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**Inside today**  
**International**

**Saddam's palace destroyed**



British Royal Airforce pilots talked to reporters after air raid on Iraq. Saddam's palace was reportedly destroyed. page 5

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**Credentials of secularism**

Samanta Banerjee, noted Indian writer, writes exclusively for The Daily Star from New Delhi. Page 4

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**Education**



Hedayat Ahmed, Director of UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, writes on improving skills of the literacy workers. Page 6

**Business**

**STOCK MARKETS SURGE**

World stock markets surged as eruption of Gulf war erased the paralysing uncertainty. Page 8

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Bush phones Gorbachev**

WASHINGTON, Jan 18: President George Bush Friday said he had a long telephone conversation with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev about the Gulf war, but also used the occasion to express concern about the situation in the three Baltic Republics, reports AFP.

**US pilots captured**

WASHINGTON, Jan 18: Two American pilots have been captured in Iraq and will be shown to the press, Cable News Network (CNN) reported from Baghdad quoting an Iraqi official, reports AFP.

**US leaflets**

NEW YORK, Jan 17: American planes were reportedly dropping leaflets over Iraqi positions in Kuwait asking soldiers to surrender, reports PIT.

**Britain to send more troops**

LONDON, Jan 18: Britain is sending another battalion of troops to the Gulf to set up prisoner of war camps, and has called up an air force reserve squadron to help with logistics, Defense Secretary Tom King said Friday.

**Desert Storm unexceptionally well, says Bush**

**72 Allied planes downed: Iraq**

**Victory close, sure: Iraqi Minister**

**All Iraqi airports destroyed: USSR**

# Iraq strikes Israel



**Operation Desert Storm**

**Mission fails**  
 SAUDI ARABIA, Jan 18: Bad weather hampered daytime bombing missions over Iraq on Friday, frustrating US efforts to destroy Saddam Hussein's air force and air defenses, reports AP.

**Oil price up**  
 NEW YORK, Jan 18: Oil prices strengthened a bit Friday on news that Iraq had fired missiles into Israel, but the mild rally was nothing like the crash a day earlier, reports AP.

Iraq hit back in the Gulf war Thursday night as Scud-B missiles smashed into Tel Aviv and Haifa destroying buildings and injuring at least 12 people with possibility of spreading world beyond Iraq's border, report agencies.

Meanwhile, Allied warplanes on Friday concentrated on destroying 'enemy' mobile missile launchers after Iraq fired at least nine times into Israel and Saudi Arabia the night before.

The attack on Haifa and Tel Aviv fulfilled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's promise to punish Israel for the war in the Gulf. But the missiles did little damage compared to the destruction brought by allied forces on Iraqi targets on the first day of attacks.

President George Bush is outraged at and promised to retaliate, ordered another wave of air assaults.

Xinhua reports: US President George Bush told reporters here today the Operation Desert Storm is exceptionally well, but he also said it is not so easy to make Iraq surrender very soon.

Iraqi Information Minister Latif Jassem claimed victory is "close and sure" for Iraq over the US-led coalition forces in the Gulf.

On Friday, the US Air Force destroyed six Iraqi mobile missile launchers. (Three of) these launchers were obviously aimed at Saudi Arabia given their positions, US commander Gen H. Norman Schwarzkopf said at a news briefing in the Saudi capital of Riyadh. At the time, five more launchers were under attack. He said the US Navy also

sank or disabled three enemy patrol boats.

The US network NBC reported Friday that the Israeli Cabinet had decided not to retaliate, but warned it would do so if hit by another Iraqi missile. But an AFP correspondent said 8 Israeli warplanes flew over southern Lebanon and headed east toward Iraq and Syria.

Iraq's offensive also left the multinational force wondering how heavily Iraq's formidable military had been damaged in the two-day-old war.

