

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:34:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223508262

Documents (100)

1. [Sri Lanka lodges protest over Clinton remarks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

2. [Maha Sangha to help Northern civilians](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

3. [Resettlement soon after de-mining](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

4. [HARDCORE LTTE FEMALE SUSPECT, BOYFRIEND ARRESTED](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

5. [Sri Lanka lodges protest over Clinton remarks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

6. [Bodies of 11 LTTE cadres buried in Moneragala](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

7. ['Green Ocean' ferries over 8,000 to safety](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

8. [Rep. Davis Introduces Resolution Concerning Sri Lanka 's Tamil Internally Displaced Persons](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

9. [Sri Lanka denies Clinton's statement on rape](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

10. [India to send more medical aid to Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 200911. [Female LTTE suspect wanted by police](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 200912. [POLITICS TN SETHU KARUNANIDHI TWO LAST CHENNAI](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 200913. [Sri Lanka denies Clinton's statement on rape](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 200914. [Rajapaksa rejects war crime chargers](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 200915. [Ghandi comes to the fore as India decides](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

16. [Feedback letters @theage.com.au](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

17. [Sri Lanka :Govt. seeks assistance to rehabilitate ex-LTTE cadres](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

18. [Sri Lanka military identifies bodies of 18 top LTTE leaders](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

19. [World Report](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

20. [Forgetting fascism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

21. [2127 civilians flee LTTE tyranny: seek protection with security forces - Mullaittivu](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

22. [Seven more LTTE leaders identified among the dead](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

23. [INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RELUCTANT ABOUT IMF LOAN FOR SL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

24. [Weaker by the hour, united in a show of strength](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

25. [It's your problem, Jakarta declares](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

26. [WORLD - DIGEST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

27. [*Sri Lanka to free all war-displaced civilians: official*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

28. [*Shelters are stretched to the 'breaking point'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

29. [*Schedule for Monday, May 18, 0300 GMT =*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

30. [*The 0530 GMT News Advisory*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

31. [*PNG rioters strike Chinese shops Sri Lanka bent on crushing Tamils Thousands flee Swat offensive Burma pressured to free Suu Kyi League woman 'decent, stable'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

32. [AFP 0700 GMT News Advisory](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

33. [OPINION](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

34. [Indians in Sri Lankan jails seek Indian intervention](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

35. [SCOPP to close down](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

36. [Sri Lanka may pardon surrendering rebel fighters](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

37. [Sri Lanka may pardon surrendering rebel fighters](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

38. [AFP 1000 GMT News Advisory](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

39. [58 LTTE Child Soldiers Admitted for Rehabilitation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

40. [The 0100 GMT News Advisory](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

41. [Blair's gospel of faith and public health](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

42. [*The 1030 GMT News Advisory*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

43. [*The 1030 GMT News Advisory*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

44. [*The 1900 News Advisory*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

45. [*More facilities for pregnant girls in Wann*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

46. [*Four-member committee to look into GSP+ concession*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

47. [*UN HUMANITARIAN CHIEF CONTINUES TOUR OF SRI LANKAN DISPLACEMENT CAMPS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

48. [German social activists here](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

49. [Economic imbalance in IDP camps](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

50. [Troops will not face war crime charges: mr](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

51. [Two Tamil hunger strikers taken to hospital in Paris](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

52. [UPI NewsTrack TopNews](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

53. [HEAVY FIGHTING, ALONG WITH CASUALTIES, CONTINUE IN SRI LANKA CONFLICT ZONE - UN](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

54. [Humanitarian mission, an example - Minister](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
News

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

55. [EXTERNAL LANKA LEAD INDIA TWO LAST NEW DELHI](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

56. [The Sri Lankan government faces charges of violating humanitarian law SRI LANKA : U.N. Probes Civilian Deaths as Guns Fall Silent](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

57. [A distracted India ignores crisis engulfing neighbourhood \(Comment\)](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

58. [Pakistan : Waziristan Operation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

59. [Waziristan Operation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

60. [Xinhua world news summary at 1530 GMT, May 26](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

61. [Waziristan operation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

62. [On the dissolution and resurrection of nationalisms](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

63. [US diplomat on Quetta Shura](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

64. [Red Cross halts aid as 300,000 refugees beg for food and water The UN is demanding access to sealed-off internment camps where conditions are becoming desperate, writes Robert Bosleigh](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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65. [Red Cross halts aid as 300,000 refugees beg for food and water The UN is demanding access to sealed-off internment camps where conditions are becoming desperate, writes Robert Bosleigh](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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66. [US diplomat on Quetta Shura](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

67. [Rape used as weapon of war in Sri Lanka : Clinton](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

68. [SRI LANKA : TENS OF THOUSANDS STILL TRAPPED IN SHRINKING COMBAT ZONE, UN SAYS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

69. [Xinhua world news summary at 1530 GMT, May 26](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

70. [Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary at 1600 GMT, May 22](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

71. [U.N. Probes Civilian Deaths as Guns Fall Silent](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

72. [Two three-year-olds die in LTTE shelling](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

73. [Jaffna 's drive to prosperity](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

74. [Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary at 1600 GMT, May 22](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

75. [Three LTTE female suicide bombers arrested in Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

76. [Red Cross says Sri Lankans in 'catastrophic' situation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

77. [As Sri Lanka Conflict Ends, WFP Responds To IDP Challenge](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

78. [The 1030 News Advisory](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

79. [AFP 0700 GMT News Advisory](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

80. [Doublespeak of the West](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

81. [POLICING TAMIL DEMONSTRATIONS COST £8 MILLION SAYS MET CHIEF](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

82. [ANOTHER "VOICE OF AMERICA"](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

83. [AFP 1400 News Advisory](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

84. [DE-MINING; A DAUNTING TASK FOR THE ARMY- BRIGADIER NANA YAKKARA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

85. [SRI LANKA : UN AGENCY BOOSTS SUPPORT FOR DISPLACED PREGNANT WOMEN](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

86. [COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO 2020 SUMMIT, SRI LANKA AND OTHER ISSUES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

87. [EPDP names Jaffna Mayor](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

88. [MERCY HEALTH POSTS FOR SRI LANKA WAR VICTIMS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

89. [*Massacre of innocents at colony*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

90. [*Tales of conflict and hope from Israel to Kashmir*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

91. [*Reintegration of ex-combatants before month's end*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

92. [*Civilian exodus continue despite LTTE shelling and mortar fire: 135 escape terror hostage - Mullaitivu*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

93. [*Roguish bent of Indian Armed Forces*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

94. [*AS SRI LANKA CONFLICT ENDS, WFP RESPONDS TO IDP CHALLENGE*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

95. [Close to 10,000 Tamil rebels surrender, reports Sri Lankan paper =](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

96. [Sri Lanka 's post-war future to be debated](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

97. [Red Cross : Sri Lankans in 'catastrophic' situation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

98. [FOOD AID REACHED 280,000 PEOPLE UPROOTED IN POST-CONFLICT SRI LANKA - UN](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

99. [?Women jihadis could enter India ?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

100. [*Why not international probe on UK in Iraq ?*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

Sri Lanka lodges protest over Clinton remarks

Xinhua General News Service

October 3, 2009 Saturday 10:40 PM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 269 words

Dateline: COLOMBO Oct. 3

Body

Sri Lanka has lodged a protest with U.S. ambassador to Colombo over U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's remarks that Sri Lanka used rape as a war weapon, according to officials from the country's foreign ministry.

The sources said Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama on Saturday summoned U.S. Ambassador Patricia Butenis to the foreign office to lodge the protest.

It is reported that Hilary Clinton targeted Sri Lanka at a UN Security Council meeting on Wednesday, where the council unanimously adopted a resolution creating new tools to combat sexual violence against women and children in conflict situations.

The U.S. secretary of state said that rape had been used as a weapon of war in the Balkans, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and elsewhere and that in too many countries and in too many cases, the perpetrators had not been punished, according to the sources.

Bogollagama told Butenis that Clinton's remarks were unacceptable as they have been made without a specific complaint.

Sri Lanka also took unkindly to alleged intervention by Clinton during the final phase of the military operations against Tamil Tiger rebels in May.

The government troops defeated the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a military campaign from 2006 to 2009, ending the latter's 30-year-old campaign to carve out an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east.

About 250,000 civilians displaced by the final battles between the two sides are being housed in several government-run welfare villages in the north, waiting to be resettled to their original places.

Load-Date: October 4, 2009

Maha Sangha to help Northern civilians

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

April 28, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 268 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 28 -- A group of 200 members of the Maha Sangha will conduct a pindapatha round along Galle Road from Dehiwela-Mt. Lavinia Municipal Council premises up to Angulana junction tomorrow from 3pm to collect relief items from the public to assist the 176,000 innocent civilians who have escaped from **LTTE** clutches and arrived in the Government controlled areas.

