

## Georgian war may shake up Russia: Shevardnadze

WASHINGTON, Mar 9: Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze warned Tuesday that instability in former Soviet republics like Georgia could shake up even a giant country like Russia, reports Reuters.



Eduard Shevardnadze  
"The very stability of the giant may be shaken by the instability of the smaller adjacent states, especially the Caucasus states," Shevardnadze

## Aideed accuses Egypt of pouring troops into Somalia

NAIROBI, Mar 9: The Somali National Alliance (SNA) accused Egypt on Tuesday of meddling in the internal affairs of Somalia and called for an immediate end to the meddling, reports AFP.

In the first reaction to a meeting of some Somali faction leaders in Cairo, SNA leader General Mohamed Farah Aided accused Egypt of pouring more troops into Somalia in the guise of UN peace makers but at the same time holding irregular meetings with selected Somali personalities with the aim of promoting an unworkable puppet government.

told a gathering at the national press club.  
Speaking through a translator, Shevardnadze predicted a potential "full circle of wars" encompassing the Balkans and extended to central Asia if the West does not learn to view the former Soviet Union as an interrelated territorial entity.

He expressed hopes that Russian President Boris Yeltsin would use his constitutional powers to "save democracy," and said he wanted to believe that Yeltsin had nothing to do with the unrest in Georgia.

Shevardnadze, who used to be the Soviet Foreign Minister, said the instability that has shaken Georgia to its foundations requires a multinational peacekeeping force.

However, he said Georgia could accept a mostly Russian force under a United Nations banner, or even Russians without UN imprimatur. But without any peacekeeping force, he said the war, that has killed thousands in the last year would continue.

Shevardnadze said he would explain his views on the need for such a force Wednesday at a UN Security Council meeting.

On Monday, Shevardnadze met with President Clinton, who pledged 70 million dollar to Georgia, mostly humanitarian aid to help feed 250,000 dollar refugees from the conflict between government troops and rebels in the breakaway Black Sea region of Abkhazia.

Asked whether former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has any future in politics, Shevardnadze said the prognosis was "doubtful."

"But again, if a friend of mine becomes a leader in politics, I have nothing against it," he said.

## Give peace a chance or sink into 'the black hole in Europe'

BELGRADE, March 9: The United States stepped up its involvement in efforts to settle the Bosnian conflict on Tuesday and American envoys urged the Serbs to give peace a chance or sink into "the black hole in Europe," reports Reuters.

President Bill Clinton's special envoy, Charles Redman, met Serbian leaders in Belgrade to try to draw them into an US-brokered accord that provides for Croats and Muslims to form a federation of ethnically-based cantons in

Bosnia and then join them to Croatia in a loose confederation.

In Naples, NATO said a Spanish plane in an alliance task force enforcing a no-fly zone over Bosnia had been hit by ground fire over Croatia. Four passengers were slightly injured.

It said the casa-212 logistics aircraft, which was taking personnel from Zagreb to Split, had to make an emergency landing at Rajek Airport on Croatia's Northern Adriatic coast. The Croatian govern-

ment blamed rebel Serbs.

The Croat-Muslim agreement, signed in Washington a week ago, marked Washington's direct entry into the search for peace in Bosnia after months of staying on the diplomatic sidelines.

Redman had talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, whose support for Serbs in Bosnia is widely seen as one of the chief reasons for the outbreak of war in April, 1992.

He later met Nikola Koljevic, a senior aide of

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, and declared afterwards, "We are agreed that we are all going to stay very heavily involved, very active in this process."

Redman described the US sponsored Muslim-Croat accord as the first phase in efforts for an overall settlement. Drawing the Serbs into the process was the second phase, he said.

In Zagreb, US ambassador Peter Galbraith said the Croat-Muslim deal was a positive beginning.

"Now, the choice will be with the Serbs within Bosnia-do they wish to join this arrangement and the West or do they wish to continue this war and consign themselves to the past, become the black hole of Europe" he said.

Redman said in Belgrade the United States was determined to work out an overall settlement of the conflict that would "bring more stability to the entire region and not just to Bosnia."

Any viable settlement of the 23-month Bosnian war must include the Serbs, whose forces have wrested control of 70 per cent of Bosnia and hold about a third of Croatia's territory.

"There are going to be difficult discussions...but we have to stay engaged with them," Redman said. "I am sure from what I heard from the Bosnian Serb side today they intend to do that and I know that's true for the other parties."

