

International

Allied bombings mark beginning and ending of speech

# No surrender: Saddam

## BRIEFLY

### 7 US troops killed in S. Arabia :

Seven US soldiers were killed Thursday when their helicopter crashed in Saudi Arabia, a Pentagon spokesman in Washington said, reports AFP.

Spokesman Salome Hernandez said she could give no further details on the accident, which resulted in the highest US non-combat death toll since the Gulf war started January 17.

### Iraqi diplomat asked to leave US :

The State Department said Thursday it had ordered one of the four Iraqi diplomats still posted in Washington to leave by midnight Saturday for activities incompatible with his functions, reports AFP.

A department official said Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Khalil Shewayish was Thursday informed of the decision to expel his embassy's Third Secretary, who was not identified.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, would neither confirm nor deny that the diplomat was told to leave for spying.

Since Iraq broke off diplomatic relations with the United States February 6—the State Department was officially informed of the break off on February 9, only four Iraqi diplomats have remained in Washington.

### Grenades hit embassies in Iran :

Concussion grenades were thrown at the British, Italian and Turkish embassies in Tehran on Wednesday evening, Iran's official news agency IRNA said, reports Reuters from Nicotia.

There were no reports of injuries. The British and Italian governments both reported broken windows at their missions.

Britain said the Soviet Embassy was also attacked but the Soviet mission was not mentioned in a brief IRNA dispatch received in Cyprus. There was no immediate word from Moscow.

Germany denied an Italian news agency report that its embassy in Tehran was among the targets.

### US seizes goods for Iraq, Kuwait :

Customs agents in Washington have made 70 seizures of goods destined for Iraq or Kuwait since UN sanctions were imposed against the countries in August, an official said Thursday, reports AP.

John C. Kelley Jr. Director of the Customs Service's strategic investigations division, said many of the seizures, worth nearly 10 million dollars, were made in the early stages of the embargo.

Despite the seizures, Kelley said he believes the embargo is working well.

"Criminal investigations involving Iraq and being conducted by the US Customs Service have doubled" since the embargo began, he said.

Among the commodities seized were auto spare parts, air conditioners and spare parts, gas turbine engine parts, lubricants, jet fuel, tires and aircraft spare parts, he said.

Kelley testified before a House of Representatives Energy and Commerce subcommittee which is investigating how Iraq obtained illegal chemical and nuclear weapons and the effectiveness of the embargo.

### 2 Scuds fired at S. Arabia :

Two Iraqi Scud missiles were fired at Saudi Arabia on Thursday but were knocked down by US Patriot missiles, US officials in Riyadh said, reports AP.

The Scuds were fired at north-central Saudi Arabia in an attack coming shortly before Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was to give his response to a Soviet proposal to end the Gulf war.

No casualties or damage were immediately reported from the attack, the second Scud day time launch since the Gulf war broke out on January 17.

Air raid sirens wailed in the capital Riyadh and the eastern city of Dhahran in late afternoon, but the air clear was given within 10 minutes and no scuds or patriot launches were sighted.

### People topple Hoxha statues, troops fire shots

## Tirana bows to democracy demands

BELGRADE, Feb 22: Albanian troops fired warning shots to disperse an angry anti-communist protest in the capital Tirana on Thursday, witnesses there reported, reports AP.

Army and police troops continued to patrol the city, shaken after two consecutive days of demonstrations against the communist regime.

Witnesses said nearly 3,000 people took to the streets on Thursday, the day after tens of thousands of angry Albanians tore down a statue of the former communist leader Enver Hoxha, who ruled the country with an iron fist until his death in 1985.

An Albanian journalist in Tirana said protesters on Thursday ransacked a bookstore selling works by Mr Hoxha and set fire to them.

A leader of the newly-formed opposition Albanian Democratic Party addressed the crowd, urging them to refrain from violence.

Following protests on Wednesday, President Ramiz Alia announced he was taking direct control of a new government.

He said he was setting up a caretaker body to run the country until multiparty elec-



THIMPHU(Bhutan): Bangladesh Ambassador Syed Muazzam Ali presenting his credentials to His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, King of Bhutan at a colourful and traditional ceremony held here on February 18.

BAGHDAD, Feb 22: Iraq President Saddam Hussein vowed no surrender on Thursday and said in an unyielding speech the Gulf war was heading for the mother of battles, reports Reuter.

