

Major-Bush talks on Gulf: British Prime Minister John Magor telephoned US President Gorge Bush last evening on the progress of the Gulf war, white Hall source said, reports Xinhua.

They agreed that they were satisfied with progress so far. an official in London said.

The Gulf war, which started with allied aerial attack on Iraq on 17 January, has lasted for ten days and allied leaders had said they had inflicted significant damage on Iraq's military installations.

The officials said, the two leaders discussed all the significant issues of the campaign including the oil slick which was said to be pumped into the Gulf by Iraq and the Iraqi planes which had landed in Iran.

Little progress achieved: King Hussein of Jordan said, he had made little progress in efforts to achieve a Gulf war ceasefire and predicted that countries now criticising his stance in the crisis would come to regret it. reports Reuter.

Speaking to French journalists at a televised news conference in Ammon on Sunday, the King said he continued to hope for a pause in hostilities to give diplomacy a chance. So far, there is not very much progress at all, but the call

(for a ceasefire) I believe is echoed by many, he said. King Hussein, belonging huge domestic popular support for Iraq against fires of becoming embroiled in the war, has condemned Iraq's annexation of Kuwait as well as US-led military action launched to try to expel lrag from the Emi-

6 Buccaneer Jets to join war: six Buccaneer Jets are on their way to the Gulf from Scotland to help the allies in dealing with Iraqi hardened shelters. reports Xinhua.

The aircrafts are equipped with Alaser-Guiding system which can direct bombs to targets with pinpoint accuracy. The 1960s-build jet.usually a maritime fighter-bomber, has been modifided to work with the British airforce in trying to knock out Iraqi hardened shelters.

British Tornado and Jaguar jets have so far been unsuccessful in knocking out the shelters where the Iraqi airforce is thought to be hiding. The Beccancers' missions was announced by Defence

Secretary Tom King last week in London.

Oil flame subsides: Flames billowing from burning oil in the northern Gulf have su sided, indicating US precision bombing has halted the flow of crude into one of history's biggest slicks, reports Reuter.

The US military, trying to contain the huge slick which threatens the Gulf with environmental disaster, sent F-111 bombers to destroy outlet pipes at oil storage tanks at Mina Al-Ahmadi in occupied Kuwait.

"I think we've been successful but only time will tell. General Borman Sechwarzkipf. Commander of US frees in the Gulf, told a briefing in the Saudi Capital Riyadh.

The fire at the offshore sea island terminal was already smaller, a sign that pressure had dropped and the flames ware now fed only by oil in the last 13 miles (21 KM) of pipeline, the General said.

Allied fighter shot down: "Iraq said on Monday that it shot down an allied air craft which fell in flames inside Turkish territory," reports Reuter from Nicosia.

Baghdad Radio said in its 26th war communique that the multinational force had staged 90 raids on its territory from bases in Saudi Arabia against populated areas in our countryand against our forces since Sunday morning.

The ravens of savagery were forced to flee and one aircraft was downed which fell in flames inside Turkish territory, said the radio monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. On Sunday the radio said the Iraqi armed forces shot down three aircrafts or missiles during 112 allied air raids on military and civilian targets.

3 US marine killed: Three US marines were killed and seven injured in a non-battle related accident when their two light-armoured vehicles collided, according to reports reaching in Amman from Saudi Arabia on Sunday. reports Xinhua.

The accident, involving soldiers from the 1st marine division, happened Saturday somewhere in eastern Saudi Arabia, military sources said, adding that the cause of the accident was under investigation.

Students leave Bangkok: A group of 11 dissident Burmese students, originally members of the anti-Rangoon All Burma Student Democratic Front (ABSDF), have chosen to return home, a Burnese Embassy official said in Bangkok Monday, reports AFP.

The 11 were among hundreds of Burmese students who have quit the ABSDF after being granted refugee status and provided with an 'allowance to live in Bangkok by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCIIR), the official said.

Fahd receives Sharif: Saudi King Fahd received in Riyadh Sunday Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the official Saudi r. ws agency SPA reported, reports

It gave no further details beyond saying the meeting was ttended by senior officials of both countries.

Mr. Sharif met earlier in Jeddah with the Secretary General of Organisation of Islamic Conference, Hamid Algabid. to discuss the Gulf war, SPA said.

