

Missile launched at Riyadh: The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) quoted a senior Saudi source Saturday as saying an Iraqi Scud missile had been launched at Saudi Arabia, reports Reuter.

It was not known where or when the missile was launched, nor what had happened to it, but a television crew in the capital Riyadh was, said to have filmed vapour trails that might have belonged to anti-missile weapons.

The BBC report quoted the Saudi source as saying all Iraqi long-range missiles capable of hitting population centres in Saudi Arabia had now been destroyed.

Shekhar for end to war: Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar called for an early end to the Gulf war Saturday and a peaceful discussion on all issues involved, reports AFP.

Mr. Shekhar warned the international community over the "tendency to escalate" the fighting in the Gulf, after expressing regrets that all efforts by India and other nations had failed to prevent an armed conflict.

Mr. Shekhar, in a nationwide television and radio broadcast, called all those concerned to "try to come to terms so that peace is restored in that area, and then think over all

other problems in a more calm and cordial atmosphere". "Even in this hour, we should make a determined bid to see that peace is restored. All other matters can be taken care

of subsequently". US staff flee to Cyprus: The entire staff of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut has fled to Cyprus because of fears the diplomats could be attacked by terrorists, a

Lebanese Foreign Ministry source said Saturday, reports AP. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and his staff were helicoptered directly from the embassy compound to Cyprus. We have no information of how many American diplomats were involved in the evacuation", the source said.

He said the Foreign Ministry was not officially informed of the flight late Friday. Crocker began serving as ambassador to Lebanon in November.

"It seems the Americans have pulled out their diplomats to avoid attacks triggered by the war in the Gulf. The Americans consider Lebanon a weak security area," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

3 French kidnapped: Rebels launched and attack in northwestern Colombia Friday, kidnapping three French engineers who were working on an oil pipeline, and leaving behind a slain security guard, police spokesman said, reports AFP.

Guerillas detained some 100 pipeline construction workers, but later released them. The leftist attack on the Caribbean coast pipeline near, Zaragoza, 500 kilometers (310 miles) northwest of Bogota, was attributed to a wig of the Simon Bolivar National Guerilla Coordinator (CNGSB), police

They said guerillas affiliated with the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) killed security chief Virgilio Callo during the offensive, and set fire to several trucks as well as excavation machinery.

Peace linked to Palestine: The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Tokyo said peace in the Middle East was not possible without settling the Palestinian issue, reports AFP.

"Irag's invasion to Kuwait should be linked to the Palestine issue. Peace in the Middle East would not be achieved if the two issues are not resolved at the same time." said Baker Abdel Munem.

Washington, has repeatedly rebuffed attempts by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to link Iraq's occupation of Kuwait to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza strip. Mr. Munem denounced the United States of starting the war "in definance of global calls for peace" and called for global efforts to find a settlement.

4 killed in Pak blast : A powerful bomb ripped through a downtown cinema house in Rawalpindi city near Pakistan's capital Saturday, killing at least four and injuring 47, police said, reports AFP.

Police immediately cordened of the Khurshid Cinema, located in usually crowded Raja Bazar, witnesses said. The cinema house was packed with Saturday night movie-goers.

Explosive experts were investigating and police officials said they had no immediate clues as to who had planted the bomb and why.

More than 30 of the injured were admitted to the city's main hospital and sources there said at least four of them were in critical condition. The remaining is ured were taken to other city hospitals.

6 children die in Kabul : Rebels fired two rockets into the Afghan capital Kabul Saturday, killing six children and injuring five people, Kabul radio reported reports Reuter.

All the casualties were caused by a surface-to-surface rocket hitting Tayamani neighborhood near the airport, according to the broadcast monitored in the Pakistani capital Islamabad

The official radio blamed the attack on 'extremists', the Soviet-backed government's term for western-supported rebels. Kabul has been the frequent target of guerilla rockets

during 12 years of civil war. Saturday's attack was the first reproted by the Afghan media since November 27, when three rockets killed a child and injured four people.

