Iraq must quit Kuwait : British Prime Minister John Major said in Bonn Monday that Britain had one sole objective in the Gulf war and that was to get Iraq out of Kuwait, reports AFP.

Speaking on his first visit to Germany as Prime Minister. Mr. Major said that "we set our objectives in the Security Council resolutions that the United Nations approved. Those are one objectives and no others."

Mr. Major was replying to journalists' questions after meeting for two hours with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. He had been asked whether the Allied coalition against Iraq was not aiming to depose Iraqi President Saddam Hussein or even kill him.

GCC may increase oil output : our Arab states have spent 45 per cent of their earnings to support the activities of the anti-Iraqi coalition in the six months since Iraq invaded Kuwait, a prominent Kuwaiti

economist has said, reports AFP. Jassim Al-Saadoum, quoted Sunday by the newspaper Alkhaleej, said the Gulf crisis had already cost Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) more than 20 billion dollars. "After the end of the war, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

states could be forced to increase oil output to boost revenues," Mr. Saadoum in Abu Dhabi said.

Iraq fires second Scud: Iraq fired a Scud missile at Israel early Tuesday the second in one night, the army in Jerusalem said, reports Reuter.

There was no immediate information on damage or casualties or on where the missile landed.

Sirens sounded throughout the country at 1.29 a.m. [2329 GMT), and Israel radio warned people to don gas masks and shelter in sealed rooms in case of chemical attack.

Early on Monday evening a Scud slammed into an uninhabited area of central Israel, causing no casualties. A false alarm sounded later on Monday night.

Patriot destroys Scud: A US Patriot missile destroyed an Iraqi Scud over the Saudi capital on Monday and two people were injured by flying glass when missile debris hit the ground, Saudi officials in Riyadh said,

The Iraqi missile flew in from the north at 10.30 pm and US army batteries fired three Patriots to intercept it. The Scud and at least one Patriot exploded in a fireball in the sky and debris hit a university campus outside Riyadh.

Officials said an Indian and an Egyptian worker were injured by glass fragments. An ambulance driver described them as security guards." *

OIC Confce in Cairo: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), representing 45 countries, will hold a special conference in Cairo on the Gulf war "shortly". Its Secretary-General Hamid Algabid said in Belgrade Monday according to an OIC official, reports AFP.

Mr. Algabid, a former Prime Minister of Niger, arrived Monday in Yugoslavia for a meeting of 15 non-aligned nations who are to discuss a new "peace plan" to end the Gulf war. Mr. Algabid will attend the meeting as an observer.

The OIC conference would be held at Foreign Minister level and with officials from OIC's two offices in Cairo and Kuwait, the official said.

Iraqi DPM in Algiers : Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoum Hammadi arrived in Algiers late Monday from Tunis saying the situation in "his war torn country was good and there is nothing to arouse worry and fear, " reports

Mr Hammadi, who was welcomed by Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali declared on arrival that Iraq is ready to engage in the land battle at any moment.

His country's main diplomatic aim at the moment, he said was to repulse the enemy and unify the front made up of militants in the Arab and Muslim countries,"

Stating that there was no reason for fear, he went on in spite of the losses caused by aggression, we are determined to defend the interests of our country and repulse the "aggressors."

NAM move to end war: Foreign Ministers of 15 non-aligned states will seek a formula for a negotiated end to the Gulf war at a meeting opening Tuesday

in Belgrade, reports Reuter. Key players in the Middle East-including Iran, Egypt and Algeria -join senior members of the 102-nation Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) including India and Yugoslavia, the current

Officials spent Monday working on a document to be discussed by the minister.

"There is hope that the war will end most urgently and as soon as possible," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati

told reporters.

Iraqi govt despotic: Rafsanjani

TEHRAN, Feb 12: President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani denounced the Iraqi government Monday as despotic and won resounding public support for his policy of neutrality in the Gulf war, reports Reuter.

Rafsanjani's mediation effort has been coolly received by Baghdad. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein did not mention the Iranian proposals in a deflant speech on Sunday.

The Iranian President told crowds marking the 12th anniversary of the Islamic Revo lution that both sides were fighting for an unjust cause.

