Next, the commander proceeded to Taunggyi where he was welcomed by Director U Thaung Sein of Rural road repaired in Taikkyi Township

Yangon, 10 Nov—Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe inspected the damaged part of a rural road in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Division.

Officials reported on arrangements to repair the damaged part of the Tawlati-Kalawthaw road. The deputy minister spoke of the need to use heavy machinery to repair the part damaged by heavy rain.

The deputy minister also inspected the repair of wooden bridge, which is 80-foot long and 12-foot wide, on Pakun creek bordering Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions. He stressed the need to ensure durability of the bridge and to prevent bank erosion.

China opens its first culture, science park

Beijing, 10 Nov—Beijing-based People’s University of China (or Renmin University) opened the nation’s first culture and science park Monday, according to sources with the university.

The park will serve as an open platform for knowledge services and become a major base for cultural industries by taking advantage of the leading academic research and human resources in the university, said officials with the university.

The park, designed mainly to develop the cultural industry, has drawn a great variety of companies from industries including publishing, mass media, information technology (IT) and finance.

The park was approved by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Science and the Beijing Municipal Education Commission in July 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

CSSTB holds 16th Kathina

Yangon, 10 Nov—The 16th communal Kathina of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board was held at its office yesterday.

Sayadaw of Thirimingala Monastery in Hline Township U Sumana and members of the Sangha, CSSTB Chairman Dr Than Nyun and members, directors-general, rectors of the departments and universities under the CSSTB and staff members attended the robe offering ceremony.

On the occasion, Dr Than Nyun, officials and staff members presented robes and offerings to the members of the Sangha and shared the merits gained.

Minister inspects basic education high schools in Amarapura Township

Yangon, 10 Nov—Minister for Education U Than Aung, accompanied by officials, met the Township Education Officer, the headmistress, teachers, parents of the students, and members of the school board of trustees at Shwekyetayet affiliated Basic Education High School in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning.

The Minister elaborated on arrangements made by the State for creation of opportunities for students to study for raising the education standard of the entire people, and opening of new schools in rural areas.

AIDS Control Work Committee meets

Yangon, 10 Nov—AIDS Control Work Committee of the Ministry of Health held a meeting at the National Health Committee Office here today.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo made a speech at the meeting. Officials reported on implementation of the resolutions of the previous meeting and in launching the anti-AIDS and anti-VD drives.

Those present at the meeting also discussed work done and future programmes.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
Fourth estate will lose original aim if press freedom has negative effects on national interest

Minister hopes the course will produce good journalists who serve the interest of the nation and people

YANGON, 10 Nov—The conclusion of journalism course No 1/2004 conducted by the Ministry of Information was held at the training hall of The New Light of Myanmar on Strand Road in Botataung Township, this afternoon, with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

In his address Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said the course is much important for the nation and people and the department and the media world; and it also benefits the trainees.

He said the course was conducted with three aims—improvement of basic journalism and newspaper publishing, work efficiency and correct mental attitude for trainees and publication of quality newspapers in the service of the nation and people.

He urged the trainees to try to follow these aims and realize them.

He said the lectures at the course included political, economic, social and international affairs such as national politics and Our Three Main National Causes, the twelve objectives, the press ethics, the history of news and periodicals, foreign policy, news coverage, news reporting and articles and general knowledge.

Continuing, he said, newspaper has been a mass media since many years ago. Newspapers still play an important role in building a peaceful, modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

He expressed hope that the course would produce good journalists who serve the interest of the nation and its people.

He spoke of the need for the trainees to apply the theoretical knowledge gained at the course and put it into practice and work with high quality of journalism.

It is important for the journalism world to use media as a weapon. A nation must use the four pillars to develop itself and to ensure peace and stability and rights for every citizen.

The fourth estate or the media has to help steer all the three other pillars, namely, the legislative, the judiciary and the executive. If freedom of press goes beyond its boundary, harming the interest of the nation and people, politics, administration and economy, the fourth estate will lose its original aims.

Thus, the fourth estate must be established to stand for interest of the nation and the people correctly.

Personnel of the profession will have to pay serious attention to observing and materializing the ministry’s objectives, which are, to lend a helping hand in the successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map and convening of the National Convention successfully; to strive for media to cover the whole nation; to extend the nation’s media to penetrate foreign countries; and for media to become dynamic and efficient.

