INTERNATIONAL

on schools: 65 children fall sick , in Vietnam

AP, Hanoi

Sixty-five more schoolchildren were sickened in the latest in a series of mysterious chemical attacks on schools in the restive central Vietnamese province of Daklak, officials said vesterday.

They said 61 schoolchildren. three teachers, a school guard and a local official were affected by attacks on two schools in Ea Sup district last Friday and Saturday. Four more children were sickened in another attack in the district Monday morning, an official of the district Education and Training Service said.

The victims suffered from convulsions, stomach pains and vomiting and were treated at the district medical centre, where a dozen remained hospitalized, she said. A doctor at the medical centre

confirmed that some victims remained there, but declined to give

Samples of the chemical used in the attacks could not be collected because all had evaporated, the education official said.

More than 600 children and teachers in five districts of Daklak have been sickened by the string of chemical attacks on schools since early February, when Daklak and neighbouring Gia Lai provinces were hit by the worst ethnic unrest in the Central Highlands in years.

British 'top secret' laptop computer goes missing

REUTERS, London

A British Defence Ministry laptop computer packed with national security secrets has gone missing after an official left it in the back of a taxi, the mass-selling Mirror tabloid reported vesterday.

The laptop was thought to contain vital information about new weapons systems, it said.

The Mirror said the official had notified police about the missing laptop. No immediate comment was available from the Defence Ministry

It was the latest of several laptops with military or intelligence information reported lost in Britain in just over a year 2.37 and your tolin

in March last year there were reports that agents of M15, Britain's domestic security service, and M16, the overseas security service, had lost laptops containing secret information. The MI5 laptop, said to contain confidential information on Northern Ireland, was snatched at a London railway station.

Chemical attacks | Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon on schools: 65 kill 3 Syrian soldiers

AP, Lebanon

An early morning Israeli attack on a strategic Syrian radar position deep in Lebanon killed three Syrian soldiers and wounded six, a Lebanese security officer said vesterday.

Israel, which has long accused Syria of encouraging Lebanese guerrilla attacks on its territory, unleashed the airstrikes hours before dawn Monday in retaliation for a cross-border attack on Saturday by Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas that killed an Israeli soldier.

Security was stepped up following the Israeli attack, the first deep inside Lebanon since Israeli forces withdrew from southern Lebanon last May and the first on Syrian troops since 1996. Security officers barred access to the targeted radar station near Dahr al-Baidar, 35 kilometres east of Beirut in the barren mountains just north of a highway linking Beirut with Damascus, Syria's capital.

A Lebanese security officer at a checkpoint about a kilometer from the radar station told reporters three Syrian soldiers were killed and six wounded. The officer, speaking on customary condition of anonymity, said the wounded were taken to a military hospital in Chtaura, 10 kms east.

Reporters were barred from the hospital.

A bulldozer could be seen clearing rubble for the radar station and Syrian soldiers were posted on the roof of the damaged station.

They region is dotted with Syrian army troop positions that include radar stations, tanks and armored personnel carriers.

President Emile Lahoud condemned the attack as a "grave development expressing anew the bloody course adopted by (Israeli Prime Minister Ariel) Sharon since his coming to power in the Palestinians arena and outside."

"This course could lead to an overall confrontation," Lahoud, who discussed the attack by phone with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, said in a fax statement.

At midday Monday, Syria's state-controlled media still had not reported

In Jerusalem, and Israeli army spokesman said "air force planes this evening attacked a radar target of the Syrian army at Dahr el-Baidar, north of the Beirut-Damascus highway in Lebanon." The spokesman said all the planes returned safely.

The Israeli army said the attack was in response to Hezbollah attacks in recent months, and most recently Saturday, when an Israeli soldier was killed in a tank that was hit by a Hezbollah rocket in a disputed border zone at the Chebaa Farms area, where the borders of Lebanon, Syria and Israel meet.



A Lebanese anti-aircraft gun takes a position in Beirut yesterday after Israel pounded a Syrian radar station at Dahr al-Baydar, 45 km east of Beirut, killing at least three Syrian soldiers and wounding six.

Nepal after PM's car stoned

The home ministry official added

A police spokesman said: "The

that "no ugly incidents took place

and the premier went to his office

NCP-UML had planned to stop the

without being obstructed."

130 protesters arrested in

and activists.

