# Allies to suffer if Israel strikes back

NICOSIA, Jan 26: The US ted coalition against Iraq may suffer if Israel struck back at Iraq with Syria saying retaliation would not be 'legal' and Pakistan threatening to withdraw troops, report Agencies.

Israel has no right to retaliate against lragi missile attacks on its territory, Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman said in a radio interview on Wednesday.

Speaking before a new Iraqi Scud missile was successfully intercepted over Tel Aviv -but after a similar attack left three people dead and 96 injured on in the city on Wednesday -- Mr Salman said that Israeli retaliation would

not be "legal". "Everyone knows that Israel is in a state of war with the Arab nation," Mr Salman said. "It is a state which is guilty

of aggression. It occupies Arab territories and has no right hatsoever to seize on an excuse" to attack Iraq.

Pakistan will withdraw its troops from Saudi Arabia if Israel enters the Gulf war, the "Dawn" said yesterday quoting sources close to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Sharif arrived in Syria today on the third leg of his five-nation tour to seek an end to the Gulf war.

Pakistan has some 11,000 troops in Sauci Arabia as part of the alliance against Iraq but Sharif has come under intense domestic pressure to pull his troops out.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, charging that the major powers are seeking to establish a "Greater Israel", has warned that the Gulf war could spread to several Middle East coun-

The Palestinian leader warned that the war could envelop Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Iran.

The object of the conflict between Iraq and a US-led alliance "is in no way (the liberation of Kuwait) ... but to re-draw the political map of the region" according to plans drawn up by the superpowers, he said in an interview published here Wednesday.

"The new map in the region calls for the creation of greater Israel", he told Al-Hurriya newspaper, the publication of Tunisia's ruling party. 'That's why there has been massive Jewish immigration to Israel".

For such a goal to be fulfilled, according to Mr Arafat, "Arab military potential must be weakened and its financial resources exhausted. Arab countries who are financing the attack on Iraq will come out of the war crippled by

#### Jihad

The Grand Musti of Jerusalem, Israel's most influential Islamic authority, on Wednesday called for 'Jihad' (holy war) against the United States and its allies.

Saad Eddin Al-Alami denounced the United States as "enemy number one of Islam and Muslims."

"All Muslims must wage holy war against the United States and those foreign countries that try to pass themselves off as allies of Islam." the Musti said.

He likewise appealed to Muslims to boycott US made products to protest the US-led air offensive against Iraq.

In Beirut Wednesday a pro Syrian Palestinian group called for attacks on US interests to

force a halt to "American-Zionist aggression against the

Arab nation." The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine --General Command (PFLP-GC) charged in a statement that "the real objective of the American-Zionist coalition (against Iraq) is to terrorise the region, notably Syria, Jordan, Iran and Libya, to im-

pose its hegemony." The group called on 'the people of the region to attack American-Zionist aggression against the Arab nations."

The PFLP-GC, which is not part of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said "the liberation of Kuwait is only a pretext" for a US attack on the Arab world

Syria, where the PFLP-GC is based, is a member of the anti-Iraqi coalition and has contributed some 20,000 troops to the allied force currently deployed in Saudi Arabia.

Baker

But US Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday The US-led coalition against Iraq might not suffer if Israel struck back at Iraq for Baghdad's Scud missile attacks on Tel Aviv and Haifa.

### 200 Allied planes shot down: Iraq

NICOSIA, Jar 26 : Iraq claimed Friday that its citizens captured a British pilot after his plane was shot down during an attack on residential districts in southern Iraq, reports AP.

Baghdad radio also said Iraq had shot down 14 Allied aircraft or missiles, pushing the total of planes it claims to have brought down to nearly 200. The Allied Command, which contends lragi reports are greatly exaggerated, had said Thursday that Iraq shot down one American and one British plane in the previous 24 hours.

The report followed earlier Baghdad radio broadcasts of purported interviews with three American pilots and an Italian. Iraq says it holds more than 20 airmen and has dispersed them to civilian targets to deter attack.

In the latest reported capture. Baghdad radio said the British pilot was seized by " a number of citizens" and turned over to authorities after his plane was downed by Iraqt air defence forces in the al Zubayr district of al-Basrah governate.

Iraq has offered rewards ranging up to 90,000 dollars for citizens who capture allied airmen and turn them over to authorities.

Baghdad radio also ridiculed British Prime Minister John Major for advising members of Parliament that they must accept British losses in the Gulf.