In conclusion, the minister urged the trainees to strive to realize the three aims of the course, to extend the nation’s media to border areas and foreign countries, to exert efforts to sharpen the efficiency of the media, to use innovative methods for the dynamism of the media, and to serve the interest of the nation and people.

After the speech, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein presented prizes to trainees for their outstanding performances.

Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win presented certificates to the trainees through their leader. The managing director also presented gifts to course instructors.

The minister and party viewed the newspapers published by the trainees, their media works and documentary photos.

Present on the occasion were the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, advisers, directors of News and Periodicals Enterprise, head of office of the Ministry of Information, chief editors, managers, Patron and President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, veteran journalists, the principal of journalism training school and course instructors.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein presents prize (cooperation) to U Moe Kyaw of the Bureau of Special Investigation. MNA

Deputy Minister U Thein Sein presents prize (news collection) to Daw Lat Lat Nyin, Proof Reader of Myanmar Alin Daily. MNA
In Myanmar at present, there are about 380 township libraries opened and run by the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information. The IPRD has opened free public libraries in almost every town in the nation, with the aim of enhancing the knowledge of the people of all ages. They are open every day except Sunday. Each library carries from 3,000 to 30,000 different kinds of books.

However, 380 libraries are still not enough for over 53 million people of Myanmar. Departments, wards, schools and military units also have their own libraries, and their development and effectiveness depend on the ability and goodwill of the head of the respective bodies or wards.

There may be one-thousand or two-thousand other libraries in addition to IPRD libraries. But are they enough for the population of Myanmar? There are over 37 million rural people in Myanmar and most of them do not have access to books.

The number of books published annually and the number of journals in circulation monthly or weekly are increasing significantly when compared to those in 1988.

Let alone books, some villages do not even get daily or journals. But now they are establishing libraries on self-reliant basis. Up to 12 October, the number of self-reliant rural libraries reached 9,355, up from just over 2,000 in 2003.

Thanks to the ardent efforts of youths under the assistance of local authorities, children are reading more and more books. Rural people of all ages are hungry for knowledge. A man may lead a miserable life not because of lack of wealth, but because of poor knowledge. Besides, he may meet his end as a worthless person for this reason. Because of his poor knowledge, he will meet with unnecessary sufferings leading to an early death.

Knowledge can be found in books. And it can be gained through books at small cost or even free. With nearly 10,000 rural and ward libraries set up on self-reliant basis, we can say that we are now launching a knowledge revolution.

We should have the desire to read to extend our scope of knowledge. So we must set up libraries and must collect books by all possible ways and means. After reading books, we will have to make wider discussions among ourselves to enhance our knowledge and to use the knowledge effectively, and to disseminate the ever advancing science in the whole country, especially in villages. We will have to compete with other nations.

Moreover, we should always be in touch with the advanced technologies and sciences. We will have to conduct scientific farming, facilitate transport, and increase quality production significantly to penetrate foreign markets.

We should prepare to compete with others in exporting any kind of product whether it be agricultural produce or fish or meat and to compete with other countries. And they are the challenges we have to face. We must try to continue our existence in this age of globalization.

But globalization has seen the unjust and cruel domination of the strong over the weak. But we the Myanmar people never have any wish to intrude upon others, nor have they yielded to the domination of others. And that is the inborn national spirit of Myanmar people.

We have safeguarded our independence since the time of our forefathers. But if lost, we will have to restore independence risking many lives and much blood. So, we need to improve our knowledge to be able to safeguard our independence. International incidents stand witness to the fact that independence can be lost all of a sudden.

Thus, it is the most fundamental and important task for all the people to nurture themselves to have advanced knowledge and visions for the nation to always stand tall as an independent and sovereign nation in the world. The poisoning of the food may kill five or six people at the table. But poisoning of minds may make the entire people live as slaves oblivious to their true situation.

The colonialist media enjoying superiority in techniques and technology never hesitate to make a mountain out of a mole hill. They can apply various means to deceive others. Thus, we need to possess knowledge to protect ourselves from their perpetration.

The colonialist media enjoying superiority in

**Activities for rural knowledge banks**

Chit Naing (Psychology)

In Myanmar at present, there are about 380 township libraries opened and run by the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information. The IPRD has opened free public libraries in almost every town in the nation, with the aim of enhancing the knowledge of the people of all ages. They are open every day except Sunday. Each library carries from 3,000 to 30,000 different kinds of books.

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The colonialist media enjoying superiority in techniques and technology never hesitate to make a mountain out of a mole hill. They can apply various means to deceive others. Thus, we need to possess knowledge to protect ourselves from their perpetration.

