Demonstration reported in Baghdad

Rebels say fighting to go on till Saddam's exit: 9 cities seized

fundamentalist rebels said on Tuesday they had taken control of ninc lraqi towns and cities, including Basra. They vowed to fight until President Saddam Hussein was ousted. reports Reuter.

The Iran-based Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said in a statement that it's supporters had "liberated...... Basra, Amara. Kut. Diwaniya. Hilla, Najafa, Nassiriya, Karbala,

districts. Shi ite Muslim forces were also fighting troops loval to Saddam in the northern cities and towns of Mosul, Masceb, Sulaimaniya, Diala and Quada

Samawa and hundreds of their

Tai Affar, the SAIRI said. Najaf and Karabala, holy ctties in central Iraq, are cen-

reports Reuter.

camp at Rollestone.

reports Reuter.

BDDD = F

UK holding 65 Arabs: Britain said it was

holding 65 Arabs mostly Iraqis and deportation proceedings

against them would continue despite the end of the Gulf war.

of hostilities does not really affect them." a spokesman for

camp in western England and 33 detainees were in civilian

treated as prisoners of war and were confined to a military

600 Albanians in Italy: Nearly 600

Albanian refugees arrived in Italy on board a Romanian ship

early Wednesday, a Brindist Port official in Brindist, Italy said,

Albanian port of Durres and forced to sail for Italy, docked at

Brindisi shortly before I am local time (midnight GMT).

He said the Alba, which the refugees boarded in the

The new arrivals brought the number of Albanians who

According to the spokesman, the Alba's captain said in

have arrived in the last 24 hours to about 1,500 and to 2,500

radio contact with Brindisi Port that the refugees boarded his

ship on Monday afternoon after it had unloaded a cargo of

AI seeks Palestinians' protection:

The human rights group Amnesty International in London

appealed on Tuesday for protection of Palestinians and others

It said it had reports of scores of arrests of Palestinians.

"According to one eyewitness account, a Sudanese national

The organization said the Red Cross should be given access

Sudanese and Egyptians suspected of having cooperated with

was publicly executed and his wife raped by armed

to any detainees and urged governments with military forces

9 killed in Punjab violence: sikh

militants attacked police escorting rebel detainees, leaving

three dead Tuesday after six more people died in separatist-

linked violence overnight last night in the northern state of

unit escorting three militants outside the village of Wazidpur

shootout between the two sides. Punjab government officials

in Morinda township late Monday, killing two unidentified

people and injuring four more. Later one of the injured died

Albanian politicos to be freed:

Albania will release all political prisoners before national

elections of March 31, Italian television reported on Tuesday,

announced the decision to a group of Italian parliamentarians

It said Alia would release 108 of a total of 215 political

prisoners immediately and the remainder before the

elections. Police said later that about 830 Albanians arrived in

Major meets Bush Mar. 16: British

Prime Minister John Major will meet US President George

Bush in Bermuda on March 16 for informal talks on the

aftermath of the Gulf war, government officials said, reports

The Allies in the anti-Iraq coalition are holding a series of

meetings to discuss the postwar situation. A White House

spokesman said on Monday Bush would be meeting French

Jews to be doubled in WB: Israel's

Housing Ministry plans to double the number of Jewish

settlers on the occupied West Bank by 1993, two left-wing

members of parliament revealed in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

The Ministry, led by hardline Right Winger Ariel Sharon,

Some 14,000 units were to be included in the 1991

Mr Sharon told Voice of Israel radio that "the figures are

The government has not changed it's policy which is not

Kenya accuses US: Kenya authorities

Monday accused the United States government of interfering

in the due process of law in Kenya and disregarding

On Sunday the US embassy in Nairobi released to the

A government statement issued through the official Kenya

media a statement protesting the arrest of an opposition

news agency said, "the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has learnt

with profound dismay of the simultaneous release of a press

statement by the US government in Washington and in

Nairobi on March I. 1991 condemning the arrest of a

Kenyan citizen Gitobu limnyara ... this action by the US

government is strange in that it ignored the normal

diplomatic channels of communication between two friendly

diplomatic norms in dealings with Kenya, reports AFP.

intends to build more than 24,000 new units to house 88,000

budget, which comes up in parliament in the coming weeks.

people on the land Palestinians claim, the MPs said.

to send immigrants to the territories, he said.

exaggerated." But he gave no details.

lawyer and journalist Gitobu Imnyara.