This decision was taken at a meeting held at the Bellanwila Raja Maha Viharaya presided by Ven. Dr. Bellanwila Wimalaratana Thera yesterday. Ven. Wimalaratana Thera said this event is jointly organised by the Shasanarakshaka Mandalayas of Dehiwala and Ratmalana to induce people in the South to perform their duty and responsibility towards their counterparts in the North. Ven. Diviyagaha Yasassi Thera of the Bauddhayatanaya, Mt. Lavinia said from time immemorial the Maha Sangha had taken the leadership in organising pinkamas of this nature. The organisers of the event said items such as dry food rations, milk food, linen, footwear, **women's** and children's clothing (new), bottled water, toiletries and other essential items can be handed over to the Maha Sangha taking part in this event. People who are unable to make contributions on this day can bring and hand them over to any of the undermentioned places later, viz. Bellanwila Raja Maha Viharaya, Watarappola Bauddha Ayathanaya, Ratmalana Sri Pushparamaya, Kalubowila Sri Sunandaramaya, Dehiwala Shashtrananda Pirivena, Ratmalana Parama Dhamma Cetiya Pirivena or Ratmalana, Kandawela Sri Punyawardanaramaya. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: April 28, 2009

Resettlement soon after de-mining

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

July 23, 2009 Thursday

Copyright 2009 The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 257 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, July 23 -- Disaster Management and Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe told Parliament yesterday that the Government will take swift action to resettle the people in welfare centers once the de-mining is complete in those areas.

Responding to an adjournment motion moved by JVP MP Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the Minister said the conditions at welfare camps have reached a satisfactory level. The Government is totally committed to provide maximum facilities to Internally Displaced People(IDPs) who had been held hostage by the **LTTE** terrorists. The Government cannot allow to just settle in their original places. "We need some time to raise the required logistic facilities enabling them to enjoy a decent living," he said. "We have given priority to keep them in safety. Now they have aspirations and expectations for a better tomorrow," he said. "Their protection and ensuring their human rights are paramount while fulfilling other basic needs," he said. However, the Government took measures to release 9,000 of children, pregnant **women** and elderly people after conducting special investigations. The Competent Authority which has been appointed to look after the needs of IDPs has taken steps to settle these people in four villages ensuring minimal congestion. A proper drainage system has also been constructed to overcome the difficulties during rainy days. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Surit Das at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: July 23, 2009

HARDCORE LTTE FEMALE SUSPECT, BOYFRIEND ARRESTED

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

April 18, 2009 Saturday

Copyright 2009 Wijeya Newspaper Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 58 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 18 -- An **LTTE** suspect was arrested in Lakshapana yesterday and some hours later the suspect's fiancée was also arrested in Colombo, police said.

The Nallatanniya police said the woman suspect was from Kolombathurai in Jaffna but living in a line-room at Lakshapana. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: April 18, 2009

Sri Lanka lodges protest over Clinton remarks

Xinhua General News Service

October 3, 2009 Saturday 1:16 AM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 269 words

Dateline: COLOMBO Oct. 3

Body

Sri Lanka has lodged a protest with U.S. ambassador to Colombo over U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's remarks that Sri Lanka used rape as a war weapon, according to officials from the country's foreign ministry.

The sources said Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama on Saturday summoned U.S. Ambassador Patricia Butenis to the foreign office to lodge the protest.

It is reported that Hilary Clinton targeted Sri Lanka at a UN Security Council meeting on Wednesday, where the council unanimously adopted a resolution creating new tools to combat sexual violence against women and children in conflict situations.

The U.S. secretary of state said that rape had been used as a weapon of war in the Balkans, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and elsewhere and that in too many countries and in too many cases, the perpetrators had not been punished, according to the sources.

Bogollagama told Butenis that Clinton's remarks were unacceptable as they have been made without a specific complaint.

Sri Lanka also took unkindly to alleged intervention by Clinton during the final phase of the military operations against Tamil Tiger rebels in May.

The government troops defeated the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a military campaign from 2006 to 2009, ending the latter's 30-year-old campaign to carve out an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east.

About 250,000 civilians displaced by the final battles between the two sides are being housed in several government-run welfare villages in the north, waiting to be resettled to their original places.

Load-Date: October 5, 2009

Bodies of 11 LTTE cadres buried in Moneragala

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

April 6, 2009 Monday

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Length: 130 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 6 -- The bodies of the 11 **LTTE** cadres who were killed by the STF on Friday at the Yala National Park were buried at the Moneragala, Weliyaya cemetery under the instruction of Moneragala ASP Gunapala Wickramaratne.

Earlier the Moneragala District Judge and the Magistrate Chintaka Srinath Gunasekara who conducted the inquest on the bodies ordered the bodies be handed over to the **LTTE** through the ICRC. He further ordered the bodies to be buried at Government expense unless anyone accepted them. Among the **LTTE** cadres killed were three **women**. The judge ordered the police to submit the autopsy report on the bodies on April 7, and to allow those who come forward to identify the bodies to do so. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: April 7, 2009

'Green Ocean' ferries over 8,000 to safety

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

April 12, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 289 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 12 -- So far 19 batches of 8,106 people have reached the cleared areas ferried by the passenger vessel 'Green Ocean', Sri Lanka Navy said. This comprised 2,205 children, 3,216 women and 2,685 men including a number of patients requiring urgent medical care.

"Since more people continue to reach cleared areas we have decided to deploy an extra number of Navy personnel to carry out these humanitarian missions since it's of utmost importance to protect the civilians," SLN Commander Vice Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda told the 'Sunday Observer'. The patients among the evacuees, upon disembarkation at Pulmoddai were provided with emergency medical treatment by the Navy doctors and rushed to the field hospital at Pulmoddai and relevant Government hospitals by the Naval personnel for further treatment. A further 3,806 persons were rescued by the Sri Lanka Navy since the beginning of this year who were escaping from the 'no fire zone', Navy sources add. In addition to their primary responsibilities in strengthening defences the SLN continues assisting the humanitarian work for the people escaping from the 'no fire zone'. With the LTTE cadres being pressured from all sides by the security forces on the ground, the Sri Lanka Navy confidently say that the defence in the seas off the 'no fire zone' is further strengthened preventing any possible attempts by the terrorists to escape at this crucial point. Sri Lanka Navy continues carrying three lines of defence in the waters of these respective areas preventing the possibility of creating escaping points amidst the heavy resistance due to the rough sea conditions prevailing at present. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka).

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: April 13, 2009

Rep. Davis Introduces Resolution Concerning Sri Lanka's Tamil Internally Displaced Persons

US Fed News

August 13, 2009 Thursday 12:10 PM EST

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Length: 787 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13 -- Rep. Danny K. Davis, D-Illinois, has introduced a resolution (H. RES. 711) "Calling on the United States Government and the international community to address the human rights and humanitarian needs of Sri Lanka's Tamil internally displaced persons (IDPs) currently living in government-run camps by supporting the release of such IDPs, implementing and facilitating an independent oversight of the process of release and resettlement, and allowing foreign aid groups to provide relief and resources to such IDPs."

The resolution, introduced on July 31, was co-sponsored by Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee, D-Texas. It was referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

A copy of the full-text of the legislation follows:

H. RES. 711

RESOLUTION

Calling on the United States Government and the international community to address the human rights and humanitarian needs of Sri Lanka's Tamil internally displaced persons (IDPs) currently living in government-run camps by supporting the release of such IDPs, implementing and facilitating an independent oversight of the process of release and resettlement, and allowing foreign aid groups to provide relief and resources to such IDPs.

Whereas May 2009 marked the conclusion of the 26-year struggle between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) and the Sri Lankan Government, and Sri Lankan Government committed itself to caring for and ensuring the speedy return of the civilians internally displaced as a result of the fighting;

Whereas the Sri Lankan Government is seeking to identify former combatants who were part of the **LTTE** and as part of the vetting process the Sri Lankan Government has set up make-shift camps to house over 280,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled their homes as the war drew to an end;

Whereas as part of the United Nations Human Rights Council 11th Special Session on Sri Lanka held on May 27, 2009, the Sri Lankan Government made commitments to the world to improve the conditions for the people housed in the camps and stated that the 'bulk' of the IDPs would be resettled within 180 days;

Whereas the first 60 days of this resettlement process, as committed to by the Sri Lankan Government, has passed and the Sri Lankan Government is still detaining over 280,000 IDPs in 30 military-guarded camps in the four northern districts of Vavuniya, Mannar, Jaffna, and Trincomalee;

Rep. Davis Introduces Resolution Concerning Sri Lanka 's Tamil Internally Displaced Persons

Whereas allegations are being reported that the current and actual standard of treatment and living conditions afforded to IDPs is grossly wanting when compared to the principles set as standards by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for guiding states and organizations dealing with internally displaced populations;

Whereas Human Rights Watch believes that the Sri Lankan Government should immediately release the more than 280,000 Tamil IDPs held in detention camps since March 2008; and

Whereas principles, established by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs, for sufficient provision of equal treatment, family reunification, access to essential food and water, sanitation, healthcare, education, safety, acknowledgment of the special needs for vulnerabilities of children and women are not yet met: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives--

(1) urges the Sri Lankan Government to guarantee the safety and speedy release of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps and to ensure the rights and privileges of these refugees in the reestablishment of their homes and properties;

(2) calls on the Sri Lankan Government to turn the operation of the camps over to civilian authorities and allow the day to day presence of international government agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and independent nongovernmental organizations to assist in the care of the IDPs;

(3) calls on the Sri Lankan Government to allow an independent group to assess the accuracy of the allegations of large numbers of deaths, diseases, and sicknesses due to poor sanitation and inappropriate healthcare in the camps containing the IDPs and to prepare a plan of action to resolve the problems;

(4) request the Sri Lankan Government to establish reasonable conditions to allow foreign agencies access to the IDPs and to ensure the rebuilding process of war torn areas in Sri Lanka; and

(5) urges the Tamil people to continue to be patient while the government reestablishes normalcy and urges the Sri Lankan Government to move forward in creating political reforms that will resolve the political concerns of the Tamil people. For more information about US Fed News contract awards please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, US Fed News, Email:- htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: August 13, 2009

Sri Lanka denies Clinton's statement on rape

Xinhua General News Service

October 2, 2009 Friday 1:16 AM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 280 words

Dateline: COLOMBO Oct. 2

Body

The Sri Lankan government on Friday denied the contents of the statement made by U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton at UN Security Council meeting that Sri Lanka has used rape as a war weapon.