As Redman met Serb leaders, most of Bosnia's front lines were reported calm as ceasefires held between Serbs and Muslims in Sarajevo and between Muslims and Croats elsewhere.

## Prabhakaran ready to sit with govt

COLOMBO, Mar 9: Tamil rebel chief Velupillai Prabhakaran has publicly expressed a desire for peace talks with the Sri Lankan government, northern residents said today, reports Reuters.

In a speech over rebel radio to mark International Women's Day on Tuesday, Prabhakaran said his Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas were ready for talks.

"We have extended our hand of friendship, through the peace missions, that we are willing for talks," residents quoted him as saying.

## South Pacific Forum officials to visit Tokyo

AUCKLAND, Mar 9: Leading officials from the South Pacific Forum will visit Tokyo next week for high-level talks with Japanese officials, the forum secretariat said in a statement today, reports AFP.

The delegation will be led by Nauru President Bernard Doiyogo, who is forum Chairman this year, and Secretariat Secretary-General Iremia Tabai.

While in Tokyo they will meet Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and members of the cabinet, the statement said.

## 6 killed as Russian border guards open fire on colleagues

MOSCOW, Mar 9: Two Russian border guards in the Kuril Islands opened fire on colleagues in a dormitory, killing six and wounding three, and then tried to shoot down a passing helicopter on a routine flight, ITAR-Tass news agency said Wednesday, AFP.

The helicopter crew managed to land the aircraft as it caught fire and disembark passengers, the report said. All aboard were hurt but no one was killed.



Muslim soldiers remove March 8 the last airplane from the Tuzla airport now taken under the control of the UN. The UN reports that aid flights could begin Mar 11. — AFP photo

## Israel firm to withdraw troops from Gaza, Jericho by Apr 13

CAIRO, Mar 9: An Israeli envoy told PLO leader Yasser Arafat that the Jewish-state was committed to withdraw troops from Jericho and Gaza by April 13, a PLO official said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The envoy, Jacques Neriah, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's political adviser, met Arafat on Monday and went away with a modified list of PLO terms for resuming formal talks on limited Palestinian self-rule in the two Israeli-occupied areas.

A senior aide to Arafat arrived in Cairo on Tuesday and went into immediate talks with Foreign Minister Amr

Moussa to salvage the peace talks with Israel, suspended over the Hebron mosque massacre of 40 Palestinians by a Jewish settler last month.

Mahmoud Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, who came for PLO headquarters in Tunis, said his talks would focus on trying to find an "appropriate solution" to resume the negotiations.

The PLO and Israel revived their contacts — the first since the February 25 mosque massacre — at a secret meeting between Arafat and a delegation from Rabin in Cairo on Monday.

PLO sources said Israel might send another delegation

to Cairo on Wednesday for more talks with the PLO. The delegation could be carrying a reply to PLO demands that were delivered to the Israeli delegation in the talks on Monday.

A PLO official said that in the Monday talks with Arafat the Israelis carried a message from Rabin confirming his commitment and readiness to have an Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho by April 13.

He said the PLO had asked for a letter from Israel on its commitment to an April 13 withdrawal.

## Two more Jewish extremists held

JERUSALEM, Mar 9: Israeli police have captured two more extremist Jewish settlers wanted in the wake of the Hebron mosque massacre and arrested a third, authorities said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Ben Zion Gopstein was arrested near Jerusalem, police said, and Noam Federman, spokesman for the Anti-Arab Kach Movement to which the mosque killer belonged, was caught in a Jerusalem apartment late Monday.

The pair were among five headline ringleaders ordered detained without trial under emergency regulations normally used only against Palestinians.

Kach leader Baruch Marzel remains at large following the arrest last week of two other prominent extremists.

Police arrested another Jewish settler on Tuesday for failing to turn up in court to face charges of taking part in an illegal demonstration and on public order offences.

Tiran Polack, another leader of Kach, was detained pending bail of 10,000 shekels (around 3,000 dollars), police said.

The movements of 18 settlers have also been restricted since the February 25 slaughter of 53 Palestinian worshippers.



Nirmala, a 13-year-old lower caste Hindu girl, weeps at a hospital March 7 as she displays burns, cuts and bruises inflicted by a middle-class couple who employed her as a maid in Delhi for the past eight months. The harrowing tale of abuse was splashed across the front pages of most Indian newspapers on International Women's Day March 8. Girl's father is seen on her right — AFP photo

## Korean border talks yield no results

SEOUL, Mar 9: The rival Koreans ended their crucial border meeting Wednesday without agreement on exchanging high-level envoys, threatening to derail just resumed nuclear inspections, reports AP.