As such, all the national people of Myanmar should have clear and correct knowledge, so that they may be able to see things in their true light, realize the wickedness of persons in advance, and see their own future clearly. If they can think freely, they will be able to differentiate between right and wrong, justice and injustice, good and bad.

From thousand years ago, the Myanmar people have their own country and culture. Because Myanmars were backward for the entire 19th Century they had to pay much for it until falling under subjugation. Only after struggling for over 100 years did the nation was able to restore independence in the 20th Century.

In this 21st Century, the nation is still facing the danger of being exploited totally by others if the people lack knowledge and unity. We all have already seen and heard the terrible intrusion and domination launched on all fronts. We need to know and avoid the danger in advance.

People need to have knowledge and vision. Thus, an ardent national drive is required to maintain libraries for long-term existence because nothing is more valuable than knowledge.

Books can give people new and better ideas and thoughts, the foundation to uplift the social conditions. But people will have to read books of various subjects and fields according to their field of work and personal interest.

But the setting up of more and more libraries is a long-term task, which needs constant encourage-ment and support. With much patience and zeal we need to find ways to amend the required parts. We accept libraries as the valuable heritage for posterity. So, it is the duty of all to maintain the momentum of establishing more and more libraries. The nation will develop only if the majority have become educated and possess greater knowledge.

(Translation: TMT)

Microsoft to pay $536m to end dispute with Novell

WASHINGTON, 9 Nov - Microsoft Corp announced Monday it would pay $536 million US dollars to its rival Novell Inc to resolve an anti-trust dispute between the two software giants.

Novell Inc’s Netware operating system and WordPerfect business software compete directly with Microsoft products.

Novell agreed to withdraw its claims over the damaging effect of Microsoft products on Novell’s Netware operating system and halt its case against Microsoft lodged at the European Commission.

However the two companies were unable to reach agreement over anti-trust claims relating to Novell’s WordPerfect business software.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing to keep population within 18 million by 2020

BEIJING, 9 Nov — Facing increasing pressure of resources restriction, the Chinese capital plans to slow down its population growth in order to make the city more life friendly, according to a city plan for 2004-2020.

The long-term plan, a fundamental document to guide the city’s development in the next 16 years, says the city will try to keep its population growth within 18 million by 2020, which means the city’s annual population growth rate will be lowered to 1.4 per cent from the current 2.5 per cent.

Beijing has about 14.5 million people living in Beijing, three million of whom are outsiders without permanent residence registration in the city, according to Monday’s China Daily.

Experts have long appealed for the city’s population to be kept in line with the capacity of its resources, including land, energy and water.

For instance, Beijing is seriously lacking in water. Its annual water availability per capita is less than 300 cubic metres, some one-third of the international level.

Some experts estimate that the city’s water resources can only bear at most 17 to 18 million people.

Beijing has undergone rapid expansion that far exceeded expectation in the past decade.

According to the old city plan made in 1993, the city predicted 14 million residents by 2004. However, the target figure was reached last year, 37 years earlier than expected.

And the number of vehicles in the city exceeded 2.2 million by June this year, far higher than the 1.3 million planned for 2010 by the old plan.

As a result, the city had to revise city plans early this year, and Beijing is now producing the concept of “building a society suitable for living” for the first time.

Besides slowing down the population growth figures, the revised plan, made public Monday, stresses the role of “satellite towns” to alleviate pressure on central areas.

MNA/Xinhua

DIPAVALLI SWEETS & LEADING STORE
MALAYSIA IVEHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED

INVITATION TO TENDERS FOR THE PURCHASE OF EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT

MICCL invites sealed tender applications for the purchase of four Excavators and two Bulldozers for the Sabutagba open-pit mine operations, at the S & K Mine Site, S & K Mine, Monywa, Myanmar.

1. FOUR TRACKED EXCAVATORS Specifications:

- Caterpillar D Series II or equivalent
- Heavy-duty wide undercarriage
- Low ground pressure tracks (Ground pressure ~ 53 KPa)
- Heavy-duty bucket with a width of ~1820mm and a shaped capacity of ~2.6 cubic-metres

2. TWO TRACKED BULLDOZERS Specifications:

- Caterpillar DTR or equivalent
- Universal dozing blade with a capacity of approximately 8 cubic-metres
- Adjustable parallellogram ripper
- Low ground pressure tracks (Ground pressure ~ 46KPa)

all equipment must be new and under full manufacturer’s warranty. Availability of finance terms from vender will be considered in determining the most suitable bid. Lowest price may not necessarily be the bid accepted.

