INTERNATIONAL

Kosovo PM implicated in organ trafficking: report

AFP, Strasbourg

Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci was one of the key players in the traffic of organs of Serb prisoners after the 1998-99 conflict there, according to allegations in a draft Council of Europe report.

The report, by Swiss Council of Europe deputy Dick Marty, accuses Thaci and other senior commanders of the ethnic Albanian guerrilla group the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) of having set up the traffic.

The draft report was published on the Council of Europe website on Tuesday and will be considered by its legal affairs committee today.

In Pristina, the government of Thaci dismissed the report as fabrications designed to smear the country's leaders.

Marty wrote of substantial evidence that Serbians -- and some Albanian Kosovars -had been secretly imprisoned by the KLA in northern Albania "and were subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment, before ultimately disappearing.'

In the wake of the armed conflict, before international forces had time to reestablish law and order there, "organs were removed from some prisoners at a clinic in Albanian territory, near Fushe-



Hashim Thaci

Kruje..." he added.

Those organs were then "shipped out of Albania and sold to private overseas clinics as part of the international 'black market' of organ-trafficking for trans-

This was carried out by KLA leaders linked to organised crime, and "has continued, albeit in other forms, until today..." he wrote.

In this respect Marty cited an investigation by the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) into the Medicus clinic in Pristina.

EULEX said in October it had charged five people, including doctors and a former senior health ministry official, for trafficking in human organs, organised crime, unlawful medical activities and abusing official authority.

Marty specifically named Thaci, one of the KLA leaders during the conflict with Serb security forces in 1998-1999, in his report.

Thaci, he said, was "the boss" of the Drenica Group, a "small but inestimably powerful group of KLA personalities" who took control of organised crime in the region from at least 1998.

The diplomatic and political support the United States and other western powers gave him during the talks following the Kosovo conflict "bestowed upon Thaci, not least in his own mind, a sense of being 'untouchable'," he added.

"The signs of collusion between the criminal class and high political and institutional office bearers are too numerous and too serious to be ignored," wrote Marty.

The report's sources also implicated Thaci and his lieutenants in "assassinations, detentions, beatings and interrogations" in Kosovo and Albania between 1998 and 2000, he wrote.



South Korean rescue team members wearing protective gears participate in a civil defence drill against a chemical warfare at an apartment village in Paju near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas, yesterday.

Half of bail cash raised, appeal to be heard today

Says Assange's lawyer

AFP, REUTERS, London

A lawyer for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said yesterday his backers had raised around half of the 200,000 pounds (\$317,400) cash he needs to secure bail after he was accused of sex crimes in Sweden.

Meanwhile, the appeal against bail for WikiLeaks chief Julian Assange will be heard in London's High Court today, court officials confirmed.

Lawyers acting for Sweden have challenged a British judge's order that he can be freed under stringent conditions.

The Australian founder of the whistleblowing website is being detained at Wandsworth Prison in south London while he waits to hear if he can be released on bail.

Lawyer Mark Stephens said members of the public had asked to contribute to the fund to release the Australian, who has outraged US authorities by orchestrating the release of thousands of secret diplomatic cables.

Assange was in a London jail after Swedish authorities appealed against a judge's decision to free him on bail. Assange denies any wrongdoing. The appeal must be heard by today

"We have to come up with 200,000 pounds in pound notes and that is difficult to come by,"

lawyer Mark Stephens told BBC News. "We've got about half of that right now but of course people will understand that even wealthy people don't keep that kind of money knocking around," he added. PROMINENT BACKERS

Prominent public figures including U.S. filmmaker Michael Moore, Australian journalist John Pilger and British author Hanif Kureishi have pledged their support for Assange.

"I'm getting offers from the general public who are coming in and saying we really would like to contribute to this, Julian Assange shouldn't be in jail," Stephens added.