Exchanging special emissaries charged with defusing nuclear tensions on the peninsula was a precondition set by the United States for high-level talks with the North later this month.

North Korea is threatening to block international inspections of its nuclear facilities that began last week unless the United States drop the precondition.

Communist rival to allow an exchange of high-level envoys but North Korea sought a delay in doing so.

"No significant progress was made, because North Korea repeated its preconditions," Chief South Korean delegate said after the two-hour meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom inside the Demilitarised Zone that separates the two Koreas.

"The North attitude causes doubt as to whether it truly desires to exchange presidential envoys," said Song, who also serves as vice unification minister.

Song said the next meeting, scheduled for Saturday, would mark "a turning point" in which way the current negotiations would go. The North-

South talks began last week after a four-month lull.

The talks came as international nuclear inspectors continued to check North Korea's nuclear facilities. The hard-line Pyongyang government allowed the inspections to resume last week after a year of blocking them.

South Korea's Ham Myong-chul, head of the Foreign Ministry's International Organisations Bureau, said Wednesday inspections of the North's seven declared nuclear sites were going on schedule.

But he said the inspections would leave out two key sites that Western experts suspect are part of the North's nuclear programme.

Before the North agreed to allow the inspectors back in,

the United States announced plans to send Patriot missile-defence systems to South Korea. After the inspections resumed, Washington and Seoul both said the timing of any missile deployment was uncertain.

A border meeting last week bogged down when the North protested the planned Patriot deployment and remarks by South Korean President Kim Young-sam holding Pyongyang accountable for increasing nuclear tensions on the peninsula.

At Wednesday's closed session, the North agreed in principle to exchange high-level envoys with its southern capitalist rival but not before their demands were met.

## Off the Record

### Man cuts off finger to protest gun-control legislation

HARTFORD: A man used a guillotine device to cut off his index finger outside the Capitol Tuesday to protest proposed gun-control legislation. He later refused to have it reattached, reports AP.

Joel Gonzalez cut off the entire index finger on his left hand, referring to it as his "trigger finger," said Capital police Sgt. Tony Murphy. He gave the finger to a friend, Carlos Ramos, so Ramos could bring it to a hearing of the Public Safety Committee and read a statement from Gonzalez, Murphy said.

"He said, I'm cutting off my finger in protest of these bills being debated," Murphy said. "He was extremely calm."

The Public Safety Committee was debating a bipartisan package of gun control measures that includes requiring every gun owner to get a license. Police arrested Ramos as he waited in the hearing room for the meeting to begin; the finger was in a plastic bag tucked in his breast pocket.

Ramos gave the finger to police, was charged with breach of peace and released. No charges were filed against Gonzalez. Gonzalez, 29, was treated and released from Hartford Hospital, but he refused to have the finger reattached, said hospital spokesman James D. Battaglia. The finger was being stored in a saline solution packed on ice.

Gonzalez statement said he is opposed to the gun control legislation and wants stiffer penalties for people who use guns to commit crimes.

"I, Joel Gonzalez, am not able to be here today," the statement said. "However, I am leaving this short statement with my friend along with a small part of me in order to express my strong position for real punishment against criminals who use guns."

### Dead dog comes back from grave

ARTESIA: When Mary Bratcher ran over her dog, the consensus in the family was that Brownie was dead. So they buried him in a field, reports AP.

But Bratcher's 3-year-old son, Toby, refused to believe it. "Brownie didn't die," the boy said.

Brownie didn't believe it, either. The following afternoon, when the family returned from a trip to Carlsbad, 30 miles (50 km) away, a dirt-covered Brownie was on the porch.

"He was real cold, and he wasn't breathing real good," Mrs. Bratcher said. "It freaked me out big time. I didn't want my kids to see him."

The mixed-breed dog lost an eye and broke his right shoulder in the accident. But he was not ghost, said veterinarian William Livingston.

"Of course, he wasn't dead. He was probably in a coma," Livingston said Tuesday.

The dog has responded well to treatment and now has a new name: Lazarus, after the biblical figure who was raised from the dead, Livingston said.

### Oxford Varsity students use 'soft drugs'

LONDON: Half of the students at a college of the Oxford University use cannabis, BBC TV reported Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

The report quoted a survey conducted by the Oxford University as saying that drug use at new college of the university is confined almost entirely to "soft drugs" and most of the students started to addict themselves to drugs before entering university.