President Francois Mitterrand in Martinique on March 14.

Its report from Tirana said President Ramiz Alia

communist.

An unspectfied number of Sikh gunmen attacked a police

All three militants in custody were killed in an ensuing

In Ropar district, militants opened fire indiscriminately

Punjab, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports AFP.

in Kuwait to do all they could to stop human rights abuses.

Iraqi occupying forces. Some Iraqis were also held, it added,

in Kuwait "at risk of reprisal killings," reports Reuter.

those who have sought refuge in Italy in the last few weeks.

the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

6.000 tonnes of sugar at Durres.

Kuwaities," an Amnesty statement said.

in Punjab's Ferozepur district, PTI said.

the

They said they had no further details.

were quoted by PTI as saying.

in hospital, PTI said.

reports Reuter.

Italy of Tuesday.

reports AFP.

governments."

visiting

The threats to national security still apply. The cessation

He said 32 prisoners of war were being held at a military

Those considered to have military status were being

tres of Shi'ite theology and their citizens have traditionally opposed rulers in Baghdad . mainly of the minority Sunni

presence of US-led coalition

troops in southern Iraq as "a

bitter insult" to the lraqt peo-

ple and demanded their com-

plete withdrawal as soon as

possible. The Gulf War Allies

have said units that ended up

on Iraqi soil at the end of last

week's 100-hour ground war

SAIRI member Mohammed al-Haidari said earlier in Beirnt We affirm our determinatheir hundreds of women. tion to continue the uprising children and old people were against the criminal regime of killed in Basra. Irag's second Saddam that has stained the etty, by artillery fire from honor of the nation," the SAIRI Saddam loyalists. statement said.

He said anti-Saddam The group said its revolt demonstrators also turned out had no links with foreign pow in Baghdad and were coners and all tract opposition fronted by security forces the groups supported it's fight . said rebels held parts of the The group described the

tracti capital.

Haidari added that three tanks had joined rebel forces in Basra on Monday. 'Our peoples too forcefully against two army brigades and stopped their advance towards Basra," he said.

to oust fragt forces from Kuwatt will be withdrawn as

soon as a' ceasefire is for-

In Damascus, a spokesman for the anti-Saddam Shi'ite Dawa party said units of Saddam's Republican Guard failed to break rebel lines in Basra and the city of Nasstriya. "The holy city of Najaf has fallen into the hands of the rebels after bloody confrontations with remnants of security forces," spokesman Jawad Al-Maliki said in a statement. Shi'ites from about half of

Iraq's 17 million population there are an estimated 3.5 million Kurds in northern Iraq, who for decades have fought the leadership in Buddad

Dawa's statement urged Iraqu troops, routed in last



TEHERAN: Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir-al-Hakim, ieuder of a Shi'ite opposition group based in Teheran, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, who emerged on March 4 as spokesman for the reported insurrection in southern Iraq which, the Ayatollah said, had taken control of four cities including Basra.

-AFP/UNB photo.

week's offensive, to join the fight to oust Saddam.

Reuter from Nicosia adds: Iranian President Alf Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani expressed concern on Tuesday at the rebellion in neighbouring fraq and the flood of refugees flee ing to Iran.

In Iran's first public reaction to the revolt against Saddam Hussein Ralsanjani urged the Allied forces occupy ing southern fraq to leave and let regional countries solve their own problems.