"The government vehemently condemns the statement and wishes to declare that it is an irresponsible statement made deliberately to tarnish the image of Sri Lanka and also it appears to be a part of a vicious political agenda," Defence spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella told reporters.

Rambukwella said no incident of rape had been reported in the three and half years of humanitarian mission successfully conducted by the Sri Lankan Security Forces.

He said the government will take up this matter with relevant international authorities.

It is reported that Hilary Clinton targeted Sri Lanka at a UN Security Council meeting on Wednesday, where the council unanimously adopted a resolution creating new tools to combat sexual violence against women and children in conflict situations.

The U.S. secretary of state said that rape had been used as a weapon of war in the Balkans, Burma, Sri Lanka and elsewhere and that in too many countries and in too many cases, the perpetrators had not been punished.

The government troops defeated the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a military campaign from 2006 to 2009, ending the later's 30-year-old campaign to carve out an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east.

About 250,000 civilians displaced by the final battles between the two sides are being housed in several government-run welfare villages in the north, waiting to be resettled to their original places.

Load-Date: October 4, 2009

India to send more medical aid to Sri Lanka

Hindustan Times

May 18, 2009 Monday

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Length: 273 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

New Delhi, May. 18 -- With thousands of Tamil civilians in war-torn Sri Lanka needing immediate medical care, India will soon be sending more medical aid to the island nation, an official said Monday.

An Indian Air Force transport aircraft will leave for Sri Lanka Friday carrying medical aid.

"An IL-76 aircraft carrying about 25 tonnes of medicines will leave for Colombo on May 22. This will be disbursed to the sick and wounded internally displaced people in northern Sri Lanka," an Indian Air Force official said.

The Indian Army has already set up a fully equipped 50-bed hospital close to a camp for the displaced at Pulmodai, a town on Sri Lanka's north-east coast. The army's 60-member medical team comprising specialists, surgeons and paediatricians have treated over 3,000 people, mainly war wounded, trauma and fracture cases in the past two months since the hospital came up.

"Acting on a request from the Sri Lankan government, the Field Hospital will soon be shifted to Manik Farms in Vavuniya to widen the scope of the humanitarian assistance," the official added.

A need was felt for including a gynaecologist in the team of doctors but experts said that since the Field Hospital lacks specialized medical equipment and support staff, this would not be feasible at the moment. A lady Medical Officer in the team was capable of handling routine problems related to women patients.

The Sri Lankan war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has resulted in the displacement of millions of people creating a humanitarian crisis of huge proportions. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: August 4, 2009

Female LTTE suspect wanted by police

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

August 10, 2009 Monday

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Length: 107 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Aug. 10 -- The Terrorist Investigation Division is looking for a **female LTTE** suicide cadre who is operating under a false name as a Muslim national in Colombo.

The suspect's false name is Abdul Shalam Fatima Yasmeen. She is a resident of Old Moor Street in Colombo 12. She was reportedly born on October 9, 1985 and has the persons' registration number 857835641V.

The IGP requests the public to inform the following numbers if anything related to the suspect is learnt. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Surit Das at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: August 10, 2009

POLITICS TN SETHU KARUNANIDHI TWO LAST CHENNAI

UNI (United News of India)

April 20, 2009 Monday

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Length: 239 words

Dateline: Kochi

Body

Kochi, April 20 -- On PMK founder-leader S Ramadoss' poser to the DMK to spell out its stand on Tamil Eelam, Mr Karunanidhi said the DMK had made it clear that it would be the first party to welcome if a separate Eelam was created.

Referring to the MDMK's demand for lifting the ban on LTTE in its election manifesto, he said it would be better if Dr Ramadoss finds out and lets the world know, the stand of his alliance party leader Jayalalithaa on the issue. Dr Ramadoss was keen that the DMK should snap ties with the Congress, he said, referring to his demand that the DMK should come out of the Congress if the latter did not concede his demand and sever diplomatic ties with Sri Lanka. On the PMK leader's charge that the DMK Government remained indifferent to the indefinite fast being observed by a women's federation, Mr Karunanidhi said the Government offered to talk to them, but they refused. Their representatives were called for talks at the Secretariat today, but Federation leader Sheelu turned down the invitation, the Chief Minister said, adding this clearly showed that some people were forcing the women to continue their fast to reap political gains. The Federation representatives wanted to meet TNCC President K V Thangabalu, but they never turned up, though the Congress leader was waiting for them, after cancelling his election tour, he said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from United News of India.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: April 21, 2009

Sri Lanka denies Clinton's statement on rape

Xinhua General News Service

October 2, 2009 Friday 1:25 PM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 280 words

Dateline: COLOMBO Oct. 2

Body

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"The government vehemently condemns the statement and wishes to declare that it is an irresponsible statement made deliberately to tarnish the image of Sri Lanka and also it appears to be a part of a vicious political agenda," Defence spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella told reporters.

Rambukwella said no incident of rape had been reported in the three and half years of humanitarian mission successfully conducted by the Sri Lankan Security Forces.

He said the government will take up this matter with relevant international authorities.

It is reported that Hilary Clinton targeted Sri Lanka at a UN Security Council meeting on Wednesday, where the council unanimously adopted a resolution creating new tools to combat sexual violence against women and children in conflict situations.

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About 250,000 civilians displaced by the final battles between the two sides are being housed in several government-run welfare villages in the north, waiting to be resettled to their original places.

Load-Date: October 3, 2009

Rajapaksa rejects war crime chargers

Colombo Times

May 23, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 271 words

Body

Colombo, May 23 -- Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapakse on Friday brushed off calls for an investigation into alleged war crimes committed by government troops in their offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels.

"There are some who tried to stop our military campaign by threatening to haul us before war crimes tribunals," Rajapakse said in a speech to tens of thousands of supporters outside the national parliament.

"The strength I have is your support. I am even ready to go to the gallows on your behalf."

Thousands of civilians are believed to have been killed during the offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Both sides in the conflict have been accused of rights violations, with numerous aid agencies and rights groups alleging indiscriminate army shelling and condemning the Tigers for using civilians as a human shield.

Aid workers were also denied access to those trapped by the fighting, despite accounts of a jungle area littered with the dead or dying, with the elderly, women and children cowering in shallow dug-outs with little food or water for several months.

The UN's main rights body is to hold a special session on Sri Lanka next week.

The office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, has called for a war crimes probe, a call also backed by former colonial power Britain.

The Sri Lankan military declared final victory in the decades-old conflict on Monday after overrunning the rebels' last holdout in the northeast.

"They are still trying to do that, but I am not afraid," the president said.

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Ghandi comes to the fore as India decides

The Kingdom

May 7, 2009

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The Kingdom

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Section: SLATTERY'S WORLD

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Body

THE world's biggest democracy is in the process of voting.

About 714 million are eligible to vote and voting takes place until May 13.

I speak of the 15th Indian general election since the country achieved its independence from Britain in 1948.

This election is going to be a tight affair, by all accounts. What else could you expect in a country with 100 million first time voters and where 80 per cent of the population is under 45?

In the Indian election the 714 million eligible voters there have the opportunity to elect 543 MPs from among 4,617 candidates representing 300 parties.

Those figures should give you an idea of the massive scale of the election.

Once again the name Gandhi features prominently in an Indian election.

This time it is Priyanka Gandhi who is a rising star in the political landscape over there. She is not among the candidates this time as she prefers to be the cheerleader for her brother Rahul.

Priyanka Gandhi and her brother have gone through turbulent times as both their father, Rajiv, and their grandmother, Indira, were assassinated.

Rajiv Gandhi was educated at Doon School and Cambridge University where he failed his engineering degree. He had little interest in politics and became a pilot with Indian Airlines. He married an Italian, Sonia Maino.

After his younger brother, Sanjay, was killed in an air crash he inherited his seat in parliament. He was killed by a bomb hidden in the clothing of a woman who handed him flowers during an election campaign.

His Italian wife, Sonia Gandhi, is now the leader of the ruling Congress Party in India. Having her husband's name, Gandhi, was magic. Is there any other country in the world where something similar could happen? I doubt it. The name Gandhi is still bearing that bit of magic in India.

Ghandi comes to the fore as India decides

It all began with Mahatma Gandhi but there is no relation to the present Gandhi.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, known popularly as Mahatma - meaning great soul - was born on 2 October 1869. In his lifetime he achieved independence from the United Kingdom by peaceful means.

He achieved more with his non violent approach than all the terrorists the world over succeeded in doing and saved millions of lives in the process. That was some feat. He won the affection and loyalty of millions. On 30 January 1948 he was shot and killed by a young Hindu fanatic. He was killed for doing good and it was a sad ending.

