

International

US issues stern warning to Serbia over crackdown
Dozens hiding in woods as troops attack their village in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Mar 8: Dozens of refugees, including women and children, were hiding out Friday in woods after their village in the Serbian province of Kosovo came under attack from security forces, reports AFP.

surrounded by police, who were thought to be holding prisoners in a local factory. "Every man in the Drenica region is in danger," one man said. "We wanted to resolve the problem peacefully but the Serbs provoked us."

man, adding that many families had been separated in their flight. Other families had been unable to escape, and the refugees said they feared for their lives. Drenica is one of the poorest regions of Kosovo, with some 70 per cent of the inhabitants living on aid largely supplied by the charity of Mother Teresa's foundation in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo.

price for its conduct in Kosovo and we are urging our allies to follow suit at the Contact Group meeting on Monday, Albright said. She was referring to the International Contact Group on former Yugoslavia, comprising Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United States.

Iraqi FM heads to NY for talks with Annan

BAGHDAD, Mar 8: Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohamed Syed Al-Sahhaf is heading to New York for the first meeting between an Iraqi official and Kofi Annan since the UN chief's successful peace mission to Baghdad last month, reports AFP.



Anti-narcotic force officials burn confiscated narcotic, Saturday, in Peshawar. Drugs were seized in different raids including 5,500 kilograms of hashish, 1,200 kilograms of opium and 14,000 kilograms of chemicals used in drugs manufacturing.

Russia to complete N-power station in S Iran

MOSCOW, Mar 8: Russia will complete the construction of a nuclear power station at Bushehr in southern Iran despite Ukraine's decision to pull out of the controversial project under US pressure, the Kremlin said Saturday, reports AFP.

BRIFFLY

EU's call to help Afghan women: Women in Afghanistan have suffered a drastic setback in human rights, and other countries should work together to help improve conditions for them, a senior European Union official said Saturday, AP says from Madrid.

Colombians ready for polls: Rebels trying to undermine congressional elections stepped up attacks Saturday, but authorities promised that even one of the most violent weeks of Colombia's civil war wouldn't stop the vote, AP reports from Bogota.

NZ climber killed in India: A mountain guide and a heli-skiing instructor from New Zealand was killed in an avalanche in the Himalayan valley in northern India, police and diplomats said Sunday, AP reports from Chandigarh.

Plane wreckage found in Indonesia: A search aircraft Sunday spotted the wreckage of a small plane that went missing with an Australian and two Indonesians over Sumatra island two days ago, the local Search and Rescue Agency said Sunday, AP reports from Jakarta.

King Hussein tones down proposal for US-Iraq talks

AMMAN, Jordan, Mar 8: Jordan's King Hussein toned down on Saturday his proposal for the United States to strike up a dialogue with Iraq, saying it could be left to the future, reports AP.

Japanese, Russian naval forces to hold war games

TOKYO, Mar 8: Japanese and Russian naval forces plan to stage joint search and rescue drills in the sea of Japan this year, in another step of confidence building between the two countries, a news report said today, says AFP.

Question mark over durability of India's upcoming govt

Speculation has begun about the life of India's new government even before it has assumed office. While it seems reasonably certain that a coalition government, led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Atal Behari Vajpayee, will be asked by President K R Narayanan to prove its majority in Parliament, its disparate composition is expected to give it a shaky foundation.

dropped, the BJP declared. These include the building of a Hindu temple at the site of the demolished Babri mosque in Ayodhya, replacing separate personal laws for Hindus, Muslims, Christians, etc by a uniform civil code and scrapping Article 370 of the Constitution which confers a special status on Jammu and Kashmir.

UF governments propped by the Congress from outside. Not all the BJP allies are expected to be in the government. Many of the leaders of the BJP friendly parties do not either see eye to eye with one another. A few of them, like Subramaniam Swamy of the one-lawmaker Janata Party (different from the Janata Dal of Prime Minister I K Gujral), were inveterate Vajpayee baiters.

Gunmen kill 3 in Lahore

LAHORE, Mar 8: Gunmen attacked the shop of a Shi'ite Muslim activist killing its owner and two bystanders, police said Sunday, reports AP.

'Sonia fails to revive ailing Congress in polls'

NEW DELHI, Mar 8: The widow of assassinated Indian former premier Rajiv Gandhi failed to revive his ailing party in national elections despite playing the starring role, a daily said today, reports AFP.

been proved wrong. It said forecasts of a "Sonia blitzkrieg" and the checking of the BJP rise had been wide of the mark.

mammoth turnout. The congress, however, said in a statement after the elections that Sonia Gandhi's "herculean efforts" had stemmed the rot in the party, wracked by recent factionalism, dissension and corruption charges against top leaders.

Netanyahu rejects claim ME peace process going backwards, says Arafat

GAZA CITY, Mar 8: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat warned yesterday that the peace process was "going backwards" due to Israeli intransigence and called for an urgent Arab summit to review dealings with the Jewish state, reports AFP.

Netanyahu rejects claim ME peace process going backwards, says Arafat. Arafat called for "an urgent Arab summit to review the Arab position and the comprehensive Arab interests" in the deadlocked peace efforts with Israel.



Family members tend the body of Lal, belonging to the Hindu community, as they bring the body back to his home in Karachi, Saturday. Lal was shot dead by paramilitary forces after an argument between small group of Hindus and census takers turned violent leaving one person dead and two others injured in the troubled area of Karachi.

Modernisation of British monarchy Queen at odds with family members

LONDON, Mar 8: Queen Elizabeth II is caught in the middle of a profound disagreement between her husband and her three sons over the modernisation of the British monarchy, a press report said today, says AFP.

process of slimming down the monarchy to begin by stripping princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, daughters of Prince Andrew and the former Sarah Ferguson, and others of their "royal highness" title.

Passengers not hurt as KL airliner skids. KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 8: A Malaysian Airlines Boeing 747 from Tokyo skidded when landing in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday evening and came to a halt on the grass at the end of the runway, the airline said in a statement, reports Reuters.

4 die as forces, rebels clash in Lanka

COLOMBO, Mar 8: Government forces clashed with Tamil Tiger guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka, killing at least four rebels, the Defence Ministry said today, reports AFP.

Forces kill 18 Hutus in Rwanda

LONDON, Mar 8: The Rwandan army said Saturday that it killed 18 Hutu rebels and calm has returned to central Rwanda where serious fighting erupted a week ago, the Rwandan news agency RNA reported, reports AP.

UF convener and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had shot down the proposal by the influential Left parties in the UF to back a Congress government and was insisting on keeping both the Congress and the BJP at arms length.

The LTTE's clandestine radio, monitored in the northern town of Vavuniya, said that a Tiger "captain" known as Navendan was killed in a clash with troops in the north of the country on Saturday but gave no further details.