American Bank shelled: Rocket wrecked the headquarters of the American Express Bank in Athens carly Monday but there were no injuries, police said. reports Reuter.

The rocket, a type used by the Greek army, was fired across a busy central Athens avenue and caused extensive damage, police said.

SAARC seeks end to war: The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will do everything to help bring about a peaceful end to the Gulf war, SAARC Chairman M. A Gayoom said in New Delhi Sunday.

reports Xinhua. The Press Trust of India quoted the visiting Maldivian President as saying that he will have to consult leaders of SAARC member countries before any SAARC initiative to end the war could be taken.

Upon leaving Monday for home after a three day state visit to India Gayoom said that both Maldives and India feel that steps should be taken for finding a peaceful solution to the current hostilities in the Gulf region.

Allied forces to start offensive: The top military adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris said on Sunday he expected allied ground forces to start an offensive against Iraqi troops in mid-February.

reports Reuter. I don't know and would not tell the exact date (for an offensive) but I am talking about the first half of February. Ad-

miral Jacques Lanzade told French television.

He said there were allied plans for the war to be over, or ending, before the muslim holiday month of Ramadan, which begins on march 17, and before ground temperatures were too high in the battle zone.

"The air phase will last about three or four weeks (from the start of hostilities on January 17) and we will have to judge the combat capacities of the Iraqi army, said Lanade. Chief of Mitterrands' personal military staff.

Iraq warns Allied forces: Baghdad radio warned on Sunday that the US-led allies could expect nothing but more missiles fired at Israel, reports Reuter from Nicosia.

In a hard-hitting message, the radio accused the allies of ignoring the plight of Palestinians in the Jewish state.

"It is the comedy of the century-they (allies) are angry at Iraq, which is defending its sovereignty and the sovereignty of the Arab nation, because it hits Israel.

Iraq blames Perez for air attacks

Mubarak to be assassinated

NICOSIA, Jan 28: Iraq issued a blistering personal attack on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Washington's most powerful Arab ally, and claimed he would soon be assassinated by his own people, reports AP.

The insult-filled fusillade against Mubarak followed Baghdad's blast against U.N Sceretary-General Javier Perez DE Cuellar, whom it blamed for allied air attacks that hit civilian targets in Iraq.

Iraq also announced that it had shot down an allied plane which fell into Turkish terri-

Baghdad radio said in a Sunday night broadcast that Mubarak was a President rejected by his people who would soon share the fate of his predecessor, Anwar Sadat.

Sadat, who signed the Camp David peace accord with Israel in 1979, was assassinated by



Muslim fundamentalists in October 1981 during a military parade in a Cairo suburb.

"The Egyptian people, who have rich legacy of Arabism, struggle, and history, have said their word and issued their verdict on... Hosni" said a

commentary broadcast by Baghdad radio. They carried out their verdict on his predecessor al-Sadat. Hence, Hosni's date with death will not be far

Baghdad called Mubarak "a frightened coward," and said that he appeared more Zionist than his " Zionist friends in Tel-Aviv during a Thursday speech.

In that speech, delivered before the Egyptian parliament, Mubarak belittled Iraq's missiles attacks on Israel, call ing them an ineffective political gimmick and likening them to children's notsemak-

During the Thursday speech, peppered with personal attacks on Saddam. Mubarak also criticized Iraq's demands for simultaneous ne issues. Saddam has tried to tory.

link his Kuwait takeover to the Palestinian problem.

The Iraqi commentary called the Egyptian President "stupid" and "lacking in manli ness" and said that he had sold out his country for money.

That was an apparent reference to Washington's writing off Egypt's 7 billion dollar foreign aid debt in appreciation for Catro's help in the Gulf

Baghdad radio, monitored in Nicosia, said in another communique Sunday night that civilian areas and troops had been hit by 90 raids since morning, a fraction of the number the allies said they had mounted.

The radio added that one allied plane had been hit and gotiations on all Middle East crashed inside Turkish terri-

Oil slick won't threaten water supply: Riyadh

RIYADH, Jan 28: A Saudi environmental official said Sunday that the mammoth ofl slick pouring into the Gulf from Iraqi-occupied Kuwait does not threaten the region's water supply, reports AP.