So much for the Gandhis for now. I'll be following with interest how the bearers of that famous name fare in the present context in India

Peace call in Sri Lanka

SRI Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, is an island in the Indian Ocean off the South Eastern coast of India. It is just about three quarters the size of the island of Ireland with a population of more than 20 million.

For the past quarter of a century it has been in the news because of an ongoing conflict there between the Sinhalese comprising approximately 75 per cent of the population and the Tamils who are around one sixth of the population and want a piece of the island all to themselves.

Since the early 1980s the Tamils are demanding a separate autonomous state in North Sri Lanka and therein lies the cause of the conflict that has resulted in the deaths of around 78,000 since the fighting began.

In 1802 Sri Lanka became the British Colony of Ceylon. It gained its independence in 1948 and became the Republic of Sri Lanka.

In the 1970s Tamil protests escalated and extremist Sinhalese began attacking Tamil communities living in mainly Sinhalese areas. As tensions rose, violent Tamil groups formed, the Tigers emerging as the most fearsome.

From the various reports on the news over the past 20 years, people have been constantly warning about their violent deeds. The Tigers pioneered some of the violent aspects of modern terrorism.

The FBI credits them with the invention of the suicide belt and use of female suicide bombers, innovations copied by Al-Qaeda, Hezbollah and Palestinian militants. The Tigers are the only terrorist group to assassinate two world leaders - the prime ministers of both India and Sri Lanka.

Events in Sri Lanka seem to have reached a climax last week. The government there in an all out offensive to get the Tamil Tigers to surrender look like attaining that goal. The snag is that the government there are coming under enormous pressure to stop the fatalities, for the sake of the 50,000 civilians begin used as human shields by the Tigers.

Here, to give you an idea of what's happening , is a brief extract taken from a recent editorial in the Boston Globe headed: The Agony of Sri Lanka: "One of the world's longest, bloodiest conflicts is coming to a gruesome conclusion on the island nation of Sri Lanka. The United Nations estimates that some 6,500 civilians have died and 14,000 have been wounded in the government's merciless offensive against the Tamil Tigers in the northeast of the country. The Obama administration and other governments, particularly India and China, should pressure both the Sri Lankan government and the Tigers to halt the fighting and permit trapped civilians to escape".

Hopefully, the people of Sri Lanka will get a chance to live out their lives in peace once more.

Freud a winner alright

I HAVE been reading so much about Clement Freud since he passed away that it would never do to let the occasion pas without recording a few words about the man in my column.

Ghandi comes to the fore as India decides

On my last visit to Punchestown races, I travelled down from the enclosure in the special bus supplied to take racegoers down to have a close look at horses jumping the famous banks. Beside me on my way was none other than Clement Freud, one of the best known racegoers, among many other callings, in Ireland and the UK.

Years ago the man came to my attention when he stood as a Liberal candidate in a by election where no Liberal was ever elected. He was 33/1 in the betting and he backed himself to win and he was duly elected and collected the equivalent of a couple of years salary from his bet. His victory showed that he had something special which enabled him to be elected.

Freud was buried on April 24, on what would have been his 85th birthday. He died at home, sitting at his desk while writing his latest column for the Racing Post with the previous day's winnings from Epsom Races in his pocket, it kindly returned by the undertaker to his wife after he found the cash in his suit.

Present at Freud's funeral was Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his wife Sara. Mr Brown, who sat beside Bono, read the first lesson and broke off to claim Freud not only as an old friend, but as a national treasure and an institution.

The Prime Minister went further to praise the entire Freud family, including his son, Matthew, the PR tycoon who is married to Rupert Murdoch's daughter, Elizabeth.

Mr Brown finished off by reading the lesson from St John's Gospel about the wedding feast at Cana where Christ performed the miracle of changing water into wine, which the Prime Minister said was appropriate given Freud's reputation as a gourmet.

I'll leave the last word to Nicholas Parsons, chairman of the show Just a Minute, in which Clement Freud starred for many years: "It was the most brilliant funeral service I have ever been to," Parsons said, before adding: "Clement would have approved".

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[Feedback letters @theage.com.au](mailto:Feedback.letters@theage.com.au)

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

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Body

URBAN SPRAWL

Don't sacrifice dream in process

I READ with interest the opinions of Sally Capp (Comment, 8/4) on the need to make the city "polycentric" and increase population density. Achieving such goals is a long-term plan that will span many governments.

But it is important that planners do not over-shoot the goal - the last thing we need is pockets of high-density housing slums, such as found in parts of Europe. In London, there are flats that even the postman isn't allowed to deliver to.

I work at an investment bank in London and live in a riverside apartment block where half the residents work in the same bank. Although it appears luxurious, the lifestyle lacks colour or diversity. A short distance away, on the other side of the Thames River in Bermondsey, is a medium-density block of flats where a baby was shot in the head by gangsters.

The very nature of the Australian dream is that it is a lifestyle all can share, not just an elite few. Melbourne's planners must ensure this vision is not sacrificed in the long-overdue fight against urban sprawl and transport congestion.

Sally-Anne Edwards, London

Enough is enough

HOW big should Melbourne be? In vaunting the imperatives and principles of liveability and sustainability in the impossible context of a rapidly growing city, Sally Capp does not posit this limitation. Nor does she question the need for growth on the scale that has necessitated a cascade of policies and endless community energy from residents opposed to their local environment radically changing for the worse!

Social engineering is forced on us because the Government knows the people would not like the effects on their city of massive population growth.

Jill Quirk, East Malvern

Regions the key

SALLY Capp seems to be critical of those who oppose unfettered development in their area, saying that local councillors are often elected on a no-development platform. Well, that's democracy.

Ms Capp pushed the government line for centralised planning control which is far from being democratic. There are alternatives to high-density accommodation. The Irish "gateway" planning model, for example, has enabled Ireland to increase population but has kept Dublin's population under control.

We should start planning for regional developments to take up the population growth and take pressure off Melbourne.

Jack Roach, Boroondara Residents' Action Group, Camberwell

Locals on march

SALLY Capp is correct in identifying Melbourne's current path as unsustainable. However, her disdain for the opinions of the population is evident in her answer. People object to development in their areas because this is not how people want to live.

People would prefer not to raise children in boxes separated from nature, surrounded by strangers and dependent on impersonal service providers. Those such as Ms Capp prefer processes where a privileged few can have power over Melbourne's future, and its people, unfettered by the wishes of the masses. These privileged people do this knowing they will never have to share the living conditions to which they are prepared to subject lesser people.

A sustainable solution involves locally sustainable communities where people use local resources for which they are responsible. Only when people feel they can have a meaningful say in decision-making will we see substantial change, and this will only happen when everyday people shake off their dependency on distant providers and wrestle back control of their lives.

Matthew Mitchell, Seaford

Time to right a terrible injustice

I HAVE known Dawn Rowan for 15 years and can vouch for her integrity, humanity and passion for justice. As Barney Zwartz's article suggests (The Age, 10/4), it was her desire to help survivors of abuse - **women**, children and men - that got her into trouble. And it's her passion for justice that has kept her alive during these years of "legal torture".

Several lawyers in the legal precinct where a vigil was held for Dawn could not believe that costs in a case like this could be awarded against an innocent person. One person - Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner - has the power to right this wrong.

Reverend Rowland Croucher, Heathmont

Some compassion

IT IS remarkable that Dawn Rowan continues to suffer. Parliament's power and ministerial discretion exist to ensure justice is done. Why does Lindsay Tanner not seem to care about bringing an end to this injustice? Surely 22 years is long enough for any innocent citizen to be denied justice and compassion.

Reverend Gary Heard, West Melbourne

Precious habitat

I HOPE when Premier John Brumby gets hold of the ammunition factory site in Maribyrnong that he takes into account the range of wildlife in the Maribyrnong Valley and allocates large tracts of land to ensure they survive. Recently I have seen a grey kangaroo, wallabies and numerous species of native birds. If we have wall-to-wall houses like other developments in the area, it will be the end of these species so close to the city.

Pauline Ashton, Maribyrnong

Facts straight

CARDINAL Pell should get his facts right in his appalling defence of the Pope's ill-judged comments on condoms. Thailand had one of the fastest-growing epidemics of HIV until the introduction of a widespread and successful 100 per cent condom campaign.

Rates of HIV in young people in Thailand have fallen considerably since. I recommend that Cardinal Pell listen to the medical science. Condoms stop HIV, it's proven. He should remember that Jesus came to save lives, not to condemn others with moralistic nonsense.

Dr Jonathan Anderson, president,

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine

Symbol for hope

YOUR Easter editorial (The Age, 10/4) provides a timely reflection in what can be termed "troubled times". The things previously held sacrosanct have been slowly eroded and the commercialisation of Easter has pushed the historical significance of Jesus' death aside.

For everyone, whatever their faith, belief or non-belief, it is a time of uncertainty. Like the people of Jesus' day, they seek and long for something better.

Easter, with Christ's death and resurrection, is a lasting symbol of hope for a still-troubled world. Happy Easter and celebrate life with joy!

Allan Gibson, Cherrybrook, NSW

Flawed message

A FEW points need to be clarified in the article by John Dickson (Comment, 10/4) concerning New Testament times.

The "Testimonium Flavium" referred to, supposedly an account of Jesus as the Messiah by Josephus, has a consensus in historical circles as an interpolation, either in part or in total. There is, however, reliable historical evidence that Josephus did not convert to Christianity but remained an adherent of Judaism until his death.

