

The Battalion

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Allied attacks unlikely to force Iraq to submit

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq killed 21 people Monday in allied air attacks in northern and southern Iraq, and a top official said the raids made it less likely that Saddam Hussein's government would cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors. The Pentagon said one of its MiG-25s was shot down while returning from an Iraqi jet fighter was shot down Sunday. The Iraqi capital was relatively quiet during the day, but streams of glowing anti-aircraft shells were seen over the city periodically after sunset. There was no sign of a new attack on Baghdad. Saddam ordered an increase in rationations beginning in February. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq

Aziz issued a statement Monday night blaming the crisis on the United States and the special U.N. commission that is overseeing the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Aziz said the attacks "raised serious questions" about Iraqi compliance with the commission because of Washington's influence on the world body.

At U.N. Headquarters, chief U.N. spokesman Joe Sills said the standoff between Baghdad and the U.N. weapons commission continued.

Saddam met with military commanders, the official Iraqi News Agency said. No details were released.

"Bush has blood on his hands!" an angry worker shouted Monday at the al-Rashid hotel, where two people were killed when an explosion wrecked the lobby and courtyard on Sunday. Pentagon sources confirmed that a cruise missile hit

outside the hotel, saying it was knocked off course by anti-aircraft artillery. U.S. officials said the barrage of 40 missiles was aimed only at a factory on Baghdad's outskirts that was part of the Iraqi nuclear weapons program. A missile also appeared to have come down in a residential neighborhood, killing a 70-year-old woman, wrecking two houses and shattering windows.

"This is Bush's fault," said Mohsen Ali Muhammad, pointing to bloodstains he said were left by three small daughters cut by flying glass.

"What child deserves this? I should leave this place as a museum for killings."

"Kill Bush!" yelled another resident, Fouzaisalman al-Bandar, angered by the death of the elderly neighbor.

An Iraqi military spokesman claimed the capital's defenders shot down eight cruise missiles.

University officials ring Liberty Bell to honor MLK

By MATARI JONES

The Battalion

Texas A&M University officials rang the University's replica of the Liberty Bell to honor Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday in a "Let Freedom Ring" ceremony held in the Academic Building Monday.

"Today is a day of remembrance, celebration and rededication," University President Dr. William Mobley said during the event.

As the third largest university in the United States, with more than 6,000 minority students and 18,000 women in the student body, Mobley said Texas A&M needs to be a leader in championing diversity in an internationally competitive environment.

"Let the sound of this bell show that we too actively support the concept of equality for all ages, for all Texans, for all Americans and indeed for all human beings," Mobley said. "Let freedom ring for all Americans as we have rung the bell of Liberty here today."

The director of the Department of Multicultural

Services Kevin Carreathers, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity member Darrin Edwards and Student Body President Steven Beller joined Mobley in ringing the bell.

Beller said although January 18 is just a holiday from work for some, the observance of King's birthday still offers a gift of hope that all human beings can live in peace.

"The struggle and fight for equality and justice is still going on and reverberating like the sound of the Liberty Bell," he said.

Of King's contribution to U.S. society, Mobley said, "(His) life was devoted to the concept that freedom was an inalienable right for all Americans... that a freedom was not just a right for the privileged few or those whose skin happened to be a lighter color."

Stephen Ruth, a staff associate for Dr. Mobley and a former A&M student body president, said the event paid tribute to a man who stood as a role model for equality and justice.

Last year was the first year the bell was officially rung in observance of King's birthday.



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

The Liberty Bell in the Academic Building was rung to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Michael Zimpelman, center, a sophomore from Mesquite, stands in between the flying rifles of Fish Drill Team members Daniel Kruczek of Austin, left, and Daniel Carden of Bedford in the rain Monday morning. The team is preparing for meets this semester by practicing eight hours a day.

U.S. Marines to return to U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOGADISHU, Somalia — As the first U.S. Marines prepare to leave, they say they have done as much as they can to bring some law and order to Mogadishu and the time has come to return home to their spouses and sweethearts.

They'll leave Tuesday without bitterness despite coming under gunfire from Somalis and critical fire from some of the relief workers they sought to protect.

As they packed their duffle bags Monday, Marines from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Regiment, talked about some of their experiences in Somalia and answered their critics.

They are among the first 850 Marines returning to Camp Pendleton, Calif., leaving a force of less than 9,000 Marines in Somalia. They arrived just before Christmas last year. Some said they were heavy handed in searching their vehicles because they were driven by Somalis.