The Iranian News Agency IRNA said he made the remarks in a telephone call with

Earlier, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi arrived in Tchran on a surprise visit, carrying a message for Rafsanjant from Saddam IRNA said, there were no details of the message.

Tehran tried to mediate in the Gulf crisis before US-led Allies crushed the fragi army in a four-day offensive last week, occupying a large part of southern Iraq near the Iranian border .

President Rafsanjani expressed concern over the unrest in Iraq as well as the exodus of traut people living to border areas to Iran, saying immediate action should be taken in this regard, IRNA

The best thing the multinational forces can do is to quickly withdraw from the region and let the countries of the region solve their problems themselves it quoted Rafsanjani as telling Kohi.

Iran which fought a war with Iraq from 1980 to 1988 has said it's former foe's territorial integrity must remain

IRNA satd on Tuesday "large numbers" of Iragis had crossed into Iran in the south since fighting broke out in Basra and other parts of southern Iraq last week.

Nearly 10,000 non-fragts fled to Iran from Iraq via Khosravt border northeast of Baghdad during the Gulf war. but the flow decreased to a trickle after the ceasefire last Thursday.

Chatichai's assets frozen

BANGKOK, Mar Thailand's military junta has ordered banks to freeze the assets of former Prime Minister Chatichat Choonhavan and two of his close aides, the Bangkok Post reported Tuesday, reports AP.

The junta also was investigating the assets of 22 ministers and deputy ministers of the Chatichai government for alleged corruption, the newspaper quoted commercial and banking sources as saving.

Meanwhile, US Ambassador Dantel O'Donobue said Tuesday that he told the oulitary junta that Washington hoped for a prompt return to, elected civilian government and a quick release of the onsted Prime Minister.

the junta has set up antigraft committee to investigate the previous administration and says all fliegally acquired assets will be confiscated.

. The Nation newspaper also reported that Chatichai's assets were frozen last Thursday

- A new 1-billion-dollar credit program through the Export-Import Bank in Bush's 1992 budget request, aimed

at facilitating US weapons sales

"I am fearful that we are

going back to business as usual

in the arms trade," said

Michael T. Klare, a professor of

peace and world security

studies at Hampshire College

two could share common in-

"All of these surrogates have

The countries in the Mid-

It is the diver-

their own agendas," he said.

"we could find ourselves once

dle East should be devoting

their resources to their own'

sion of scarce resources to

wasteful and dangerous milt-

tary expenditure that is the

cause of so much instability in

the region." said Sen. Clai-

borne pell, chairman of the

Senate Foreign Relations

again in a terrible mess."

development.

Committee.

abread.

8 anti-Iraq Arab states set up peace force

Arab countries in the anti-fraq coalition agreed on Tuesday to set up an Arab peace force as part of a draft security and economic plan, officials and

They said the force was intended as a method to maintain security and stability in the Gulf and to "prevent repetition of such actions like Iraq's August 2 invasion of

diplomats said, reports Renter.

The force would be deployed in Gulf countries but the cources gave no further

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Magnid, attending a meeting of eight Arab foreign ministers in Damascus, said earlier Syrian and Egyptian 'troops could form the nu-

Abdel-Magutd said such a Force could fill the gap left by eventual withdrawal of the US-led multinational troops who drove the Iraqis out of

Syrian Foreign Minister Faroug Al-Shara told reporters the agreement to be called "Damascus declaration" would be announced and signed by the eight ministers today.

The declaration was drafted by Shara, Abdel-Maguid and their counterparts from the Gulf Cooperation Council -Saudi Arabia, Kuwatt, Bahrain,

Oman, and the United Arab

Shara did not give details of the declaration apart from saying it would include coordina-

tion and cooperation in the security, political and economic Officials said the agreement includes provision for oil-rich

Gulf states to contribute to development in Syrta and Egypt The ministers also discussed how to push forward the peace process in the Mid-

dle East.