The analogy of the bravery of a skydiving instructor, although more than a commendable act of self-sacrifice, is not relevant. He did not die for another's alleged wrongs. His death was because of a valiant attempt to save an innocent life.

It is against all ethical principles for an innocent person to suffer a penalty for the transgression of a guilty one. Only those who have committed the crime can do the time. The core message of Christianity is therefore undeniably flawed.

David Nicholls, Atheist Foundation

of Australia

How great we can be

WHAT a joy to read "Radical Kindness" (The Age, 10/4). People of Philip Wollen's ilk remind us of the potential for greatness that exists within us all.

Kindness is indeed the key to a better world. Every kind choice we make in our life will not only help enrich ours but others as well. Choose wisely, act compassionately and watch the seeds of kindness grow. After all, if we can lead happy and healthy lives without harming those with whom we share this planet, why on earth don't we?

Edgar Alan, Willowmavin

Make amends

ARUNDHATI Roy's article (Comment, 30/3) consists of unwarranted claims, including that developments in the country constitute an "openly racist war".

Sri Lanka is proud of being a multicultural and multi-ethnic society. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, by contrast, has sought through the use of terror to carve out a mono-ethnic state and has consistently rejected negotiation. The LTTE is confined to a tiny pocket on the north-eastern coast but continues to use civilians as human shields.

Their number was about 110,000 but in the past few weeks about 60,000 have broken away despite the LTTE firing on those trying to leave.

The Government has declared a "no fire zone" within the pocket and has urged civilians to move there. The Government is supplying food and medicines and facilities have been set up to cater for the escaping civilians. They are by no means "concentration camps" as claimed by Ms Roy. Rather, they provide short-term accommodation.

Strangely, Ms Roy is silent on the atrocities perpetrated by the LTTE. Yet her allegations against the Government range from genocide to economic blockades and stifling of media freedom. She overlooks Sri Lanka's long record of democratic governance with freedom for the media to operate freely.

Ms Roy's comments are likely to encourage the LTTE into believing its propaganda is successful. She can make amends by adding her voice to those who have demanded that the LTTE stop restraining the civilian population from leaving.

Sugeeshwara Gunaratna, first secretary, high commission of Sri Lanka

Losers in forestry

THE Victorian Government and the woodchipping lobby perpetuate two lies regarding the management of our forests (The Age, 9/4). Victoria's forests are not cut sustainably and woodchips are not produced from waste timber.

Sustainable forestry means that in a 400-year-old forest, one four-hundredth is cut every year. Our forests are cut at 10 to 20 times this rate. Ancient forests in East Gippsland are felled and replaced by regrowth forests, many of which are logged within 30 years.

Second, the industry is almost totally woodchip-driven. Some 85 per cent of Victoria's forest products end up as woodchips, sawdust or waste.

Our beautiful, unique forests are being replaced by tree farms for the benefit of private companies and the Japanese pulp industry. Current management endangers wildlife, releases vast amounts of carbon, and fells trees up to 600 years old. We are all the losers from this state-sanctioned vandalism.

John Renowden, Princes Hill

Collective groan across water

YOU may have heard the groan from across Bass Strait at the proposal to burn native forest wood for power generation (The Age, 9/4).

Folks down here have long been told the story that the huge volume of woodchips generated in Tasmania, typically around 94per cent of the yearly harvest, is the waste residue of the 6 per cent that goes to saw logs. This appears to be the lowest rate of forestry value recovery in the world. As in Victoria, the logging industry is pushing to market even more such "byproduct", this time as "renewable energy".

They may well get away with this, provided their friends in government continue to supply them with the public's native forests at knock-down prices.

John Hayward, Weegen, Tas

Finally, broadband not fraudband

WELL, it was to be expected. As soon as Kevin Rudd announces what is arguably the best idea for the country this century, out pop the negative people.

I pay \$40 a month for ADSL1 because that's the best I can get out here. At our place we call it "fraudband" because it's so slow.

Just think what the network will mean for us plebs, let alone industry or medicine; proper VoIP (voice over internet protocol) calls with video, movie downloads that take minutes instead of hours, streaming radio all day from anywhere in the world, even real-time television in the near future.

As someone wrote recently: "Stop looking in the rear-view mirror and look through the windscreen at the road ahead."

Markie Linhart, Musk Vale

Crime of violence

THE entrenched attitudes to the crime of rape and violence and control over women are the underlying concerns, not just "a joke video of a toy chicken and a dead chicken".

It is what this "joke" represents that is the issue. The video is saying it is OK to simulate these acts but not really "do them". Some of these young men may have difficulty in discerning what is a joke and what is real.

Why do these problems continue in football codes despite efforts to stop them?

It is due to the entrenched attitude that is encouraged by things like this "chicken joke". This attitude must be tackled at a more basic level otherwise the problems will continue.

Peter Russo, West Brunswick

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Sri Lanka:Govt. seeks assistance to rehabilitate ex-LTTE cadres

Right Vision News

November 18, 2009 Wednesday

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Dateline: Pakistan

Body

Pakistan, Nov. 18 -- The government is seeking the assistance of the UN agencies, international donors and the local business community in rehabilitating over 11,000 former **LTTE** cadres, Presidential Secretariat said yesterday. Commissioner General of Rehabilitation Maj. Gen. Daya Ratnayake yesterday said the government had met the cost of rehabilitating hundreds of former **LTTE** cadres from the Eastern Province over the past two years. He said 556 **LTTE** child cadres under the age of 18 had been divided into two groups and 273 who had received formal education had been admitted to Hindu College Ratmalana. The balance 293 had been given Vocational Training at the camp at Punthottam in Vavuniya. About 1,900 **women** cadres in three groups were receiving formal education, Gen. Ratnayake said. He said that before the end of the year plans had been afoot to open eight new rehabilitation centres in Vavuniya and Jaffna to accommodate 500 persons each. Ten more centres would be opened to house 500 inmates each, he said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Sri Lanka military identifies bodies of 18 top LTTE leaders

Colombo Times

May 18, 2009 Monday

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Length: 174 words

Body

Colombo, May 18 -- Sri Lanka military said today that it has positively identified the bodies of 18 top **LTTE** leaders including that of dreaded Pottu Amman, leader of the **LTTE**'s intelligence wing.

The list of senior Tigers confirmed killed includes Pottu Amman, Bhanu, Jeyam, B.Nadesan, S.Pulidevan, Ramesh, Ilango, Charles Anthony, Sudharman, Thomas, Luxman, Sri Ram, **female** military leader Isei Aravi, Kapil Amman, Ajanthi, Wardha, Pudiyawan and Jenarthan.

Special Forces soldiers conducting mop up operations in the battlefield have collected over 200 bodies of hardcore **LTTE** fighters. The military believes all the senior Tiger leaders have been killed including their leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Quoting senior military officials, news agencies said Prabhakaran was killed when he tried to flee in an ambulance with his trusted aides. However, the government is yet to confirm Prabhakaran's death.

The identification process is still being conducted, the military said.

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World Report

Windsor Star (Ontario)

May 25, 2009 Monday

Final Edition

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Byline: The Windsor Star

Body

NORTH AMERICA

SHUTTLE ATLANTIS TOUCHES DOWN SAFELY

The space shuttle Atlantis touched down safely at Edwards Air Force base in California's Mojave Desert on Sunday morning.

Atlantis circled Earth 197 times and traveled 5.3 million miles before ending a 13-day mission to refurbish the Hubble Space Telescope. Atlantis landed at 8:39 a.m. Its return had been diverted to Southern California after nasty weather prevented a landing at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Alan Brown, a NASA spokesman at the Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards, said the crew accomplished major repairs of the telescope and extended its lifetime through at least 2014.

The mission cost about \$1 billion, according to NASA officials. It will cost an additional \$1.8 million to ferry the shuttle to Florida on the back of a modified Boeing 747.

EUROPE

QUEEN SUSPENDS CHAUFFEUR FOR BRIBE

LONDON - Buckingham Palace said on Sunday it had suspended a royal chauffeur alleged to have let undercover journalists enter Queen Elizabeth's London residence and sit in her car in return for a bribe.

The tabloid News of The World said two of its reporters posing as Middle East businessmen paid US\$1,580 to the chauffeur to evade security checks at the palace.

The paper said the story exposed lax security at the palace. "We could have been al-Qaida, we could have had a bomb or at least a tracking device," it said.

SWEDISH COPS OPEN FIRE TO DETER THEFT

STOCKHOLM - A gang tried to blast its way into a depot full of cash in northern Sweden Sunday before police opened fire to foil the robbery, injuring one suspect, authorities said.

World Report

The gang set off explosives outside the warehouse belonging to cash courier company Loomis Sweden in Umeaa, some 650 kilometres from the capital of Stockholm, said police superintendent Bertil Olofsson.

Local police were quickly on the scene and started firing at the gang members, injuring one, said Olofsson, head of Swedish national police's counter terrorism and organized crime unit.

He told AFP that an unknown number of gang members had fled the scene and were still on the run.

"We have not caught any more people, the hunt is still on," Olofsson said.

Umeaa police spokesman Dan Andersson said four people had been arrested at the scene, one of whom was being treated in hospital for gunshot wounds.