#### PPP demands recall of troops

KARACHI, Jan 26: Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's political party has strongly denounced the alited attack on Iraq and demanded the recall of Pakistan's 10,000 soldiers from Saudi Arabia, reports AFP.

from S Arabia

In a resolution adopted Fri day, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said U.S.-led forced in the Gulf had become "military agents of Israel." and

demanded that Pakistan "immediately withdraw its troops from the theater of war and bring them back home."

The use of brutal inhuman and unprecedented high-teeh force by Allied Forces against fraq is illegal, without sanction of international law and must be stopped immediately, unt laterally and without condition," it said.

The PPP added that it would continue its nationwide protests, which it said were "keeping in view the aspirations of the people of Pak-

#### Several Iraqi attempts on US interests

WASHINGTON, Jan 26 The U.S. State Department said on Friday that there had been several attempts to attack American interests worldwide in the past 24 hours and one "credible terrorist threat" to U.S. diplomats in Tanzania, reports Reuter.

Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the department advised American citizens to put off non-essential travel to Tanzania because of the Iraqsponsored plot, which she refused to describe.

"The Tanzania incident I just definitely told you was because of Iraqi terrorists," she

Other incidents she listed were. A bomb thrown over the wall of an American recreational club in Kampala, Uganda, which landed on a tennis court and exploded. The U.S. ambassador had used the court just before the explosion, which caused no in-

Four bomb attacks on U.S. and British banks and the home of the Freinch Military Attache in Athens which caused minor damage and no

A bomb defused at an Amer tean bank in Ankara, Turkey. A bomb defused in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

DI IAHRAN, Saudi Arabia, Jan 26: They joined for the same reasons men do experience, adventure, education. They never expected to be at war, reports Reuter.

But as the allies brace for ground combat, US women soldiers are on the front lines, with mixed feelings about their role here.

"I don't feel women should be here unless their job calls for it', said Marine Lance Corporal Patricia Perez, whose job would be to mop up after any chemical weapons attack".

There's no sense of having a female out here when it's pretty clear that they can't accomplish as much as a man can and can't compete in strength."

Perez, 20, of Rochester, New York, is one of about 130 women at a logistics outpost near the Kuwait border.

Not all are calm about the experience, especially when Iragi Scud missiles shrick overhead en route to Riyadh and Dhahran.

Even though no one has been

hurt in Scud attacks in Saudi Arabia, the sight and sound of the weapons makes troops Jittery.

to help men in war

Eves desert homes

When you get up at night you can see the lights and the flashes in the sky," said private Amy Dever, 20, of Alabama. It seems to be getting closer all the time . . . I didn't think I'd be in a

Dever works at night hooking up field telephones, a risky job that her supervisors wish she would exchange for something safer, like working a switchboard. But despite the danger Dever said she wants the

combat zone.

experience. "I just want to go out, just to learn my job better." Dever said. I joined up for the adventure.

Air force staff Sergeant Lauren Long. 27. of Sandusky. Ohio, acknowledges that everyone at the front - men and women - feets nervous when the Scuds fly her job. as she sees it, is to stay calm as she despatches vehicles, speaking through her gas mask.

'In certain instances we've taken people aside, told them you've got to regroup. calm down. We've got to be just like any male supervisor," Long said.

She has experienced no unfair treatment on account of her sex and feels that women are just as much at risk, whether or not they are technically in combat.

The gate guards are male or female alike," Long said. They could be shot by terrorists just like a man. We're just as qualified as men. I would feel no hesitation in picking up an M-16 rifle and going at it." Inevitably, there are clashes between male soldiers and women. But most say that as combat comes closer, they work together like families

Because men have always known us to be ladylike, we just have to prove ourselves," said air force Sergeant Carla Barbour Clark, 30, of Madison, Virginia.

and look out for one

another.

Perez said 'sexual tension could add to the strain of

battle, I'm pretty sure the men, after a month or two without seeing women. their lains start aching. And they see a woman and their heads aren't clear. They want to go into combat with

a clear head." Like any soldiers women worry about death, with the added fear that female casualties would undermine morale at

Personally I don't want to be on the front lines . . . I don't think America is ready to see women coming home in body bags," Barbour-Clark

#### Mecca Imam's call to oust Saddam

MECCA, Jan 26: The imam of Islam's holtest mosque called in his Friday sermon for the overthrow and punishment of Saddam Hussein, reports

Leading several hundred thousand Muslims gathered in Mecca's Grand Mosque for the weekly Sabbath prayers. Shetk Abdul-Rahman Al-Saraysed prayed to God to destroy Saddam, whom he characterized

as the 'doomed tyrant of Bagh-"He must be punished. We must get rid of him", he declared, calling for a holy war

against "the aggressor of our

time".

statements made by Saudi Arabian religious leaders on the conflict, in which Iraq is, fighting a U.S.-led multinational forces based in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region. The imam exhorted Saudi

it was one of the toughest

civilians and soldiers on the fronts to hold fast to their religion, to keep to their prayers and to trust in God.