The report said the study was based on answers to questionnaires sent to all 318 undergraduates, of which, 76 per cent responded.

Meanwhile, London police announced that they seized heroin Wednesday with an estimated value of 5 million pounds.

The 50 kilogram haul was found by south east regional crime squad officers in Dalston, East London.

### Serial killer sells his thoughts for \$1.99

CHICAGO: Serial killer John Wayne Gacy is offering his thoughts at 1.99 dollars a minute on a telephone line that prosecutors want to disconnect, reports AP.

Gacy is awaiting execution May 10 for killing 33 men and boys.

Callers can hear a 12-minute recorded interview in which Gacy calls himself "the 34th victim" and claims someone else committed the murders and buried the bodies in the crawl space of his suburban home.

Gacy also answers what he calls some of the most-asked questions about his trial and the slayings, which occurred between 1972 and 1978.

Gacy and Allstar Communications of Boca Raton, Fla., set up the line, which began operating March 1. Gacy attorney Gregory Adamski said All Star would split the profits with a Gacy defence fund or a victims fund.

Illinois Attorney General Roland Burris said he would sue Gacy to shut down the 900 line and recover and profits. Burris previously filed a lawsuit to ensure that Gacy wouldn't profit from sales of clown pictures that he painted.

### 'Bobbitt belt' on show

ROME: The 'Bobbitt belt' — an armoured male protection device named after the US penis-slashing case — has gone on show at an art exhibition that mixes the sacred and the profane, reports Reuters.

"When this is all over I will have to send her (Lorena Bobbitt) a gift. She has brought me a lot of publicity," said sculptor Angelo Camerino at the opening of his exhibition in Rome on Tuesday night.

Bobbitt was freed earlier this month from a mental hospital after she was acquitted by reason of insanity in January on the charge of slashing off her sleeping husband's penis.

Camerino, a short, balding man of 62, who has created many religious sculptures, made his first male chastity belt for a fashion house four years ago but hardly anyone noticed. The Bobbitt case has brought his creation new-found fame and a new name bestowed by the media — the Bobbitt belt.

The two million lire (1,200 dollar) belts, which resemble medieval armour, are on show along with his other works—including a large modern crucified Christ and primitive-style paintings.

### Sihanouk asks Cambodians to end fighting

PHNOM PENH, Mar 9: King Norodom Sihanouk has appealed to all Cambodians to end the fighting in the war-ravaged Southeast Asian nation, reports AFP.

Sihanouk said in a statement that the war between government forces and the communist Khmer Rouge "has brought only destruction, suffering, pain, shame and desperation for Cambodia" and its people.

The King urged both sides "to reconcile completely and unconditionally" and live together in peace forever.

The Monarch also urged both sides to "rebuild those bridges and roads they have destroyed."

### Vietnam, Laos sign 'friendly' accord

HANOI, Mar 9: Vietnam and Laos have signed a "friendly" agreement on military cooperation, the military's daily newspaper Quan Doi Nhan Dan said here today, reports AFP.

The paper gave no details, except that the agreement had been signed during the visit here on the Laotian Defence Minister, General Choummaly Saisavane.

"The two sides reaffirmed during their meeting their determination to maintain and improve the special relationship between their peoples and armed forces," the paper said.

Choummaly was received in Hanoi by Do Muoi, and Vietnam's President, Le Duc Ann.

## AI urges Burundi to set up inquiry into mass killing

LONDON, Mar 9: Amnesty International urged Burundi on Tuesday to set up an independent inquiry promptly into a mass killing and called for urgent steps to prevent a recurrence, reports Reuters.

The London-based human rights organisation said the Burundi government and security force commanders should "ensure that the armed forces are prevented from carrying out reprisal or other attacks on civilians."

About 200 people were shot and stabbed to death in the Burundi capital of Bujumbura on Sunday and Monday and some residents blamed the army, dominated by the minority Tutsi tribe, for what they

said was a massacre. Aid workers said most of the victims were members of the majority Hutu tribe.

"Amnesty International is calling on the Burundi authorities to promptly set up an independent and impartial public inquiry into these killings with a view to identifying and bringing the perpetrators to justice," it said in a statement.

State-run Burundi radio quoted an army statement denying that troops were involved but amnesty said the killings "appear to be a show of strength orchestrated by the army following the refusal by some Hutu civilians... to be disarmed by gendarmes."