Palestinian woman killed: Israeli troops in the occupied West bank shot dead a young Palestinian woman Saturday while she was feeding her baby on a balcony during a military curfew, Arab sources in Jerusalem said, reports AFP.

Lubna Aziz Al-Kaddash, 24, was downed in a hail of bullets, fatally wounded in the face and chest, the sources said. There was no indication the baby had been hurt.

A military spokesman confirmed the killing and said the woman was breaking the curiew imposed in the occupied territories after 'the start of the Gulf war on Thursday'.

Her death brings to 774 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli gunfire since the December 1987 outbreak of an anti-Israeli uprising in the West Bank and Gaza strip according to an unofficial toll based on Arab reprots.

Gorbachev asks world body to persuade Iraq

President Mikhail Gorbachev is urging the international community to strive harder to persuade Iraq to leave Kuwait

'In a letter to Spanish Prime Minister Phillip Gonzalez on Saturday Gorbachev stressed the need to intensify efforts by the international community to get Iraq to leave Kuwait, a Spanish government spokeswoman said she gave

no details. González who discussed developments in the Gulf with his Foreign and Defence Minsiters for three hours on Saturday, felt that despite the outbreak of hostilites the diplomatic drive for peace should not be abandoned, the spokeswoman said.

Spain's interior ministry cancelled all police leave and put security forces on

Barcelona in armoured cars and Arab travellers were asked to give satisfactory reasons for visiting Spain before they were allowed through customs.

government spokeswoman said. Gonzalez also condemned unprovoked Iraqi missile attacks on Israel and praised Israclis elevated sense of responsibility shown by not answering Baghdad's

Foreign Minister Francisco playing a game on the edge of to extend the Gulf war and kill



President George Bush, Yitzhak Shamir and Saddam Hussein: High stakes in the Gulf war.

US troops moving for hammer blows

With US troops in East Saudi Arabia, Jan 20: The U.S. army's rapid deployment force headed north on Saturday to prepare for a ground offensive against Iraq that like thousands of allied air sorties, could be launched mostly at night, reports Reuter.

The 2nd brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, clements of which parachuted onto Panama a year ago, began ferrying its war machinery aboard C-130 Hercules transport planes and in convoys through the desert.

It includes Vulcan anti-aircraft artillery, 105 mm Howitzers, shoulder-fired missiles and mortars .

"We are repositioning in an assembly area north along the border to conduct offensive fire. operations if we're told", said

NICOSIA, Jan 20: Iraq said

early Sunday it had downed a

total of 142 allied planes dur-

ing three days of massive air

raids by US lead forces, re-

"dozens" of Iraqi civilians

killed or wounded in air raids.

and its allies) failed to achieve

their goal despite massive air

raids on Baghdad," the radio

said. "The air raids caused

dozens of Iraqi civilians killed

their allies had been giving

"false" accounts on losses of

planes and pilots. The figure of

142 planes shot down was an

increase of 41 from earlier

US desence officials say 10

aircraft have been lost in the

first two days-six from the

United States, two British, one

were killed and 51 wounded in

Saturday's air raids on Baghdad

and other Iraqi cities, but did

not say whether they were

ton: The toll of allied aircraft

lost in the Gulf war rose to 10

on Saturday with the crash of a

US marine OV-10 ground-sup-

port plane, but two of 11 miss-

ing American crew members

have been rescued, US De-

rine Turboprop OV-10 had

been lost with its two-man

crew while directing fire

against Iraqi artillery positions

Five other US aircraft and

The officials said the ma-

Reuter adds from Washing-

The radio said 31 Iragis

Italian and one Kuwaiti.

civilians or soldiers.

fence officials said

in Kuwait.

It said the Americans and

"They (the United States

ports Reuter.

or wounded.'

lraqi reports.

Colonel Ron Roksz Brigade Commander.

Without saying the Brigade . would be positioned along Saudi Arabias' border with Kuwait or Oraq, Rokosz said the move would take several

They expect to use night vision goggles similar to those used by allied pilots and said to be better than a Soviet-made version used by the Iraqis.