Bidding documents will be available on payment of US$200 (in FEC) from the following address during office hours between 10 am and 5 pm from 15th November 2004. Tender closing date is 29th November 2004 at 4 pm.

Tender application for the purchase of S & K earthmoving equipment 70t(1), Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlang Township, Yangon (Phone: 951-514194 to 951-514197. Fax: 951-514208)

General Manager,
Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited.

BIMHANSHAD, 9 Nov — British businesses need to be aware of the ‘serious and sustained’ threat terror to Britain and its interest abroad, the head of Britain’s security service said on Monday.

While al-Qaeda has been weakened by deaths and arrests of senior members round the world since September 11, 2001, it is still able to attack British interests, MI5 director-general Eliza Manningham-Buller told a business conference.

“There is a serious and sustained threat of terrorism attacks against Britain interests at home and abroad, including against the business community,” the spy chief said in prepared remarks at the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) meeting.

“There might be major attacks like Madrid earlier this year. They might be on a smaller scale,” she said.

Manningham-Buller’s remarks, to a panel advising businesses on how to deal with a wide range of security threats, were the latest in a series of warnings from British officials that a terrorist attack on British soil was inevitable.

Britain is considered a top target for radicals due to its support of US President George W Bush, particularly in Iraq.

Although there has been no attack on British soil, the threat to British targets was dramatically illustrated last year when a suicide bombing at a consulate in Turkey that killed 17 people including Consul General Roger Shuttle.

Manningham-Buller said the British counter-terrorism response since September 11 has been effective, there was better intelligence and cooperation and plots had been disrupted. — MNA/Reuters

Indonesia, Singapore to enhance bilateral cooperation

JAKARTA, 9 Nov — Indonesian PresidentMegawati Sukarnoputri and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong agreed on Monday to enhance bilateral co-operation.

To achieve the goal, Susilo said he would establish a joint council to discuss bilateral relations on a high level. “All these demonstrate the strong commitment of PM Lee and I to work together to strengthen our relationship between the two close neighbours,” Susilo told a joint Press conference.

“My part I expressed my hope that the joint coordination council (JCC) can be established in the near future for the council to start its work in managing the ranging bilateral issues,” he said.

Susilo said that they also agreed to enhance consultation and co-operation to strengthen ASEAN. “We are committed to work together for the ASEAN community, which includes the ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Social Cultural Community,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian population at 25.7 million

Kuala Lumpur, 9 Nov — Malaysia had a population of 25.7 million by September 2004, an increase of 2.8 per cent over the figure of last year, according to figures from the Department of Statistics.

The department’s Statistical Bulletin released Monday shows the total population includes 24 million citizens and 1.7 million foreign nationals. The number of males had increased from 12,751,900 last year to 13,093,300 in September this year. Of this total, 12,137,900 are citizens, while 955,400 are foreign nationals.

The number females however is slightly lower, having increased from 12,296,400 to 12,624,700 over the same period. Of this number, citizens comprise 11,868,200, while 756,400 are foreign nationals, according to the statistical Bulletin.

MNA/Xinhua

HIV tests proposed for asylum seekers in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, 9 Nov — Sweden’s Integration Board has proposed obligatory HIV tests for all asylum seekers as part of a larger general health check-up, Radio Sweden reported on Monday.

The reason behind the proposal is the increased number of HIV cases in Sweden. Last year, 379 people were infected with the virus, the largest number in recent years, with the majority of those cases among new immigrants to this country.

Some are critical of the proposal. Pehr Olov Pehrsson, a senior physician, said: “this is a dangerous path to go down.” If asylum-seekers are found to have HIV and are sent home, there is no guarantee that they will leave the country, while there, in Sweden, treatment could be provided.” — MNA/Xinhua
Spain, Germany to boost military cooperation

_**Madrid, 9 Nov**— Spain and Germany agreed to boost cooperation in defence at a summit meeting Monday between Spanish Prime Minister Rodriguez Zapatero and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in the northern Spanish city of Leon._

According to the deal, Germany would extend to year 2016 a loan of 108 Germany-made Leopard armoured combat vehicles, and Spain would pledge to strengthen its relations with the German defence industry.