"Why is it that Swedish authorities are so dead set that Julian Assange spends Christmas in jail. Do they have the genes of Scrooge?,' Stephens said, referring to a cold-hearted character from Charles Dickens's novel "A Christmas Carol."

The conditions of Assange's bail say he must stay at a country house in eastern England owned by a supporter, report to police daily and wear an electronic tag.

The court has asked for a further 40,000 pounds in guarantees which would have to be paid were he to disappear.

However, the Swedish authorities fear he could flee justice. "He remains a significant flight risk and no conditions that the court can impose could prevent his flight," prosecution lawyer Gemma Lindfield, representing the Swedish authori-

ties, told the court hearing on Tuesday.

Suicide attack kills at least 38 in Iran

AP, Tehran

Two suicide bombers blew themselves up near a mosque in southeastern Iran yesterday, killing at least 38 people at a Shiite mourning ceremony, state media reported.

The attack took place outside the Imam Hussein Mosque in the port city of Chahbahar, near the border with Pakistan, the official IRNA news agency said.

The bombers targeted a group of worshippers at a mourning ceremony a day before Ashoura, which commemorates the seventh century death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussein, one of Shiite Islam's most beloved saints.

Southeastern Iran is home to an armed Sunni militant group, Jundallah, or Soldiers of God, which has waged sporadic attacks to fight alleged discrimination against the area's Sunni minority in overwhelmingly Shiite Iran.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the use of multiple suicide attackers to target Shiite worshippers is a tactic the group has employed in the past.

TENSION ON KOREAN PENINSULA

South Korea stages mass evacuation drill REUTERS, Seoul

AP, Seoul

South Koreans stopped their cars, donned gas masks and ducked into underground shelters yesterday in the country's biggest-ever evacuation drill a government attempt to prepare traditionally indifferent citizens for possible new attacks by North Korea.

Fears of war on the divided Korean peninsula have intensified since the rivals fired artillery shells at each other last month across their tense western sea border. Four South Koreans on a front-line island were killed; the North's casualties are unknown.

Many South Koreans have become used to regular North Korean threats to turn the South into a "sea of fire" and have reacted coolly to civil drills in the past. There has been widespread anger and shock, however, over the North's Nov. 23 artillery bombardment of South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island.

It was North Korea's first assault targeting a civilian area since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Both Koreas accuse each other of staging the first provocation. The North claims that South Korea fired artillery toward its territorial waters, while South Korea says it launched shells southward, not toward North Korea, as part of routine exercises.

The nationwide 20-minute evacuation drills yesterday were the largest since the country began the training in 1975.

In frigid temperatures, air raid sirens blared.

Government officials and company employees: stopped work and evacuated to underground shelters in basements, subway stations and parking lots. Housewives were asked to turn off the gas in their kitchens. A dozen South Korean fighter jets flew over

major cities to simulate North Korean ·

airstrikes. Trains ran at low speeds in a symbolic : move to join with other stopped vehicles. In downtown Seoul, about 30 miles (50 kilome- . North's nuclear sites for any ters) from the heavily militarized border and within easy range of North Korean artillery, the city's congested streets momentarily cleared as traffic halted. There was no penalty for not going to shelters, but authorities encouraged participation,

sending out word through the media and posting notices in residential areas. Officials said about 11 million of South Korea's 49 million; at the country's nuclear test people took part in the drill. Lim Soo-ja, 68, was one of those who didn't : March next year.

go to underground shelters, standing instead near Namdaemun market in central Seoul.

"I am too tired to move around, and I did not . toring the site and said there know where I should go," she said.

At Seoul's Ahyeon Middle School, 27 students sat in their classroom, dressed in winter coats and wearing white cotton masks. When the sirens rang, the students lined up in front of . Punggye township, in a norththe classroom door before marching out to a eastern region of North Korea subway station. Teachers shouted, "No run- · indicated the tunnel was about ning, no shouting and no talking," but many : 500 meters (550 yards) deep, students ignored them and ran to the station. • the Chosun Ilbo report said.

