No cargo handling yet

Minor girl killed as bomb goes off in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

added

tatives.

sources said.

However, cargo handling

and delivery of goods from the

stuck-up cargo vessels at the

port could not be resumed to-

day despite repeated efforts by

the government, port sources

mained stranded at Chittagong

port jetties and outer anchor-

age due to the ongoing dead

At least 53 cargo ships re-

Energy Minister Oli Ahmed

The meeting held this

arrived in Chittagong today and

held a meeting with port offi-

cials and port users represen-

afternoon at the port rest

house, asked the stevedors to

start gang-booking of labourers

immediately for restoration of

cargo handling activities, port

Earlier, the port officials at-

tended a meeting in the

morning with the naval chief.

port sources said. The navy

personnel, deployed inside the

port area, remained on duty

partial cargo handling had re-

sumed from 4 pm today as

some dock workers were en-

gaged by a stevedor for unload

ing of foodgrain from a ship

placed inside the port for tak-

ing delivery of foodgrain and

activities at Chittagong port

would resume fully from to-

morrow if all port users come

Corporation mayor and Awami

League leader A B M

Mohiuddin Chowdhury, in a

press briefing this afternoon

here announced that exemp-

tion in some cases of port op-

erations would be considered

if the port officials and users

sit with the All Party Action

Committee within the next 24

Nazibul Bashar Maizhban-

dari, who recently joined BNP

from Awami League, boycotted

the proceedings of the House

for 10 minutes protesting.

what he said, the AL Chief

Sheikh Hasina's threat on his

Hossain failed to stop Maizb-

handari from leaving the

Niamatullah Sabu from Savar

while blasting the Opposition

parties for their on-going agi-

tation claimed that none of

the industrial units, owned by

the opposition leaders. re-

mained closed during their ag-

itation. "Observe by yourself

first the hartal strike and non-

cooperation programmes you

announce and then impose

Mahmuda Akhter Wahida from

Brahmanbaria, after given the

floor to speak on the Presi-

dent's address, only said:

"Many many thanks to you

Speaker for allowing me to

tial speech, an independent

MP of Chittagong, S M Shafi

Mahmud, told the House that

it failed to give any proper

guideline to resolve the long-

drawn political impasse.

from the President."

"People expected much more

Persson new

Swedish PM

Goeran Persson, Sweden's 47-

year-old finance minister, was

formally elected by parliament

as the new prime minister in a

vote broadcast live on televi-

succeed Ingvar Carlsson, who

Duty rebate

From Page 1

the duty relief appears to have

aimed at restoring normal

functions at Chittagong Port as

well as encouraging resump-

tion of transport movement

between capital Dhaka and

realising duties stuck up due

to non-clearance of huge

quantities of imported goods at

nounced waiver of godown

charge at the port up to March

31 to encourage quick clear-

Sectt employees

From Page 1

At the rally, the agitating

The employees, surrounded

The normal functioning in

employees vowed to resist any

bid to attend office by Aman

by a heavy contingent of police.

the Secretarial came to a vir-

tual halt as hundreds of em-

ployees left their offices from

early morning and joined the

agitation programme that lasted till 12:30 pm.

Sayed Mohiuddin, Azizur

Rahim, Shah Alam, Mujibul

Haq, Shah Md Mohsin, Sayed

Ataur Rahman, Jafar Ahmed,

Araz Ali and Habibur Rahman.

The rally was addressed by

under police and BDR cover.

premises at around 11 am.

ance of consignments.

Earlier, the authorities an-

The rebate is also aimed at

Chittagong.

different ports.

chanted slogans.

Persson had been chosen to

sion today, reports AFP.

is retiring from politics.

STOCKHOLM, Mar 21:

Frustrated by the presiden-

speak.'

A first time MP of the BNP.

those on the countrymen.

Another BNP lawmaker.

Treasury bench whip Ashraf

Jatiya Sangsad."

Inside Parliament

Meanwhile, Chittagong City

bitumen, port officials said.

Some 20 trucks were also

They hoped that operational

Port officials informed that

for security reasons.

anchored at jetty no. 2.