Schroeder told a joint Press conference that Spain has done “a good business” for the Spanish side can keep the tanks after the agreement expires.

“We generally want to strengthen military cooperation,” Schroeder said in Leon, some 290 kilometres northwest of the Spanish capital.

Zapatero said Spain, which is modernizing its Armed Forces, has a “clear” will to reinforce military relations with France and Germany.

The two leaders also agreed to undertake a flexible approach to the financial rules set down by the European Union.

“We are a government that believes in budget stability but we understand that we must be flexible in terms of the Stability Pact,” Zapatero told the news conference.

The European Union’s 2007–2013 budget was also on the agenda. Schroeder said the two countries should work to “match” their interests and reach “reasonable solutions” regarding the distribution of community funds.

Spain has received billions of dollars in development aid from Brussels since it joined the bloc in 1986 and it fears that it may lose out to new EU members.

The German Government does not want a confrontation with Spain over the budget, said Schroeder, admitting the negotiations are difficult.

“We need to give both parties time. There is not going to be any pressure from either of us,” he said.

The reduction of funds received by Spain should be “progressive”, said Zapatero, adding the Spanish Government, with an open attitude, is willing to see a reasonable balance in the distribution of funds.

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Nigeria, China hold talks on bilateral ties

_**Abuja, 9 Nov**— Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo held talks here Monday morning with visiting top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo, focusing on strengthening bilateral ties._

The two exchanged views and reached consensus on Sino-Nigerian relations, Sino-African ties and international and regional issues of common concern.

Obasanjo expressed warm welcome to Wu, who was on a four-nation Africa tour, and asked Wu to convey his greetings to Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), conveyed the greetings from Hu to his Nigerian counterpart and Hu’s invitation to Obasanjo to visit China next year in the capacity of both chairman of the African Union and Nigerian President.

Wu also appreciated Obasanjo, an old friend of China, for his contribution to improving the friendship between the two peoples as he, together with Chinese leaders, established directed for bilateral ties development and laid a solid foundation for sustainable, healthy and stable development of bilateral relations during his previous visits to China. He said that the two peoples have cherished profound traditional friendship and Sino-Nigerian relations have been developing smoothly.

“The Chinese side is satisfied with the smooth development of bilateral ties,” Wu said, adding that the two countries have strong economic complementarity in trade and economic cooperation. China’s new leaders attach great importance to development of Sino-Nigerian relations and are willing to join hands with the Nigerian side to increase exchanges and cooperation in all sectors between the two countries, he said.

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Vietnam needs huge investment to develop shipbuilding industry

_**Hanoi, 9 Nov**— Vietnam needs over 1.4 billion US dollars to develop its shipbuilding industry this year, according to local newspaper Liberation Saigon on Monday._

Under a national shipbuilding development plan, the industry needs over 1.4 billion dollars to renovate technologies, repair and build seagoing vessels with large capacity in the 2002-2010 period. Of the capital, nearly 51.8 million US dollars will come from foreign loans.

Vietnam is to start building ships with 100,000 dead weight tons (DWT) next year. Its shipping firms are estimated to need 150 new vessels with total loading capacity of 3.6 million tons from 2006 to 2010.

The country’s largest shipbuilder, state-owned Vietnam Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (Vinashin), has recently accessed China’s preferential loans of 99.8 million dollars to build a big shipyard in the central province of Quang Ngai.

After becoming operational in 2008, the Dung Quat shipyard will be able to construct seagoing vessels with 300,000 DWT and repair 600,000 DWT ships.

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Vietnam disposes biggest bomb ever found in Indochina

_**Hanoi, 9 Nov**— Vietnamese has succeeded in disposing a bomb weighing 5.5 tons, the biggest bomb found in Indochina._

An expert panel, consisting of 12 popular scientists and film producers, have narrowed the selection to 68 films, which were produced after 2002, from 79 production companies in 19 countries.

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Beijing Int’l Scientific Film Festival begins

_**Beijing, 9 Nov**— A total of 184 scientific films, such as “16 Days”: Columbia’s “Final Mission”, “Mimotaur” and “Explore the Death Valley”, are to be shown at the 2004 Beijing International Scientific Film Festival, which began here Monday morning.

The festival organizers, the China Association for Science and Technology and the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, selected all the 184 films, which were produced after 2002, from 79 production companies in 19 countries.

An expert panel, consisting of 12 popular scientists and film producers, have narrowed the selection to 68 films, which are eligible for the grand prize and other awards.

