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FORECAST



Cool, sunny with high in the low 80s.

OPINION

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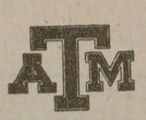
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Christina Maimarides on funding education
Matt McBurnett on bouncing checks

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SPORTS

A&M football team must work around injuries.



The Battalion

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Pro-Iranian kidnappers free British hostage of three years

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — In another breakthrough in the hostage crisis, kidnappers freed 77-year-old Briton Jack Mann on Tuesday after holding him for 865 days, and a Shiite Muslim leader said an American hostage may soon follow.

Walking painfully and stooped over, Mann was led by officials into a packed news conference at the Syrian Foreign Ministry, where he angrily denounced his captors for chaining him and ordering him around.

"This morning I started another dreadful day. ... I wondered how many more months I've got to stay. ... I wondered how much longer, how much

longer, how much longer. Wondering how many more months I've got to stay here," the white-haired, former World War II pilot said in a hoarse, anguished whisper.

"My voice has gone after 2 1/2 years of chaining, of saying: 'Do this, do that. Don't do that!' or 'Be quiet!'" Mann said.

Asked if he had any news of the other hostages, Mann said, "None at all." British officials said Mann would probably be flown to a Royal Air Force base at Lyneham in southwest England on Wednesday.

Prime Minister John Major of Britain said he had heard that Mann was "a little

unwell," and a 10 Downing Street spokesman had said the government was "disturbed" about reports of Mann's health.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has sought a broad exchange involving the Western hostages, an accounting of five missing Israeli servicemen and the release of hundreds of Arabs held by Israel.

Perez de Cuellar said in statement Tuesday he was "encouraged by this further step in a process which he hopes will lead to a full, speedy and satisfactory solution of the problem of all detainees and

missing persons."

"I hope it's not the end of the release program," President Bush said in New York. "There are many more. ... It's so tragic." He said the United States could not have normal relations with Iran as long as any hostages are held.

Hussein Musawi, a leader of Hezbollah, the umbrella group for most of the factions holding Westerners, told reporters in the Bekaa Valley town of Sohmar: "If things continued to proceed normally an American hostage will be released. Maybe within a week or less than a month."

He said Mann was set free "to facili-

tate Perez de Cuellar's mission. The other side is required to facilitate his mission too."

He apparently referred to the kidnappers' demands that Israel release 20 more Arab prisoners, or possibly Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid, the Hezbollah leader seized by Israeli commandos in 1989.

Yossi Olmert, an Israeli government spokesman, said Mann's release was a "a positive and welcome development."

He noted that Israel still seeks word on five missing servicemen and added: "If more information comes our way, we will reciprocate."

Military budget cuts leave Corps unaffected

By Susan Maguire
The Battalion

Nationwide cuts in the number of military bases and personnel have only slightly affected the number of freshmen entering Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets, and those cadets seeking a commission, said Corps Commander John Sherman.

Last year, 600 to 650 freshmen entered the Corps and this year slightly less than 600 entered. The Corps usually commissions 50 to 70 officers to each of the four branches and, Sherman said, the same number is expected this year.

The country's military cutbacks include a 25 percent reduction in personnel and 12 to 16 base closings during the next five years.

"Any effect the military cuts have made on the Corps has been small," Sherman said. "The slightly lower number of entering freshmen could mean that we're not recruiting in the right places. Also, a lot of my emphasis this year is on retention of cadets."

Sherman said he believed the Persian Gulf War would help increase the number of new cadets, but, in actuality, it had no effect on the Corps' size.

Because the United States is going to have a "leaner, meaner" military in the future, Sherman said, there will be fewer contracts awarded. He predicted 70 percent of the cadets will not aim for a commission.

If that is the case, he said, the Corps will need to cater to the needs of the non-contract cadets.

"We need to look at them in high school and appeal to business and career training," he said.

Col. James Crumbliss, a professor of aerospace studies, said the military cutbacks have not had a direct impact on the ROTC programs.

"There wasn't any growth though, that was the negative," he



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Right this way

Bryan Police Officer Sgt. David Patterson directs traffic at William J. Bryan and Texas Avenue late Tuesday afternoon. The signal light was out due to a power outage that affected much of Bryan.

Yeltsin scores own coup

Russian president negotiates Armenia-Azerbaijan cease-fire

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin scored a diplomatic coup Tuesday by arranging a cease-fire between warring factions in Armenia and Azerbaijan. But strife raged in Central Asia and Georgia's leader ordered a state of emergency in the Georgian capital.



Yeltsin

Yeltsin and Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev negotiated at least a temporary end to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, which has claimed 800 lives and driven tens of thousands from their homes since 1988.

The settling of the dispute was a diplomatic breakthrough that had eluded President Mikhail S. Gorbachev for years.