CHITTAGONG, Mar 21: A minor girl was killed while another was seriously injured when an abandoned bomb exploded at Lalkhan Bazar today. police and hospital sources

Shimul Aktar 7, succumbed to her injuries at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital while Shamsun Nahar.

5, was under treatment there. Both of them were injured in the explosion this morning while collecting waste papers at Lalkhan Bazar area, police

The 13th day of non-cooperation programme called by the Opposition passed off peacefully barring some stray incidents.

Police dispersed the supporters of Opposition parties and ruling party when they tried to hold rallies at the same venue at Fakirhat near port jetty no. 3 this afternoon. Using a megaphone, police

asked the activists of both the sides not to hold any rally near Meanwhile, the opposition activists last night ransacked a rail station at Baraiardala,

sources said. The army personnel deployed in the port city were on duty at all strategic points for the second consecutive day to-

Some autorickshaws and tempos were seen plying in the city and its surrounding areas from morning. Shops and markets reopened in large numbers following exemption from non-cooperation during 2 pm to 10 pm today.

Life was seemingly normal after 2 pm as movement of people in the city marked an

Railway sources said train service to and from Chittagong was normal today.

Some goods train also left Chittagong port early morning for Narayangonj and Mymensingh, port sources

From Page 1

1971 on behalf of Bangabandhu

mand clarification from Islam

through the Speaker who again

statement and urged the chair

to examine the accuracy of his

statement. Fazlur Rahman then

wanted to know if the BNP and

his party colleagues believed

that late president Zia made

don't believe it. It's Awami

nored the matter and

virtually converted his vote of

thanks on the President's ad-

dress into a discussion on the

caretaker government bill, in-

troduced in the House yester-

The former forest and envi-

ronment minister, in retalia-

tion to the Opposition's non-

recognition of the present par-

liament, established through

the February 15 polls, said:

"Many call this parliament an-

illegal one. But "Gobareyo

Padmafool Photey." And the

caretaker government bill has

finally been moved in this sixth

DU resident

students

demand

tree food

By DU Correspondent

of the Dhaka University have

demanded food free of cost as

their parents could not send

them money because of the

Opposition's non-cooperation

rally in front of the Vice

Chancellor's residence yester-

some halls and price rise of

food items in the other can-

teens have made the students

suffer badly, speakers at the

students brought out a proces-

sion which they termed

"hungry students' demonstra-

Bill placed

From Page 1

Member of Parliament, b) not

be a member of any political

party or any organisation, c)

will not be candidate for ensu-

ing election of members of

parliament and not be over

President may terminate the

appointment of the Chief

Adviser or an adviser, if, in his

opinion, he has ceased to be

qualified to be appointed as

On the other hand, the

Chief Adviser or an adviser will

enjoy the right to resign "by

writing under his hand ad-

dressed to the President," it

cerned said that the bill would

be discussed, before it was de-

bated in the House, at a meet-

ing of the BNP Parliamentary

group scheduled for Saturday.

The bill is also likely to go to a

select committee for a couple

of days for scrutiny.

Meanwhile, sources con-

According to the bill, "the

seventy years of age.

Later, in the evening, the

The demand was made at a

Closure of the canteens in

programme.

day afternoon.

rally said.

Over 200 resident students

switched to his next business.

However, the Speaker ig-

Col (rtd) Akbar Hossain.

such an announcement.

League's claim.

Fazlur Rahman rose to de-

Prof Islam repeated his

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

gave floor to the latter.

PM to welcome Opposition's opinion on caretaker bill

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said she would welcome opposition opinion on the non-party caretaker government bill, reports UNB.

"We always want discussions with them... those who are not in Parliament can give opinion through newspapers." she told a group of reporters at the Sangsad lobby, coming out of the House.

The government party yesterday moved the caretaker government bill - the Consti tution (Thirteenth Amend ment) Bill 1996 - in the 6th Parliament.

"We have given all they want. Now they can talk to us," Begum Zia said of the opposition parties who are now demanding that the government step down for fresh elections for the 6th Parliament.

The Prime Minister parried a question whether the nonparty caretaker government bill would be passed within a week. You are coming everyday and you will see what happens," she said.