IRANIAN-CANADIAN SPY SENT TO PRISON

BERLIN - An Iranian-Canadian businessman who had spied for Germany for more than a decade has been convicted of supporting Tehran's missile program, according to a German press report to be published Monday.

News weekly Der Spiegel said the man, who was codenamed Sinbad and seen as an important source on the Iranian arms program by Germany's intelligence service, the BND, was sentenced by Berlin's superior court of justice to three years in prison.

No one at the court could be reached for comment.

30 INJURED DURING SKIRMISH IN TEMPLE

VIENNA - Sikh followers clashed with knives and at least one gun at a temple in Vienna on Sunday, injuring some 30 people in a dispute between rival religious communities, police and witnesses said.

Separately, Indian media said a curfew was imposed in parts of the Sikh-majority city of Jalandhar in the northern Indian state of Punjab after violence broke out, apparently in response to news of the Vienna incident.

The clash in Austria broke out around 1:30 p.m. and saw the perpetrators pull out knives and a gun as two gurus visiting from India gave a sermon at the temple, where some 200 people had gathered.

Others in the audience pounced on the attackers, who a witness said were wearing yellow and blue turbans, and subdued them, according to police.

"Six people did not agree" with the sermon, police spokesman Michael Takacs told Austrian public radio. "One drew a firearm, the others knives. The six people were overpowered by members of the community and seriously injured."

Two of the wounded attackers were in critical condition after being shot in the head, Takacs added.

BALKANS ROCKED BY EARTHQUAKE

ATHENS - A moderate earthquake rattled Bulgaria, Greece and Macedonia on Sunday following a series of weaker tremors in the Balkans, seismologists said, with no reports of serious damage or casualties.

Reports of its magnitude varied, with Greece putting it at 5.1 on the Richter scale, Bulgaria at 5.2 and Macedonia at 4.9. The U.S. Geological Survey measured it at 5.4 on the moment magnitude scale.

The earthquake struck at 7:17 p.m., with Macedonian officials putting its epicentre near Vohodovo city, 125 kilometres from the capital Skopje, near the border with Bulgaria.

Bulgaria's National Geophysical Institute said the earthquake was preceded about two hours earlier by three weaker tremors with the strongest measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale.

World Report

BRITISH DIVER DIES FROM THE BENDS

ATHENS - A British diver on a National Geographic underwater filming mission died in Greece on Sunday from suspected decompression sickness, the merchant marine ministry said.

The 37-year-old Briton was part of a 17-member crew commissioned by the magazine to film the wreck of HMHS Britannic, the British World War I hospital ship that sank off the Greek Aegean island of Kea in 1916 after hitting a mine.

"A Super Puma rescue helicopter was dispatched to collect the diver who was unconscious with decompression sickness symptoms," a ministry spokeswoman said.

"He did not regain consciousness and was pronounced dead on arrival at the Athens Navy hospital," she said.

The National Geographic team had secured permission to film the wreck of the Britannic from May 19 to 31, she added.

HMHS Britannic was a former White Star liner and a sister ship of the Titanic.

ASIA

WOULD-BE SUICIDE PUSHED OFF BRIDGE

BEIJING - A Chinese man was pushed off a bridge by an angry passer-by after his threat to commit suicide held up traffic for five hours, Chinese media reported on Saturday.

Retired soldier Lian Jiansheng, 66, broke through a police cordon and reached out to shake the hand of would-be jumper Chen Fuchao before shoving him off the bridge.

"I pushed him off because jumpers like Chen are very selfish. Their action violates a lot of public interests," Lai was quoted as saying by the China Daily newspaper.

"They do not really dare to kill themselves. Instead, they just want to raise the relevant government authorities' attention to their appeals."

Chen, US\$293,200 in debt because of a failed building project, fell eight metres onto a partially inflated emergency air cushion and was hospitalized with wrist and back injuries. Lai was detained by police.

Chen was at least the twelfth person since early April to threaten suicide at the same spot, the Haizhu bridge in Guangzhou. But none jumped and -- until Lian gave Chen a helping hand -- none was pushed.

TAMILS FINALLY ADMIT LEADER DEAD

COLOMBO - Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** on Sunday admitted for the first time that their leader was killed by government forces a week ago as the UN demanded better access for civilians displaced in recent fighting.

Almost a week after the government said its troops had killed Velupillai Prabhakaran, 54, in an ambush, the Tigers' chief of international relations, Selvarasa Pathmanathan, acknowledged that the rebel leader was dead.

"We announce today with inexpressible sadness and heavy hearts that our incomparable leader, the supreme commander of the **LTTE**, attained martyrdom fighting the Sri Lankan government," Pathmanathan said in a statement.

He seemed to suggest that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam would try to continue their campaign, saying that Prabhakaran's "final request was for the struggle to continue until we achieved the freedom for his people."

VANDALS DESECRATE WEST BANK GRAVES

World Report

RAMALLAH - Vandals desecrated some 70 graves in two Palestinian Christian cemeteries on Sunday in what a Palestinian Authority official said was a rare attack on the Christian minority in the occupied West Bank.

A church official in the village of Jiffna near Ramallah where the attack took place called in Palestinian security officials to investigate, but neither he nor the investigators said they had any initial clues who was responsible.

Grave stones were smashed and metal and stone crosses knocked off graves in the attack, which was discovered on Sunday. The head and a hand of a statue of the Madonna adorning one of the graves were also broken off.

AFRICA

11 DIE IN STAMPEDE AT MUSIC FESTIVAL

RABAT - A stampede at a world music festival in Morocco's capital Rabat that featured the likes of Stevie Wonder and Kylie Minogue left at least 11 people dead, most of them women and children, police said Sunday.

The incident, which also saw around 30 people injured, happened shortly after midnight Saturday on the final night of the Mawazine (Rhythms) festival, where some 70,000 spectators were at the Hay Nahda stadium.

Police said the crowd surging towards one of the exits appeared to have brought down a wire fence, setting off the stampede as the concert ended.

DARFUR REBELS CAPTURE TOWN

KHARTOUM - Darfur rebels on Sunday seized the town of Umm Baru near the border with neighbouring Chad from Sudanese soldiers, the hybrid UN-African Union Mission in Darfur said.

"The fighting is over, Umm Baru has fallen," spokesman Kemal Saiki told AFP, referring to the Sudanese military presence in the town 100 kilometres east of the frontier.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Adnan Abidi, Reuters; MAKING A SPLASH: A boy plays in the mud beside a broken water pipeline in New Delhi, India on Sunday. ;

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Forgetting fascism

Right Vision News

September 20, 2009 Sunday

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Dateline: Pakistan

Body

Pakistan, Oct. 20 -- I refer to Dayan Jayatilleka's reply in the Island of October 16. Terms such as "fascism" are notoriously slippery. I myself would classify Prabhakaran as a neo-fascist.

The point is however in the vast gap between the enormities committed by him on the one hand and by Hitler and Pol Pot on the other. Prabhakaran was potty fry in comparison to them. The purpose of the Thirunagama commemorative meeting was to pay homage to an authentic Sri Lankan heroine of the last century, and evidently none who attended the meeting had any doubts that the LTTE was the killer. I cannot ascribe any significance to there being no reference to that fact at that meeting. Sri Lankan polemics have two besetting vices, one of which is to become needlessly ill-mannered. DJ's reply is refreshingly free of that. But it is regrettably not free of the other besetting vice, which is to resort to ad hominem arguments. He writes of my "chivalrous" defense of Shanie, which carries the implication that my argument could be vitiated by my chivalry. Actually I have long believed that Shanie is a man, and I must say that I have never had inclinations that way. If however Shanie is female, I must clarify that in very advanced old age I have long given up chivalry. The girls are not willing. If one were, I doubt that I can rise to the occasion. The spirit is unappeased and peregrine, but the flesh is weak. In any case, arguments must be assessed strictly on their merits, and nothing else. SL polemics must eschew the ad hominem, Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: October 22, 2009

**2127 civilians flee LTTE tyranny: seek protection with security forces -
Mullaivivu**

Colombo Times

April 7, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 75 words

Body

Colombo, April 7 -- A total of 2127 civilians including 919 children have fled from **LTTE** hostage and sought protection with 58 Division troops at Ampalavanpokkanai, Mullaivivu yesterday (April 5).

According to military, the civilians belonging to 503 families included 429 men, 779 **women** and 919 children. The civilian exodus triggered on Sunday (5) hours after security forces crushed last **LTTE** resistances at Puthukkudiyirippu, security sources said.

Load-Date: May 5, 2009

Seven more LTTE leaders identified among the dead

Colombo Times

May 20, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 108 words

Body

Colombo, May 20 -- Troops have positively identified bodies of seven **LTTE** leaders, says defence sources in Wanni.

Accordingly, bodies of self-styled "Brigadier" Soosai, leader of the Sea Tigers, "Lieutenant Colonel" Verti, a senior intelligence leader, "Lieutenant Colonel" Ram Kumar, an Intelligence leader, "Lieutenant Colonel" Manimekala alias Komali , a senior **female** intelligence leader, "Lieutenant Colonel" Anna Thurai , political head in Batticaloa, "Colonel " Rangan, a senior Sea Tiger leader, "Lieutenant Colonel" Vinodan , a senior intelligence leader have been identified.