The official, Abdulbar al-Gain, also said at a news conference that Saddam Hussetn was waging a war on the region's wildlife.

Officials said Saturday the oil could foul desalination plants that supply two-thirds of the region's fresh water. Experts said the oil could ruin the plants by gumming up their sensitive distillation equipment, and taint the water with toxic chemicals.

There is no danger, abso lutely, to the desalination plants". Al-Gain said.

the water facilities had been protected with booms, skimmers and unspecified "nontraditional " methods

pipes linking oilfields, after US warplanes blew up the facility late January 26. The air assault was aimed at halting the massive flow of oil into the Persian Gulf - AFP/UNB photo US fighters bomb pressure system that keeps oil flowing

RIYADH. Jan 28: U.S. F-111 fighter jets on a mission to team a massive oil spill off Kuwait bombed the pressure system that keeps the oil flowing, the U.S. Gulf forces commander disclosed here Sunday night, reports AFP.

Norman General Schwarzkopf also announced that two F-15 fighters from the U.S. Air Force gunned down four Iraqi Mig-23S southeast of Baghdad and said 39 Iraqi planes had landed in Iran in

the past 48 hours. The F-111S unleashed GBU 15-guided bombs late Saturday on the manifolds or pressure mechanism of Kuwait's Mina Al-Ahmadi oil field in a bid to stop of flowing from its offshore terminal at sea island. General Schwarzkopf revealed.

The fighters meant no resistance from the Iraqis, who ately causing the spill estimated at millions of barrels.

WASHINGTON: This still-video picture released on January 27 by the US Department of

Defence shows a burning Iraqi-held offshore loading facility, part of a coastal complex of

It was too early to determine if the mission to stem the spill was successful, as there were 13 miles of oilfilled pipes linking the manifolds with off-shore storage and terminal facilities, according to Gen Schwarzkopf.

Storage and terminal facilities were both leaking oil into the Gulf, he said. "I think we've been success-

ful but only time will tell," he

The deeper burning could

suggest that oil was drying up. The General argued that the use of fire had actually been recommended by environmental experts as a way to limit the damage of the spill.

The southern tip of the slick, which measures 30 miles long by eight miles wide

ters) was Sunday off Ras Al-Mishab, Saudi Arabia, according to a map displayed at the briefing.

Gen. Schwarzkopf also said short of liberating Kuwait there was no way to prevent Iraq from causing another oil

In another incident, an Iraqi vehicle was destroyed during a brief fire-fight along the border, the U.S. officers said: No U.S. casualties were

reported. U.S. officers said, a 155mm howitzer artillery battalion opened fire on Iraqi positions inside Kuwait around 1 a.m. Saturday (2200 GMT Friday).

An artillery battalion typically consists of three batteries of eight guns each. Previous marine artillery attacks have been carried out by a single battery.

INA, said the lashes were seen

25 miles (40 kilometers) away

sistance from Saddam's famed

troops.INA said anti-aircraft

batteries that can usually be

heard in Khorramshahr were

silent Sunday. CNN correspon-

dent Peter Arnett said some

areas in Baghdad now have wa-

ter and may soon have electri-

caused by allied air raids.

cal power following outages

The air attacks met no re-

in Khorramshahr.

estimates of damage and the exact Iraqi target was not identified. Further details of the en-

gagement cannot be reported because of U.S. military security regulations.

Reuter adds: An air raid on Iraq's Elite Republican Guards touched off "a tremendous fircball" vistble for 200 miles, the U.S. military command reported Saturday.

In the air over Iraq, U.S. Air Force F-15 fighters shot down two Iraqi MIG-23s Saturday and destroyed on the ground three Iraqi bombers ready to take off a U.S. spokesman said.

An oil slick in the north of the Gulf grew six times larger in the last 24 hours but the spokesmen said it would have little effect on their campaign to drive Iraqi forces out of

The aerial bombing, meant in part to soften Iraqi troops in preparation for a ground offensive, appears to be having some success. U.S. officials say the poor condition of captured Iraqis is evidence they have been cut off from command and supply lines.

Iraq says 101 civilians and 90 soldiers have been killed in the relentless bombardments.

