Lanka promises

to lift media

censorship

NEW DELHI, May 24 : Sri

Kumaratunga told The

She, however, defended the

"This is not a normal demo-

# Lanka urges India to bring Tigers to negotiating table

Colombo stung by Delhi's withdrawal offer

NEW DELHI, May 24 : Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has expressed disappointment at India's refusal to give military assistance to Colombo and said New Delhi should help bring the Tamil Tiger rebels to the negotiating table. The Hindu newspaper reported today, says AFP.

Kumaratunga told The Hindu in an interview that India could contribute to the peace process in Sri Lanka by strengthening the hand of Norway, which has been trying to end fighting between government troops and the Tamil separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"There is already a third party facilitating for 15

months. We can't suddenly drop Norway and pick up somebody else. But we are looking at the Indian offer in the background of Norway being our chief facil-

itator," said Kumaratunga. "India can do many things. What it could do is strengthen the hands of our chosen facilitator, Norway, and try to persuade the LTTE to come for

"I think India has, could have a lot of influence over the LTTE, if they so wish," she said. Norway's special peace envoy to Sri Lanka, Erik Solheim,

was due to brief the Indian government Wednesday in New Delhi on his discussions held in troops dead. Colombo on Tuesday.

Leaders and supporters of All Parties Hurriyat Freedom Conference (APHC) sit under a

banner which reads "stop custodial killings" during a hunger strike in Srinagar yesterday.

Yasin Malik (3rd R), executive member of APHC and chairman of the Jammu-Kashmir

Liberation Front (JKLF), led nearly a hundred supporters in the action against alleged

custodial killings in Kashmir by Indian security forces. At far L is another executive

Fiji's chiefs, president attempt

to thrash out solution

C'wealth secy gen meets with Fiji PM & coup leader

he was seriously injured during

President Ratu Sir Kamisese

a beating Saturday and is in ur-

gerit need of medical attention.

Mara, who has condemned the

coup attempt while expressing

sympathy with the plotters'

concerns, met Wednesday with

McKinnon urged the coup

"One really hopes these peo-

pared to step back from the earlier today with Sergio Vieira

McKinnon and de Mello, the

ple (behind the coup) are pre-

UN's chief in East Timor.

leaders to back down.

member of the APHC, Javed Mir. Others are unidentified.

SUVA. May 24 : Fiji's presi-

dent and traditional chiefs met

today to find a resolution to the

country's coup crisis as rebel

soldiers held Prime Minister

Mahendra Chaudhry and his

ministers for a sixth day, re-

monwealth Secretary-General

Don McKinnon and top UN offi-

cial Sergio Vieira de Mello ar-

rived to press for a return to

last Friday by a group of special

forces soldiers who said they

were overthrowing Chaudhry.

Fiji's first ethnic Indian prime

Chaudhry's supporters say

minister, in the name of in-

The government was seized

Their talks came as Com-

ports AFP.

civilian rule.

digenous Fijians.

ernment military assistance but said she did not feel be-"I have always said that In-

Hindu she was disappointed by

India's reticence to give her gov-

dia has a very crucial role to play in South Asia ... but I also understand the Indian government's reticence. They very willingly came forward at one time ... and the Indian troops and government were so shabbily treated."

India sent a peacekeeping force to Sri Lanka in July 1987. only to pull out 32 months later after a bloody bush war with the LTTE left some 1,200 Indian

This time, India has said it Kamaratunga told The would not intervene militarily

in Sri Lanka even if the LTTE guerrillas overran Jaffna, the former Tamil stronghold in the north of the island.

New Delhi has also stated it would not offer to broker peace between the rebels and Colombo unless asked by both.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka was mulling today how to react to a surprise offer by India to help evacuate thousands of troops defending the northern peninsula of Jaffna against a Tamil rebel offensive.

There was no official reaction here to New Delhi's announcement late Tuesday that India was prepared to evacuate Sri Lankan troops from Jaffna if requested by Sri Lankan President Chandrika.



Picture taken on May 24 shows mummies recently found in one of the seven newly uncovered tombs in the Bahriya oasis, in Egypt's western desert. A team of Egyptian archeologists working in the Valley of the Mummies discovered the 100 gold-encased bodies. The necropolis dates back to the Greco-Roman era (330 B. C. to 400 A.D).

- AFP photo

This would have required a

Rights groups have long

complained that the present

rule empowering a junior police

official to register cases had

been heavily abused to harass

religious minorities, specially

Christians. Christian leaders

want the law, that was intro-

duced by former army ruler Zia

Ul Haq two decade ago," to be

the April 21 announcement

that was greeted by rights

groups, Musharraf vielded to

the vociferous protests by Is-

But less than a month after

abolished.

lamic parties.

probe by a senior district ad-

ministration officials before a

criminal charge could be regis-

### The Sri Lankan government Monday shut down a pro-opposition weekly newspaper, The Religious riots claim 150

of the government to stop any-

sible," she said.

body who is deemed irrespon-

LAGOS, May 24: More than 150 people were killed in clashes between Muslims and Christians in the northern Nigerian city of Kaduna at the start of this week, local newspapers reported today, says

in Nigeria

The toll rose past 150 with dozens of bodies observed in hospital morgues and-on the streets in the two main riot-affected areas in the south of the city, reports in various Nigerian newspapers said.