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Logistics Development Conference held in Macao

_**Macao, 9 Nov**— The Logistics Cooperation and Development Conference among China’s Mainland, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan was opened here in Macao Monday. The two-day conference convened over 400 industry insiders to discuss the prospect of cross-border cooperation in logistics flow._

Participants to the meeting held that the Mainland’s endorsement of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) with Hong Kong and Macao, and the signing of a framework agreement for the cooperation in the Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) region has brought new tasks and unprecedented opportunities for the development of logistics industry in the region.— MNA/Xinhua

Cables for the media: Cables are displayed on the road to bring electricity to the media caravans parked in the street of the Percy military hospital in the Paris southwestern suburb of Clamart on 7 Nov, 2004. — Internet

Doggy fashion: A dog sports a winter coat made from bobcat fur during a dog fashion show in Moscow on 8 Nov, 2004.— Internet
Six Greeks nominated for European footballer of the year
PARIS, 10 Nov—Six Greek players have been nominated among 50 footballers in an initial list for the European Footballer of the Year award, the web site of sports daily L’Equipe said on Monday.

Traianos Dellas, Angelos Charisteas, Michalis Kapas, Antonis Nikolopoulos, Youkakis Seitidis and Theodoros Zagorakis are named for the continental award after Greece made history with their Euro 2004 triumph in Portugal in June.

Six French players, including Real Madrid’s Zinedine Zidane and Arsenal duo Thierry Henry and Patrick Vieira, are also in line for the award, along with seven Brazilians.

The 2004 winner of the Golden Ball as the European Footballer of the Year, to be announced in December, will be decided by a poll of European soccer journalists from 52 countries published by France Football magazine. Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved of Juventus won the award last year.—MNA/Xinhua

Edu suffers broken toe
LONDON, 10 Nov—Arsenal’s Brazilian international midfielder Edu suffered a broken toe in their League Cup fourth round 3-1 victory over Everton at Highbury on Tuesday.

“He played very well but now has a broken bone on his toe,” said manager Arsene Wenger after the Premier League champions lost to a second-string side that beat experienced Everton at Highbury.

“It’s the right foot. I don’t know how long he will be out. It’s the bad news of the night,” Edu limped off in the 65th minute to be replaced by Sebastian Larsson, but Everton manager David Moyes thought the Brazilian was fortunate to stay on the pitch in the first half.

Edu’s two-footed challenge on James McFadden got him booked and led to some shoving before referee Alan Wiley had to intervene to calm things down.

“The match could have changed if Edu was sent off in the first half,” said a disappointed Moyes. “We were 1-0 up and things could have changed definitely.”—MNA/Reuters

British-US consortium will buy Leeds United
LONDON, 10 Nov—Leeds United should be sold to a British-American consortium by Friday afternoon, the English Premier League club and buyers said in a joint statement on Tuesday.

It said the consortium, Nova Financial Partners and Sebastian Sainsbury, had agreed to transfer 25 million pounds (£10.1 million US dollars) into Leeds’ lawyers’ account by close of business on Thursday.

“Provided the funds are verified, Nova confirmed it would complete a deal with the Club on or before 1 pm on Friday 12th November,” added the statement.

Leeds chairman Gerald Krasner said: “The intention of the Board is to secure the best possible future for the Club and we look forward to completing a successful deal on Friday.”

The Yorkshire club, one of the great names in English soccer, were top of the Premier League in January 2002 but fell into the second division after being forced to sell top players to service debts estimated at 80 million pounds.

The dominant club in the English game in the late 1960s and early 1970s, they reached the Champions League semi-finals in 2001 before financial profligacy caught up with the club.

They teetered on the edge of financial collapse earlier this year and were relegated from the Premier League in May.

Sainsbury, great-grandson of the founder of the British supermarket chain that bears his name, said he wants to rid the club of its debts and prevent the Elland Road stadium from being sold.

“We can build this club back up and take it back to the level it was at in the 1970s. That’s my objective,” he declared last month.—MNA/Reuters

Benfica’s Gomes sprains left knee
LISBON, 10 Nov—Benfica striker Nuno Gomes sprained his left knee during a league match at the weekend but will not need surgery, the Portuguese league leaders said in a statement on Monday.

The Portugal international was hurt in a clash with Vitória Setúbal goalkeeper Marco Tabuas during Benfica’s 4-0 win on Sunday, and a medical examination confirmed he had suffered a sprained left knee.