His 35-minute speech, monitored around the world for any sign he may withdraw from Kuwait, appeared to contain no new ideas for ending the war.

"The mother of all battles will be our battles for victory and martyrdom. . . They want us to surrender but of course they'll be disappointed," he told 17 million Iraqis who have suffered five weeks of Allied bombing.

Shortly before his radio speech, Allied bombs fell near Baghdad and as Saddam ended with the traditional rallying

call of Allahu Akbar (God is Greater), air raid sirens wailed again.

He criticised US President George Bush for dismissing his February 15 initiative as "a cruel hoax" and attacked Washington's Arab allies, branding Saudi King Fahd and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as traitors.

Hours earlier, Saddam sent Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to Moscow with his response to a last-minute Soviet peace plan aimed at heading off the biggest land battle since World War Two.

The Kremlin said it hoped for a clear and positive answer to its call for an unconditional withdrawal.

Saddam's speech criticised the allies for not looking seriously at this February 15 ini-



Initiative and said they wanted more than a pull-out from Kuwait.

In the initiative Iraq said it was prepared to consider

quitting Kuwait --the first time it had referred to withdrawal -- but linked it to conditions rejected by the Allies.

"They (the Allies) wanted the word 'withdrawal'.... But they don't care for it now and talk about new things," Saddam complained.

"But the word 'withdrawal' they meant stripping Iraq of all power. . . They want from us many new concessions."

The allies have rejected Iraq's February 15 proposals because they were linked to resolving the Arab-Israeli dispute and contained demands such as US war reparations for Baghdad.

Bush is insisting on an unconditional withdrawal in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions.

Saddam raised the Palestinian issue again on

### US troops capture Iraqi flag

WITH THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION, Feb 22: Soldiers of the 24th Infantry Division captured what is believed to be the first Iraqi flag taken by Allied main force ground troops during a cross-border reconnaissance, reports AP.

The flag was taken early Monday from an unoccupied guard post about 800 meters north of the Saudi Arabian border during a reconnaissance mission by two platoons from Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion of the 7th Mechanized Infantry Regiment.

It is believed to be the first such cross-border mission by mechanized infantry troops since the start of the Gulf War on Jan. 17. Special operations groups reportedly have made regular incursions into Iraq and Kuwait.

The exact location of the reconnaissance patrol can not be reported.

No shots were fired during the four-hour mission

### 500 Iraqi troops held in US copter raid

RIYADH, Feb 20: US Army helicopters destroyed an Iraqi bunker complex near the Saudi border Wednesday and captured 400 to 500 Iraqi soldiers, the US military command said, reports AP.

Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters, guarded by heavily armed troops, then ferried the prisoners of war to a holding camp in northern Saudi Arabia.

Marine Brig Gen Richard Neal, chief spokesman for the command, said a final prisoner count would be released once the roundup was completed.

"We're developing a good intelligence profile of enemy forces, but we probably didn't expect to come up with that many EPWs (enemy prisoners of war)," said one senior US source. "That was a fringe benefit."

It was the second mass capture of Iraqi prisoners in the month-old war. Saudi troops captured about 400 in the battle of Khafji on Jan 30.

The Army used a technique, developed in Vietnam and refined for the desert war, in which a scout helicopter locates concealed ground targets and a gunship destroys them.

In a separate action along the border, where armed clashes are now occurring several times a day, one American was killed and seven were wounded by Iraqi artillery, the command said.

Military sources said the clash occurred when a US task force fought Iraqi forces just south of the Saudi border Wednesday afternoon.

The soldier was killed when Iraqi gunners hit the American unit's Vulcan anti-aircraft gun. Two Bradley fighting vehicles also were damaged, Neal said, while the Americans destroyed five Iraqi tanks and 20 artillery pieces and captured seven prisoners.

In other encounters, American aircraft hammered an Iraqi vehicle

### Hammadi seeks China's support for Soviet peace plan

BEIJING, Feb 22: Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi, who arrived in China on the personal instructions of President Saddam Hussein, held talks on the Gulf war with Premier Li Peng Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The two opened talks at 10 A.M. (0200 GMT) in the cloistered Zhongnanhai compound in central Beijing where China's leadership lives and works.

