

US may keep 145,000 troops in Iraq up to 5 years: Myers

AFP, Washington

A force of 145,000 US troops may be needed in Iraq for as many as five years, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff General Richard Myers said Thursday.

"We can do that and we've got plans to do that for as long as it takes, because this will be event-driven, not time-line driven," the told PBS television.

The US military announced earlier in the week it will recall around 5,600 troops who already served in Iraq for support and logistics duty, and Myers said the call-back was needed to beef up current troop strength.

"We're a 20th-century force in a 21st-century security environment," he said.

"In the meantime, we have to rely on other tools," he said.

"It will take six months, a year, a year-and-a-half, two years, three years, probably four or five years before we get this force set to have the kind of skills where we need them to do the kind of things we need to do in this security environment," he said.

Pentagon may release some Guantanamo Bay detainees

AP, Washington

The Pentagon might release some Guantanamo Bay detainees deemed not to pose a security threat without first giving them access to civilian courts, a spokesman said Thursday.

Larry Di Rita, chief spokesman for Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, told a news conference that no final decisions have been made about how the government will respond to Supreme Court decisions this week requiring that detainees be given a way to challenge their incarceration.

But he said it was possible that if it could be determined some people need not be held then they also need not necessarily be part of a judicial process, he said.



Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam distributes saplings to Rotary Club President Mohammad Alimullah at the free sapling distribution programme of British American Tobacco Bangladesh at the Plant and Planters Nursery in the city recently.

Vitamins may slow progress of Aids virus: Study

REUTERS, Boston

A daily multivitamin tablet may slow the progress of the Aids virus and allow doctors to delay treatment of the deadly disease, according to a study that may prove especially helpful in developing countries where resources are scarce.

B Vitamins, along with vitamins C and E, may also reduce the symptoms of the disease, including fatigue, nausea, vomiting, difficulty swallowing, and mouth and stomach problems, the study found.

But the test of 1,078 pregnant women in Tanzania also found that vitamin A seems to counteract the benefits of giving the supplements.

About 40 million people are infected with HIV, the Aids virus, and less than 8 percent of the people who should be getting treatments actually are.

"Multivitamin supplements delay the progression of HIV disease and provide an effective, low-cost means of delaying the initiation of antiretroviral therapy in HIV-infected women," said the research team, led by Wafae Fawzi of the Harvard School of Public Health.

The effect of the multivitamin was strongest during the first two years, according to the Fawzi team.

Although the benefits of multivitamin therapy, which cost about \$15 per year, were statistically significant, they were not dramatic.

The chance of dying or developing an advanced case of HIV was 24.7 percent among the vitamin recipients, compared to 31.3 percent among women who received placebo tablets instead.

The researchers said the recipients of the vitamin supplements tended to have higher levels of disease-fighting cells and lower levels of HIV virus particles in the blood.

But in cases where vitamin A had been added to the treatment, the benefit faded and those women fared about as well as the volunteers getting placebos.

Mars once had rainfall

AFP, Paris

Mars was not only awash with water, it also once had rainfall, according to a French study.

The evidence comes from infrared imaging, which probed under dust deposited over the millions of years and found dense networks of dry valleys, whose branching bear the hallmarks of having been carved out by rain.

The research, published in the US journal Science, could prompt a rewrite of the Martian history books, for it suggests the planet had a longer "summer" than anyone thought.

The conventional theory is that Mars had a balmy climate during its infancy, a period called the Noachian era, in which vast volumes of water

flowed on its surface, cutting valleys and eroding the craters left by asteroids.

Then, around 3.6 billion years ago -- coincidentally, just when the first signs of life emerged on Earth -- the planet froze, entering the so-called Hesperian epoch, which lasted around half a billion years.

What remained as water has almost always been locked up as ice, either at the poles or (so it is hoped) close to the surface, according to this theory.

The French study, led by Nicolas Mangold of the University of Paris South, contends though that the rain-carved valleys date from near the end of the Hesperian -- at a time when the temperature was, supposedly, far too cold to permit precipitation.