The 28-year-old, however, did not need surgery, according to the club’s statement. It was not disclosed how long he might be out of action.

MNA/Xinhua

Colombian venues for S American sub-20 C’ship approved
BOGOTA, 10 Nov—The South American Soccer Confederation (CONMEBOL) approved two Colombian cities as venues for the coming South American under-20 championship.

According to the CONMEBOL decision, the tournament would be held from January 12 to February 6, 2005, in the cities of Armenia, Pereira and Manizales, all of them in central-west Colombia.

The president of the Colombian Soccer Federation, Oscar Astudillo, said on Monday that CONMEBOL officials approved two Colombian cities as venues for the coming South American under-20 championship.

Hilde Nejar and Romer Osuna, approved the two cities but ruled out the city of Tunja.

Astudillo explained that the CONMEBOL officials said that both coaches and physical trainers would comply about same-day trips between the cities.

The federation chief said that “in no way this decision has to do with problems of organization or infrastructure or, as suggested, that this was a reflection for the resignation of Gabriel Camargo to the Executive Committee of the Federation”. According to the source, CONMEBOL will release within days the official competition schedule of the 10-team men’s tournament.—MNA/Xinhua

Mutu fires agents
BUCHAREST, 10 Nov—Banned Romanian striker Adrian Mutu, dismissed by English Premier League club Chelsea for taking cocaine, fired his agents on Monday.

“Mutu came to our office and told us of his decision not to cooperate with our company any more,” agent Gheorghe Popescu told Reuters. “He did not give any reason for his decision.”

The player, represented until Monday by Popescu and Becali Sport Management company, said he had decided “to give other people a chance” to represent him.

The 25-year-old was banned for seven months by the English Football Association last week for failing a drugs test.

Giovani Becali, one of Mutu’s now dismissed agents, confirmed last month that Mutu had taken cocaine and that Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho asked for the doping test because he had suspected the Romanian striker.

Southampton crash 5-2 at Watford in League Cup
LONDON, 10 Nov—Premier League Southampton crashed 5-2 at Second Division Watford while Tottenham Hotspur gave new manager Martin Jol the perfect start with a 3-0 win at Burnley in League Cup fourth round action on Tuesday.

Arsenal’s youngsters joined their north London rivals in the quarterfinals after a battling 3-1 win over Everton at Highbury while fellow Premier League side Portsmouth overcame Second Division Cardiff City 2-0 at Ninian Park.

Southampton’s embarrassing collapse at Vicarage Road increases the pressure on under-fire manager Steve Wigley after just one victory in 12 league games this season.

Southampton’s manager put Watford ahead just before the break with a header but the visitor’s troubles really began six minutes into the second half when James Chambers volleyed home from close range before adding his second just after the hour mark.

Heidar Helguson struck another volley four minutes later to make it 4-0 and although Southampton pulled a goal back through Dexter Blackstock their defence was undone again as Hameur Bouazza volleyed Watford’s fifth goal six minutes from time.

Brett Ormerod’s late strike to make it 5-2 was little comfort to Wigley who must now prepare his shell-shocked team for a local Premier League derby at home to Portsmouth on Saturday.

A double from Robbie Keane and another strike from Jermain Defoe gave Tottenham’s new Dutch manager Jol the tonic he needed after a controversial week at the club following former France coach Jacques Santini’s shock decision to quit on Friday.

MNA/Reuters
China becomes world’s second diamond processing base

BEIJING, 10 Nov.—With an annual export of over three million carats, or nearly one billion US dollars’ worth of diamond, China has become the world’s second largest diamond processing base, said Jiao Jianqun, official with the trade department of the General Administration of Customs.

Meanwhile, along with the rapid consuming techniques in diamond processing and the ever-improving living standards of the Chinese people, China has become the largest diamond consumption nation in Asia and the fifth largest diamond consumption country in the world, Beijing Youth Daily quoted Jiao as saying on Tuesday.

According to Jiao, sales volume of diamond ornaments amounted to 19.6 billion yuan (2.37 billion US dollars) in China mainland in 2003. Diamonds processed in China, with their unique favour, are called by the international diamond circle as “China craft”, comparing with “Belgium craft” and “Israel craft” as the world’s most superb technique in the trade.

Statistics from the General Administration of Customs showed that China imported 11.44 million carats of raw diamond in 2003, and exported 3.3 million processed diamond with an export volume of 803 million US dollars during the same period.