North Korea digging tunnel for nuclear test: report

North Korea appears to be readying for a possible third nuclear test as early as next March, a newspaper reported yesterday, as a US politician travelled to Pyongyang with a message for the North to "calm down." US and South Korean intel-

ligence have been watching the activity. Analysts say the North could use a test to try to gain leverage in international talks it is seeking and secure aid to prop up its destitute economy. South Korea's Chosun Ilbo

daily yesterday cited an intelligence official from Seoul as saying a tunnel was being dug · site that could be completed in South Korea's foreign min-

istry said it was closely moniwas no concrete evidence to show the North Koreans were preparing for a third test.

The amount of earth removed from the site in

Residents and police (R) try to rescue refugees from an asylum boat (C) being smashed by violent seas against the jagged coastline of Australia's Christmas Island yesterday.

Guillermo refused exit visa

BBC NEWS, Havana

The Cuban authorities have refused an exit visa for a leading Cuban dissident to travel to France to receive the EU's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

Guillermo Farinas launched a prolonged hunger strike earlier this year, protesting against the plight of Cuba's political prisoners.

He called the Cuban authorities arrogant for not granting him permission to travel. He said it revealed their

disregard for individual liberty. Mr Farinas was near to death earlier this year, on a drip feed in hospital, when President Raul Castro authorised the release of 52 of the island's most prominent

prisoners of conscience.

Greek police clash with anti-austerity protesters Kostis Hatzidakis with their fists, stones and

REUTERS, Athens

Greek protesters clashed with police and set fire to cars and a hotel in central Athens yesterday as tens of thousands marched against austerity measures aimed at pulling the country out of a debt crisis.

Riot police answered with dozens of rounds of teargas in clashes that lasted more than an hour, with police chasing hooded youths who threw sticks and stones.

Hours earlier, parliament approved reforms and spending cuts that are a condition of a 110billion-euro (95 billion pounds) EU/IMF bailout, offered to Greece in exchange for austerity mea-

Striking public and private sector workers had already grounded flights, shut down schools and paralysed public transport and about 40,000 marched through the capital. Some shouted:

"Revolt! Overturn government measures!" As the march reached parliament, about 200 leftists attacked former conservative minister

sticks, shouting: "Thieves! Shame on you!" Reuters witnesses said his face was covered in

blood as he took shelter in a building. Police said at least 10 people were detained and three injured. Three cars on Syntagma Square were in flames, while one luxury hotel balcony was on fire

after petrol bombs were thrown. Smoke and teargas covered the square and bystanders scrambled frantically to safety. The 300-seat house voted into law measures

that cut wages in state-owned bus and railway companies and weakened the power of collective bargaining to allow company-level deals to prevail. "People have had enough. The anger is so great

that nobody can stop it," said Ilias Iliopoulos, general secretary at the civil servants' union ADEDY, adding the march was bigger than one in May, when 50,000 participated.

"Today is a warning for what will follow after

the holidays," he added.

27 dead in Australian boat tragedy

AFP, Sydney

At least 27 refugees, including children, died yesterday after their wooden boat shattered in violent seas off Australia before horrified witnesses, with fears as many as 50 could have perished.

Customs officials confirmed that 42 people had survived the brutal accident but added that "tragically, initial reports are that 27 bodies have also been recovered", as the search continued into the night.

Medics have warned there could be as many as 50 deaths among the group, thought to be from Iraq and Iran.

Christmas Island residents watched aghast from the cliffs as the tragedy unfolded below, helpless to assist those dashed against the rocks and debris as bodies floated in the churning sea and rescuers tried to save the living.

"There were children in the water. There was one very small child in a life jacket floating face down for a very long time... clearly dead," said local shop owner Simon Prince.