Estrada arrested for graft, posts Powerful Taliban bail to avoid going to jail

AFP, Manila

Ex-Philippine president Joseph Estrada was arrested yesterday for corruption and perjury, but he swiftly posted bail to avoid going to jail. court officials said.

Accompanied by his wife, a son and a posse of bodyguards and police. Estrada voluntarily showed up at the office of a court sheriff who formally served him an arrest warrant issued two hours earlier by a special anti-graft court. Estrada, who turns 64 in three

days, posted 40,000 pesos (800 dollars) bail before Associate Justice Narciso Nario for his provisional

The court is expected to allow him to return to his suburban Manila mansion before dusk without spending a second in jail.

Had he failed to post bail he would have been thrown in jail alongside ordinary criminals, court officials said. Estrada was accompanied by his

wife. Luisa Ejercito, eldest son Jose Ejercito, also known as Jinggoy, and a battery of lawyers and police It was the first time a warrant of arrest had been issued by the judi-

ciary against a former Philippine president. Former movie star Estrada was ousted in a military-led popular uprising on January 20 after being

embroiled in a corruption scandal. Dozens of policemen took positions in and around the



Sandiganbayan court in suburban Quezon city to thwart possible violence, radio reports said.

"We have to follow the procedure. We will do everything we can to protect the rights of president Estrada," one of his lawyers Jose Flaminiano told reporters. "We have to post bond, in the first

place and we will (make use) of so many remedies. We are keeping our options open. We do not want to communicate our moves at this

Justice Nario set a 30,000-peso (600-dollar) bond each for the provisional liberty of Estrada and his four co-accused in the corruption case. The court also barred the five

suspects from leaving the country. A 10,000-peso bond was set for

Another Estrada lawyer Raymund Fortun, said Estrada had was 45. been expecting the arrest and that he was not worried about it. "We have expected this to happen since last week," Fortun said.

Estrada's son, linggoy, said his father was at home and appeared relaxed when he heard the news. "He was even smiling when I talked to him about the case," he said.

Estrada was indicted two weeks ago on eight charges of corruption involving more than 80 million dollars. All but one of the cases -- for plunder -- allows bail to be posted. A division of the court which is

handling the case of plunder against him has yet to issue a ruling: Plunder or large-scale corruption, is punishable by death and does not permit bail The court division that issued the

arrest warrants had determined that there was "probable cause" to put Estrada on trial for diverting 130 million pesos in tobacco excise taxes in 1998 and for misrepresenting his assets in official documents.

Estrada's friend, Charlie Ang, and three of Ang's employees, Alma Alfaro, Delia Rajas and Eleuterio Tan, were also indicted in the fund diversion case. The arrest warrants issued

Monday followed a furious legal fight waged by the former leader, who alleged that he was illegally forced from office less than halfway into a six-year term due to end in

leader dies of cancer AP, Kabul

A powerful Taliban leader, Mullah Mohammed Rabbani, died of cancer, officials said Monday. He

Head of the Taliban's governing ministers' council, Rabbani, who had been receiving treatment for cancer, died late on Sunday.

Rabbani was among the first wave of Taliban, who swept into Kabul in September 1996, driving warring Islamic factions led by former defence Chief Ahmed Shah Massood and President Burhanuddin Rabbani from the capital.

L's believed it was Rabbani who ordered the execution of Afghanistan's pro-communist president Najibullah, who had been living in a United Nations compound in Kabul since 1992, when Islamic factions took power.

Najibullah was dragged form the United Nations compound in Kabul, tortured and hanged. Najibullah's body, as well as that

of his brother, was left hanging in the city for two days before it was taken

The execution of Najibullah was sharply criticised by the United Nations and is seen by many as a major factor in the uneasy relationship between the Taliban and the global body.

Rabbani had been ill for several months and had not been seen in public for much of this year. Rabbani, was considered a pow-

erful man in the Taliban movement. second only to the reclusive leader of the hardline Islamic militia, Mullah Mohammed Omar. Rabbani was a strong advocate of

the hardline Islamic rule followed by the Taliban. His death is not expected to result in any major policy changes by the Taliban.

quit, police said. Thousands of people, mainly car of prime minister and pull him out in protest of his alleged involvefrom the opposition Nepal ment in the aircraft lease scam." Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), took to Koirala is under investigation for corruption relating to a controverthe streets amid tight security in the sial aircraft lease deal but has denied capital Kathmandu to demand Koirala's resignation, police said. any wrongdoing. The protest was part of a NCP-A stone was lobbed at the pre-UML plan to cordon off the streets mier's car as it was approaching his

leading to Koirala's Central Secretariat office until he resigned.

