

# Chances of defeat not even one in a million : Saddam

NICOSIA, Jan 29 : Saddam Hussein said his missiles could deliver chemical, nuclear and biological blows to his enemies in the Gulf war, and raised the possibility of their use, according to a television report, reports AP.



It could deliver such warheads on its modified Scud missiles.

A radio broadcast in Iraq Monday contained a similarly ominous threat to use 'strategic weapons' to end the Gulf war, and Iraqi radio claimed that some captured allied airmen have been injured by allied air raids.

CNN correspondent Peter Arnett said Saddam made the claim about non-conventional warheads during a 90-minute interview with him in a Baghdad bungalow. Arnett spoke by telephone with CNN Monday evening.

Iraq has fired dozens of the missiles at Saudi Arabia and Israel since the war started Jan 17, though all have held conventional warheads.

Iraq is known to have developed chemical and biological weaponry, but Western analysts have questioned whether

frain from using chemical weapons if the United States and its allies also refrained from doing so.

"I don't mean that," Arnett quoted Saddam as saying, "Iraq will use weapons that equate the weapons used against us."

"All the air superiority... that has come upon us has failed. We have maintained our balance, using only conventional weapons," Saddam was quoted as saying.

He added, "We pray that not a lot of blood will be shed from any nation, we pray that we shall not be forced in taking a forced measure," Arnett said.

**Oil spill justified**  
Asked how he could justify the spilling of millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf, Saddam answered "If Iraq uses oil for self-defense, including in the sea, then Iraq will be justified in taking such an action," according to Arnett.

Asked whether the Iraqi warplanes which have landed in Iran will be used during the war, Saddam replied "In all

circumstances we respect the decisions and regulations of the state of Iran."

Allied officials have said as many as 100 Iraqi planes have flown to Iran, which has promised to impound them until the war's end.

There has been some speculation that the Iraqi planes have landed in Iran as a safe haven against allied bombing raids.

Asked of his chances of losing his war with the allies, Saddam said "not even one in a million," according to Arnett.

"I wish the Americans well and pray that none of their sons will die," Saddam said, and expressed his gratitude for anti-war demonstrations in the United States and Western Europe.

Baghdad's 'Mother of Battles' Radio warned Monday that Iraq has not yet used its strategic weapons, without specifying what those strategic weapons are.

"What will emerge from these days when these weapons are used is more tragic days for the allied forces who began the aggression, then lost control of it," said the radio, monitored in Nicosia.

"Iraq's power alone will determine the finale of this confrontation the way it wants it (the finale) to be."

Iraqi radio, in a terse broadcast also monitored in Nicosia, said "a number of captured pilots were wounded" in air raids Sunday and Monday on "populated areas and civilians targets in Iraq."

The responsible military quarters did not indicate whether any of the injured pilots have died, it added. It gave no further details, although earlier communications reported a total of 134 air raids Sunday and Monday.

### 20 Allied POWs

Iraq claims to hold more than 20 allied airmen, including Americans, Britons and Italians.

It has shown some of them in interviews on Iraqi television and also said it was placing the prisoners as human shields at "vital targets" that might come under attack by allied warplanes.



BAGHDAD : This undated photo, released by the Iraqi news agency INA to Jordanian newspapers shows, according to INA damage done to a Baghdad civilian neighbourhood by allied bombing.

# Sharif embarrassed as General Beg blasts allied bombing

ISLAMABAD, Jan 29 : Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif flew back from a Middle East peace mission yesterday to find his Army Chief openly questioning government backing for efforts to prise Iraq out of Kuwait, reports Reuter.

Pakistan officially supports United Nations resolutions calling for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to pull out of Kuwait and has sent 11,000 soldiers to help defend Saudi Arabia.

But faced with pro-Saddam protests in every major city each day, General Mirza Aslam Beg used an address to senior officers yesterday to praise Iraqi "resilience." He called the Gulf war a Zionist plan to neutralise the Islamic world.

Sharif, at his first full news conference since taking office in November, appeared unaware of the General's outburst.

He was evasive when asked whether he agreed with the Army Chief of Staff's statement that Iraq had been "encouraged" to invade Kuwait to provide a justification for war.

Pakistan's troops would stay in Saudi Arabia, adding: "The policy of the government of Pakistan comes from the Government."

**Another Karbala.**  
The Pakistani Army Chief likened the fierce allied bombing of Iraq to the tragedy of Karbala-- one of the most potent events in Islamic history-- when the Prophet Muhammad's (Sm) grandson was martyred 14 centuries ago in what is now Iraq.

### Iran will hold Iraqi planes till end of war

WASHINGTON, Jan 29 : Iran has assured the United States that it will remain neutral in the Gulf conflict and would hold Iraqi planes that fly into its territory until the end of the war, the White House said Monday, reports AP.

