

THE STAR PHOENIX
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WANTED: BOYS

Beijing (AFP)- A village where only girls have been born since 1976 has led Chinese scientists to speculate that trace elements in the environment may help determine gender.

Gaoyang village in the southeastern province of Fujian was recently discovered by a geological prospecting party to have only 11 males out of 136 children born in the last four decades, said the Xinhua news agency.

Since, 1976 no boy babies have been born there. Investigators found no difference in living habits, marriage customs and health when they compared the village's 100 people with those of another community one kilometre away, Xinhua said.

The agency said scientists were mystified.