The NCP-UML protest was said. Police said they arrested more backed by five other splinter com-

than 130 NCP-UML leaders, MPs munist groups, including the NCP-Marxist, Leninist and Maoist (NCP-MLM), the Nepal Peasants' and Workers' Party (NPWP), National People's Front (NPF), United People's Front-Nepal (UPF) and NCP-United.

The communist parties also

accuse Koirala of failing to control corruption and maintain law and Koirala was elected as the pre-

mier in March last year by an overwhelming majority of the ruling Nepali Congress lawmakers. His term is due to end in May 2003. The NC has a total 113 MPs in the

205-member lower house of parliament while the combined forces of the opposition parties total only 92.

Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect arrested

REUTERS, Sarajevo

AFP, Kathmandu

More than 130 communist party

members were arrested in Nepal

vesterday after the car of Prime

Minister Girija Prasad Koirala was

stoned in a protest to demand he

office, a home ministry official said.

disperse the protesters, witnesses

Police then used tear gas to

NATO-led peacekeepers arrested a Bosnian Serb army commander on Sunday who had been indicted by a UN war crimes tribunal for alleged few days. involvement in the 1995 massacre of thousands of Muslims in Srebrenica.

Dragan Obrenovic, who was commander of a Bosnian Serb army and customs of war, said Hartman. brigade at the time, was under The indictment was issued April 9. "sealed indictment," meaning the charges against him had not been made public to avoid alerting him to of Muslims in the eastern Bosnian to bring indicted war criminals to his possible arrest.

woman for the tribunal prosecutors' as Europe's worst atrocity since rule of law in Bosnia," it said. office, said Obrenovic had been WorldWar II. arrested by the NATO-led

Zvornik, in Bosnia's Serb republic near the border with Yugoslavia.

brought before the court in the next staff of the Zvornik Brigade. in genocide, crimes against human-

ity and violations against the laws

Stabilization Force (SFOR) near have killed up to 8,000 Muslims in arrest.

and around the town. The biggest mass grave of the Srebrenica victims He was flying to The Hague last was found around 35 miles away night and was expected to be near Zvorhik. Obrenovic was chief of "Srebrenica represents one of the

He was charged with complicity darkest episodes in the recent tragedy that befell Bosnia," the USWhite House said in a statement, noting that US forces aided in the arrest. "This apprehension demon-

Obrenovic was allegedly strates that NATO and the United involved in the killing of thousands States remain committed in helping town of Srebrenica, Hartman said. justice as an essential step in consol-Florence Hartman, spokes- The Srebrenica massacre is regarded idating the peace and promoting the

> UN chief prosecutor Carla del Bosnian Serb forces are alleged to Ponte was also pleased with the

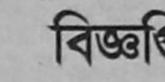
জিডি-৩৩৮

রপ্তানি উনুয়ন ব্যুরো (বস্ত্রসেল) **Export Promotion** Bureau (Textile Cell)

111-113, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

রপ্তানি বৃদ্ধি জাতির সমদ্ধি

তারিখঃ ১৫-০৪-২০০১ ইং नः-ब्राडेव/वञ्च/वज्ञान्द-७/১७/२००১/७৫



২০০১ কোটা বর্ষে মুক্ত কোটা বরাদ্দ

২০০১ কোটা বর্ষে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রীয় ও কানাডীয় কোটা ক্যাটাগরির আওতায় মুক্ত কোটায় বরাদ্দের জন্য রপ্তানি উনুয়ন ব্যুরোর বস্ত্রসেলে নিবন্ধিত পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানিকারক প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট থেকে নিম্নোক্ত শর্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচেছঃ

আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান সর্বোচ্চ ৮ (আট)টি কোটা ক্যটাগরির জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন করতে পারবে:

যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিবন্ধন সনদ নবায়িত এবং বৈধ (Valid) তথুমাত্র সে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানই আবেদন করতে পারবে। যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের বভেড ওয়্যার হাউস লাইসেন্স নবায়িত ওধুমাত্র সে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান আমদানি বস্ত্রের আওতায় মুক্ত কোটার জন্য দরখাস্ত করতে পারবে;

যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান ২০০০ কোটা বর্ষে মুক্ত কোটায় বরাদ্দ পেয়েছে তারা এই বিজ্ঞপ্তির আওতায় সেই ক্যাটাগরি/ক্যাটাগরিসমূহের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে নাঃ

যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান ২০০১ কোটা বর্ষে সম্পাদন কোটায় বরাদ্দ পেয়েছে তারা সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্যাটাগরিতে ২০০১ কোটা বর্ষে মুক্ত কোটার জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে নাঃ

বিজিএমইএ এবং বিকেএমইএ এর সদস্যভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ ৩৬৩ ও ৩৬৯-এস ক্যাটাগরিদ্বয়ের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে না। মুক্ত কোটার আওতায় বরাদ্দ কেবলমাত্র সেই সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানকে প্রদান করা হবে যাদের সংশ্রিষ্ট ক্যাটাগরির পোশাক প্রস্তুত করার ক্ষমতা এবং ঐ সকল

পোশাক প্রস্তুতের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় মেশিনারী ও সরঞ্জাম আছে: আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান যে পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানিকারক সমিতির সদস্য সে সমিতির অফিস থেকে "নির্ধারিত ফরম" সংগ্রহ করে সমিতির সুপারিশ গ্রহণপূর্বক আবেদনপত্র আগামী ৩০-০৪-২০০১ ইং তারিখ বিকাল তটা পর্যন্ত বন্ত্রসেলে স্ব-স্থ সমিতির জঁন্য পৃথকভাবে রক্ষিত নির্ধারিত

বাক্সে/ড্রামে জমা দিতে পার্বে। আবেদনপত্র যথায়গভাবে পুরণ ও স্বাক্ষরিত এবং সংশ্রিষ্ট সমিতি কর্তৃক সুপারিশক্ত না হলে তা বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। ডাকযোগে প্রেরিভ কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

মুক্ত কোটার আবেদন ইপিবি'র চট্টগ্রাম দপ্তরে রক্ষিত নির্ধারিত বাক্সে/ড্রামে ৩০-০৪-২০০১ ইং বিকাল ৩.০০টা পর্যন্ত জমা দেয়া যাবে। ৩০-০৪-২০০১ ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৩.৩০ টায় বিজিএমইএ, বিকেএমইএ, বিটিটিএলএমইএ, বিএসটিএমপিআইএ এবং ইপিবি সমন্বয়ে গঠিত বাছাই কমিটি কর্ত্তক ঢাকা ও চট্টগ্রামে প্রাপ্ত দরখাশতসমূহ খোলা হবে। কমিটি প্রাপ্ত দরখান্তের মোট সংখ্যা উপস্থিত আবেদনকারীগণকে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে) অবহিত করবে। বাছাই কমিটি প্রাপ্ত দরখান্তসমূহ "The

চট্টগ্রাম অঞ্চলে অবস্থিত পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক-রপ্তানিকারক প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের

Textile Trade and Quota Administration Rules, 1991' অনুযায়ী বাছাই করে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্তের জন্য 'কোটা বরাদ্দ ও মনিটরিং কমিটি' এর নিকট পেশ করবে। কোটা বরাদ্দ ও মনিটারিং কমিটি "The Textile Trade and Quota Administration Rules, 1991" অনুসারে মুক্ত কোটা বরাদ্দ সম্পর্কে যথায়থ সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করবে। সরকার/ইপিবি কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বা গ্ৰহণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে

> জ্ঞি কে এম তৌফিক হাসান পরিচালক (বন্ত্র)

West African police hunt for slave ship

REUTERS, Cotonou

West African police hunted yesterday for a ship thought to be carrying scores of suspected child slaves which has been roaming off the coast for more than two weeks.

Police in Benin said they had alerted neighbouring countries to prevent the ship's captain from disembarking its human cargo, believe to be 180 children sold by poor families to be forced into work on plantations or as domestic ser-

Port officials said the vessel, which was expected to dock in Cotonou after a round trip of more than 2,000 km, was not responding to calls and had not tried to make contact with Benin's authorities.