700 killed in communal clash in India last year

NEW DELHI, Mar 6: Nearly 700 people were killed in Hindu-Muslim clashes in India in 1990, some 100 more than the previous year, parliament was informed on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Minister of State for Home Subodh Kant Saha told the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) that 130 of the victims last year died in the southern city of Hyderabad and 112 in the neithern city of Aligarh.

He did not give any further break-down.

Off the Record

Benazir says cake was there!

KARACHI: Pakistan could have staved off a damaging US aid cut off but for the folly of highlighting its nuclear programme, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The United States cut 560 million dollars in economic and military aid last October because of fears that Pakistan was developing nuclear weapons.

Bhutto said she could have pacified Washington had she not been ousted by President Chulam Ishaq Khan in August. Let me tell you that something could have been worked out

without affecting Pakistan's Defence needs at all, she said in an interview at her home in Karachi. We could have had our cake and eaten it too if it had not

been for the folly of putting on the switch." US sources speaking privately, say that Pakistan restarted

enriching urantum towards weapons grade material early last year as tension rose with its neighbour India over a Muslim revolt in disputed Kashmir. Pakistan, despite denials, is widely believed to either pos-

sess nuclear weapons or to be close to making them. India exploded a device in 1974 but also denies having nuclear Pakistan's main nuclear facilities at its highly secret Kahuta

plant outside Islamabad are said by experts to be more advanced than those of Iraq, which were a prime target of Allied forces in the Gulf war.

Baghdad radio tempers tone

NICOSIA: Official Baghdad radio on Tuesday tempered its triumphant tone and compared Iraq to Japan and Germany in the aftermath of World War II. reports AFP.

For the first time since Iraq's defeat at the hands of US-led allied forces last month the radio steered clear of describing the outcome of the hostilities as a great victory for Baghdad.

The miracles performed by Japan and Germany in the fields of business and technology after the Second World War provide examples of the ability of peoples to renew them-

selves, the radio said in a commentary monitored here. Whatever the outcome of the battle, history will remember that the Iraqis were among those who stood up to the invaders, according to the commentary.

The radio likewise aired remarks by a Palestinian militant. Abul Abbas of the Palestine Liberation Front, suggesting that Iraq did not in fact win the Gulf war.

The results of a single battle are not the definitive results in the historical war between freedom and oppression, he

Hoxha casting shadow even from grave

VIENNA: Even from his grave. Albanian leader Enver Hoxha is casting a long shadow over the tiny Balkan country he ruled unchallenged for 40 years, reports Reuter.

The legacy of the communist hard-liner, who died in 1985, is at the centre of a bitter and sometimes violent struggle between those who want to reform the system he pursued and those who want a clean break with the past.

When angry crowds pulled down statues of Hoxha in Tirana and other Albanian towns last month, the communist government's response seemed to reveal limits to how far and fast it was prepared to go on reforms begun last December.

The figure of Enver Hoxha cannot be torn down because it personifies the biography of the people, the history of new Albania." his successor Ramiz Alia said three days after the

The Communist Party and the Albanian people are proud

of having had such a leader".

US troops safer in the Gulf

WASHINGTON: President George Bush on Tuesday said American troops may have been safer in the Gulf war than they would have been walking the streets of some US cities and called on Congress to pass stiffer crime laws, reports

"Now that the shooting has stopped overseas we've got to redouble our efforts to silence the guns here at home," Bush told a gathering of more than 650 police chiefs and law enforcement authorities.

Today the fear of crime strikes too many American families," Bush said, "parents fear for their kids in school, and on the way home." Pointing to the efforts of American combat troops in the

Gulf. Bush said that "during the first three days of the ground offensive, more Americans were killed in some American eities than at the entire Kuwaiti front. Think of it, one of our brave national guardsmen may have

actually been safer in the midst of the largest armoured offensive in history than he would have been on the streets of his hometown," Bush said.