Hasina asks party leaders to help Hajj pilgrims

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday in structed the party's district and thana unit leaders to extend necessary cooperation regarding the transportation of Hajj pilgrims from their respective areas to Dhaka, reports UNB

Hasina, in an announcement, also asked the Awami League leaders to coordinate, if necessary, with the parties-inmovement to provide facilities to the pilgrims.

The transports carrying only the pilgrims must hang banners inscribed with "Haji Jatri", the announcement said.

She advised the Hajj pilgrims to contact the district and thana Awami League leaders in their respective areas concerning their problems.

The Awami League chief, in her announcement, also asked the officials concerned to do the relevant works of the pilgrims on priority basis.

Non-cooperation

From Page 1 At Eskaton, a tempo helper,

Abdur Rahman, 16, was beaten and the vehicle was torched by pickets at around noon. As pickets attacked the vehicle. its driver and passengers fled but the helper was caught by pickets.

In the Dhaka University area, Chhatra League workers allegedly attacked the car of a JCD leader with brickbats. As the driver tried to get away from the spot, the vehicle hit a student - Sazzad - near the Doel Chattar at around 1:30 pm. The JCD leader was not inside the vehicle.

Pickets stoned a car carry ing the Works Minister, near the main gate of Ramna Park at around 1:30 pm. The minister was unhurt.

At least 10 people were injured in armed clashes between activists of the BNP and the AL at Gandaria at around noon. Another 10 people were hurt in a clash at Gopibagh Thursday night. Fresh clashes in the morning at Gopibagh Zia Math left another person injured. Several persons were injured in attacks by pickets on tempos and autorickshaws on the Dhaka University campus, Green Road and other places. A Mishuk was set afire in front of the Central Shaheed Minar, an autorickshaw in front of the TSC, a tempo on the Green Road and another tempo near the Dhaka College. Some people were injured in these incidents.

Cocktails were hurled on some minibuses plying on a restricted route in the city. Near the Syedabad Bus Terminal cocktail

The number of rickshaws plying on the city roads was less yesterday because of a strike called by Rickshaw

Sramik League. UNB adds: Inter-city passenger buses remained off the

While the rail communications were partially restored in the Eastern zone, it remained totally paralysed in the Wes-

tern zone.

the crew members of the aircraft and Peter Davey and Dayananda have been accused of violation of different sections of Aircraft Act. cheating (section 420) and providing false information (Section

- Star photo

Awami League brought out a procession at Fatulla,

Narayanganj, yesterday carrying the body of a party

Purulia arms-dropping

13 chargesheeted

activist shot dead by terrorists.

CALCUTTA, Mar 21: The

CBI yesterday filed charge-

sheets against the 13 main

accused in the December 17

Purulia arms dropping case.

before the Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate, Calcutta, Ak Das-

Of the accused six were

now in jail custody and the

rest were absconding. Altho-

ugh no direct reference was

made to the Ananda Marg in

the chargesheets, some of the

accused were members of the

organisation, according to SP

with waging war against the

state and other charges under

Sections 121, 121, 122, 122A

and 123 of the IPC and for giv-

ing false information to various

named in the chargesheet

were under investigation in

members of the aircraft the

other seven chargesheeted

persons were Kim Peter Davey

Dayanand alias Deepak, Randy,

Saileshvarannanda Avadhoot

alias Umesh Sharma, Jagdish-

varananda Avadhoot, Dhavanda

tioned in the chargesheet with

two aliases, was in the AN-26

aircraft at the time of arms

dropping, but mysteriously

disappeared after it.landed at

been also charged for violation

of the Arms Act and Explosive

Substances Act, while six of

A fatal bet

nager from north China who

smoked 100 cigarettes in one

sitting easily won a bet with a

friend but paid with his life

when his heart gave out, a

watched, the 19-year-old.

identified only by his surname

Wu, suddenly lost his colour

and collapsed after finishing a

fifth pack of Peony brand ci-

garettes. Tianjin city's Jinwan

Bao said in an edition seen to-

was declared dead soon after

being rushed to Tianjin's air

force maritime village hospital,

termined that Wu died of a

heart attack brought on by ex-

cessive intake of cigarette

smoke and acute nicotine poi-

Wu, a construction worker.