An official of the Ahmadu Bello University teaching hospital told reporters on Tuesday that the bodies of more than 40 people killed in the fighting were brought to the hospital morgue overnight Monday.

## Lockerbie trial resumes after 13-day break

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands, May 24: The trial of two Libyans accused of bombing a Boeing 747 over Lockerbie in 1988, killing 270 people, resumed today after a 13-day break and technical problems the day before, reports AFP. Presiding judge Lord Ranald

Sutherland convened the court at 9:55 a.m. (0755 GMT). The trial was adjourned on

May 11 and had been due to resume Tuesday but technical problems with the court's hightech stenography system prevented the court from sitting.

# Islamic groups threaten Musharraf's reform

ISLAMABAD, May 24: After forcing Pakistan's military regime to Subordinate human rights to religion, hardline Islamic groups are rallying the people behind their campaign to take the nation back in time, reports IPS.

Political analysts and media commentators warned military ruler Pervez Musharraf that his handling of the stand-off with the radicals would decide the fate of his ambitious reform plan for Pakistan.

Religious conservatives exulted over the mixed response to their countrywide shutdown call late last week to press the military government to incorporate Islamic principles in the constitution, ban citizen's groups and keep hands off Islamic schools.

said today that Ethiopia lost

37.000 troops in the six days

following the resumption of the

Horn of Africa neighbours' bor-

western front are estimated at

37,000," read a statement re-

leased by the Eritrean foreign

ministry and faxed to AFP in

Nairobi, adding that these bat-

The latest bout of the two-

tles raged from May 12 to 17.

'Ethiopia lost 37,000 troops'

Eritrean army shoots down

fourth Ethiopian jet

NAIROBI, May 24: Eritrea end of the border, which is some

"Aggregate emeny human by Ethiopian forces, fighting

losses for the battles in the moved east to a plateau around

year-old conflict began with an spokesman Yemane Ghe-

Ethiopian push on the western bremeskel told AFP today.

1,000 km long.

Eritrean

A coalition of religious parties that called the May 19 public protest claimed this had shown that Pakistanis disapproved the bid by the "NGO (non-governmental organisation) mafia in the government to rob the country of its Islamic identity.

The religious parties were pleased that their action coincided with a similar three-day protest by traders against a proposed sales tax. In a statement from Lahore,

prominent Muslim cleric Shah Ahmad Noorani warned the government to follow Islam rather than becoming a tool in the hands of anti-Islam forces.

Political observers said they expect calls like this to become shriller in coming days after

After this resulted in the

"tactical retreat" of Eritrean

forces and the occupation of

parts of southwestern Eritrea

Anotrer report says, the Er-

itrean army has shot down a

fourth Ethiopian jet and re-

pulsed in continued heavy

fighting on the central front,

the town of Zala Anbesa,

Musharraf backed off from a decision last month to modify the controversial and blasphemy law. They said the military ruler

had given a handle to Islamic parties who also seemed to be winning over the moderate political formations in their antigovernment campaign. Although Musharraf's undo-

ing of his decision to modify the anti-blasphemy law was slammed by media commentators and right bodies, Pakistani political parties were wary of criticizing the turnabout.

Speaking at a human rights conference in April, the military ruler had announce a change in the rule for complaining against those suspected of blasphemy, a crime carrying the death penalty.

Japan moves to lift ban

ing party plans to call on the government to lift two-year-old sanctions on India and Pakistan imposed after their titfor-tat nuclear tests, an official

said today, reports AFP. A foreign policy committee within Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has submitted the plan to Shizuka Kamei, the party's policy-making chief, the

party official said.

# on India & Pakistan "It is up to him whether we

the LDP's Research Commission news agency reported.

## TOKYO, May 24 : Japan's rul- on Foreign Affairs said. will officially urge the government to lift the sanctions," he

Japan imposed sanctions. including a freeze on new nonhumanitarian grants and loans, after India and Pakistan carried out a series of nuclear tests in May 1998.

The LDP had already made a final decision to go ahead with the proposed removal of sanc-"We handed in our proposal tions even if the two arch-rivals

#### The prosecution alleges that Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, 48, and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah, 44, planted a time bomb aboard Pan Am Flight to the chairman of the LDP did not sign the Comprehensive | 103, which blew up as the plane

Policy Research Council yester- Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), outlaw- flew over the southwest Scotday," the official, a member of ing nuclear tests, the Kyodo | tish town of Lockerbie on December 21, 1988.

