

## Culture in motion



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Dipika Gawande, 10, of College Station, dances the Kuchipudi at the Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Among Youth's Bhaithak

dance concert Sunday night. Kuchipudi is a traditional Indian dance in which the dancer wears bells on her ankles and stands atop a brass plate.

## Troops move against insurgents

By Louis Meixler  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Troops flooded a Baghdad neighborhood in a new U.S. military offensive against guerrillas Sunday, as an audiotape purportedly made by Saddam Hussein urged Iraqis to escalate their fight against the occupation.

The U.S. military moves in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq came as the Army tried to determine why two of its Black Hawk helicopters crashed in the northern city of Mosul, killing 17 soldiers in the worst single loss of American life since the war began.

In its offensive, the military fired a satellite-guided missile with a 500-pound warhead at a suspected guerrilla training base, and four insurgents were killed in a separate clash. Both actions are part of an effort to take the fight to the enemy, rather than responding to ambushes and attacks.

"Any of those groups that are working against the best interest of the Iraqis are going to be targeted," said Lt. Col. William MacDonald, spokesman of the 4th Infantry Division.

Strong explosions thundered through central Baghdad after sundown Sunday, apparently part of "Operation Iron Hammer," the new "get tough" strategy.

A large number of U.S. troops, backed by armored vehicles and helicopters, moved into the Sunni Muslim neighborhood of Azamiyah, sealing off a 20-block area and searching vehicles in a show of force.

Meanwhile, the alleged Saddam tape urged Iraqis to escalate attacks against the occupation and "agents brought by foreign armies" — apparent reference to Iraqis supporting the occupation.

The speaker on the tape, aired on Al-Arabiya television, said the only way to end the chaos in Iraq was for Saddam and his now outlawed Baath Party to return to power.

The CIA said it would review the tape for authenticity. But President Bush dismissed the recording.

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4th Infantry spokesman

"I suspect it's the same stuff. It's propaganda. We're leaving until the job is done, and simple," Bush said. "I'm sure he'd like to see us leave, if it's his voice. I know the elements of the Baathist party, those who used to torture, maim and kill in order to stay in power would like to see us leave."

The voice in the recording resembled Saddam's, but the huskier and the speaker seemed tired.

"The evil ones now find themselves in crisis and this is good for them," he said.

The only solution for Iraq, the speaker said, was for "the zealous Iraqi sons, who ran the affairs and brought it out of backwardness, to return ... to run its affairs anew," he said, referring to the Baath leadership.

The speaker also lashed out at Iraqis who cooperate with the U.S. military, calling them "stray dogs that walk alongside the caravan."

The top U.S. administrator in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Bremer, said Saddam likely made some arrangements for a guerrilla war against the Americans before his regime fell in April.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### First lady supports abortion ban

DALLAS (AP) — First lady Laura Bush, who has acknowledged her support of abortion rights in the past, indicated Sunday that she supports a ban on late-term abortions that her husband recently signed into law.

"I think most people agree partial-birth abortion is abhor-

rent," Bush said in response to a reporter's question after a tour of the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas.

Days before her husband took office, Laura Bush stated that she did not think the landmark Roe v. Wade abortion-rights ruling should be undone, despite President Bush's strong opposition to abortion.

Federal judges in three states have blocked the gov-

ernment from enforcing the new ban because they said it did not allow women to have late-term abortions even if their health was at risk. The Bush administration is seeking to expedite legal proceedings on the matter.

The first lady, in Dallas to attend a luncheon benefiting United Cerebral Palsy, will have time to tour the \$70 million Nasher Sculpture Center that opened last month.

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