"It's something I'm not going to forget very quickly." Woken near dawn by the screams of victims Prince said locals gathered life jackets and rushed to the sheer limestone cliffs to offer help, but strong

The terrified group drifted for about an hour after losing engine power and only one man managed an "incredible leap" to safety before the surging waves smashed the rickety vessel apart on the rocks, Prince said.

winds blew the flotation

devices back onshore.

Witnesses said the boat was crowded with passengers, mostly families, and a number were lying listless and ill on the deck as it splintered. Prince said people were

"crushed against jagged limestone" as navy rescuers battled towering swells to reach them in inflatable dinghies, while locals made a human chain and tried to cast ropes and life preservers down.

Beauty sleep concept is not a myth: study

BBC ONLINE

The idea of people needing "beauty sleep' has acquired some scientific backing, according to a Swedish study.

People deprived of sleep for long periods appear less attractive and more unhealthy than those who are well rested, say research-

eight hours sleep and again after being kept

Volunteers were photographed after

awake for 31 hours. Observers scored the sleep-deprived participants as less healthy and less attrac-

tive, the BMJ reports. The concept of beauty sleep is well known.

Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, it has lacked scientific support. The team asked untrained observers to

rate the faces of 23 young men and women who had been photographed after a normal night's sleep and then after a night of sleep deprivation.

The photographs were standardised so that people were the same distance from the camera, wore no make-up and used the same expression.

The authors wrote in their paper published in the British Medical Journal: "Sleep deprived people are perceived as less attractive, less healthy and more tired compared with when they are well rested." They say the results may be useful in a

medical setting, helping doctors to pick up signs of ill-health in their patients. Commenting on the study, Derk-Jan Dijk, Professor of Sleep and Physiology at the Surrey Sleep Research Centre, said the

effects of sleep loss on beauty may be even more dramatic than the photographs show. But, according to researchers at the He said: "The photographs were taken during the daytime when the biological

> clock promotes wakefulness. "Can you imagine how sleep loss makes you look at night or early in the morning when the circadian clock (body clock) promotes sleep?"



বজাপ্ত ১ম বর্ষ বিডিএস কোর্স

বাংলাদেশ ডেন্টাল কলেজ

বাড়ী নং ৩৫, সড়ক নং ১৪/এ, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৯, ফোনঃ ৯১২০৭৯২-৩,০১৫৫-২৪৪৩৫৫০

বেসরকারী পরিমন্ডলে প্রথম সারির মানসম্পন্ন, অত্যাধুনিক যন্ত্রপাতি সমৃদ্ধ,অভিজ্ঞ শিক্ষকমন্তলী দ্বারা পরিচালিত, বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য সংস্থা (WHO) কর্তৃক স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত, বাংলাদেশ মেডিক্যাল কলেজ সংলগ্ন হওয়ায় মেডিক্যাল বিষয়সমূহে শিক্ষাদানের সুব্যবস্থা ও শিক্ষার্থীদের বিনামূল্যে চিকিৎসা সুবিধা সম্বলিত একমাত্র প্রতিষ্ঠান " বাংলাদেশ ডেন্টাল কলেজে" ১ম বর্ষ বিডিএস কোর্সে প্রথম পর্যায়ে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার বেসরকারী মেধাতালিকার ০০০১ হতে ৪০০০ পর্যন্ত ভর্তি ফরম বিতরণ করা হচ্ছে।

ভর্তি ফরম ক্রয় ও জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ঃ ২২/১২/২০১০ (৮-২ঃ৩০)

নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের তালিকা প্রকাশ ঃ ২৩/১২/২০১০ (কলেজ নোটিশ বোর্ডে)

ভর্তির তারিখ ঃ ২৩/১২/২০১০ হতে ৩০/১২/২০১০ পর্যন্ত। অধ্যাপক ডাঃ মুহাম্মাদ আমীরুল ইসলাম বিডিএস, এমএস, পিডিটি, পিএইচডি, এফআইসিডি (ইউএসএ) অধ্যক্ষ