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Load-Date: May 21, 2009

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RELUCTANT ABOUT IMF LOAN FOR SL

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

May 16, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 1681 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 16 -- US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Thursday that it "is not an appropriate time" to consider a massive International Monetary Fund loan for Sri Lanka due to the prevailing situation in the North.

"We have also raised questions about the IMF loan at this time. We think that it is not an appropriate time to consider that (loan) until there is a resolution of the conflict," Clinton added. Her comments come two weeks after the IMF said that despite reports that the fund was under pressure to withhold the planned financing for the country talks were continuing for a bailout package of around two billion dollars. Her recent comments contradict International Media reports that US officials' indication that they wanted the IMF loan for Sri Lanka, and that the loan should be aimed at helping the country cope with the global financial crisis. However, with the US being the main shareholder in the IMF and its approval being needed for the release of the loan, Clinton's words cannot go unheeded.

Following these allegations and reluctance, the Central Bank gave assurances that said an IMF mission was in Sri Lanka to try to ensure there were enough controls to verify that the IMF funds for balance-of-payments support were not used for other purposes. Earlier Central Bank governor Nivard Cabraal said the IMF loan was on track and procedures such as safeguard assessments had to be finished regardless of whether the United States was dragging its feet over the loan. Mirror speak up took to the streets to ask the general public what they thought of the reluctance of the International Community and the US in particular to grant us a much needed loan to bail-us-out. Most believe it is better for us to make it on our own instead of waiting for the support of the International community while others assume it will be difficult to overcome the war and rebuild the nation without the support of the outside world. However a thread of disdain for the international community and a suspicion of their motives run, very thinly wailed in the minds of the people. A similar note of disdain and suspicion was detected towards the government and the officials who would ultimately utilize the funds. History of the IMF The International Monetary Fund was formally created in July 1944 during the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference. The representatives of 44 governments met in the Mount Washington Hotel in the area of Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States of America, with the delegates to the conference agreeing on a framework for international economic cooperation. The IMF was formally organised on December 27, 1945, when the first 29 countries signed its Articles of Agreement. The statutory purposes of the IMF today are the same as when they were formulated. The IMF's influence in the global economy steadily increased as it accumulated more members. The number of IMF member countries has more than quadrupled from the 44 states involved in its establishment, reflecting in particular the attainment of political independence by many developing countries and more recently the collapse of the Soviet bloc. The expansion of the IMF's membership, together with the changes in the world economy, have required the IMF to adapt in a variety of ways to continue serving its purposes effectively. In 2008, faced with a shortfall in revenue, the International Monetary Fund's executive board agreed to sell part of the IMF's gold reserves. On April 27, 2008, IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn welcomed the board's decision

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RELUCTANT ABOUT IMF LOAN FOR SL

April 7, 2008 to propose a new framework for the fund, designed to close a projected \$400 million budget deficit over the next few years. The budget proposal includes sharp spending cuts of \$100 million until 2011 that will include up to 380 staff dismissals. At the 2009 G-20 London summit, it was decided that the IMF budget would be tripled to \$1 trillion, to better meet the needs of the global community amidst the late 2000s recession. Vajira Thera-Monk I think it is all right that the international community does not give us a loan because we are not listening to them or outside forces. Therefore it is unfair to expect them to give us anything. I suppose they are not giving it to us because they know that our government might use the money for the wrong causes. If we can clearly show that the money will be used for development and not the war, then I suppose they will be more positive. I have not lived in this country for a long time because I feel our politicians are brining the country down. We should stop differentiating people as Tamil or Sinhala, we should see us as Sri Lankans. Why we need the IMF loan? A new IMF study finds that at least \$25 billion in urgent concessional financing will be needed this year to help low-income countries affected by the deepening global economic crisis and prevent millions from falling back into poverty. "The majority of low-income countries will find it difficult to preserve priority expenditures that protect the vulnerable groups without increased external assistance," said Hugh Bredenkamp, one of the study's authors. "For those countries, it's particularly important that the donors scale up aid." Advanced countries had pledged to double aid to Africa, which is particularly vulnerable, but so far the increase has fallen well short of this commitment. Ruksana Caldera- Banking Trainee I think the action being taken by the President at the moment, is quite right because I feel the international community is trying to interfere too much and control the country. Anyway people like Hillary Clinton and David Milliband have been supporting the LTTE. I think this whole business of trying to withhold the International Monetary Fund loan is a means of manipulating us. They are threatening us that if you want this then you need to work according to our rules. In that respect, they should just keep from giving us the loan. Yet, despite this, we have to understand that we can't make do without the loan in order to develop. Harinidri Corera- Ordinary Level Student I think that if the US really wants to help us then they need to stop passing judgement on everything we do and start helping us. In their perspective, all the Government's actions are wrong. While they go into Iraq and Afghanistan and kill thousands of women and children, they condemn us for defeating terrorism. As a sovereign state and having a democratically elected government we have to ensure that terrorism does not exist within the country. The LTTE is an organisation banned in a multitude of countries and it has been accepted that they are a dangerous militant group. Therefore why aren't the US and other international players not letting the government defeat them? I think the government is doing a great job and if the US wants to help us, they need to give us the loans and help our IDP's without going around criticizing us. Shenuki Gunersekera- Financial Analyst I think it's better that the loan is not given considering the people who will utilize it. The money won't be put to good use and the outcome of it would be that we lose face in front of the international community. Therefore, as difficult as it may be to operate without the loan it is better not to receive it. Angelo Simmons- Student I think it is a good thing to get the loan yet if we take it, then the steps should be taken to ensure that it is used appropriately. The loan needs to be put to good use and utilized in a productive and conducive way that will also take the country forward. Although the international community may be under the impression that it will be used for the war, I think since the war is almost over the money will ultimately be used for the development of war torn areas. It will ultimately go for the betterment of our people in the North and their welfare. Upalie Patabaduge- Businessman At the moment, we are asking for it because we need it and after that we will pay it back at some point in time. So, this talk of not being an appropriate time is all nonsense. We need it now and we are asking for it now. How can someone outside the country decide if it is the right time or not? That is ridiculous! The international community is always taking the LTTE's side and their need to stop the war is just so they can help those militants escape. Hillary Clinton and David Milliband have such double standards. The rebels in Afghanistan are supposedly militants but the LTTE are freedom fighters! Ranjith Perera- Computer engineer I think the international community and America in particular are trying to show us that they are superior to us and thereby can dictate terms and make us dance to their tune. Since this is the case, we should try to make it on our own without their help. Because asking for it means we have to comply with their demands. What does the IMF do? The work of the IMF is of three main types. Surveillance involves the monitoring of economic and financial developments, and the provision of policy advice, aimed especially at crisis-prevention. The IMF also lends to countries with balance of payments difficulties, to provide temporary financing and to support policies aimed at correcting the underlying problems; loans to low-income countries are also aimed especially at poverty alleviation. Third, the IMF provides countries with technical assistance and training in its areas of expertise. Supporting all three of these activities is IMF work in economic research and statistics. In recent years, as part of its efforts to strengthen the international financial system, and to

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RELUCTANT ABOUT IMF LOAN FOR SL

enhance its effectiveness at preventing and resolving crises, the IMF has applied both its surveillance and technical assistance work to the development of standards and codes of good practice in its areas of responsibility, and to the strengthening of financial sectors. The IMF also plays an important role in the fight against money-laundering and terrorism. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: May 16, 2009

End of Document

Weaker by the hour, united in a show of strength

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 17, 2009 Saturday

Third Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 16

Length: 585 words

Byline: Tom Allard

Body

MERAK: The hunger-striking Sri Lankans who were prevented from reaching Australia and are stuck in Indonesia were defiant yesterday, insisting they would not leave their ship or consume liquids despite the blazing heat and humidity.

Talking to media as their ship was berthed in the port of Merak in western Java, their spokesman, "Alex", said they would ignore the entreaties of their supporters to drink water, even as three of their number were taken to hospital with dehydration and four were treated onboard.

"We want the international community to see how desperate we are," said Alex, pleading for a consular official from Australia or any Western country to "please come and speak to us, that's our only demand".

The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, has rejected the pleas of the asylum seekers and no consular official has visited the boat, even though a diplomatic official and an Australian Federal Police officer have been stationed at the port since Sunday, watching developments from a distance.

Earlier yesterday, Indonesia's local navy commander, Colonel Irawan, said up to 70 per cent of those on board wanted to disembark. But in a staged show of strength before the cameras, Alex asked if anybody wanted to go or felt compelled to stay and received a resounding "No".

A mother onboard, Varshini, told the Herald many of the 31 children, including her own, had asked why they were on the boat and there were "big problems" looking after them within the cramped confines of the old wooden vessel.

Varshini is among the many women and all of the men refusing food and water. The children, one pregnant woman and two breastfeeding mothers have not joined the hunger strike.

As the navy ship to which their vessel had been tethered steamed off the horizon, the vessel moved next to the dock, giving the asylum seekers the chance to engage freely with a growing pack of media, who were not allowed onboard the boat.

Many of those on the hunger strike looked unwell. Alex "who developed his American accent while working in call centres in India" said he was very weak. People can survive without food for weeks, but failing to take liquids can lead quickly to serious illness and death, especially in the searing heat of Java.

Weaker by the hour, united in a show of strength

From one moment to the next, Alex said he was prepared to die and not prepared to die.