The Gulf itself has become a war casualty . U.S. officials say Iraqi forces opened the taps at the Sea Island Terminal, a Kuwaiti off -shore oil loading facility, to create the mammoth, black slick that stretches over an area 35 miles long and 10 miles wide (56 by 16 kilometers).

Bush rules out use of neutron bombs

WASHINGTON, January 28: President George Bush will not resort to an exotic weapon like the neutron bomb to hasten the end of the Gulf war, Bush's top aide said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

There's been no one even from the military that has suggested that approach. White House Chief of Staff John Sununu said in an interview on

ABC TV. As the conflict continued in its 11th day on Sunday, officials announced a U.S. bomb-

ing raid on oil equipment in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait aimed at turning off the flow of oil feeding a vast oil slick in the

Bush's civilian and military aides said the United States and its allies were pursuing the war relentlessly and according to plan.

Sununu estimated the war will cost about 50 billion doliars this financial year and said the U.S.-led allies have agreed to contribute 30 billion dollars so far.

Off the Record

Decoy copters for **Bush's security**

WASHINGTON: The White House used decay helicopters to confuse potential gunmen on Sunday in a clear signal that it is taking seriously extremist anti-American threats triggered by the Gulf war, reports Reuter.

When President George Bush returned to the capital on Sunday from a weekend stay at the Presidential retreat Camp David, three decoy helicopters accompanied the helicopter carrying Bush.

The President's helicopter, known as Marine One. typically is accompanied by only one other helicopter when Bush flies to and from Camp David or on other short hops. A Secret Service agent who did not give his name ac-

knowledged the manoeuvre was a sign of tightened security

at the White House following Iraqi threats to target American interests around the world. In another sign, when Bush attended a dinner at a Washington Hotel last Wednesday, there were three Presidential limoustnes in the motorcade, each decked out with Ameri-

can and Presidential flags on their front fenders. Usually there is only one or at most two Presidential Itmousines in a White House motorcade.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in an address on Radio Baghdad a week ago, called on Iraqis and Arabs to launch a Jihad (holy war) against the United States and its allies worldwide.

Fleeing Israelis playing into Saddam's hands

TEL AVIV: The Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, his city under attack by Iraqi missiles , has accused fleeing citizens of deserting and playing into the hands of Saddam Hussein, reports Reuter.

The 63-year-old former war hero and longtime Mayor incensed droves of Tel Aviv residents who abandoned the city for Jerusalem or elsewhere to escape the almost nightly Scud raids.

"He could call us refugees. That is a more suitable term". said Ronit, who fled to Eilat on the Red Sea but returned to keep watch on her home in the heart of Tel Aviv

Saddam has fired 25 Scud missiles at Israel in the first 11 days of the Gulf war, killing four people and wounding 195, most in the Tel Aviv area and at night

"I'm trying to live, but I'm sitting here paralysed waiting for the next siren", Ronit said after dark no Sunday. Many residents reported they could not sleep at night

SOS in stones

ABOARD THE USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT: About 20 to 30 Iraqi soldiers stranded on a small island off Kuwait have indicated they want to surrender, a U.S. Navy intelligence officer said Sunday, reports AFP.

Commander Mark Lawrence, 38, said the Iraqi troops on the island of Umm Al-Maradim, nearly 20 miles (32 kilometers) off the coast of southern Kuwait, have written the message "SOS we surrender (SIC) " in stones.

He said the message was spotted early Sunday by the pilot of a U.S. Navy A 6E from the aircraft carrier USS Ranger.

Cmdr. Lawrence said the Iraqi troops, apparently put on the island as forward observers, had not received supplies for a week. He said U.S. ships or aircraft had not yet contacted the

men directly but "we will probably go and pick those guys The island normally houses a Coast Guard station but is otherwise uninhabited

2,000 executed in Soviet Union

MOSCOW: Capital punishment statistics, showing the number of persons executed for criminal offences; was made public here for the first time in the Soviet Union's history, reports IAN.

More than 2,000 people were sentenced to death in the country in the past five years. Over the same period however, the number of death sentences handed down annually decreased from 770 to 276.

The Soviet Union is among 130 countries where the criminal legislation envisages capital punishment. Fourteen eriminal offences are punishable by death in the USSR. It is expected that under new criminal legislation their number will decrease to four high treason, terrorist acts, sabotage, and aggravated murder.