"The attending doctor de-

As a crowd of passers-by

state newspaper said.

day in Beijing.

soning." it said.

it said.

BEIJING, Mar 21: A tee-

Ten of the accused have

the Bombay Airport.

Peter Davey, who was men-

Avadhoot and Bhanu Ramesh.

Besides, 19 others not

Apart from the six crew

The accused were charged

(CBI). Loknath Behera.

public servants.

the case.

gupta, reports PTI.

Behera said out of the ab sconding accused in the case. Saileshvarananda was the incharge of Ananda Marg's Munger Centre, while Jagdishvarananda belonged to the Purulia headquarters.

Bhanu Ramesh, who was originally from Kerala and was settled in Delhi, was the main financer of the whole operation of the arms dropping, according to the chargesheet

Dacoity in 2 city houses

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits looted gold orna ments, cash and valuables worth about Tk six lakh from two houses at Sutrapur and Zigatola in the city early yesterday.

A group of about ten armed men, breaking open the girl. entered the house of one Mazharul Huq at Rankin Street under Sutrapur thana at around 3 am.

The dacoits decamped with gold ornaments of about 60 tola, Tk 20,000, and valuable worth about Tk five lakh, police said.

In a separate incidents, another gang of dacoits at the gunpoint looted 11 tolas of gold ornaments, a television set and cash worth more than Tk one lakh from a house at Zigatola staff quarters early yesterday, said a member of the family.

Opposition

From Page 1

ticipation of voters," he added "We hope that our patriotic army will not be used to protect this illegal government." the AL leader said

The briefing followed a joint meeting of the three opposition parties at the residence of AL leader Abdus Samad Azad.

The meeting was attended by AL leaders Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Suranjit Sengupta, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu and Dewan Farid Gazi, JP leaders Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Anwar Hossain Manju and Monirul Hug/Chowdhury. and Jamaat leaders Ali Ahsan Md Mujahid, Abdul Kader Mollah and Md Kamruzzaman.

Foreign buyers cancel order for Tk 200cr shrimp'

From Our Correspondent KHULNA, Mar 21: Foreign buyers have cancelled export orders of frozen shrimp worth over Tk 200 crore, according to sources concerned.

At present, exportable shrimp worth over Tk 400 crore is rotting at the freezing plants in Khulna zone, the sources said.

Khulna zone largely contributes to the country's foreign exchange earning from export of shrimp. During fiscal 1994-95, foreign exchange equivalent to over Tk 550 crore was earned by exporting shrimp through Mongla port. According to Shrimp

Exporters' Association (SEA) foreign buyers have cancelled letters of credit due to continued delay in shipment of exportable shrimp because of political crisis.

Besides, foreign buyers are losing confidence in Bangladeshi companies due to malpractice in grading and weighing of shrimp. At least six export firms have already been blacklisted by foreign buyers, SEA sources said.

Press Note Resume normal functions in Dhaka, Ctg

The government yesterday called upon the people of all walks of life in Dhaka and Chittagong cities to resume their normal functions, saying there is a marked improvement in the law and order sit uation in these cities, reports

The government has noted with satisfaction a marked improvement in the law and order situation in Dhaka and Chittagong after stepping up security measures in these two metropolitan cities; said a Press Note

The government now calls upon the people of all walks of life residing in Dhaka and Chittagong metropolitan areas to resume their normal func tions by opening shops and business establishments, educational institutions, and bringing out commercial and private transports on roads." The Press Note warned that

"legal and punitive action will be taken against anybody found engaged in unlawful and violent activities which might disrupt peace and order in the public life."

Farmers' barricade programme today

By Staff Correspondent

Various farmer and farm labourers' organisations will observe a sit-in and road and railways barricade programmes throughout the country today demanding immediate solution to the fertiliser, food and diesel crises, cancellation of the February 15 polls and fresh elections under a neutral caretaker government.

200 houses gutted in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, Mar 21: Some two hundred houses in a brothel here were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire to-

Fire service sources said the fire broke out at about 11 am from a stove at a house of the red light zone at C&B Ghat It soon engulfed the entire

Fire From Page 1

gulfed by the fire which could be seen from even Shantinagar, witnesses said.