A letter from Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, distributed at the United Nations Monday listed bombing of a nomadic Bedouin camp, a train crossing a desert landscape, food storage areas and attacks on nearly every provincial capital.

But Sharif said, "I do not think that anyone can sympathise with this idea."

AFP adds: Pakistan's Army Chief yesterday accused the US-led coalition of going to war without first trying to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

In his first statement since the allies launched air strikes against Iraq, General Mirza Aslam Beg said Iraq was no doubt "guilty of aggression" but it should have been given "more time to realize the pit-

falls of its mistakes."

The entire civilized world joined the war against Iraq without first trying to find a peaceful solution," the General said.

The Army chief called for efforts, in cooperation with Iran, to get the "Iraqi aggression vacated from Kuwait" with "simultaneous pullout of foreign forces from Saudi Arabia."

### Kashmir Solution stressed

He also urged settlement of the Palestine issue and the Indo-Pakistan Kashmir dispute.

"While vast resources were being employed to liberate Kuwait, it was now logical to adopt a similar approach to liberate Kashmir and Palestine," he said.

The General said the Gulf war was "badly eroding the unity of Muslims" and its expansion would have "devastating political, military and economic effects on the entire region."

Reuter adds: Military sources in London said about 100 Iraqi military and civil aircraft have flown to Iran.



SAALFELDEN (Austria) : Mrs Europe 1991 elect Monika Gilbert (C) of Germany gets a kiss from runners up second placed Gabriele Gedeon (R) of Germany and third placed Susan Haman of Denmark late January 27 in Saalfelden Festivity Hall

# Off the Record

## Trousers thrown away

WAMENA (Indonesia) : Twenty years ago, the Indonesian military dropped trousers from airplanes on remote villages to get male Iranian Jayans to stop wearing phallic guards, reports IPS.

Code - named 'Operation Koteka,' that effort to change what was seen as a primitive local dress code was a miserable failure - the tribesmen threw the trousers away of wore them on the head as hats.

Many people in Wamena today wear trousers. However, the local government is now telling them to take them off and put the gourd back on to promote tourism.

Said Obeth, a U. S. -educated Iranian Jayan, who is researching the impact of tourism on local culture: "The message conflicts with the government's stated policy to modernise."

After taking over the old Dutch colony of western New Guinea (Irian Jaya) in 1963, Indonesia has sought to bring education, health care and a formal legal structure to a land once devoid of such trappings of western 'civilisation'.

But these efforts at development (like the one to promote trousers) have for the most part been ill advised, contradictory or counter-productive. Sometimes all three.

## Rules for polar trek

MOSCOW : As of July 1, 1991, the rules of navigation along the routes of the Northern Sea trek adopted by the USSR Council of Ministers in July of 1990 will come into effect, reports IAN.

Soviet ships and ships from any other nations will be able to take the shortest cut Europe to the Pacific seas. The inauguration of the polar route will considerably accelerate and reduce the cost of cargo deliveries.

Foreigners are still denied access to many navigation manuals. By July 1 the necessary maps and navigation manuals will be published.

The Soviet Union has offered nuclear and ordinary ice breakers for taking caravans from West to East and back. Provisions have been made for aircraft ice situation reconnaissance, polar navigation services, the delivery of fuel, food and water to foreign ships, as well as medical services.

## Do or don't

SAALBACH-HINTERGLEMM (Austria) : Franz Heizer knows only too well the frustration of finishing fourth. This time he decided it would either be a medal or nothing at all, reports AP.

The Swiss skier took all the risks on a steep, treacherous course and finally came up with the big one-- the gold in the downhill, the most difficult and glamorous Alpine skiing event.

Heizer, 28, finished fourth in three previous World Championships. He had a slow start but then blazed down the 2,990-meter Schneekristall course in a winning time of one minute, 54.91 seconds.

"I've been fourth three times in the world championships and it's absolutely marvellous that I won today," Heizer said. "It's a wonderful feeling."

"My aim today was just to get a medal and not to be fourth again," he said.

## Kabul blanketed with snow

KABUL : More than 30 inches (76 cm) of snow have blanketed the Afghan capital in the last three days, burying cars and bringing traffic to a halt, reports Reuter.

As the snow halted late on Sunday, people emerged from their beleaguered homes to clear the roads.

"It's an uphill task as I have seen nothing like this over the past 50 years," said Mohammad Aftab, 58, an embassy worker. With an average of 10 inches (25 cm) falling daily, many houses across Kabul were damaged and huge drifts piled up at roadsides. The city has no resources to clear the streets, officials said.

The latest snowfall was likely to cause severe food distribution problems.