He said Iran's neutral stance was just "when a large number of world states have aligned themselves with the US aggressor and a few others have approved the illegal takcover of independent Kuwait due to their subservience to another despotic power."

An estimated half a million people braved sub-zero temperatures and roared approval of Rafsanjani's remarks during a rally in Tehran's Azadi (freedom) square.

Rafsanjani turned the occasion into a display of support for his government's policy on the war. "Rafsanjani's government embodies the hope of our nation, " marchers chan-

They called for Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the departure of foreign troops from the region.

Iraq said Monday it would never accept a ceasefire with the US-led forces in the war. Slogans by the Tehran dem-

onstrators reflected the anti-

American thrust of the revolution led by the late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Shouts of "death to America" and "death to Israel" rang out in the square and the marchers warned the Jewis state of Muslims' revenge if it intervened in the war against

But there was no support for the Baghdad government in its fight against the US-led alliance although Rafsanjani con-

demned the Allies for hitting civilian targets.

The Iranian News Agency IRNA said millions throughout the country market the anniversary of the revolution which toppled the Pro-western Shah and turned Iran into a centre of Islamic fundamen-

The only way to continue the divine revolution and to liberate world nations from the flaws of oppressors and tyrants is the rule of real Islam... " said a statement read out at the end of the Tehran rally.

IRNA correspondent watching the rally from a helicopter reported that the sprawling Azadi Square and its surrounding streets were packed up to a radius of sevcral kilometres," the agency

The marchers called for a stronger Iranian military to counter "The treacherous plots and stratagems of the enemics of Islam and revolution led by global arrogance (America)."

IRNA said elderly people from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war also took part in the rally.

Bush not in hurry for ground assault

US marines move into attack positions

DHAHRAN, (Saudi Arabia) Feb 12: U.S. marines are moving into attack positions ahead of an expected assault on Iraqi troops who the Allies say have suffered a severe mauling from bombing, reports

A Pooled press report said on Monday thousands of men. carrying the minimum equipment needed for combat, were taking up forward positions in foxholes a two-hour drive from Kuwait city.

"There's a strong desire to

Allied spokesman repeated that commanders would not rush into a ground or sea offensive to oust Iraq from Kuwait but would wait until bombing had done maximum harm to Iraqi resistance.

The relentless pounding over the past 26 days meant the Iraqis had stopped operating as a national army pursuing theatre objectives, a US intel-

"Now, they operate in small pockets, seemingly working independently," said Jessie Morinoto, Chief of Forward Operation Location intelli-

"What they're doing is trying to defend themselves as people. The army is fairly stationary, she told Pool reporters at an airbase in north-

The Iraqis' ability and will to fight had been badly hit, she

*When you have somebody bomb your position day and night, you're not very well fed ... there comes a point when

diers were faced with the choice of defect, surrender, or stay in place and die.

Near the Kuwaiti - Saudi border, members of the Saudi 20th brigade referred to allied bombings raids as the evening light show.

Bush was given the pros and

cons of a ground offensive by

Defence Secretary Dick Ch

eney and General Colin Powell.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff. They returned on Sunday

night from meeting Allied

very, very effective and it will

continue for a while, Bush said

after the 90 - minute briefing

in the White House residence.

ever time is necessary to sort

out when a next stage might

beging, he told reporters

gathered in the White House

Bush said he would refuse

to give any indication when he

might unleash ground troops

against the Iraqi military en

trenched in heavily guarded

positions in Kuwait and south-

ern Iraq. Doing so could en-

danger Allied troops, he said.

Cheney, in comments to

reporters who travelled with

him to Saudi Arabia and sug-

gested that while a ground assault against over a half- mil-

lion entrenched Iraqi troops in

and near Kuwait was inevitable.

it was not necessarily immi-

mous size of the Iraqi mili-

tary." he said Sunday, a re-

mark widely taken to mean he

might favour several more

weeks of bombing to soften up

confidence in his top military

advisers and that while he

would make the decision on

when a ground campaign

might start, he would do it

based on the advice of Cheney

There was no talk on Mon

day of moving to another phase

of a war that was been fought

almost entirely by Allied war

planes striking targets in Iraq

and Kuwait with near impunity.

we've got plenty of airplanes,

Lieutenant General Tom Kelly

told reporters at the Pentagon.

The wise thing to do is to keep

on doing what we're doing and

continue to attrit (weaken) the

that foot soldier as we possibly

drawn criticism from the So-

viet Union which says the ex-

tent of the bombing campaign

may exceed the terms of the

United Nations ultimatum.

Iraqi reports of large numbers

of Iraqi civilians killed in the

raids have also struck a nerve

he would not let these pres-

sures push him into an early

we were on the right path, I

feel even more so now ... and

so we will just continue down

this road we're the ones that

are going to set the time for

any action that is taken. We are

not going to suit somebody

else's timetable, whether he

lives in Baghdad or any place

else, and that's exactly the way

few house before caused no in-

it should be." Bush said.

Bush hinted strongly that

"I've always felt confident

can before we go."

at the White House.

ground war.

"Let's make it as easy on

The United States has

We've got plenty of targets

Bush stressed he had total

"I am struck by the enor

rose garden.

nent.

Iraqi forces.

and Powell.

"We're going to take what-

The air campaign has been

commanders in Saudi Arabia.

"Later at night you get the B-52 strikes. it roll you out of bed," said Captain Da Vid Halla, an air liaison officer.

He woke up at 1 a.m. recently to watch bombers drip 17. 1.000-pound (450 kg) bombs. I saw the fireball and was impressed that 40 miles (60 km) away you could actually see it.

were still hundreds of military targets to hit, although one said Kuwait looked like a junkyard with large areas of blackencd craters.

A Washington report says: US end the occupation of Kuwait.



WASHINGTON: U S President George Bush (2nd L) answers a question in the Rose Garden. President Bush said that the bombing of Iraq "will continue for a while." Along with Bush are (Front row L-R): US Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, President Bush, Vice President Dan Quayle, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Gen. Colin Powell. (Back row L-R) National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, Deputy National Security Adviser Willam Gates, Chief of -AFP photo

7,000 civilian casualties from Allied bombings

er US Attorney General Ramawas given of civilian casualties stood at 6,000 to 7,000, reports AFP.

Mr Clark said Dr Ibraham Al Noore, Director in Iraq of the Red Crescent Red Cross provided that figure basing it on communication with relief workers distributing hospital supplies around the country.

tions that the United States was guilty of war crimes

against civilians. The bombing is a violation of international law, which all of us should always remember protects civilians, Mr. Clark

stressed.

3,200 kilometer journey through Iraq, the activist said he saw hundreds of homes destroyed and other bomb damage in places where there's no possible military target.

Mr Clark said other individuals he questioned in Iraq were only able to estimate civilian death tolls in their own surrounding areas.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said Monday in Washington the United States was unable to determine how many civilians may have been killed in Allied bombing runs and thus can not estimate a civilian casualty figure.

A Nicosia report says: Yesterday Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi declared that Baghdad had chosen to fight for its sovercignty and said Iraq was holding up under an Allied air

offensive, despite civilian casu-

Mr. Hammadi. who was speaking in the Libyan capital Tripoli, charged in a dispatch from the Libyan news agency JANA, monitored here, that "America and Zionism wanted to destroy all national progressive regimes in the Arab world.

onel Moamer Gaddafi that "Iraq has chosen to fight and is ready to defend its sovereignty and its options."

the aggression is solid and good, despite civilian losses that the enemy has inflieted."

Sunday from Jordan and left Monday for Tunisia, where he was met at the airport by Foreign Minister Habib Boulares.

Ben Ali.

A Scud attack on Israeli military said. Another attack a

juries or damage. Velayati was asked to explain the discrepancy between Iran's assertion that 22 Iraqi planes had landed in Iran since the beginning of the Gulf war and Allied assertions that 147 planes had landed.

"What we have said, that is the correct number. Some of them have tried to cross our borders but they were crushed the number of the planes that landed in our country is 22 as I have said."

staff jobs.