Built on timber and bamboo frame, with tinshed and bamboo fence, a majority of these thatched houses were double storey, said a resident Abu Sayeed, a fisherman.

Fire fighters were faced difficulty to make their way to the spot as the roads leading to the slum were narrow and not motorable for fire brigade ve-

The Vidnight File

NATO swoops on 'Mujahideen' camp in Bosnia

SARAJEVO. Mar 21: NATO swooped on a suspected "Mujahideen" camp in southern Bosnia, mounting a similar operation to one last month that netted several Iranians, an alliance source told AFP today.

Garments units may get compensation

The government is planning to provide compensation to the garment industries, hit the hardest by the Opposition's non-cooperation programme, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

He told a high-level meeting that losses to the readymade garment sector being inflicted by the opposition pro-gramme will be studied and be compensated on case by case basis in the light of the overall resource constraints of the government.

Rahman chaired the meeting held at his office to review the situation in the financial, trade, fiscal and industrial sectors in view of the on-going political agitation.

the meeting was attended by Banking Division Secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Managing Directors and senior officials of Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs).

The Finance Minister expressed deep concern at the osses caused to the financial, trade and industrial sectors due to the continuous non-cooperation movement, according to an official handout.

He said it is unfortunate that all the agitations of the opposition parties are directed against the economy. "It's not a responsible and healthy political practice," he said. Rahman was particularly

anxious about the plight of the garments industries which have been hit the hardest by the present political move-

"Such irresponsible acts are benefiting only our neighbour-

3 murdered From Page 1

brother Elias (26) and accountant Kamal Hossain (38) were admitted to the DMCH. The condition of Abbas Uddin, who sustained bullet wounds in his head, was stated to be critical.

Elias, a student of the Tejgaon College, who received stab injuries in his head alleged that a group of armed persons numbering 15 suddenly attacked them when they were coming out of their house at West Kafrul at about 6

Prior enmity was reportedly the cause of the attack.

A student of Ideal College. Masum Hassan Masum (22) received bullet injuries in his buttock while playing cricket at Gupibagh yesterday afternoon. He was admitted to the DMCH. Kasem (30) was attacked by

some unidentified assailants at Ganaktoli at 3:30 pm yesterday. The miscreants cut the tendons of his right leg.

In another incident, Lal Mia (13) son of Abdur Rahim of Shahid Nagar, was severely beaten up by some local bullies at about 6 am. He was admitted to the DMCH in a critical condition.

Meanwhile, Shah Alam, 24. was injured when some unidentified youths stabbed him in his right hand and right leg at Kawran Bazaar last night. He was sent to the DMCH.

ing countries who are our competitors in the garments sector", he lamented. If markets abroad for such export oriented sectors are once lost the minister cautioned, it will be very difficult to regain it. The finance minister held

the "anti-economic political practices" of the Opposition responsible for the huge damage and loss caused in the financial and industrial sectors. He suggested that the af-

fected people ask for compensation from the opposition par-

Referring to the working hours of the banks, the Finance Minister said banking hours were fixed as per the provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Act and "there is no scope of any confusion in this regard whatsoever.

Govt takes steps to remove deadlock at Ctg Port

The government yesterday undertook various decisions to remove the deadlock of the Chittagong port and urged the importers and exporters to avail the facilities, reports BSS. According to the decisions,

said a handout, the government will exempt port's penalty and general charges. exempt godown charges and berth hire charge on cargo and demurrage charge. These facilities would con-

tinue during the next 15 days. It has also said that the government has ensured the loading and unloading of cargo, security of the port users and also the proper security for transportation of goods from

and to the Chittagong port. According to the government decision, arrangements have been made to keep open the port, banks, customs and port's offices round the

Bad debts

From Page 1 banker of a foreign bank in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the currency market is going through a period of dull trading because of the trade slump, although the price of US dollars was higher due to a shortage of green

Banks can not pass bookentries against fresh inward remittance or negotiate export documents. So, the price of US dollars was high in the inter bank market and traded between Tk 41.94 and Tk 41.10. Foreign exchange dealers said the demand will gradually wear out, if the political crisis con-

In the inter-bank call

money market, the non-cooperation programme has also affected the central bank's operated 'clearing house'. Due to less demand, the inter-bank rate ranged between 5.5 per cent and 7.0 per cent, which shot to 14 per cent before the Opposition's non-cooperation programme began. Banking circles forecast that the call money rate will go down further if the situation does not improve soon.