Hammadi told Li in the presence of reporters that he came from Moscow on the personal instructions of Saddam.

"When I was in Baghdad, our President told me to come here after Moscow to greet you," Hammadi said.

The Chinese meeting replied: "I saw you and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz meeting Gorbachev on television."

### Guns thunder along front : Salvation near, says Emir

# US troops cross into Kuwait on patrols

RIYADH, Feb 22: US officials said for the first time Thursday that armed force have made forays across the border into Iraq and Kuwait, reports AP.

After days of refusing to comment, Marine Brig. Gen. Richard Neal, the chief US command spokesman, acknowledged that Allied troops have crossed the 400 miles (640 kilometers) of border dividing Saudi Arabia from Kuwait and Iraq on reconnaissance patrols in recent days.

"US and coalition forces have on occasion crossed the border," Neal told the command's daily news briefing. "It's a continuation of our active campaign of aggressively patrolling, reconnaissance and counter-reconnaissance effort."

Neal said no USA bases had been set up in the Iraqi desert, as some reports have suggested.

A Saudi spokesman said his army's forces crossed the border Thursday, apparently for the first time. A British officer said British forces had not done so.

Meanwhile, the US command said two Americans were killed in the crash of an Army OH-58 scout helicopter returning from combat operations along the border overnight.

Two other aircraft also were lost. An Air Force F-16 fighter-

bomber crashed after suffering engine failure during mid-air refueling, and a Marine CH-46 helicopter was wrecked in an emergency landing.

The F-16 pilot ejected and was rescued. One helicopter crewman suffered a broken leg, the command said.

More small armed encounters flared along the border. US forces reported they destroyed a cluster of five anti-aircraft guns, five radars and equipment and captured seven Iraqi prisoners.

A Marine reconnaissance vehicle was damaged by an Iraqi Sagger missile in one brush, but there were no US casualties, Neal said.

The spokesman said a helicopter returned Thursday to the Iraqi bunker complex where more than 400 prisoners were captured Wednesday. It found 14 more Iraqis ready to surrender and a bunker containing a large number of "intelligence documents."

A final count showed 421

prisoners taken from the bunker complex, Neal said. The group contained 20 officers, including a battalion commander and a lieutenant colonel, he said.

American officials reacted cautiously to a speech by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, heard on radio here, in which he said Iraq was ready for a ground battle if US President George Bush continued to reject Iraqi "peace efforts."

"I'm disappointed personally, but I feel comfortable that if our leaders task us to do this, we will be successful," said a senior military source. "He (Saddam) has miscalculated again, and this is probably his most serious miscalculation."

Just minutes before the speech, Iraq fired two Scud missiles into Saudi Arabia in a rare daylight attack.

Col. Ahmed Al-Robayan, the Saudi spokesman, said the long-range missiles were intercepted by US made Patriot

air defense missiles. They fell in empty desert some distance from their apparent target, King Khalid Military City, a major military complex 125 kilometers (70 miles) south of the border with Iraq, he said.

Later, Saudi sources said it appeared one missile was intercepted and the other broke apart in flight, as three others have done recently.

Saddam did not say if he accepted or rejected a still-secret peace proposal offered by the Soviet Union, but declared "there is no path except the path that we have chosen."

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz was to deliver the formal answer to Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev in Moscow on Thursday.

Meanwhile sound of war thundered up and down the tense Gulf battle line, but words of possible peace came Friday from a meeting in Moscow.

## Off the Record

### 'Schwarzkopf an immoral dwarf'

LONDON : Iraq Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim on Wednesday jeered at US General Norman Schwarzkopf's assessment that the Iraqi army is "on the verge of collapse," reports AP.

"Every day, one of the criminals of the US-Zionist aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation makes statements in which he tries to patch up the psychological condition of the aggressive forces to try to help them hold out in the confrontation with the valiant, victorious forces," Mr Jasim said.

"Who ever among the immoral dwarfs of the aggressive alliance wants to try his luck will meet with blazing fire," Mr Jasim added.

His remarks were made in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA) and reported by Iraqi Radio, monitored here by the BBC.



It referred to Wednesday's interview in the Los Angeles Times, in which Gen Schwarzkopf, Commander of the US forces in the Gulf, described Iraqi forces as "hurting very badly."