The above-mentioned crimes account for about 95 per cent of death sentences.

Indo-Pak accord to stop attacks on N-plants

ful use of nuclear energy, and

regional and western experts

have said they believe Pakistan

its nuclear facilities to interna-

tional inspection or sign the

nuclear non-proliferation

Israel winning

Gulf war without

firing a single

shot

ment is wailing across the Arab

world: Israel is winning the

blitz the most powerful Arab

army and war wreaks eco-

nomic havoc and environmen

tal damage, Arab commenta-

tors say the Jewish state is

reaping political, military and

unaccustomed restraint.

financial benefits from its

trying to draw Israel into the

war by firing Scud missiles at

its cities has backfired, wiping

out Arab political gains earned

during the Palestinian uprising

in the Israeli-occupied territo-

their loudest voice "thank you

Saddam", no one has served

them as he has," complained

Saced Sonbol, Editor of

Egypt's biggest selling daily Al-

The Israelis should say in

Saddam Hussein's tactic of

Gulf war without firing a shot.

CAIRO, Jan 28: A new la-

While U.S-led allied forces

Islamabad refuses to open

now has the nuclear bomb.

ISLAMABAD, Jan 28: India and Pakistan Sunday ratified an accord prohibiting attacks on one another's nuclear facilities, the foreign office in Islamabad said, reports AFP.

Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit delivered his country's ratification to Afzal Qadir. officiating as Foreign Secretary in the absence of Shahriyar Khan, a statement said. Mr. Khan is travelling with

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on a Gulf peace mission. The bilateral agreement was reached in December 1988 and its implementation was pending formal ratification

by the two countries, whose relations are marred by mutual Earlier Sunday in New Delht Pakistan High Commissioner (Ambassador) to New Delhi Abdul Sattar deposited the Pakistani ratification with In-

dian Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey. The foreign office statement said that following ratification by the two sides, "the

agreement has come into effeet from January 27 1991." The bilateral pact commits both sides, who have fought

three wars in the last 40 years. to refrain from attacking one another's nuclear facilities. It was hatled as a

"breakthrough" when agreed by India's then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir

Bhutto at a Regional Summit in Islamabad in December 1988. India exploded its first nu clear device in 1974, saying it

Akhbar.

ries, they say.

Arab intellectuals are divided over who to blame for the disaster, but all agree it is was committed to the peace-

There were no immediate (48 kilometers by 13 kilomeare blamed here for deliber-Air raids alone won't drive Iraq out:Cheney

UNDATED, January 28: A new torrent of bombs pounded Iraq as US officials said they would ready to launch a ground offensive before the end of February. Allied forces tried to keep the world's largest oil spill from decimating Saudi Arabia's water supply by bombing the pipeline that fed the massive slick, reports AP.

Iraq hinted it might use chemical and biological weapons against the U.S.-led In Washington, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said U.S. soldiers will be ready

"before the end of February" to

launch a ground offensive to

force Iraqi President Saddam

Hussain's troops out of Kuwait.

broke out, reports Xinhua.

of over-split of the Gulf war.

nationals.

Cheney admitted - despite

the allies relentless bombing of Iraq- air attacks alone would not drive Iraq out of Kuwait, the oil- rich emirate it annexed in August. "We have always assumed

that would eventually have to send in found forces," Cheney said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press. Some 480,000 U.S. troops

dominate the multinational army of 743,000. Saddam has some 540,000 soldiers in and near occupied Kuwait. Meanwhile, the round-the clock bombing of what U.S. officials say are Iraqi military

targets continued. Explosions lit the night sky above Basra. Iragi's only Gul port and military headquarters for Kuwait. Iran's official news agency 4.800 Pakistanis airlifted: The Pakistan

Local press reports in Islamabad said Monday that the PIA

has operated twenty four special flights to bring back those

International Airline (PIA) has airlifted over 4,800 Pakistanis home from the Gulf since January 16 when the Gulf war

Pakistani workers who wanted to leave the Gulf states in fear The reports said that the PIA has so far flown 10 special flights since January 16 to Dubai and brought back over 2.240 Pakistan Nationals, eight flights to Abu Dhabi with 1,580 Pakistan nationals, five flights to Muscat with 470 Pakistan nationals and one flight to Doha with about 400 Pakistan