

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 Reuter.



Eduard Shevardnadze

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

Aided 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.

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.

BRIEFLY

Kuwaiti aid for NY Islamic school:

The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, has donated 2 million dollar to build an Islamic school for Muslims in New York, a newspaper said on Wednesday. Reuter reports from Kuwait.

Al-Qabas said the school would be established at the Islamic Cultural Centre to teach the city's Muslims the Arabic language and teaching of Islam.

Ranariddh, Hun Sen in Tokyo:

Cambodia's Co-Prime Ministers, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday to attend a two-day conference on international aid for their country which starts in Tokyo on Thursday, AFP reports from Tokyo.

After attending the international committee on reconstruction of Cambodia, chaired by Japan, the twin Prime Ministers are scheduled to return home Saturday.

It will be the first major conference on Cambodia since the formation of coalition government around King Norodom Sihanouk and the adoption of a new constitution last Autumn.

Violence against gays declines in US:

Anti-gay violence reported in six major cities declined last year, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said Tuesday, AP reports from Washington.

However, many attacks on gays go unreported, said the author of the study, Martin Miraga.

The number of anti-gay incidents reported to gay and lesbian service agencies in the six cities declined 14 per cent, from 2,103 in 1992 to 1,813 last year, the report found.

22 die in truck-bus collision in India:

Twenty two people were killed when a minibus collided with a truck near the east Indian city of Cuttack, the Press Trust of India reported yesterday. Reuter says from New Delhi.

Several women and children were among the victims of the crash on Tuesday night, the agency said.

Martin Luther King's aide dies:

Fred C Bennett Jr, a close associate of slain American civil rights leader Rev Martin Luther King Jr, had died at age 65, AP reports from Atlanta.

Bennett, known as "The Commandant" for his coordination of King's activities from Atlanta during the 1960s civil rights movement, died Saturday. Friends said he had been in and out of hospitals for the past few years.

"Fred Bennett was one of my husband's most trusted and highly regarded associates during the civil rights movement," Coretta Scott King said.

Bosnian PM arrives in Moscow:

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic arrived in Moscow on Wednesday to discuss prospects for a peaceful settlement in Bosnia in the wake of plans to form a Muslim-Croat federation, AP reports from Moscow.

Silajdzic told the ITAR-Tass news agency Tuesday before leaving for Moscow that he intended to raise the issue of Serb participation in the talks, which are already being held by the Croats and the Muslims.

Russia, which has historic and ethnic ties to the Serbs, in recent weeks helped persuade the Serbs to remove their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo and open a key airport at Tuzla.

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 Reuter.

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 reprisals 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

International

US envoys tell Serbs

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

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

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 Rijeka 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



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 Reuter.

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.

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.

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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 hardline 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.

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.

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