"Our assessment of them is that they are on the verge of collapse, Gen Schwarzkopf was quoted as saying.

### Reagan's wish to be buried with Nancy

LOS ANGELES : Former US President Ronald Reagan, 80, wants to be buried with his wife, Nancy 67, on the grounds of the Reagan Presidential Library, now under construction in California, his spokesman said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

But spokesman Bill Garber added, "Ronald Reagan is not planning on being buried anywhere for a long time."

The 60-million dollar library is in the Simi Valley, just outside Los Angeles, and Reagan officials will formally apply in the next two weeks to the Country Planning Department for a burial site, Garber said.

A country official said the country was already approached about the idea by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Foundation, which said the Reagans wanted an outdoor burial site on the west side of the library that is due to open in November.

Garber said it was not unusual for Presidents to be buried on the grounds of their Presidential Libraries. Harry Truman, Herbert Hoover, Rutherford Hayes and Dwight Eisenhower are all buried on the sites of their libraries, he said.

### 'It's not death I'm afraid of'

# Margot Fonteyn dead

PANAMA CITY, Feb 22: Dame Margot Fonteyn, the prima ballerina whose infectious smile and timeless grace thrilled dance lovers for 45 years, died of cancer Thursday in a hospital. She was 71, reports AP.

She had been hospitalized for eight months in Houston and for the last month at a private hospital in Panama City, said Louis Martins, and adviser to President Guillermo Endara and a friend of Dame Margot.

He said in a telephone interview it was a long illness but she did not want people to know she had cancer. "She was very noble. She didn't want people to pity her."

In Houston, she expressed the wish to die in Panama and be buried next to her husband, Roberto Arias, at Panama City's Garden of Peace cemetery, Martins said. The funeral will be Friday.

Martins said Dame Margot was very moved when he visited her at Patilla Hospital on Sunday to give her a testimonial scroll awarded her by Panama's National Ballet. He received the award in her name during a special performance in her honor last Saturday at the National Theater.

at the age of 60, Dame Margot was a miracle of timelessness in the mercurial world of ballet.

Her artistry was legendary, once prompting 48 curtain calls for her Sleeping Beauty with Sir Robert Helpmann in New York in 1949. Just as legendary was the partnership she formed with the famed Russian dancer Rudolf Nureyev.

Queen Elizabeth II made her a dame -- the female equivalent of a knight--in 1956.

"Dame Margot was a lady wonderfully down to earth and yet with an astonishing spiritual grace," said Mikhail Baryshnikov, who danced with her several times. "I think I never knew anybody like her and very much doubt that I ever will. I certainly will never forget her," he said in New York.

Nureyev was visibly shaken when he was told of Fonteyn's death. He had just gotten off a plane in

House, the audience stood in silence Thursday evening



to remember her classic performances there. "She was the complete professional, a true and glamorous star both on and off the stage, and an inspired and unique artist of whom we will never see the like again," said Anthony Dowell, director of the company.

During a recent visit to New York, Dame Margot told an interviewer that personality is conveyed across the footlights.

"It shows through your movement and your dancing," she said. "I think if your personality doesn't come through, then you're a little immature as an artist". One of her final public appearances was in May, when she was given a standing ovation in the royal box at a gala in her honor at the Royal Opera House.

Dame Margot met Arias, son of a president of Panama, in Cambridge, England, during the summer of 1937 when the Sadler's Wells Ballet was

performing there and he was in college.

They saw each other in 1938 and 1939 and then not again for 14 years.

They were married in 1955 and he was made Panamanian ambassador to Britain. In 1964, when he was running for office in Panama, bullets from an assassination attempt left him paralyzed.

"It's not death I'm afraid of. It's living too long," Dame Margot had said after Arias died in 1989.

She remained to manage the ranch, trying to continue her husband's cattle breeding plans.

She retired from the Royal Ballet without a pension and reportedly had financial difficulties after her husband's death.

Born Peggy Hookham in Reigate, Surrey, the future ballerina moved to China with her family at age 9, and spent much of her childhood there.

Her ballet career began when she was spotted in the early 1930s by Dame Ninette de Valois and invited to join the Vic-Wells Ballet, now the Royal Ballet, at 14.

After two years with Dame Ninette the young Margot had changed her name, was dancing lead roles