Terrified Israelis donned gas masks and huddled in sealed rooms as the howl of air-raid sirens shocked the country before dawn. The earth shook as the conventional warheads -- apparently Scud-type, three stories tall with two-ton (900-kilogram) warheads -- plunged.

Israeli officials reported five of eight missiles fired at Israel landed -- and none carried the chemical warheads.

US military officials said Iraq also fired a single missile toward Saudi Arabia, the center of the multinational force, but a US Patriot missile intercepted and destroyed the missile.

Hundreds of raids were successful, said US commander Schwarzkopf, adding that allied planes were attacking Iraq and occupied Kuwait at a rate of 2,000 missions a day.

French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said French fighters on Friday hit an Iraqi munitions depot in Kuwait.

Although Iraq clearly has taken the worst in the first

See Page 10 Col. 2



Ruined house in Tel Aviv on Friday following a hit by an Iraqi missile. - AFP photo

## UN Council urged to order ceasefire

NICOSIA, Jan 18: Algeria, Libya and Yemen called on the UN Security Council to order an immediate halt to the US-led war to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, reports Reuter.

Yemen, an Iraqi sympathiser, condemned the US-led raids against Iraq and issued a statement urging the UN Security Council to stop the "bloodshed and destruction."

Algeria told ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council that the Council should halt hostilities immediately.

The Algerian news agency APS said Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, had told the

ambassadors the council should order the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region. Libya, bombed by US planes in 1986, called in Arab ambassadors and urged them to press for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to end

See Page 10 Col. 7

## Series of protests in city

By Staff Correspondent

With the Gulf war taking a serious turn, the citizens are worried and concerned. The election campaign in the city has been overshadowed by the war which has become talk of the town.

Nervous telephone calls from the worried relatives of the stranded Bangladeshis living in the Gulf region continued to pour into the Foreign Ministry duty room and newspaper offices yesterday. There was no briefing at the Foreign Office on the latest situation in the Gulf.

More rallies and demonstrations were held in the city and elsewhere both in favour

of Saddam Hussein and in support of the allied forces' action. But rallies favouring Saddam's stand after his attack on Israel got widespread commendation. Special prayers were offered in the mosques for peace and unity of the Muslim Ummah. Sporadic processions in the city demanded immediate halt to the Gulf war and withdrawal of allied forces from the Arab states.

After the juma prayer at Baitul Mukarram and city mosques thousands of muslims held a rally supporting Saddam's action and chanted slogans in favour of Saddam

and Iraqi victory. Afterwards, they were divided over the issue of parading to the American Embassy for staging demonstrations. Then a fraction of the processionists went to the US Embassy to stage a protest.

Throughout the day, people, in tens and dozens, tuned to the radio for the latest news from the war front. Bangladesh Radio and Television failed to give hourly bulletin on the situation. Most of the citizens heard BBC, VOA and Radio Australia broadcasts.

The Gulf war has already left a negative impact on the

## Agitation in front of US, Saudi embassies

By Staff Correspondent

About 1,000 supporters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein broke through the police cordons and pelted stones at the American and Saudi embassies at Baridhara yesterday after Juma prayer. They demanded immediate withdrawal of US-led multi national forces from the Gulf and an end to the war for oil.

Anticipating attacks, the government had earlier taken precautionary measures by deploying a strong police contingent to guard the embassies.

Police had to resort to tear-gas shelling to disperse the mob from the embassy area.

See Page 10 Col. 3

## AL victory will be commanding, says Hasina

AL victory Awami League Chief and Eight-Party Alliance leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said, her party would win a commanding victory in the forthcoming parliamentary polls as the people of the country were always in favour of the party symbol 'Boat' which could make easy sail under all climate, reports BSS.

She was addressing a large gathering of the party supporters including the president and the secretaries of deferent wards under Kotwali and Sutrapur Police Stations. Held at party's Bangabandhu Avenue office in the city with central committee member, Prof. Muhammad Hanif in the chair, the gathering was also addressed, among others, by Mr. Akhterul Alam, Organising Secretary and Ms Nasibun Ahmed, Women Secretary of the city committee of the organization.