Attention

It is for general information for all members of the OSB. Due to unavoidable circumstances the 4th Ophthalmological Congress of SAARC & 23rd National Annual Conference & AGM of the OSB has been postponed. The new date will be announced later on.

Dr M A Hadi Faquir Secretary General



বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি



রাজনৈতিক সমস্যার রাজনৈতিক সমাধান করুন

ধ্বংসের হাত থেকে পোশাক শিল্পকে বাঁচান

৬৪% বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা অর্জনকারী পোশাক শিল্পের ৫০০ কারখানা ইতিমধ্যে বন্ধ হয়ে গেছে এবং আরো ৫০০ কারখানা প্রায় বন্ধের পথে।

বিদেশী জাহাজ বাংলাদেশের কোন পণ্য গ্রহণ করছে না এবং চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরকে পরিত্যাক্ত ঘোষণার পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করছে।

প্রতিদিন গড়ে ৩২ কোটি টাকার উৎপাদন বাহত ও স্টক লট হচ্ছে।

এই মুহুর্তে চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর ও রাস্তা না খুললে শ্রীলংকার মত বাংলাদেশ হতে চিরকালের মত এই ব্যবসা विमाग्न निरंव।

যার শেষ পরিণতি জাতীয় অর্থনীতির সম্পূর্ণ ধ্বংস সাধন, ১২ লক্ষ লোকের কর্মচাতি, ১ কোটি লোকের অনু সংস্থান বিনষ্ট ও সম্পুক্ত অন্যান্য সহযোগী শিল্পের সম্পূর্ণ ধ্বংস সাধন। জাতীয় অর্থনীতিতে পোশাক শিল্পের কোন বিকল্প নাই

আগামী ২৪শে মার্চের মধ্যে সচিব বিজিএমইএ'র সাথে বোগাযোগ করার অনুরোধ করা যাচেছ।

বেনাপোল স্থল বন্দরে অগ্নিকান্ডে ক্তিগ্রন্থ বিজিএমইএ'র সদস্যদের ক্যু-ক্তির বিস্তারিত বিবরণ নিয়ে

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Stiff immigration laws proposed Illegal aliens may be barred

WASHINGTON, Mar 21: Il legal alien children could be barred from attending public schools in some states under a Republican proposal in the House of Representatives, reports AP.

The House voted 257-163 on Wednesday to add the plan to a bill that would revamp the nation's legal and illegal immigration laws. A final vote on the entire bill was expected this week.

In another controversial move, the House voted 210-207 to require certain immigrants to pass standardized tests to prove they are proficient in English. The requirement would apply only to immigrants allowed in because of special jobs skills and foreigners admitted from countries with low rates of immigration

Home Speaker Newt Gingrich took the unusual step of going to the floor to argue in favour of an amendment that would give states the authority to decide whether to spend taxpayer dollars on public education for illegal aliens. Gingrich said providing free

public education to illegal aliens was costing California a minimum of dlrs 1.7 billion a year, New York dlrs 634 million, Florida dlrs 424 million and Texas dlrs 419 million. The only reason they faced

implementation of the measure after opponents cited a 1982 Supreme Court case.

court has temporarily blocked

programme allowing employthe social security numbers of new hires. If the programme succeeds in keeping illegal aliens out of jobs. Congress would have the option of expanding it and making it mandatory and permanent after three years.

amendment that would give state and local law enforcement officials authority to detain illegal aliens and hand them over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

from public edn in US

The schools vote came after

these costs was because the federal government failed to keep illegal aliens out, he said. Two years ago, California voters passed Proposition 187. a measure to deny welfare benefits and free schooling to illegal immigrants. A federal

The House also rejected a move to cancel a 3-year pilot ers in five states to voluntarily call a toll-free number to verify

The House approved an