

International

Annan seeks US-Euro help to make ceasefire in Zaire

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 16: With prospects for a multinational force fading, Secretary-General Kofi Annan is turning to the United States and Europe to put pressure on Zaire's rebel leader to accept a ceasefire, reports AP.

Senior UN officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the special UN envoy to the region, Mohamed Sahnoun, will meet rebel leader Laurent Kabila on Saturday in Goma, Zaire, to urge him to accept a ceasefire.

The Security Council planned to issue another statement Friday urging Kabila to accept a ceasefire. The Zairian government of President Mobutu Sese Seko has already agreed to the truce.

for a new multinational military force to help stabilize the situation in eastern Zaire and help provide aid to the hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees caught up in the fighting.

Yeltsin wishes Clinton a speedy recovery

MOSCOW, Mar 16: President Boris Yeltsin, cast in a sudden role reversal, wished US President Clinton a speedy recovery and said he would meet him as soon as your health came after Clinton underwent knee surgery Friday for a torn tendon and only a few days before their scheduled summit in Helsinki, Finland, reports AP.



Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is surrounded by journalists after the international meeting he convened, Saturday in Gaza City. Ignoring strong protests from Israel, diplomats from around the world met with Yasser Arafat to hear Palestinian grievances over the Jewish state's hardline policies.



Albanians arrive in Brindisi Saturday after crossing the Adriatic sea from Durres in Albania onboard the "Val Frio". Albanians fleeing the anarchy in their country are arriving in Italy in their hundreds, most of them by boat.

Indian SC urges govt to protect two mosques

NEW DELHI, Mar 16: The Supreme Courts has urged Indian authorities to protect two ancient mosques from Hindu fanatics who destroyed a 16th-century Islamic shrine in 1992, newspapers said Saturday, reports AFP.

ship over the disputed mosque that is now guarded by hundreds of police and paramilitary troops. The judges said the authorities should do everything necessary in discharge of their obligation to protect the "Islamic shrines in Mathura and Varanasi".

Diplomats meet Arafat despite Israeli protests

GAZA CITY, Mar 16: Ignoring strong protests from Israel, diplomats from around the world met with Yasser Arafat here Saturday to hear an urgent appeal to "rescue the peace process," from a recent series of headline Israeli decisions, reports AFP.

tion of the peace agreements," he said, charging that Israel "has run roughshod over all the signed agreements." The rest of the meeting was closed to the press.

Clinton took rest on Saturday

WASHINGTON, Mar 16: President Bill Clinton rested up Saturday after emergency surgery on his knee and made plans for a rigorous week of overseas travel and meetings with foreign officials, reports AFP.

Albright, Primakov hold pre-summit meet

WASHINGTON, Mar 16: Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov met his US counterpart Madeleine Albright Saturday to prepare for next week's Russian-US summit in Helsinki with the thorny issue of NATO expansion at the top of the agenda, reports AFP.

that direction Friday when it announced that for now, it did not think it necessary to permanently station extra troops in Europe.

threats to current and future members of the alliance. Before heading for the State Department, Primakov made an unscheduled stop at the Russian embassy in Washington that lasted for more than an hour.

Police summon doctor of ROK president's son

SEOUL, Mar 16: South Korean police summoned a doctor of President Kim Young-sam's son today in a widening investigation into alleged wrongdoing by the son, reports AFP.

son had orchestrated government personnel exchanges. "It was stolen from my clinic," the doctor said, acknowledging the authenticity of the videotape in which the son was seen discussing the control of Yonhap Television News (YTN) by a loyalist to the president.

MRTA rebels attack textile store in Lima

LIMA, Mar 16: Suspected Marxist rebels burst into a textile store in Lima on Saturday, throwing grenades that sparked a large fire in which at least two firefighters were injured, police said.

tered the store, which also operates a wool-products factory and shouted MRTA slogans before the fire broke out shortly after 3:00 PM local time (200 GMT).

Israeli settlement policy will provoke repercussions in ME: Mubarak

CAIRO, Mar 16: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak again warned Israel on Saturday that its policy of expanding Jewish settlements in occupied Arab land would provoke serious repercussions in the region, reports AFP.

BRIEFLY

US assails HR Abuses in Belarus: The State Department expressed concern Friday about human rights violations in Belarus, charging that severe restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly have been imposed recently, AP reports from Washington.

Arab League Secy-Gen in Riyadh: Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdel Meguid arrived in Riyadh on Saturday evening for talks with Saudi Arabian officials about the Middle East peace process, officials said, AFP reports from Riyadh.

41 pc Democrats support Gore: Vice President Al Gore leads the Democratic field far in early polling for the 2000 nomination, but the news isn't all good, AP reports from Washington.

Two ex-ministers found guilty of corruption in Sri Lanka: COLOMBO, Mar 16: A high-level inquiry in Sri Lanka found two former ministers and two bureaucrats guilty of corruption and recommended the talking away of their civil rights, a state-run weekly said today, reports AFP.

100 US agents operating undercover in Germany: FRANKFURT, Germany, Mar 16: About 100 American intelligence agents are operating undercover in Germany, Der Spiegel magazine said Saturday, in a report that also named an alleged agent recently ordered to leave the country, reports AP.

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Vietnam lodges complaint with Beijing over oil exploration

HANOI, Mar 16: Vietnam has lodged a formal complaint with Beijing over Chinese oil exploration in an offshore area Hanoi considers its own, the official Vietnam News Agency (VNA) said today, reports Reuters.

10,000 stage protest against constitutional amendments by Belarus president

MINSK, Belarus, Mar 16: About 10,000 protesters marching constitutional amendments introduced by President Alexander Lukashenko as dictatorial, reports AP.

Iranian Foreign Minister meets with Saudi counterpart

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati (L) meets with his Saudi counterpart Saud al-Faisal (R) Saturday in Riyadh. Iranian diplomats said that Velayati's visit, the first to Saudi Arabia in four years, will insist on Tehran's innocence in the June 1996 Kobar bombing that killed 19 Americans.



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Soyinka urges Canada to snap diplomatic ties with Nigeria

MONTREAL, Mar 16: Wole Soyinka, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, is urging Canada to break off diplomatic relations with his native Nigeria to protest human rights violations, reports AFP.

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US and German officials declined to comment on the Spiegel report, or verify the name of Peyton K. Humphries, who the magazine said was being expelled.

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swelling of the limbs. Godal said in an interview that recent discoveries in insect control and therapy make these diseases ripe for elimination as public health threats within 10 years. Elimination means few people would be at risk from the diseases; parasitic infections cannot be eradicated completely because they live in animals.

home's infestation "for two years. Argentina is testing new insecticide canisters that people would spray at first sight of bugs. Merck Inc. is donating a powerful drug called ivermectin to fight river blindness, Godal said. One tablet a year suppresses newly hatching worms. After 10 years of treatment, the adult worm that infected the victim dies, leaving no offspring, he said.