#### brink, realising that there has de Mello, the United Nation's already been damage to the inchief in East Timor. Negotiators to seek partial ternational reputation of Fiji." The Commonwealth chief told reporters as he left parlia-Fiji's influential Great ment that he had been allowed release of hostages Council of Chiefs (GCC) on to see Chaudhry and that he Tuesday came out against the looked quite well. 24 Abu Sayyaf rebels detained

MANILA, May 24 : Philippine negotiators are to push for the release of some of the 21 গাজীপুর-১৭০৫ hostages held by Muslim extremist gunmen, instead of the বিএড পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি জুন, ২০০০ whole group, when the two sides

- AFP photo

coup and unanimously sup-

and his ministers should be re-

secretary-general Don McKin-

non Wednesday said he had met

with Prime Minister Mahendra

Chaudhry and coup leader

George Speight in the besieged

mier appeared to be in good

McKinnon arrived in Fiji

parliament and that the pre-

ported Mara, saving Chaudhry

Meanwhile, Commonwealth

তারিখ ও বার ২য় সিমেস্টার ৪র্থ সিমেস্টার সময়ঃ সকাল ৯:০০ টা থেকে সময়ঃ বিকাল ২:০০টা থেকে ৫:০০টা ३२:००छा শিক্ষানীতি/শিক্ষাক্রম প্রণয়ন 36/06/200039 শিক্ষানীতি/মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ে প্রশাসন রবিবার ও ব্যবস্থাপনা শিক্ষার ইতিহাস/মুসলিম ভারতে শিক্ষার ইতিহাস/বাংলাদেশে শিক্ষা 12/06/200030 সোমবার মনোবিজ্ঞান/শিক্ষায় শিক্ষা মনোবিজ্ঞান/শিখনের তাত্ত্বিক ও २०/०७/२०००३१ মনোবৈজ্ঞানিক প্রক্রিয়া-১ মঙ্গলবার প্রায়োগিক দিক २३/05/२०००३१ उ शिका मृन्गायन उ निष्मर्भना/निष्मर्भना उ म् लाग्यन निर्प्तना/ পরিসংখ্যান পরিচিতি বুধবার পরামর্শদান २२/06/२०००३९ ক) বাংলা/মাতৃভাষা শিক্ষাদান ক) বাংলা/ভাষা শিক্ষাদানে পরীক্ষা ও বৃহম্পতিবার পদ্ধতি খ) বিজ্ঞান/মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ে খ) বিজ্ঞান/বিজ্ঞান শিক্ষার মূল্যায়ন জীব বিজ্ঞান শিক্ষাদান २७/०७/२०००देश ক) ইংরেজি/ইংরেজি ভাষা- ক) ইংরেজি/ইংরেজি রচনা ও সাহিত্য দক্ষতার বিকাশ ভক্রবার শিক্ষাদান খ) ভূগোল/প্রাকৃতিক ভূগোল খ) ভূগোল/ভূগোল শিক্ষার মূল্যায়ন ক) সমাজ বিজ্ঞান/মাধ্যমিক ক) সমাজ বিজ্ঞান/উনুয়ন পরিপ্রেক্ষিত: 28/05/200039 শনিবার বিদ্যালয়ে পৌরনীতি শিক্ষাদান বাংলাদেশ খ) গণিত/মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ে খ) গণিত/মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ে গণিত গণিত শিক্ষাদান-২ শিক্ষাদান-৪ 20106/200038 এ্যাসাইনমেন্ট রবিবার সময়ঃ সকাল ১.০০ থেকে

বিংদ্রঃ ওরিয়েন্টেশন, ১ম সামার, উইন্টার এবং ২য় সামার স্কুল (চূড়ান্ত অনুশীলনী পাঠদান ও মৌখিক) পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি স্ব স্ব কেন্দ্র কর্তৃপক্ষ তৈরি করে পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকে পরীক্ষা চলাকালীন সময় জানিয়ে দিবেন। পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকে নিজ দায়িত্বে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্র কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট থেকে সময়সূচি জেনে নিতে হবে। শুক্রবার বিকেলের পরীক্ষা ২:০০টার পরিবর্তে ২:৩০ টায় শুরু হবে এবং ৫:০০টার পরিবর্তে ৫:৩০ টায় শেষ হবে।

100000

জিডি-৪৮৯

মোঃ ওয়াহিদুজ্জামান পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক

tiators, led by Roberto Aventa-Sayyaf in Jolo island, where the hostages are held. Puno

begin formal talks, a government spokesman said today, reports AFP. The talks are due to start in

the southern Philippines on Thursday or Friday, President Joseph Estrada's spokesman Ricardo Puno told reporters.