During a raid on the main gun market in Mogadishu, relief workers complained to the commander, Maj. Gen. Charles Wilhelm, that the Marines widened their search into the main market where they seriously disrupted business. Wilhelm was reported to have apologized privately.

Other aid workers have praised the Marines. When there was a traffic accident recently that seriously injured eight Somalis, Marines and Navy corpsmen stopped to treat them on the scene, then rushed them to the hospital.

Just a few days earlier, a Somali sniper had shot and seriously wounded a Navy corpsman from Kilo Company and another Marine was killed in an ambush, the first American military death in Somalia.

Capt. Mike Belcher, 31, of Washington, D.C., commander of Kilo Company, said the Marines had completed their mission and were excited about going home. Weapons caches had been captured and fighting had died down. Mogadishu is not secure. The Marines are assault troops and what Somalia needs now is a police force.

"A lot of Marines would like to keep staying to keep helping the people but it's time for us to rotate back," said Belcher. "I don't think there's bitterness. I think Marines understand the dichotomy of this."

Lance Cpl. Garrett Garcia, 22, of Artesia, N.M., said sometimes he was frustrated with the sniper fire, and the rocks and the taunts hurled by children.

"You learn to understand it after a while," he said. "You get used to it. I didn't really have time to get mad. It just made you be a little more careful."

Many of the Marines who patrolled Mogadishu did not get a glimpse of the real faces of the starving they were sent to help.

"That's not our job to see the starving children," said Lance Cpl. Chuck Christensen, 21, of Salt Lake City. "We're here to keep security and keep the bad guys off the streets. We shouldn't have to see the starving children to know we're helping out."

As the departing Marines finished packing and neatly stacked their duffle bags, Sgt. Scott Walker, 30, of Lakewood, Calif., stood guard with his men at the gate leading into the Mogadishu stadium from which Marine patrols operate. They would stay to contend with Somali children pressing against the gate.

"They come up wanting to trade things," said Walker. "They'll come up with weapons and wanting food. They brought us some grenades this morning trading for wheat and chocolate."

Avalanche destroys village

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANKARA, Turkey — An avalanche plowed into a village in northeast Turkey on Monday, destroying 50 houses and killing at least 16 people.

Soldiers and villagers dug frantically for perhaps 50 people still buried under snow.

Gov. Erol Ugurlu said little hope remained that those still buried would be found alive.

A TV reporter in Ozengeli, roughly 500 miles from Ankara, told The Associated Press voices were heard under the snow Monday afternoon.

There was a tremendous noise and suddenly a sheet of white descended on the village, leveling the houses," Ozengeli village official Faik Cakir said by telephone.

"Before we could understand anything, half of the village was buried," Cakir said the avalanche hit at about 8 a.m.

He said 15 people were dug out, injured, by afternoon and about 50 people were still trapped.

About 100 soldiers dug alongside villagers with picks and shovels hoping to find survivors. With power lines down, genera-

tor-powered floodlights illuminated the area. Gov. Ugurlu had to struggle 20 miles through a blizzard to reach Ozengeli from Bayburt, capital of Bayburt province.

Bulldozers cleared the road, covered by snow 6 to 18 feet deep.

"No sooner do the bulldozers open a way, the walls of snow crumble back on the road," he said. Ugurlu said the trip took him eight hours.

The soldiers later took the same route to the village, which contained about 380 residents.

Two army helicopters sent from Erzincan had to return because of bad weather, Cakir said.

Faculty Senate receives news Gage to brief officials on University's latest actions

By REAGON CLAMON

The Battalion

Dr. E. Dean Gage, Texas A&M senior vice president and provost, will brief the Faculty Senate on the latest news of the University budget at its meeting from 3:15 to 6 tonight in room 292 of Rudder Tower.

Dr. John Quarles, speaker of the Faculty Senate, said the members will be interested in Gage's presentation on the budget.

"This week, the senate budget committee just started hearing testimony," Quarles said. "That will probably be the most interesting thing that will come up."

In other business, the academic affairs committee

will bring a proposal to change the foreign language requirement of the University's core curriculum.

The committee is proposing to raise the requirement for students entering the University, Quarles said.

"The thrust of the proposal is to get behind a push for more foreign language," Quarles said. "Assuming we pass it, that would mean they want (the foreign language requirement) to be done in high school."

Among other business, the committee on committees will present nominees to various reporting committees. Positions in the Graduate Council, the scholarship committee, and the Evans Library Council will be open for new members.