Baker said Glaspie was stating the formal policy of the

Off the Record

Overcrowded sky

AN AIRBASE IN SAUDI ARABIA: The skies over Kuwait are so crowded with allied planes that mid-air collisions are feared, a sentor U.S. Air Force commander said, reports

With the Allied Air Force pounding Iraqi positions in Kuwait in hundreds of missions daily, air traffic control has

become extremely complicated. "It is very congested up there. There are a lot of airplanes that are getting compressed in a small area," said Colonel Gary Voeliger. Commander of the 82nd Airborne Warning and Control Wing.

The number of sorties is overwhelming. One of my concerns is a mid-air collision."

Ground attack planes sometimes have to move off assigned targets with undropped bombs to make way for other Warplanes to carry off scheduled missions, said Colonel Charles Patterson, Commander of the 4409 Operational Support Wing.

Another officer said air traffic over Kuwait was busier than the combined air traffic over Los Angeles. Dallas and Atlanta.

They look like goons

MANILA: Members of the 100,000 strong Philliptne police force have been banned from wearing moustaches because the Police Chief says they make them look like hoodlums, reports

National Police Director General Cesar Nazareno said on Monday that every policeman "must be clean shaven and wellgroomed to look like a real law enforcer, not a street goon who scares people."

God Grooming, he said, would give Filipinos an impression of discipline which makes the public secure in the though they would be protected from physical harm.

Homeless in the land of plenty

LONDON: Hundreds, possibly thousands of people are sleeping on the streets of London during the harshest snowstorms to sweep the British capital in years, reports Reuter. A blanket covered form lies in the freezing doorway of a

smart office building in central London. A pair of shoes peeps out, but there is no sign of life. In a park nearby, dozens of pigeons and gulls squawk over crumbs in the snow, the remains of a food hand-out given to

men forced to live in an open bandstand strewn with blankets, cigarette butts and empty bottles. Freezing temperatures and up to a foot (0.3 of a metre) of

snow in London have focussed attention on the plight of the homeless in Britain's big cities for those on the streets, Government promises of an extra 730 hostel beds are not It's just a token gesture, said Kenneth Davis, rummaging

through old clothes heaped around the bandstand in Lincoln's Inn fields, a charity group had brought the clothes the night before but most of them were for women.

A couple of weeks ago it was really cold colder than now. but there was no snow so there wasn't much response, said Davis who has been without a home for 18 months.

Rotting potatoes

TOKYO: Rotting potatoes were responsible for the deaths of three Japanese farmers, police said, reports Reuter.

They said that Katsuzo Futaesaku, 51, of Ibaraki, 160 km (100 miles) north of Tokyo, collapsed in a hole in his field on Thursday while checking in his underground sweet potato

As his wife screamed, neighbours Katsutoshi Maie, 60, and his son Toshio, 29.climbed into the hole to help, but they too keeled over.

Police said the neighbours died almost immediately. Futaesaku was rushed to hospital but succumbed.

The rotting potatoes had evidently reacted with the air in the sealed store-hole to use up almost all the oxygen, police

Subsequent tests showed the air contained only 1.1 per cent oxygen, compared with the usual 20 per cent in the earth's atmosphere.

Baker denies US go-ahead to Iraqi invasion

WASHINGTON, Feb 12 : Secretary of State James Baker on Monday defended US Ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie against charges that she gave President Saddam Hussein a "green light" to invade Kuwait, reports

In a CBS television interview to be broadcast on Monday evening. Baker described Glaspie as "a very fine public servant" but said she was not acting under his direct instructions when she met Saddam on July 25, a week before he invaded Kuwait. At the meeting which has

since become a subject of fierce controversy in the United States Glaspie told the Iraqi leader Washington took no position on Iraq's border dispute with Kuwait According to a transcript later

released by the Iraqis and not disputed by the State Department, Glaspie told Saddam: "We have no opinion on the Arab-Arab disputes, like your border disagreements with Kuwait. James Baker had instructed our official spokesmen to emphasis this instruction."

Glaspie left Baghdad for a vacation 36 hours before the invasion began, since then she has been working in mid-level State Department

United States at the meeting, adding that it was ludicrous to believe that Saddam decided on the invasion because of that conversation.

What I think she's stating was what was the formal policy of the United States at that time in the sense that we did not have a security guarantee or a formal security arrangement with Kuwait," Baker said.

don't think she was giving him the green light. I'm confident she was not intending to give him the green light," he added

le was asked whether Glaspie was conveying a policy he had directed her to express, he answered 'no.'