"I think we ought to fight at night", said Rokosz, "we've got massive superiority with night He demonstrated the armys

capabilities in a videotaped exercise. In this, soldiers breached three segments of desensive barded wire at night under the cover of machinegun

Rokosz delined to elaborate

142 planes downed: Iraq

10 fighters lost: US

on the role the 82nd airbone would play in a ground war but suggested that the force would best complement a heavily armoured tank division.

The 82nd airbone based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina arrived in Saudi Arabia just a week after Iraq invaded Kuwait last August and morale was high as they prepared for their

"We'll show him who the paper tigers are", said specialist George Jackeson, 23, of Dallas, Texas, a gunner on optically-guided Tow missiles.

Missile right down Saddam's throat

"I' m going to show Iraqi President Saddam Ilussein a missile right down his throat, I just want to go home and see

light infantry battalions and supporting armour air desence and engineering backup.

my mom smile, he said .

may just two days."

We have to temper the

The Brigade features three

soldier's enthusiasm that we

Some of those waiting to head north in a makeshift barracks listened to radio reports on the war, cleaned M-16 rifles, received a quick course on minefields or exercised

with crude weights. One sign of the division's confidence came from staff sergeant Bruce Bennett, 33, of springfield Illinois. He extended his term of service after it expired in September, knowing his with was expecting a baby on Valentine's day, February 14.

"I couldn't sit to home and watch it on TV while all the guys were going into action", Bennett said. It would have been easy to let young guys handle it I couoldn't live with that decision."

"I 'm looking forward to it", said Corporal Chris Totten, 21, of Sumner Washington whose grandather served in the 82nd airborne in world war two. Its been too long here."

The desire to get rid of this guy Saddam is tremendous" said first lieutenant Lee Mcknight of Lafayette North

For sergeant Daniel Brittain a platoon leader from Cusseta, Georgia, the campaign should make other expansionist minded leders think again.

This is for freedom said Brittain someone has got to straighten him out. He's crazy.

AFP from Washington adds: Three days after the start of Operation Descrt Storm, most analysts here estimate that a ground offensive, if needed, is at least 10 days off, but no one dares predict how long the war might last.

President George Bush Friday assured the nation that "we will prevail" while cautioning that "this effort will take some time" .

"War is vever cheap or easy ," said Mr. Bush, trying to abate initial cuphoria over the perccived success of massive allied bombings of Iraqi positions in the early hours of the

After 36 hours of non-stop air attacks US strategists seem satisfied with the results, but they are less cuphoric than at the dutset of the conflict.

Americans want Saddam to give up Kuwait, not power

WASHINGTON, Jan 20: Most Americans want Iraqi President Saddam Hussein not only to give up Kuwait, but to give up power, according to polls released Saturday, reports AFP.

Sixty-five per cent of those polled by ABC news said the anti-iraq coalition's objective should to be to topple Mr. Hussein, who has refused to withdraw its tsroops from Kuwait.

A Cable News Network (CNN) -- gallup poll said 66 per cent of those questioned think the Iraqi leader should be removed from power. compared to 30 per cent who said he should just withdraw from Kuwait.

The CNN-gallup poll also said 86 per cent approved of US President George Bush 's handling of the Gulf crisis and the ABC poll said 83 per cent supported the war-up from 76 per cent Wednesday.

Off the Record

Saddam, Bush doing well in Manila zoo

MANILA: Saddam and Bush are doing well in a Manila government zoo after bouts of diarrhoea and influenza, Philippine officials said, Sunday, reports Reuter.

The two baby gibbons named after Iraqi President Saddam Husseln and U.S. Presidesnt George Bush, have been getting shots of antibiotics at the zoo since government agents confiscated them from a local store on January 11.

Officials suspect the sickly pair were smuggled into the country from the island of Borneo or Indonesia.

Zoo Director Marcelino Dalmacio said local environmentalists had expressed concern at the condition of Saddam and Bush, who belong to one of the world's rare and endangered species.