"It's outrageous, its wrong and it's going to change". The Defence Department lists three Americans as killed in ground combat during the first three days of the land offensive. An additional 28 died in a Scud attack that hit their barracks in Saudi Arabia.

Maldivian FM confirms political discontent

Massive crackdown on anti-Gayoom activists

COLOMBO, Mar 6 : A wave of unprecedented arrests and detentions have highlighted simmering dissent in the tiny Indian Occan a toll nation of Maldives which glossy travel broachers tout as the last paradisc on earth, repots AFP.

Analysts here say a series of arson attacks and an attempt to blow up a conference hall for South Asian leaders in the capital male, have resulted in dozens of arrests, including journalists since November.

"The significant feature now is that dissent has come into the open. Earlier no one dared say anything against the government," a Maldive-watcher here said, adding that a failed coup in 1988 had sparked off the trend.

President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom who survived the coup led by local dissidents with the help of Sri Lankan Tamil mercenaries, referred to the unrest when he addressed parliament Sunday.

Any differences of opinion and thought that may occur among the people should not be allowed to adversely effect the stability of the country. "The people should find

ways of settling such differenecs among themselves", he Analysts say that until a few years back officials rarely talked openly about dissent in

the Maldives, which has a one party system with full executive and legislative powers. resting with the President. Lying some 700 kilometers (430 miles) southwest of Sri

Lanka, violence was virtually unknown in the peaceful Islamic archipelago until the November 1988 armed attack on Male, in which more than a dozen people died. "That (coup attempt) really

gave a jolt to the authorities. They promised to bring about

Maldivian Foreign Minister

Fathulla Jameel acknowledged there was discontent in the country, "but said the problem was being exaggerated by people who are involved."

"This is bound to happen and is happening all over the world. It is not only in the Maldives," Mr. Jameel told Agence France-presse during his visit to Sri Lanka last week. *But if anyone resorts to vi-

olence and threatens and terrorises people then of course. we will take it seriously." Mr. Jameel said.

The country's parliament passed tough prevention of terrorism laws in December to contain the rising militancy. Hardline newspapers Sangu

and Hukuru were closed and their top journalists arrested. following unprecedented criti-

cism of the government and reforms, perhaps realising tormer Junior Defence there was some sort of internal Minister Ilyas Ibrahim. opposition to their rule," an US to help rearm ME

WASHINGTON, Mar 6: Even before the smoke of the Gulf War has cleared, there are signs the Middle East is moving to rearm- with help from the United States, reports AP.

There are US plans to sell F-165, "smart" bombs, cluster bombs and missiles to Egypt. and to provide new military aid to Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and others in the region, according to Defense Depart ment documents and congressional sources.

Critics say this policy ignores the mistake of having armed Iraq so heavily. Secretary of State James A

Baker III is leaving for a nineday trip to the Middle East that will include discussions with leaders about arms control. President George Bush is expected to make the topic a primary subject of his speech Wednesday night to a total session of Congress.

But Bush apparently has no intention of imposing the kind of across the board morate

rium on weapons sales called for by some congressional leaders. "I don't think will be any arms embargo" by the United States, Bush said last

Critics worry about:

- A notification that Washington intends to sell 1.6 billion dollars in new weapons to Egypt, a leading ally in the Gulf War. The list includes 46 F-16 fighter planes, 80 air-toground maverick missiles and 240 cluster bombs.

in Amherst, Massachusetts. "There seems to be a policy that we won the war, so we can do whatever we want" he said in a telephone interview. That includes US defense contractors profiting from USSR selling new weaponry in what has for the past decade been the world's most lucrative arms market, he said. Afghanistan Klare said such an approach ignores a primary lesson of the conflict: That the United States helped build Iraq into a regional military power based on a misguided hope that the

iraq Mediterranean Sea Str. of Hormuz Jordan Egypt Libya Oman Saudi Arabia **United Arab Emirates** S. Yemen Sudan Ethiopia INDIAN OCEAN Djibouti -

Middle East