"We don't exclude the possibility that he will get involved in other places," Yeltsin spokesman Pavel Voshchanov told The Associated Press, referring to conflicts simmering elsewhere in the Soviet Union.

Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia said he would clamp a state of emergency on Tbilisi on Wednesday and vowed to oust hundreds of armed opponents who have occupied the republic's broadcasting studios

since Sunday. Rebel Georgian National Guardsmen captured four armed supporters of Gamsakhurdia and held them in the center.

Tengiz Kitovani, commander of the maverick guardsmen, claimed Gamsakhurdia's backers were trying to provoke the opposition, which is insisting that he step down.

On Tuesday, Gamsakhurdia singled out former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze of directing the opposition.

Gorbachev's new spokesman, Andrei Grachev, praised the "sons of perestroika." The spokesman denied the two republic leaders had upstaged the president, saying reforms that Gorbachev began in 1985 had enabled them to secure the truce.

"The fact that the two most important leaders of the Soviet republics are looking for a compromise solution to offer to some others ... does not mean the president is not functioning," Grachev told reporters.

Yeltsin and Nazarbayev had persuaded leaders from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh to meet Monday in a neutral Russian town to discuss the conflicting claims to the enclave.

The sides announced Tuesday they agreed to put down their guns immediately and restore limited self-rule by Jan. 1 under Rus-

Tensions prompt U.S. to send troops, missiles to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States will send nearly 100 Patriot missiles and 1,300 troops to Saudi Arabia to ease that nation's concern over rising tensions in the Persian Gulf region, a senior Pentagon official said Tuesday.

The Patriots, which played a spectacular role in foiling Iraqi Scud missile attacks during the Persian Gulf War, "are getting ready to go now" and will leave from Germany on Wednesday morning the official said.

Word of the decision came as Iraqi troops for a second time detained 44 U.N. inspectors searching for evidence of a nuclear weapons program in that country and President Bush condemned Baghdad's "unacceptable behavior." The U.N. Security Council demanded release of the inspectors.

Bush said last week that he would provide the missiles to the Saudis for defensive purposes.

The Saudis requested the weapons as ten-

sions heated in the Persian Gulf region over Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's refusal to cooperate with the U.N. inspectors.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Iraq still possessed "several hundred Scud missiles of the type used against Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War."

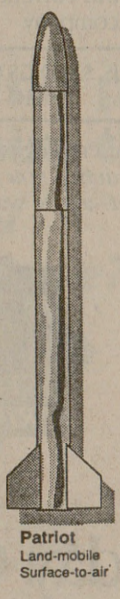
Bush also made clear that he was willing to send warplanes back into the Gulf if necessary to allow the U.N. inspectors to go about their business.

The official said that the U.S. contingent will be made of two Patriot missile battalions.

Each battalion will have 48 missiles and will be accompanied by 690 soldiers, the official said.

A formal announcement may be made "once the deployment starts," the official said.

The Pentagon announced last week that it intended to make the weapons available from its stocks. The number and the timing of the



Patriot Land-mobile Surface-to-air

Iraqis detain inspectors

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraqi troops on Tuesday detained 44 U.N. inspectors for the second time, and officials accused them of being spies. The inspectors said they videotaped documents showing which foreign companies supplied materials for Iraq's secret nuclear weapons program.

President Bush condemned Baghdad's "unacceptable behavior," and warned Saddam Hussein not to "miscalculate" as he did during the Gulf War.

"We don't want to see any more anguish inflicted on the Iraqi people, but overriding that is the international community's determination that these resolutions be fully complied with," Bush said in New York.

The U.N. Security Council demanded that Iraq release the inspectors before an emergency council meeting Tuesday

evening. The council also demanded the Iraqis agree to allow U.N. helicopter flights to search for hidden weapons in Iraq without restriction.

"It would be in their interest" to meet the deadline, said the Security Council's president, French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee. He declined to speculate on what the council might do if the Iraqis did not meet the demands.

At a news conference in Baghdad, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz accused the leader of the U.N. team of being "an officer of the U.S. intelligence service," the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

He contended the inspectors gathered material Tuesday to use against individual Iraqis and were not looking at documents related to Iraq's nuclear program.

On Monday, the same U.N. team was detained for 12 hours in a Baghdad building after finding what they said was evidence that Iraq has been trying to develop nuclear weapons. Iraqi troops seized the papers and returned some early Tuesday. U.N. officials said key documents appeared to be missing.

The officials said the documents found Tuesday gave a fuller picture of Iraq's secret nuclear program, detailing the people overseeing the work and the foreign companies that supplied nuclear materials. They did not name the companies or their countries.

Iraqi troops surrounded the U.N. team Tuesday and refused to let it take away papers and photographs of documents gathered in an unannounced search at the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission. Iraqi officials said the in-