After a previous heavy snowfall at the end of December, the city experienced shortages of bread and fuel. The authorities have been providing more than 50 tons of flour daily to residents to help ease the situation.

# WAR CASUALTIES MONDAY

UNDATED, Jan 29 : Losses announced in the Gulf war as of 2300 GMT Monday, reports AP.

**Military Losses:**  
Allies: by allied count: 23 planes, 1 helicopter lost-one airman killed and 27 missing including nine confirmed POWs.  
Iraq: by allied count: 49 aircraft, eight ships, eight Iraqi troops killed, between 100 and 110 POWs.

Allies: by Iraqi count: 172 Aircraft or missiles 10 airmen captured.

Iraq: by Iraqi count: 39 soldiers killed.

Allied breakdown:  
United States: 12 aircraft and one helicopter, one airman killed and 14 missing.

Britain: six aircraft, including five lost in action, 10 airmen missing.

Italy: One aircraft, two crew, two crew missing.

Kuwait: One aircraft, pilot missing.

Saudi Arabia: One aircraft (for technical reasons) pilot safe.

Two other allied aircraft lost, nationalities not given.

Civilian losses by allied count:  
Israel: Four civilians dead and 215 injured in seven Iraqi Scud missile raids.

Saudi Arabia: One civilian dead and 42 injured in Iraqi missile attacks.

Iraq: by Iraqi count: 123 civilians killed and 327 injured.

# 320 Iraqis killed, extensive damage caused: UN told

UNITED NATIONS Jan 29 : In its first detailed account of the early days of the Gulf war, Iraq has portrayed an air blitz by US and Allied bombers that caused widespread damage and more than 320 civilians alone, reports Reuter.

A letter from Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, distributed at the United Nations Monday listed bombing of a nomadic Bedouin camp, a train crossing a desert landscape, food storage areas and attacks on nearly every provincial capital.

The account, which gave no details of military damage or casualties, said about 400 people were wounded in the raids, many of them women and children in residential areas.

The letter gave terse details of only the first days of the bombing, up to January 23 in the capital Baghdad and 10 days earlier in outlying areas.

It said the "brutal" raids against "civilian economic, humanitarian medical, cultural and religious targets" was proof

that vengeance was the motive behind the bombing.

The letter said Washington and its allies v.e.t.ed revenge because of Iraq's independent politics.

The accounts indicated that in the opening days of the war US and Allied bombing was most severe in Iraq's Najaf region near Saudi Arabia.

**Biggest toll in Najaf**  
It said that in the biggest single casualty toll on January 21, four days after the bombing started, 130 civilians were killed in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, one of the largest Iraqi towns close to the Saudi border.

Agglomerations (groups) of nomadic Bedouin bombed in the Huwaymal area near UMM Taysarah: 20 killed including 12 children and five women, a report from the Najaf region said.

The letter indicated that although bombing caused damage in Baghdad, casualties were not as high in the capital as some military experts forecast.

It listed a total of only eight civilians killed and 12 wounded in the first two days of the bombing of Baghdad.

Sites in the capital that were damaged by the bombing including the country's main Muslim with valuable Babylonian archaeological artifacts, the city's major sports stadium, a large post office, several factories, a main downtown avenue and a restaurant.

The letter said the Allied air forces used "Missiles", "Cluster bombs", "Time-delay bombs" and "Spherical bombs".

Many of the reports mentioned women and children killed in the raids. U.S. and allied statements have said that only military sites were the targets of bombing.

Residential centres bombed in the Rubal area four children and two women killed; 16 other citizens wounded including six women and five children.

# BRIFFLY

## Allied pilots hurt

Iraq said on Monday that captured Allied pilots have been wounded in Allied air raids, reports Reuter from Nicosia.

The Iraqi authorities said last week that captured airmen were being kept at possible targets to deter allied attack. Western governments said the use of prisoners as "human shields" would be a war crime.

The brief announcement on Iraqi radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, gave no nationalities for the wounded pilots.

## German Patriots for Israel

German Government is considering to offer a batch of Patriot missiles to Israel, official source said in Bonn Monday, reports Xinhua.

German government spokesman Dieter Vogel told reporters that Prime Minister Helmut Kohl recently had twice expressed the consideration of "sending clear support signals to war-threatening Israel."

So far, Israel has not given its concrete requirements, he added.

The proposal of offering Patriot anti-air missiles to Israel was reportedly put forward by German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher during his stay in Israel and German Government is likely to make its final decision about it on Wednesday.

All Patriot anti-craft missile systems owned by federal defence forces were purchased from the United States several years ago.

## Blast rocks Athens

Bomb blasts, apparently linked to the Gulf war, rocked Athens for the second consecutive night on Tuesday, exploding near the Israeli Embassy and the offices of British Petroleum, police in Athens said, reports Reuter.

