LE TEMPS - Région parisienn\nde Brouillard ce matin. Gris toute la jour\nnée. Il fera 7°.

SG/PRB/D(91)13

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

MOSCOU - Quatre personnes ont été tuées et au moins 9 blessées dimanche soir à Riga, la capitale de la Lettonie, lors de l’assaut donné contre le siège du ministère letton de l’Intérieur par des "bérets noirs", les commandos de la milice soviétique. À Moscou, plus de 100.000 personnes avaient manifesté dans la matinée en signe de solidarité avec les républiques baltes et pour protester contre "l’avancée de la dictature" en URSS.

WIESBADEN (Allemagne) - L’Union chrétienne-démocrate (CDU) du chancelier Helmut Kohl a perdu dimanche les élections régionales de l’Etat fédéré de Hesse qu’elle gouvernait avec le parti libéral (FDP) depuis 4 ans, au profit du parti social-démocrate (SPD) et des Verts.

IOANNINA (Grèce) - Sept cent vingt-neuf Albanais, dont 226 d’origine grecque, ont franchi la frontière gréco-albanaise en 24 heures et ont demandé l’asile politique à la Grèce.

PARIS - Le président François Mitterrand a déclaré dimanche soir à Paris qu’il fallait détruire "le complexe militaro-industriel" irakien.

REUTER: Major developments in Gulf war

0020 - A large number of US aircraft took off on Sunday night from an airbase in southern Turkey on what was believed to be the fourth raid against Iraq in 24 hours.

0150 - US command said 9 of the 10 Scuds fired at Saudi Arabia overnight were shot down and the 10th fell into the Gulf.

0240 - Iraq’s ambassador to France, Abdul Rezak al-Hashimi, said allied prisoners of war would be treated humanely only if their governments officially recognised their capture.

0300 - The US Navy has launched cruise missiles at Iraq from submarines in the Red Sea.

0530 - New Zealand will send more military medical staff to the Gulf in response to a request from Britain.

WASHINGTON - The US Army said on Sunday it will call at least 20,000 more part-time reserve troops to active duty in the Gulf.

LES MARCHES EN BREF

AFP - Le dollar était en baisse de 0,85 yen lundi à Tokyo, clôturant à 132,75 yen (contre 133,60 yen vendredi).

AFP - La Bourse de Tokyo a reculé lundi, le Nikkei perdant 456,11 yen ou 1,9% à 23.352,19 yen.

AFP - Le cours du pétrole a chuté lundi matin dans les 1ers échanges à Tokyo, le brut de Dubai pour livraison mars cotant 14,65 dollars le baril.

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THE WAR AGAINST IRAQ

THE SUNDAY TIMES: Allies face long war

LONDON - "British and American military commanders gave warning yesterday that the Gulf war could be a long and bloody struggle, lasting well over a month. Hopes for an early victory faded after the Pentagon confirmed that most of Iraq’s military had survived the unprecedented Blitzkrieg by allied air forces... An American military commander in Riyadh gave warning yesterday that a massive land assault deep into Iraq
may be required to defeat Saddam’s army. He said allied forces were prepared to go ‘as far as necessary’ into Iraq to win the war, and that plans had been drawn up for a possible offensive against Baghdad itself.”

THE USSR IN CRISIS

FINANCIAL TIMES: Leading advisers quit government

MOSCOW - "Professor Nikolai Petrakov, the personal economic adviser to President Mikhail Gorbachev, resigned his post last week because of the Soviet government’s disastrous economic policy and his inability to influence it. He insisted the collapse of the Soviet economy was a direct result of destroying the market economy by printing money, not a result of steps towards creating a market, which were never taken. He accused the ‘administrative command system’ of having embarked on a ‘scorched earth policy’ to destroy the economy rather than reform it... The government is undergoing a total overhaul, in line with the constitutional reforms agreed in December, to reinforce Mr Gorbachev’s presidential power. At the same time the military clampdown in the Baltic republics has caused an open revolt among reformers once close to the president, and many are now said to be refusing to stay on."

ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE WEST

FINANCIAL TIMES: G7 to focus on Germany

NEW YORK - "A severe test of Germany’s economic relations with its main trading partners could come at a 2-day meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors of the G7 countries which began last night in New York... Last Thursday, shortly after the outbreak of war, the central council of the Bundesbank decided against any interest rate move. However, according to German officials in New York, there is a strong body of opinion in the council that interest rates should be lifted... The Bundesbank fears that German inflationary pressures will get out of hand unless monetary policy is tightened... But other countries fear that a rise in German interest rates would add to the risks that the present recession in the English-speaking countries could spread throughout the world."

AFP: La réforme de la PAC relancée

BRUXELLES - "La Commission européenne s’est prononcée dimanche à Bruxelles en faveur d’une réforme en profondeur de la politique agricole européenne... Le commissaire à l’Agriculture Ray Mac Sharry, à l’origine du projet, présentera les grandes lignes de la réforme qu’il envisage devant les ministres de l’Agriculture des Douze à Bruxelles, vraisemblablement mardi... M. Mac Sharry envisagerait une réduction de 4,5% du quota de production laitier, et des baisses du prix garanti de près de 47% pour les céréales, de 15% pour le boeuf et de 10% pour le lait."

OIL MARKETS

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Surplus prompts cutbacks

NEW YORK - "The massive flow of oil from the Persian Gulf is beginning to slow somewhat, but mainly because of market forces rather than war. After increasing its oil production to near 9 million barrels a day in recent months, Saudi Arabia suddenly has reduced it more than 10% and is said to be planning more cuts... The chief reason behind the production cuts, according to oil industry and US government sources, is the world’s growing surplus of oil, particularly in the heavier grades. Commercial channels are choked because of the enormous volumes of oil that have poured into markets to offset any disruptions from a Middle East war. This was underscored by the one-third fall in oil prices last week."

OECD ECONOMIES

United States

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Trade deficit narrower

WASHINGTON - "The narrowing of the US merchandise trade deficit in November was one of the few positive signals sent recently by an economy widely believed to be entering a downturn... The trade deficit totaled $94.95bn from January through November, compared with $102.6bn for the year-earlier period. The trade deficit for all of 1989 was $104.4bn... US exports in November dropped $1.39bn, or about 4%, but imports slid
$2.68bn, nearly 6%. Economists attributed the import drop partly to reduced consumer demand amid the economic slowdown."

Suède

LA TRIBUNE: Moody’s dé classe la dette

PARIS - "Dans une déclaration publiée vendredi dernier, l’agence de notation Moody’s a révélé avoir déclassé la dette suédoise. 36 mrds de dollars de dette publique voient ainsi leur notation passer de AAA (meilleure note possible) à AA1, soit l’échelon directement inférieur... Motivant sa décision, Moody’s invoque principalement l’élévation rapide du service de la dette extérieure suédoise dans un contexte de ralentissement des exportations et d’incertitude sur les choix politiques à venir du gouvernement... Selon Moody’s, la Suède doit radicalement transformer son économie, dans le sens du libéralisme finalement adopté par la plupart des membres de l’OCDE."

United Kingdom

FINANCIAL TIMES: Inflation drops to 9.3%

LONDON - "Falling petrol prices and weakening demand for retail goods reduced the annual rate of inflation last month to 9.3%, the government announced yesterday. The drop, down from 9.7% in November, was larger than expected. It brings inflation to its lowest point since last March. The lower inflation figure gives the government more evidence about the easing of demand in the economy. However, cuts in the 14% base rate to restore growth are not expected in the immediate future. They are considered unlikely while Britain is at war in the Gulf."

END-OF-TEXT