"We are still waiting for the ship but it hasn't given any signs. We had no radio communication with them," a port official told Reuters late on Sunday. Interpol sources in Cotonou said police wanted to question a busi-

the ship. Police called for help from colleagues in Nigeria, Togo, Ghana and Ivory Coast. "The whole coast is under surveillance," said Martin Cocou Degan, head of the police division

Notice on Time Extension

invited 'Letter of Interest' for Shortlisting of Consulting

Firms which was published on 18-3-2001 in The

Bangladesh Observer on 29-3-2001 in The Daily Star,

30-3-2001 in the Weekly Holiday. Now the date of

submission of letter of interest invited for Shortlisting

of Consulting Firms under this Project is hereby

extended up to May 17, 2001. Those Consulting Firms

has already submitted their Letter of Interest and those

applicants has submitted their applications for the post

of some specialist, need not apply further.

The Northwest Crop Diversification Project has

fighting child trafficking.

GD-337

nessman and two of his associates

who were though to have chartered

Despite international efforts to curb the trade, child slavery persists in West and Central Africa, from where European slave traders shipped millions of people to the Americans from the 16th to 19th

The Nigerian-registered MV Etireno set sail for Gabon on March 30 but was turned back in Libreville and later in Cameroon's port of

Aid workers said they were con cerned the ship's crew may try to offload the children to escape retri-

They had reports from police in Douala, the last to see the ship before it set out for Cotonou on Thursday, that some children on board were sick. "We don't know where the boat

is, but conditions on board must be

very bad," said Estelle Guluman of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Cotonou. "The ship was only expected to go to Gabon, so it didn't carry a lot of supplies. But instead of a four-day

journey, it has been at sea for more

than two weeks." First reports put at 250 the number of children on board the ship. described as a trawler that usually carries cargo within the region. But officials in Benin said they believed therewere 180.

Project Director

Northwest Crop Diversification Project

Lab Building, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.



Princess Masako to become mother

REUTERS, Tokvo

Japan's Crown Princess Masako may be pregnant with a possible heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne after nearly eight years of marriage, the Imperial Household Agency said vesterday.

The agency told a hastily called news conference that Masako, 37, had been showing signs of pregnancy and would be examined by doctors. Officials did not disclose a date for the examination.

Masako will restrict her public duties, an agency official added, calling for "restraint" in media The baby could be born in early

December, public broadcaster NHK quoted palace sources as saying. Masako has been married for nearly eight years to Crown Prince

Naruhito and in late 1999 suffered a

miscarriage after a brief but highly

publicised pregnancy. "It's a happy event. It is a really happy event," Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori told reporters at his official residence.

If the baby is a boy, it would be

second in line to the throne and the

first royal male born in more than three decades. No royal males have been born since 1965, when the Crown Prince's younger brother. Prince Akishino, was born. Akishino's two children

This has sparked speculation that Japan might have to alter its strict males-only succession statute to permit a female to inherit the throne of the world's oldest monar-

ATTENTION

This is to notify everyone that recently some person(s) and organization(s) have become involved in buying or selling of AKTEL subscriptions illegally, which is strictly prohibited and amounts to an offense.

Therefore, any person(s) or organization(s) involved or to be involved in the aforesaid illegal transactions will be deemed as lawbreaker(s). Hence person(s) or organization(s) that are directly or indirectly involved with aforesaid illegal activities are hereby warned to refrain from such illegal activities. Otherwise TM International (Bangladesh) Limited will be compelled to initiate legal proceedings in the appropriate court of law.

In these circumstances, TM International (Bangladesh) Limited would request everyone to.

- Verify, whether the concerned organization(s) or outlet(s) holds the required authorization from AKTEL before making any kind of transactions.
- organization(s), outlet(s) and AKTEL Sales Center at a price set by AKTEL. 3) Not to be involved in buying or selling of AKTEL SIM card alone,

Purchase AKTEL subscriptions only from AKTEL-authorized

- as it is completely illegal. Purchase GSM mobile phone handsets for AKTEL Subscription only from authorized organization(s) and sales outlet(s). Please
- make sure that the handset is brand new. Cross check at your own responsibility the IMEI number, battery and charger number, which is written on the warranty card and tax paper, specially while purchasing the handset.
- Reserve all the related documents and papers for future reference.

Please remember that AKTEL will not be liable for transactions of any kind with person(s) or organization(s) who are not authorized by AKTEL