Police added, according to first reports there were material damages but no injuries. They believed the attacks were again linked to the Gulf war against Iraq.

On Monday night a rocket grenade, fired across a busy Athens avenue, wrecked the American Express offices and a bomb exploded outside the Greek-owned Inter-American insurance company.

## 8.3 pc. EC workforce jobless

The rate of unemployment in the European Community (EC) is estimated to have been 8.3 per cent of the workforce during November 1990, and remained stable during the second half of the year, the EC eurostat statistical office said in Brussels on Monday, reports AFP.

The estimate took account of seasonal variations and national differences in the way the figures are calculated.

The rate fell slightly in what used to be West Germany and in Portugal, but rose in Britain and in Luxembourg.

In October, a total of 14 million people were registered as unemployed compared with an annual average of 14.6 million in 1989.

## 2 shot at in Gaza

Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a three-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy on the occupied Gaza Strip during a brief curfew break Monday, Palestinian sources in Jerusalem reported, reports AFP.

Dozens of people gathered at Khan Younis in the south of the Gaza Strip during a four-hour break in the strict curfew when women-only were supposed to go out to fetch supplies.

Soldiers opened fire to disperse the crowds, the sources said.

The curfew had been imposed following the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf January 17.

## Tanker-freighter collision

A Japanese tanker carrying heavy oil collided with a Honduran-registered freighter in western Japan Monday, causing a small oil spill, a maritime safety agency official in Tokyo said, reports AP.

The collision between the 200-tonne tanker No.8 Kasuga Maru and the 500-tonne freighter Taiyo No. 7 occurred in the Naruto Strait and led to the loss of 15 kilolitres (3,900 gallons) of heavy oil, the official said. The vessel had been carrying 500 kilolitres (130,000 barrels) of fuel.

The three-member crew of the Kasuga Maru and the eight-member crew of the Taiyo were confirmed safe, the official said.

## Reuter reporter arrested

The Israeli army has arrested a reporter for Reuters in the occupied Gaza Strip on suspicion he aided Hamas, a banned Islamic fundamentalist group directing a Palestinian uprising, reports Reuter.

Soldiers picked up Taher Shriteh, 30, a freelance reporter, at his home in Gaza city on Monday and took away some of his papers, his family in Jerusalem said.

The army said in a statement: "Taher Shriteh was arrested for questioning on suspicion that he used his office as a journalist to assist the Hamas organisation in the distribution of leaflets and statements that Hamas activists wrote and wanted to distribute."

## Chinese official in Rangoon

The General Secretary of the Chinese State Council, Luo Gan, arrived in the Burmese capital Monday for an official visit, state-run radio Rangoon said, reports AP.

Mr. Luo and his six-member delegation were greeted at Rangoon's Mingladon airport by Burmese Home and Religious Minister Lieutenant-General Phone Myint and senior Burmese officials, the radio said in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok.

Mr. Luo is the highest-ranking Chinese official to visit Burma since the current military government, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), took power after crushing a nation-wide democracy movement in September 1988. China was the first country to recognize the SLORC government.

The report failed to specify the length of the visit.

**Soviet army presence denied** : The press centre of the USSR Ministry of Defence has refuted a report by Sanket Shimbun of Japan that there is still a large number of Soviet military advisors working in Iraq, reports IAN.

The last group of nine Soviet military specialists left Iraq on the evening of January 9.

Sanket Shimbun, quoting international military sources in Moscow also reported that there were suspicions that until recently the Soviet Union had supplied Iraq with components and electronics for missiles, aircrafts, tanks and other military equipments. To this effect, the press centre of the Soviet Ministry of Defence stated that the Soviet Union had repeatedly expressed support for UN Security Council resolutions 660 and 670, which call for an end to all military supplies to Iraq.

# 'Zardari masterminded massacre of 30'

KARACHI, Jan 29 : Police yesterday accused the husband of former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of helping to mastermind the massacre of more than 30 people last year, reports Reuter.

Asif Ali Zardari, who is in jail awaiting trial on charges of extorting money and fixing bank loans for friends, has been accused along with several prominent opposition politicians and Bhutto aides, a court official said.

He said the case against Bhutto's businessman husband, a former Chief Minister of Sindh Province and others had been sent to a special

Karachi court dealing with terrorism.

At least 30 people died in Karachi on August 22 last year when gunmen opened fire on activists of the Mohajir National Movement, political foes of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

The killings came two weeks after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked Bhutto's government, accusing it of corruption.

Bhutto, who was later trounced in October's elections, was abroad on a speaking tour of the United States. The PPP's Deputy Parliamentary Leader, Aftab Shahban Mirani, said, Zardari was innocent.