They're not exhibits

SAUDI ARABIA: The first 12 Iraqi prisoners of the Gulf war barefoot, unshaven and subdued -- quitely accepted U.S. field rations medical care and water on Saturday on their first full day in captivity, reports Reuter.

They were captured on Friday in a US raid on nine Kuwaiti oil platforms in the Gulf used by Iraqi troops to fire on allied aircraft.

The prisones sat in the sand, barefoot and unshaven, spooning up food the brown plastic packets of field rations. One American soldiers bent to bandage a prisoners foot.

They are as well as can be expected foreombat troops, one marine officers said of the group, dressed in navy sweaters and olive drab fatiques. US troops treated them gently, an NCO put arm around

one prisoner's shoulder at one point and a photographer was forbidden from filming their faces, They are not exibits in a zoo, the Americans explained. Thumbscrews and racks are a thing of the past, said the

marine Security Officers supervising the operation. You can break any body and get them to say whatever you want to hear. But you get a better response if you treat them humanly. We learned that in Vietnam.

After eating the prisoners were to be asked their names and ranks and given a medical check up.

Delivery of baby with gas mask

TEL AVIV: A woman in the Tel Aviv region, who went into labour on hearing air raid strens warning of a possible Iraqi missile attack, later gave birth to a healthy child while still wearing her gas mask, hospital sources said here, reports

Both mother and baby were said to be doing fine. When her baby was born, the woman was able to take off her gas mask to greet it, the sources said.

Since the Oulf war began early on Thursday, Iraqi missles have injured a total of 47 people here, although there have been no deaths.

Residents have been told to done their gas masks in case the missiles carry chemical warheads, but so far all the attacks have been with conventionally-armed weapons.

Heroic epics

NICOSIA: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Friday ordered the Iraqi people to help the local media report. The heroic epics" of his Armed Forces in the war against the USled coalition, reports Reuter. A statement by a military spokesman said Saddam has

ordered that to acquint Iraqi, Arab, and world public opinion with the details of the heroic epics of our great people and the heroic valiant Armed Forces..... And in order to document what is necessary from the

military and humanitarian situations it has been decided to call on everyone to cooperate with the media men to achieve these objectives."

This includes photographing the enemy's equipment that is seized and destroyed," said the statement, carried by the Iraqi news agency INA and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

10 Iraqi missile launchers bombed

PARIS, Jan 20: Warplanes from the anti-Iraqi coalition had bombed 10 out of 40 Iraq mobile Scud-B missiles launchers on Thursday and carly Friday, as well as most of the Iraqi fixed missile sites and storage facilities, according to a senior French military officials, reports AFP.

Thirty of the mobile sites thus remained untouched when air raids resumed Friday afternoon.

Before the outbreak of the Gulf war, Iraq possessd some 800 Soviet-built Scud-B missiles based at 50 fixed launch sites and on 40 mobile launchers, the official said. He added that an estimated one quarter of them were upgraded Al Hussein and Al Abbas versions of the original Soviet product.

The mobile launchers are extremely dificult to localise for stellites and reconaissance planes because they are capable of travelling at 70 kilo

meters (45 miles) an hour on roadways, and can move to their launching site, release their missiles and relocate to shelters before they are hit by opposition counter strikes.

Forty of the 50 fixed sites were operational several days before the coalition offensive. and 30 additional sites were under construction but were not finished when hostilities began, the official said.

The Scud-B with a maximum range of 280 kilometers (175 miles) is accurate to

within 400 meters (440 vards).

The modified Al Hussein has a range of 600 kilometers (370 miles) and is accurate to within only 2,000 meters (2,200 yards), according to reliable western sources, while the Al Abbas can travel 900 kilometers (560 miles) and is

accurate to within 3,000 meters [3,300 yards].

Today in History

Today is Monday . Jan. 21, the 21th day of 1991. There are 344 days left in the year, reports UNB. Highlights in history on this

1606 -- England's parliament imposes severe penalties against Roman Catholics.