The nation with strong faith can vanquish injustice and aggression, and can not close its eyes to injustice and tyranny," he said. "Despots must be suppressed with strength and with the sword of right."

#### =Feature

### Travel and Leisure

### Fujian: Holiday on the South China Coast

Nasreen Sobhan

calligraphy.

The Imam of the mosque is

a Fujian Muslim who shows

traces in his features of his

West Asian ancestry. He is

kept busy receiving Muslim

visitors who come from

abroad to see the mosque,

as well as the Muslim

diplomats living in China.

According to the Imam.

Friday prayers are very

well-attended both by men

and by women, for whom a

Attached to the mosque is a

small museum which

contains some ancient arti-

facts and stone tablets re-

counting the history of the

two Muslims who first

brought Islam to Quanzhou.

Their tombs are located

outside the city in a

separate section is kept.

THE tourist who travels as far as Bangkok and Hong Kong should go a little further and visit Fujian on the south coast of China. Bounded on the east by the South China Sea, a few miles away from Taiwan, and on the west by densely forested mountains that separate it from the interior, this province is beautiful in the special way vivid colours of nature heightened by the bright tropical light.

The terraced hillsides and

history. In 1644, it was the last point of defence of the Ming armies as they retreated before the conquering Machus; while in 1948 the Nationalist Chinese used it as their last stronghold before withdrawing to Taiwan.

Fujian has several ports which are important not only today, but have been so for centuries. In the tenth of sub-tropical areas, the century these ports of Fuzhou, Quanzhou and Xiamen were thriving cities full of foreign traders who came to buy silk and tea

Chinese Muslim Admiral Zheng He led his sleet of 62 junks on the seven expeditions that included

In early times the city of Quanzhou had a population of ten thousand Syrian, Persian and South-East Asian traders mostly Muslim, who called the city Zaytun. Even today Quanzhou has a Muslim population of several thousand.