Among others, central leader

See Page 10 Col. 1

## Writ against Kader Siddiky's arrest soon

By Staff Correspondent

Kader Siddiky Repatriation Committee and local units of different political parties including Awami League have called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Tangail today to protest the arrest of Awami League leader Kader Siddiky.

See Page 10 Col. 6

## Steps to conserve energy

By Staff Correspondent

The Power Development Board (PDB) is contemplating certain stringent measures to conserve energy in the backdrop of war in the Gulf.

The steps may include rationing of petroleum products, reduction of electricity supply in certain

non-essential area, restriction on illumination on the occasion of marriage ceremony and other functions. The street lights will be put off on one side before 10 p.m.

The administration is likely to gear up campaign for

See Page 10 Col. 6

## Khaleda reiterates call for arresting Ershad associates

BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia urged the interim government to recover illegal arms and arrest miscreants and corrupt associates of deposed President Ershad to create a congenial atmosphere for free

See Page 10 Col. 1

## Electoral alliance move faces hurdles

By Staff Correspondent

There is still no electoral understanding among the alliances and parties. The Eight-party Alliance met yesterday to reach a consensus on putting up candidates jointly.

Before the meeting with the Awami League, the other components of the alliance met separately and exchanged views on final negotiations with Awami League. But the outcome was not known till the writing of the report at 10.30 p.m.

It is gathered that the Eight-party Alliance has almost patched up their differences

except on candidates of four or five constituencies. They are facing problems to accommodate Khandaker Fazlul Haque, Azizul Haque Khan, Ali Haider Khan and former I.G. Abdul Khaleque of Ganotantri Party, Kamal Haider of NAP and Mujahidul Islam Selim of CPB.

However, the dispute over accommodating Ahmedul Kabir is over.

This follows the agreement of Awami League to request Khairul Kabir to withdraw in favour of his younger brother, Ganotantri Party leader

See Page 10 Col. 1

## War sparks civil disobedience in US

Hundreds of thousands of anti-war protesters rallied around the globe Thursday, clashing with police, burning effigies of U.S. President George Bush and cursing the bombing of Iraq and occupied Kuwait, reports AP.

In the United States, demonstrators, blocked federal buildings and bridges as anti-war protests turned into civil disobedience in many parts of the nation. Hundreds were arrested, some in confrontations with war supporters.

In Pakistan, more than 30 people were injured as club-swinging police fired tear gas

and battled militant Muslim students who took up demonstrations nationwide, police and witnesses said.

As hundreds of riot police fanned out around Islamabad's embassies, officials said they would not stop the protests. "We are a democracy," Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said.

Demonstrators waved huge posters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein at dozens of rallies in the capital and provincial cities of Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta and Karachi.

In Lahore, riot police fired tear gas to disperse about 200 protesters outside the U.S.

Consulate and witnesses reported at least two injuries. The mob retaliated by smashing windows of the Saudi Airlines, they said.

About 20 other pro-Iraq rallies were reported by Pakistani authorities, and one angry crowd of about 1,000 reportedly ransacked movie theaters and looted shops.

About 30 people were injured when riot police clashed with about 5,000 students who marched through the dusty streets of Peshawar chanting "long live Saddam Hussein" and "America will be crushed," witnesses said.