732 -- Russia gives up claims to certain Persian territories by Treaty of Riascha.

XVI is beheaded 1954 -- First atomic submarine, U.S.S. Nautilus, is launched in United

793 -- France's King Louis

1968 -- Britain draws up plans to withdraw its troops from Far East and Perstan Gulf. 1970 -- France's sale of Mirage jet planes to Libya is

States.

announced; Iraq foils attempt to overthrow its government and promptly executes 12 men.

1974 - United States rejects South Vietnam's request for naval support in fighting with Cinese for Paracel

1986 -- Auto packed with explosives blows up near office of President Amin Gemayal's Phalange Party in East Betrut, Lebanon, killing 22 people and wounding

Today's birth days

John Fitch, W.S. naval engineer (1743-1798); Leo Delibes, French composer (1836-1891): Telly Savalas, U.S. actor (1924 --); Benny Hill. English comedian (1925--); Placido Domingo, Spanish tenor (1941 --); Geena Davis, U.S. actress (1957-).

Thought for today

Let us be happy and live within our means, even if we have to borrow the money to do it with - Artemus Ward U.S. revolutionary commander (1727-1800).

MARDID, Jan 20: Soviet maximum alert against possible guerilla attacks by iraqi agents or sympathisers. The paramilitary civil guard patrolled the international airports of Madrid and

peacefully, reports Reuter.

aggression. Fernandez Ordonez accused Iraqi leader Saddam Husscin of

an abyss with Israel by trying as many people as possible.

four allied planes-two British, one Italian and one Kuwaitihave also been lost in the first few days of the war.

The US aircraft lost also include two navy A-6E attack Baghdad radio also reported jets, each with a two-man has no knowledge about recrew: a single -scat navy F/A-18 fighter-bomber: an air force F-15E with two crewmen and an air force F-4G with two

Nine of the 11 American crewmen from those planes are still missing despite searches. But the Pentagon said the two crewmen from the F4- O had been rescued and were in good condition.

US to use new modern arms in ground attack

With British Forces in Saudi Arabia, Jan 20: A new weapon which can tear up an area the size of 12 football pitches may help allied forces win the ground offensive against Iraqi troops dug in on the Kuwait border, military

experts say, reports Reuter. Dubbed "the deadly dozen," the Multi Launch Rocket System (MLRS) has never been used in combat but is the most destructive weapon in the armouries of American and British troops, who will probably be the first to engage Iraqis on

the ground. The mobile launchers, mounted on tracked vehicles were pressed into service with the British army six months earlier then planned because of the Gulf crisis.

Iraq said carly Sunday it had downed 142 allied planes during three days of massive

air raids by US-lcd forces. The Pentagon has said it ports from Iraq that some of the downed crew members might have been captured. Britain has lost two Tornado G31 ground attack planes: Italy one Tornado fighter and Kuwait

one A-4 Skyhawk.

A US spekesman said 10 Iraqi jets had been shot down in acrial combat-six Sovietbuilt MIG-29s, three French Mirage F-1S and what was believed to be a Soviet built MIG-

NATO to protect Turkey AFP from Brussels adds: The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation "will protect Turkey" in the event of an at-

Woener said Saturday. In an interview with the German television station Mr. Woerner stressed that NATO would "act only to protect its member nations, and will not go beyond this."

tack on it by Iraq, NATO Sec-

retary General Manfred

Turkey, which is a member of NATO sought protection from the alliance in the event of an attack from Iraq, which borders its territory. The alliance responded by sending German, Italian and Belgian

planes to Turkish bases. U.S. forces based in Turkey have on several occassions carried out sorties over Iraq since the Gulf war broke out

carly Thursday.



SOMEWHERE IN SAUDI ARABIA- A British armoured personnel carrier heading out of its battalion area as units are being re-deployed towards the border with Kuwait on January 19. The allied troops are expected to launch massive strike - AFP/UNB photo on Iraqi positions in Kuwait within next few days.