Unesco adds 13 new sites to heritage list

AFP, Beijing

North Korea was awarded its first-ever site on the Unesco World Heritage List as a total of 13 new cultural sites around the world were named to the list during an ongoing conference in Suzhou, China, Unesco said in a statement yesterday.

The cities and tombs of the Koguryo Kingdom that spanned the Korean peninsula and parts of present-day northeastern China from 277 BC to 668 AD won separate listings for both China and North Korea on the prestigious list Thursday, the statement said.

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) also placed the Madriu-Claror-Perafita Valley on the list, giving Andorra its first-ever listing.

China was also honored with extensions to existing heritage sites of the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties and Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, it said.

So far at the ongoing conference, 21 new sites have been added to the list out of some 48 that have applied. Friday will mark the final day for new listings this year.

The other 10 newly listed World Heritage Sites include the following: Australia - Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens.

India - Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park.

India - Chhatrapati Shivaji

Station (formerly Victoria Terminus) Islamic Republic of Iran - Pasargadae, capital of ancient Persia Japan - Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range.

Jordan - The archaeological site of Umm al-Rasas (Kastron Mefaa).

Kazakhstan - Petroglyphs within the Archaeological Landscape of Timgaly.

Mongolia - Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape.

Norway - Vega Archipelago.

The Russian Federation - Ensemble of the Novodevichy Convent.

Earlier this week five new natural sites and three other cultural sites were added to the World Heritage List.

Listing -- based on the uniqueness and quality of the sites as well as how well-protected they are -- is significant mainly for stepping up government-funding for the sites and drawing in tourists.

The conference is also reviewing the List of World Heritage in Danger, which currently features 35 sites.

These are sites that are seriously threatened by industry or mining, pollution, looting, war, uncontrolled tourism, poaching, and other problems.

The list includes sites such as the Minaret and the Archeological Remains of Jam in Afghanistan as well as the ancient desert city of Timbuktu in Mali.



Bangladesh Chhatra League took out a procession in the city yesterday in support of today's hartal.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Senior Jail Super Central Jail, Mymensingh Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from jail enlisted first class contractors for purchase of raw materials & spare parts of Production Department at Mymensingh Central Jail from 01-07-2004 to 30-06-2005.

The said tender schedule can be purchased on cash payment of Tk 500/= (five hundred) only (non-refundable) from the office of the undersigned on 14-07-2004 during office hours (up to 2-30 hours). Detailed information will be available with tender schedule. As earnest money, Pay Order/Bank Draft/Treasury Challan in original for Tk 30,000/= (thirty thousand) only must be submitted with tender at the time of submitting tender. Otherwise, under no circumstance the tender shall be acceptable. The Challan/Pay-Order/Bank Draft of earnest money should be collected from respective treasury/bank minimum 01 (one) day before submitting tender.

Tender can be submitted in tender box kept at the Jail gate on 15-07-2004 up to 12-00 hours. Tender box will be opened on the same day at 12-30 hours in presence (if any) of the tenderers at the office of the undersigned by the tender selection committee. Overall right to accept or reject any tender is reserved by the respective authority.

Md. Harun ar Rashid Sarkar Senior Jail Super Central Jail, Mymensingh

DFP-16517-28/6 G-367



জনতা ব্যাংক Janata Bank

Financial Statements - 2003

Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2003

Table containing Balance Sheet data for 2003 and 2002, including categories like Property and assets, Cash, Loans and advances, and Total assets.

Profit and Loss Accounts

for the year ended 31 December, 2003

Table containing Profit and Loss Accounts data for 2003 and 2002, including categories like Interest and discount, Investment Income, Total Operating Income, and Net profit after taxation.

Highlights

As at December 31, 2003

Table containing Highlights data for 2003 and 2002, including categories like Paid up capital, Total capital, Total assets, Total deposits, and Total loans and advances.

Sd/- Chairman

Sd/- Director

Sd/- Director

Sd/- Managing Director

Sd/- Rahman Rahman Hug Chartered Accountants

Sd/- S.F. Ahmed & Co. Chartered Accountants