Rampaging Algerian youths

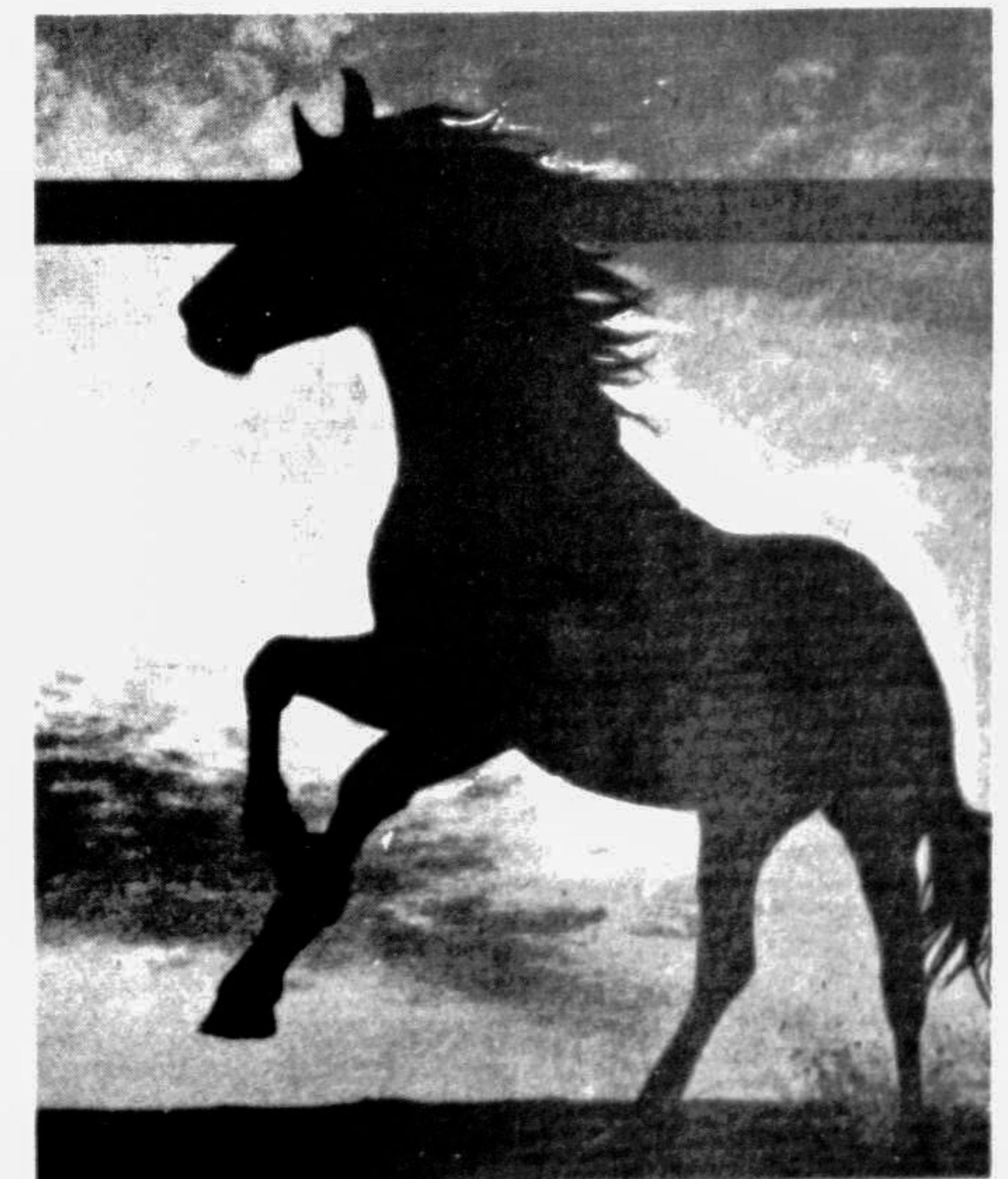
protesting French and American "aggression" sacked a French consulate visa office and an Air France agency in Constantine, witnesses said.

France did not take part in the first round of strikes on Iraqi targets, but joined in the second wave by the multinational force that is seeking to crush Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

In Paris, about 15,000 people defying a ban on demonstrations massed at the Place de la Republique to protest French involvement.

The crowd, encircled by police, shouted Mitterand assassin, "Bush assassin."

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