"There may be a break" during the meeting between negojado, and five leaders of the Abu

Meanwhile, twenty-four Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremist guerrillas involved in two hostage crises in the southern Philippines have been arrested, a military spokesman said today.

The gunmen were captured after clashes in two areas of Basilan island on Saturday and Tuesday, Colonel Jaime Canatoy told reporters.

# Chilean court strips Pinochet of immunity

Chilean appeals court ruled Tuesday to strip Augusto Pinochet of his immunity from prosecution for crimes during his dictatorship, according to a judicial source, although there was no official confirmation. "The senator (Pinochet) had

his parliamentary privileges taken away," a court source, who asked not to be identified, told AFP.

SANTIAGO, May 24 : A dict on the issue but would not reveal its decision for up to two

> President Ricardo Lagos refused to comment on reports of the ruling leaked to the media.

> "I have no comment. I have no official information and therefore I won't comment," he said on CNN television.

The judges ruled 12 to 10 to overturn Pinochet's immunity. After a surprise session of its part of the privileges he enjoyed 22 members earlier in the day, as a senator for life, according the Santiago Appeals Court an- to the online editions of major nounced it had reached a ver- daily newspapers.

US nuclear inspectors in N Korea: US nuclear inspectors arrived in North Korea on Tuesday headed for an underground site to check that no atomic weapons are being made there, the State Department spokesman said. Reuters reports from Washington.

The 12-member team of inspectors was expected to arrive at the Kumchang-ri site on Friday, spokesman Phil Reeker said at a briefing. The purpose of the visit is to confirm previous findings that Pyongyang is not violating a 1994 accord that froze its nuclear programme in return for \$5 billion in nuclear power plants and other energy supplies.

Iran frees 460 more Iraqi POWs:

Iran released late Tuesday another 460 Iraqi prisoners captured during the 1980-88 Iran-fraq war, state radio reported yesterday. AFP reports from Tehran. They were freed to mark the anniversary of the 1981 liberation of the southwestern city of Khorramshahr, which was occupied by Iraqi forces in the first weeks of the war.

# Top US official tours Pakistan, India, Lanka to discuss security

Security issues, including

WASHINGTON, May 24: US Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering has departed for South Asia on a seven-day tour of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka focusing on security issues, the State Department announced Tuesday, reports AFP.

"He will be visiting Islamabad, New Delhi and Colombo," confirmed State Department spokesman Phil Reeker, adding that the trip had been organized shortly after US President Bill Clinton's ground-breaking visit to the region in March.

nuclear non-proliferation, the volatile question of Kashmir and the rebel Tamil Tiger uprising in Sri Lanka, were expected to top Pickering's agenda, the spokesman said.

in New Delhi late Tuesday for a two-day visit before heading to Islamabad for three days and to Colombo for one day, Reeker

Indian officials said Pickering, due to meet Foreign Secretary Lalit Mansingh and De-

fence Minister George Fernandes, would discuss bilateral, regional and international issues during his two-day talks.

The war in Sri Lanka and India's offer to evacuate 30.000 embattled Lankan troops from Pickering was due to arrive the Jaffna peninsula also would figure prominently in the talks, analysts in New Delhi said.

Pakistan's foreign office spokesman said Tuesday that in Islamabad Pickering was likely to call on General Pervez Musharraf, who seized power in a coup in October last year.

### Office of the Project Director Project Implementation Unit

Dhaka Urban Transport Project Dhaka City Corporation

# **Tender Notice**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No-2911 from the enlisted contractor of Dhaka City Corporation for the following work. Tender schedule could be purchase from the office of the undersigned & the Cashier of Dhaka City Corporation. The tender will be received up to 12:00 Noon on 06-06-2000 by the undersigned.

The tender schedule not exceed over all rate five per cent (5%) less or more than the estimated cost. Exceeding over all rate five per cent (5%) less or more above than the estimated cost of the tender will be treated as cancelled.

Earnest money must be submitted alongwith the tender in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favour (PIU) Dhaka Urban Transport Project. VAT registration, income tax clearance certificate photocopy should be enclosed with tender document.

In case of more than one tender of same quoted rate and being lowest, contractor may be selected by means of lottery. The authority reserved the right to accept or reject the tender without showing any reason thereof.

SI No Name of work Estimated cost Time Earnest allowed money ঢাকা মহানগরীর পরিবহণ প্রকল্পের প্রকল্প Tk. 2,43,173/-Tk. 7,296/-20 days বাস্তবায়ন ইউনিটের জন্য বরাদ্দকৃত ১৪ ও ১৫তম তলার দেওয়ালসমূহ রংকরণ ও বাথর মসমূহ মেরামত কাজ। Project Director

DCC/PRD/477/1999-2000 GD-490

PIU, Dhaka Urban Transport Project Dhaka City Corporation, 13th Floor Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka.