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Coalition's advance slows

12 soldiers confirmed missing

By DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar – Looking by turns frightened or stoical, five captured U.S. soldiers were thrust in front of an Iraqi TV microphone and peppered with questions Sunday. The footage also showed at least four bodies.

U.S. officials confirmed that 12 soldiers were missing after Iraqi forces ambushed an army supply convoy around An Nasiriyah, a major crossing point over the Euphrates northwest of Basra.

The scenes of interrogators questioning four men and a woman were broadcast by the Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera with footage from state-controlled Iraqi television. Each was interviewed individually. They spoke into a microphone

CAPTURED | PAGE 7

MORE ON THE WAR

TV images of captured soldiers set off debate. 5

Years of intelligence gathering pays off for U.S. 5

Russian firms sold military equipment to Saddam, U.S. says. 8



Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division soldiers secure a field near Najaf, Iraq, on Sunday. On the soldier's shoulder on the left are "zip-strips" to handcuff captured Iraqis. American forces progressed 150 miles into Iraq, halfway to Baghdad, on Sunday as the U.S.-led coalition continued war missions.

Ambush kills up to 9 Marines

By CALVIN WOODWARD
The Associated Press

Iraq used ambushes and even fake surrenders to kill and capture U.S. troops Sunday, inflicting the first significant casualties on the allied forces driving toward Baghdad. U.S. war leaders declared the invasion on target despite the bloody setbacks.

Up to nine Marines died and a dozen U.S. soldiers were taken prisoner in surprise engagements with Iraqis at An Nasiriyah, a southern city far from the forward positions of the allied force.

On the third day of the ground war, any expectation that Iraqi defenders would simply fold was gone.

"Clearly they are not a beaten force," said Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "This is going to get a lot harder."

Even so, the U.S.-British coalition fought to within 100 miles of Baghdad and tended to a growing northern front.

And at the end of a day filled with plenty of bad news for allied forces, U.S. officials said troops had made what could be an important discovery: a

IRAQ | PAGE 7

Loved ones seek support on home front

By LYNN TRYBA
Telegraph Staff

For six weeks, Erik Emond of Hudson prepared for war.

As part of his training at Fort Drum in New York, the Army reservist got shots to protect him from anthrax and the new strain of flu. He and his buddies bowled with gas masks on to ensure they would be able to function while wearing the equipment in Kuwait. Trainers tried to rattle them with mock sniper attacks.

"It's kind of like a fire drill," said Emond's wife, Julie.

After more than a month of intense training and bonding with his unit, Emond shipped out for Kuwait on Saturday at midnight.

Psychologically, he might have been better prepared than his wife, home alone with her

COPING | PAGE 7



Staff photo by DAN WILLIAMSON

Julie Emond watches television coverage of the bombing of Baghdad on Friday, the night her husband, Army reservist Erik Emond, was scheduled to fly to Kuwait to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Area agencies plan drives to aid troops

By HATTIE BERNSTEIN
Telegraph Staff

NASHUA – Area residents who want to support American servicemen and women in the Persian Gulf are encouraged to donate candy, toiletries and other items through an American Red Cross program that has been gaining momentum since the nation went to war last week.

The Salvation Army is also planning a collection drive with similar goals.

"We're collecting sunscreen, shaving cream, board games, toothbrushes, toothpaste, greeting cards," said Bob Scheifele, director of emergency services for the Greater Nashua and Souhegan Valley chapter of the American Red Cross.

DRIVES | PAGE 7

Farming heritage draws young woman home

Unless they live in a cement yurt, there's likely not an American around who hasn't thought about war this last week.

But there are wars and there are wars. And not all of them are fought with artillery and aircraft. Some, like the personal battle undertaken by Melissa DeMauro, require different ammunition. In her case – seed, hoes and a knowledge of the history of how farming fits into our culture.

DeMauro's quest? To preserve what's left of our agricultural heritage before it's too late. Her battlegrounds? A 9-acre farm in Tyngsborough, Mass., and a 180-acre chunk of rain forest in what she calls "Costy" – Costa Rica.

The 25-year-old is pretty much caretaker



STACY MILBOUER

of both parcels and does whatever she can to make the money to make her dream come true. That's why those who frequent Nashua's San Francisco Kitchen are likely to have Melissa as their waitress, her exotic jewelry and air of adventure the only hint of her amazing life on the farms.

The story of how DeMauro went from learning carpentry at Greater Lowell Technical High School to the Costa Rican rainforest is as meandering as the Amazon River, and it includes fascinating tributaries such as following a rock group's tour across the country, fulfilling a promise made to a 6-foot long iguana named Mojo and a romance in Amsterdam, just to name a few.

DeMauro started her world travels

shortly after high school – leaving her family home, an 1853 farmhouse on 9 acres near the Merrimack River in Tyngsborough.

But she returned to that home this year in hopes of applying some of the conservation and preservation techniques she learned in her travels at what she calls The White Owl Farm.

On a recent muddy spring day, DeMauro could be seen out in front of the house, her head haloed with a colorful Guatemalan head wrap, pruning arthritic-looking fruit trees, which she calls "The Johnny Appleseed Apple Trees."

DeMauro believes the trees might have been planted by John Chapman, or "Johnny Appleseed" as he is known in American history/legend. Chapman was born in Leominster, Mass., in 1774 and grew up to

MILBOUER | PAGE 8



Staff photo by BOB HAMMERSTROM

Melissa DeMauro piles up branches in one of the horse corrals on her family's farm in Tyngsborough, Mass. She plans to raise chickens and grow vegetables and flowers.

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