One of the oldest mosques

in China, the Qingjing Si or

Grand Mosque is located

here. It was built in 1009

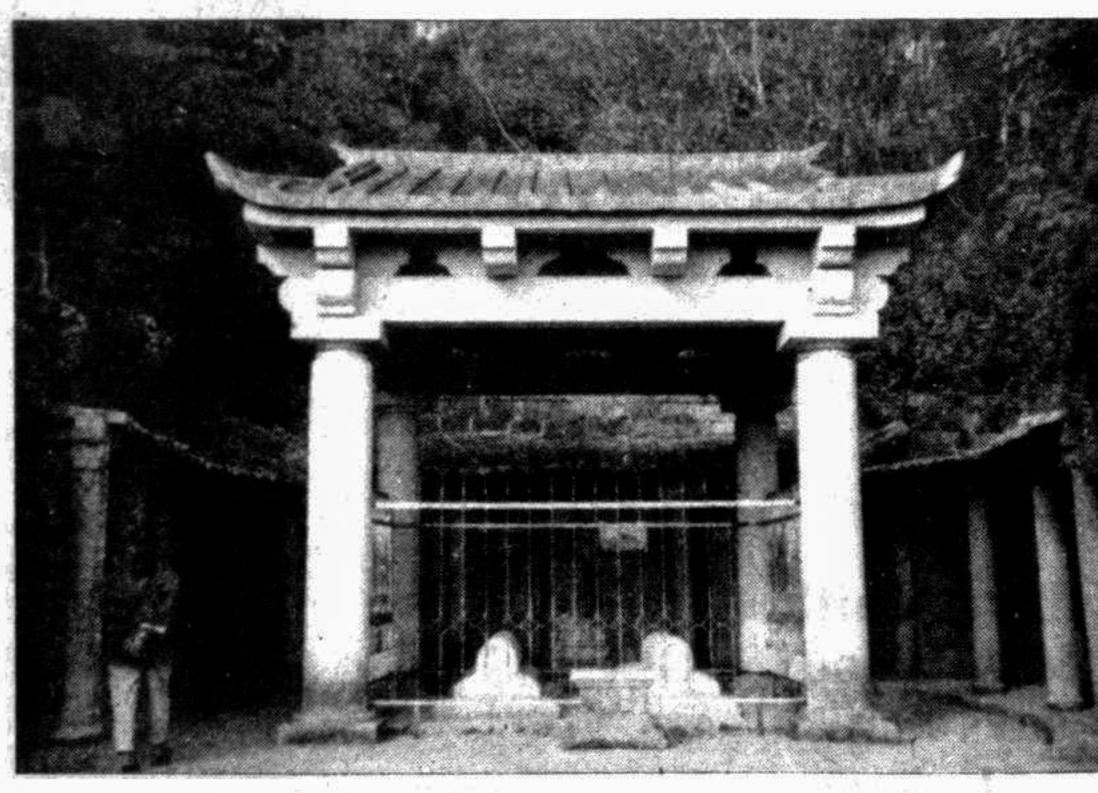
after the style of an old

mosque in Damascus.

Although it is need of

repair, it is remarkable that

it has survived at all in the



Mausoleum of Muslim saints in Quanzhou.

from China. During the

valleys are awash with the clear pale green of young rice plants and banana trees, the rich emeralds of fruit trees and palms and the reds and pinks of flowers. Dotting the hills are the peasants' homes, stately little white houses with grey roofs and upturned eaves, picture-

book images of the village Fujian's strategic location has given it a unique

nineteenth century in the aftermath of the Treaty of Nanjing, European merchants came and settled here, and parts of Fujian still bear traces of their occupancy.

back to the Tang dynasty and even earlier. It was from Fuzhou in the

humid climate. With its Fuzhou the capital, is a city stately arches and its rich in historical monuments and relics dating domed portal the beauty and fine proportions of this building are still evident. The stone walls are decorated with old Arabic fifteenth century that the

such far-thing places as Calicut, Java, Hormuz, Aden and Mogadishu.

charming park on Lingshan Hill. It is a site well worth visiting. Gulangyu Island, off Xiamen, used to be a European enclave before 1949. It is an elegant little place where all vehicular traffic and even bicycles are forbidden. A five minute ride by ferry from Xiamen lands you on an island where time seems to have stopped a hundred years ago. Rose-coloured villas draped with Spanish moss and bougainvillaea drowse in the afternoon sun. Ancient banyans, gingko and cassia trees spread their leaves in the old compounds of rich men's mansions, now converted into guest houses. Windows and balconies are carved in the fashion typical of Portuguese houses in Macao. and retain their charm in spite of a slight air of

shabbiness. The narrow streets in the market are lined with pedlars making and selling Chinese pastry, shops selling preserved fruit and peanut cakes, and antique shops full of carved wood statues, jade and other

handicrafts. The streetside restaurants are simple to the point of

being basic but serve fresh seafood of every variety. The province of Fujian is notable for its fine handicrafts. The most wellknown are the Fujianese laquer of exquiste colour and design, made in molds out of the gum from the last tree; the carvings of amber and coral shao shan

BAHGDAD: This photo taken from a CNN broadcast and released by Iraqi TV January 24,

shows people surveying damage done to buildings in an unspecified area of Baghdad.

last but not least, Fujian white porcelain, otherwise known as "blane de Chine." Another product for which Fujian is also famous is its "White Flower Oil", which can be used both externally and internally. It is reputed to cure all varieties of aches and pains, and the Chinese are utterly convinced of its