In the first nine months of 2004, export volume of processed diamonds reached 788 million US dollars. The anticipated export volume for the whole year was more than one billion dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai Airways Granted Cambodian airport service contract

PHNOM PENH, 10 Nov.—Cambodia on Tuesday held a grand ceremony here to mark the country’s 51st Independence Day.

King Norodom Sihamoni presided over the celebration and lighted the ceremonial flame on the monument. More than 3,000 local people from all walks of life and diplomats participated in the ceremony.

Prime Minister Hun Sen and Senior President Chea Sim also attended the event.

The 51-year-old King greeted the people along the road, where local people flocked to welcome the new King and touched his hands.

This is the first time for King Sihamoni to pay a visit for the Independence Day festivities after he ascended to the throne on October 24.

— MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Wednesday, 10 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Southern Shan State and weather has been partly cloudy in Chin and Rakhine States, Mawgaw, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and fair in the remaining areas. Night temperature were (3°C) above normal in Mandalay and Tanintharyi Divisions, (3°C) below normal in Chin State and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 9-11-2004 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 10-11-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-11-2004 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 9-11-2004 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 10-11-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-11-2004 was (112.24) inches at Yangon Airport, (106.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.64) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from North-west at (13:20) hours MST on 9-11-2004.

Bay influence: Weather is cloudy to cloudy in South Andaman Sea and South-West Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 11-11-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in Kachin, Chin and eastern Shan States, Sagaing and Manda- lay Divisions and fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas.

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

Yangon Command wins C-in-C's Shield in Tatmadaw Judo & Acrobatics Contest

YANGON, 10 Nov — The Commander-in-Chief’s Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) Judo and Acrobatics (2004) took place at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thauwunna here this afternoon.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, senior military officers, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htai, commanding officers of regiments and units, other ranks and their families, members of social organizations.

After the final matches, senior military officers presented prizes to the winners. Brig-Gen Myo Myint presented shield for basic and higher level acrobatics to Yangon Division, shield for Judo (novice division) to Central Command, shield for Judo (B division) to Yangon Division, shield for Judo (A division) to Yangon Division. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented championship shield for judo and acrobatics and championship shield for judo to Yangon Command. MNA

Minister Inspects Maubin Paper Mill

YANGON, 10 Nov — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Hay Oo on 8 November met with local farmers, departmental officials and members of Union Solidarity and Development Association at Samalauk Village in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division and discussed matters on boosting production of crops, reducing the cost of cultivation as well as double cropping.

Afterwards, the minister viewed the harvesting of monsoon paddy, winnowing, land declaration for soy bean and cultivation of matpe.

Next, the minister and party proceeded to Maubin Paper Mill of the Myanma Jute Enterprise in Maubin Township and supervised the trial-run of the mill. Factory Manager briefed the minister on measures taken to boost production of high quality paper. At the mill, the minister urged the officials concerned to see to the worksite safety, to minimize wastage and to produce finished goods from by-products.

Modern machinery installed at the factory utilizes the entire jute plant as raw material.

The factory now produces 5,000 tons of quality paper annually. Managing Director of MJE Col Ye Phone Myint said.

Later, the minister held discussions with farmers on matters regarding monsoon, summer and jute cultivation and inspected thriving paddy cultivation in Maubin Township. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hay Oo inspects Maubin Paper Mill near Pantaput Village, Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Division, on 8-11-2004. — MNA

Drilling of natural gas starts at Well No Shwe-2

YANGON, 10 Nov — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Hay and officials attended a ceremony to start drilling of Well No Shwe-2 in Block A-1 in Rakhine Offshore, yesterday.

Chairman of Daewoo International Corporation E&P Myanmar Dr Su Yeong Yang and officials of the Ministry of Energy explained the operation.

In January 2004, Well No Shwe-1 was drilled and natural gas was struck at the depth between 10,035 ft and 10,104 ft. Daily production then was 32 million cubic feet. According to geological survey, it was estimated that the well can produce four to six trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The well No Shwe-2 was drilled for confirmation of the estimated deposits.

The drilling ship, Frontier Duchess, will start drilling and testing at the well No Shwe-2 to be completed within 53 days. The ship will also survey geological conditions in Block A-1 and will complete its operations at the end of December 2004.

Another drilling ship, Southern Cross, will continue its operations at Well No Shwe-3 in early December 2005.

The ministry is making arrangements to seek foreign markets for natural gas to be produced from Block A-1 and to meet local demand. — MNA

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