Baker has been accused of using Glaspie as a scapegoat for his own policy failings. Before the war, the State Department vehemently opposed attempts by Congress to introduce sanctions against Iraq because of its human rights record.

There's a lot of 20/20 hindsighting of Ambassador Glaspie who is a very fine public servant. And I really think that that's unfortunate and I think, as I've said many many times, that it is ludicrous to suggest that somehow Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait because we led him to invade Kuwait." Baker said.

I heard from people that

Other refugees from Kuwait

other people died of cholera but

I don't know how many," he

arriving at the Jordanian border

with Iraq on Monday said they

told Reuters.

Cholera in Kuwait

RUWEISHED (Jordan), Feb 12 : A Jordanian who fled Kuwait said on Monday cholera had broken out in part of the Emirate, where people were desperate to escape an Allied ground assault, reports Reuter.

who left Kuwait on Friday with his brother, said he knew one man and his 22-year-old son who had caught cholera. Rahman, who lived in the upper class Salmiyah area of Kuwait, said the man had died

happened to the son.

Khalid Abdul Rahman, 17.

had not heard of any cases of cholera. But all said they had fled to escape what they believed was an imminent Allied ground attack against fragt troops who

conquered Kuwatt last August 2.

"Everybody is very worried and afraid," said Rahman.

but he didn't know what had

get it over with and go home ... the only thing that stands between them and home is (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein. said Chief Warrant Officer Charles Rowe, spokesman for the first marine division.

ligence officer said.

ern Saudt Arabta.

you say that's enough." Morimoto said Iraqi sol-

Allied pilots said 'there

President George Bush said on Monday allied bombing had been effective against Iraqi forces and he was in no hurry to send his troops into poten tially bloody land warfare to



Staff John Sunnunu, and Secretary of State James Baker.

NEW YORK, Feb 12 : Formsey Clark said Monday after returning from a one week trip to Iraq the best estimate he from Allied bombing raids

The peace activist and attorney told a news conference here opposite the United Na-

Iceland likely

to recognise

Lithuania

REYKJAVIK, Feb 12 : Ice-

land's Parliament voted on

Monday to recognise Lithuania

as an independent state and

instructed the government to

set up diplomatic ties as soon

by a western country since

Lithuania declared itself inde-

pendent form the Soviet Union

The vote in the Althing -

the world's oldest Parliament

was 43 in favour one against

with two abstentions and 17

Iceland never recognised

Several other western na-

tions have expressed support

for the Baltic republics' drive

for independence but none has

yet granted any of them

Lithuanian Parliament voted to

make a declaration of an inde-

pendent, democratic state ap-

proved at the weekend by

over 75 per cent of all eligible

voters, the basis of its pro-

It also appealed to other

nations to help Lithuania to

restore its pre-world war in-

dependence as a full member

posed new constitution.

of the world community.

Earlier on Monday, the

diplomatic recognition.

the Soviet Union's annexation

of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

It was the first such move

as possible, reports Reuter.

last March.

in 1940.

members absent.

During the course of his

He told Libyan leader Col-

"The situation in Iraq after

Mr. Hammadi arrived here

He was later to hold talks with President Zine El-Abdine

'Iran won't remain neutral'

NEW YORK, Feb 12: Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on Monday that his country would not remain neutral if Israel became directly involved in the Gulf war, reports Reuter.

Asked by the US Television Network CBS what Iran's reaction would be if Israel were to take an active role, Velayati said: "If any Muslim country is attacked by Israel we can not remain indifferent."

When asked directly

whether Iran would no longer remain neutral if Israel were to take an active role. Velayati replied: "Yes, this is our firm position." Israel has not retaliated against Iraq, which has fired at

least 33 missiles in 13 bar-

rages at the Jewish State since

the beginning of the war on January 17. Four people have been killed and 300 wounded in attacks by missiles carrying conventional warheads.



SAUDI ARABIA: Recent picture of British Lieutenant James Gaselee, 22, giving his men the Life Guards, their weekly foot inspection in order to avoid infection due to the lack of -AFP photo water in the desert