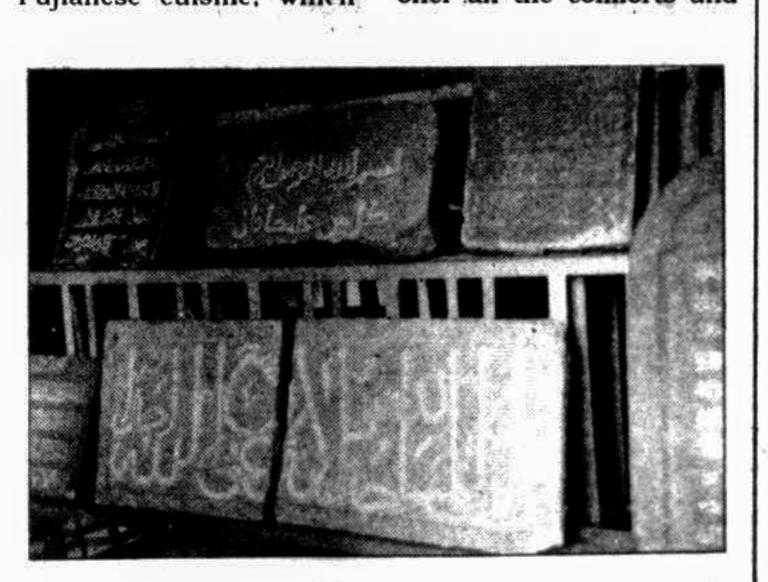
stone: cork carvings: and

efficacy. The seafood lover will enjoy Fujianese cuisine, which

ties, while many of the inhabitants of Taiwan are also of Fujianese extraction. They share with their compatriots a love for the Motherland which translates itself into a desire to help China prosper. Overseas Chinese of Fujianese ancestry have invested large sums of money in their home province. They have invested in industry. joint-venture projects and have even purchased real estate. Last year 600,000 Taiwanese visited Fujian province. Xiamen is now one of the Special Economic zones of China.

AFP /UNB photo

Fujian is well-equipped to receive tourists. Many of the hotels in the main cities are joint-ventures, and offer all the comforts and



Stone tablets from the museum in Quanzhou.

specialises in the use of the freshest of crabs, mussels, shrimp yellow croaker and other seafood: its many varieties of noodles, and its soups.

The inhabitants of Fujian are well-known for their entrepreneurial skills and for their spirit of adventure. Fujianese have emigrated to all parts of South-East Asia and have established thriving communiservices that foreign tourists and businessmen may expect. A trip to this province should definitely be included on the itinerary of the prospective tourist to China.

A freelance journalist who specialises in travel writing. Ms. Nasreen Sobhan now lives in Beijing. with her Bangladesh diplomat husband. She will be writing regularly for The Daily Star.

## Eating Your Way Through New Orleans

by Sarah Ferrell

EW ORLEANS - My husband and larcon our way to New Orleans. It is to be a short trip on a budget of \$500. We decide that much of the budget will go for food and drink and develop a strategy calling for alternating grand and funky meals, free or cheap entertainment and moderately priced hotel.

Our travel agent has booked us into the Sheraton New Orleans, just across Canal Street from the French Quarter, at a week end rate of \$69 a night (\$79.59 with taxes). That leaves us \$340.82 to play with.

We start the evening in the Sheraton's lobby lounge. sipping cocktails among the palms and bromeliads. The sound of water splashing in a pink marble fountain mingles with the blues, ballads and bebop of a trio.

We have made dinner reservations at Commander's Palace in the Garden District. Our taxt whizzes through the dark streets, giving us a tantalizing sense of white columns and lacy cast fron. We turn a corner and there in a sudden burst of light, is the restaurant, a bright blue frame building with blue-and-white

I order duck and wild rice gumbo and rack of lamb; my husband has oysters stuffed in artichoke bottoms and tournedos with two sauces. We both have the harvest salad. with okra, and bread pudding souffic with whisky sauce. And a California zinfandel, and lots of strong black coffee. The bill, for food and wine is \$93.55.

cabs, we have gone through \$137.05 by the time we go to bed. Up betimes and off.

With drinks and trips and

skipping breakfast, for as free walking tour morning conducted by the National Park Service.

The streets of the French Quarter are almost descried as we hurry toward the Park

Service headquarters in the Frence Market. The walk, led by a knowledgeable. New Orleans-born guide, takes us to St. Louis Cemetery No. I. with stops along the levee, to view the old city, and at Louis Armstrong Square (formerly Congo Squarc) for a discussion of functary traditions, jazz and voodoo.

Back in the French Market. we stop at the Cafe Beignet for chicory- laced cafe au lait and beignets. The beignets, sort of rectangular. holeless doughnuts, are something of a menace -- they are served heaped with powdered sugar. so that you have to hold your breath while eating them. We order of each running up a bill

of \$5.83. We wander for a while around Jackson square, the tourist hub of the French Quarter admirintg the architecture and taking note of the portrait artists, tarot readers and clowns setting up for the day.

We then find our way to the St. Charles Avenue trolley, a wondefully rattletrap green car that takes us, for 80 cents cach, through the Garden District. Near the end of the line, we get out and climb the levee for a look ar the derricks and cranes of the working

We stop in Pat O'brien's har. obligatory for fun seekers, and order the obligatory hurricane(\$4 each). This drink, invented here, is supposed to make people knee- walking drunk but it is hard to see how: it is toothshatteing sweet, and seems to contain equal portions of run and cherry syrup.

Night has fallen as we approach our next destination the Aquarium of the Americas. which is open until 9:30. Admission is \$7.50, and worth every penny.

We stop in the Creole Tomato deli for smoked Turkey po' boys and a couple of beers, for a total of 10.79. We devour them messily in the privacy of our room.