Many of the asylum seekers told reporters of their professions and said they were neither poor nor seeking economic opportunities in Australia, but they were fleeing persecution from the Sinhalese majority in Sri Lanka who routed the **Tamil Tigers** in a civil war, resulting in many going to camps that are closed to the press and aid workers.

A roll-call of occupations included accountants, carpenters, electricians, a jewellery shop owner and many information technology workers.

Conditions are so bad in Sri Lanka that "there will be many more boats on the way", said Alex. "What does Kevin Rudd have to say about that?"

Indonesian officials are losing patience with the Sri Lankans. The immigration chief of Banten, Harry Purwanto, said they were potential suicide bombers. "Suicide bombing is not monopolised by al-Qaeda only. They do it, too," he said. "So if they said they're ready to die, they mean it."

The Tigers are seen as originators of suicide bombing, but those onboard denied being members.

Makeshift accommodation has been arranged in nearby Cilegon and transport is ready to take them at the end of the stand-off.

David Marr – News Review, Page 1

Editorial – News Review, Page 8

Load-Date: October 16, 2009

It's your problem, Jakarta declares

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

October 30, 2009 Friday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 627 words

Byline: TOM ALLARD, TANJUNG PINANG and MICHELLE GRATTAN, CANBERRA

Body

THE 78 Sri Lankans moored off the Riau Islands are Australia's problem, senior Indonesian officials said yesterday, insisting that its policy of not forcing the asylum seekers to disembark reflected the human rights values that Australia is always urging the country to embrace.

The Sri Lankans remain on board the Australian vessel Oceanic Viking, under tighter security control, with customs officials ushering them below decks when media appeared and setting up a new perimeter on the ship's deck to prevent them getting close to the side.

The asylum seekers won't leave the boat, and Indonesia won't force them to, or acquiesce if Australian personnel try to unload them in Indonesian territory against their will. The Rudd Government said yesterday it would not use force.

The Government is still ruling out the asylum seekers going to Christmas Island, although there is a feeling in Government circles that it will have no choice if the stand-off cannot be resolved.

Mr Rudd told Parliament the new Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa had said his country had "an abundance of patience" in attempting to get the people to leave the boat. "So does Australia, because we intend to process this complex matter over a period of time," Mr Rudd said.

But Teuku Faizasyah, the official spokesman for the Indonesian foreign ministry, said: "This is not an Indonesian problem. This is an Australian problem because they are on board an Australian vessel."

The Oceanic Viking's security clearance to remain in Indonesia expires today. While Mr Rudd remained confident of an extension, the senior responsible Indonesian foreign affairs official, Sujatmiko, said "we will see".

Mr Sujatmiko urged Australia to understand his country's stance. He said Australia frequently urged Indonesia to adhere to human rights, and that was just what it was doing by refusing to force the Sri Lankans off the boat. If Australia wanted to compel the Sri Lankans to disembark, it could not be in Indonesia.

"If they are going to use force to take [them] off the boat, it's up to Australia. But for sure we will not be helping. We are learning from Australia to respect human rights. Don't tell us to do these things," he said.

It's your problem, Jakarta declares

While Australia believes that a deal between Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Mr Rudd last week meant the Sri Lankans would disembark and be processed in Indonesia, local authorities have an entirely different take.

"We were not asked to look after them," Mr Sujatmiko said. "We were asked [to assist] for humanitarian reasons. They said they were sick. Women and children."

The reality, after Indonesian officials boarded the vessel on Tuesday, was entirely different, he said. "They said we are healthy. The humanitarian grounds are no longer valid."

The 78 Sri Lankans â€” 68 men, five women and five children â€” sailed the ship themselves. They called for help while in international waters â€” and in Indonesia's search and rescue zone â€” as their boat foundered 12 days ago. An Australian navy boat picked them up following a request from Indonesia.

The Government is also worried about mounting political pressure. Unions NSW secretary Mark Lennon said the people should be processed on Australian soil under Australian law.

Labor for Refugees, an organisation of ALP members, also called on the Government to bring the Sri Lankans to Australia for processing.

Greens leader Bob Brown said the situation "puts pressure on Indonesia in a way that's not good for us as neighbours".

Sri Lankan high commissioner Senaka Walgampaya said he was "very happy" the Australian Government had stated it would not accept the 78. He said he believed there would be former Tamil Tigers on the vessel. "There must be Tamil terrorists coming," he said.

Load-Date: October 29, 2009

End of Document

WORLD - DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

June 4, 2009 Thursday

THIRD EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A9

Length: 608 words

Byline: From news services

Dateline: 0

Body

Aid won't reverse Palestinian economic decline, World Bank says

Massive aid to the Palestinians can at best slow economic decline, but won't revive the private sector or spur long-term development, the World Bank said today, challenging assumptions that have long guided donor countries. Economic growth continues to be stymied by Israeli restrictions on Palestinian trade and movement in the West Bank and the growing isolation of the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, the bank said. As a result, Palestinians are becoming more, not less, dependent on foreign aid, the report said.

Pakistanis control Swat Valley city - Pakistani soldiers stood guard along its narrow roads, but there was no sign of civilian life in the Swat Valley's main city, nor signs of the Taliban. Across the river stood another militant stronghold, reminding the army its work was not done. A top Pakistani commander told journalists visiting Mingora that it would be at least another year before troops could leave Swat.

British woman sentenced to life - A court in Laos found a pregnant British woman guilty of trafficking heroin and sentenced her to life in prison Wednesday, a court official said. Heroin trafficking is punishable by death, but Samantha Orobator, 20, was spared because Lao law does not allow the execution of pregnant women.

Sri Lanka shows support for president - President Mahinda Rajapaksa, criticized internationally for his conduct of the war against the Tamil Tigers, has been all but crowned king inside Sri Lanka. "He is a lion. He is the father of Sri Lanka," said R.S.P. Nishantha, a tennis instructor. "He has done what others did not dare to do."

Al-Qaida kills hostage - Al-Qaida terrorists have killed a Briton taken hostage in Mali, the British prime minister said. The fate of a Swiss hostage taken at the same time was unknown. Edwin Dyer was abducted in January and his captors in Mali said they would kill him by the end of May if Britain refused to release extremist preacher Abu Qatada from prison.

U.S. keeps base near Sadr City - The U.S. and Iraqi militaries have tentatively agreed to keep a joint base on the edge of Baghdad's Shiite slum of Sadr City, maintaining an American presence in a strategic area even after the June 30 deadline for U.S. combat troops to pull out of the capital. The base is one of about 14 joint facilities that U.S. officials say privately that they would like to keep in flashpoint neighborhoods after the deadline.

WORLD - DIGEST

Quebec billionaire headed to space - Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberte is set to become Canada's first space tourist when he travels on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft in September. The Quebec billionaire will become the seventh private citizen to visit the orbiting space lab.

Asteroids discovered - Swiss amateur astronomer Jose De Queiroz claimed that he has discovered two new asteroids among the hundreds of thousands between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. The Minor Planet Center of the International Astronomical Union in Cambridge, Mass., confirmed the finds.

Shuttle getting June 13 launch - NASA has cleared space shuttle Endeavour for a June 13 launch to the international space station. When Endeavour's pulls up, the space station will have 13 people on board for the first time ever.

The Kim factor - After North Korea tested a nuclear device three years ago, the U.N. ordered a ban on luxury goods, a move that targeted leader Kim Jong Il, who was known for his taste for rare cognac, lobster, caviar, shark-fin soup, caviar and sushi. He suffered a stroke in November and no longer eats such fine food - which is why, some analysts say, he was willing to test another nuclear device.

Load-Date: June 8, 2009

End of Document

Sri Lanka to free all war-displaced civilians: official

Agence France Presse -- English

November 21, 2009 Saturday 3:37 PM GMT

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Length: 631 words

Byline: Ishara Kodikara

Dateline: VAVUNIYA, Sri Lanka, Nov 21 2009

Body

Sri Lanka said Saturday it would grant free movement to the remaining war-displaced civilians held in internment camps, meeting a key demand of the international community.

The government also reiterated it would complete the resettlement of civilians by the end of January.

"We will allow complete freedom of movement," senior presidential adviser Basil Rajapakse told inmates of the Manik Farm complex, the main facility housing displaced civilians.

The United Nations welcomed the announcement that camp inmates will be able to come and go freely from December 1, saying it was in line with a pledge Sri Lanka gave Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

The announcement came amid intense international pressure on Colombo to release tens of thousands of civilians held in the camps since security forces crushed Tamil Tiger rebels in May.

UN humanitarian chief John Holmes visited the area earlier this week and pressed authorities to grant free movement to the camp inmates.

The government's announcement was a "pleasing" development, the UN spokesman in Colombo, Gordon Weiss, told AFP.

"This is in keeping with the assurances given to the Secretary-General," he said. "It is a pleasing sign of progress and we look forward to its full implementation."

In Brussels, the European Union noted that Colombo's announcement "would be fulfilling the European Union's demands that have been put some time ago to the Sri Lankan government".

The EU as well as the UN and other key international players, including rights groups have been pressing Colombo to allow war displaced civilians the freedom to choose where they wanted to live.

Brussels remained cautious and keen to see changes on the ground rather than mere words, a EU official said.

Sri Lanka to free all war-displaced civilians: official

"That's the standing EU position, we have an open demand," the official in Brussels said.

The EU had also linked the treatment of internally displaced as a key demand to consider extending preferential tariffs for imports from Sri Lanka.

Over 136,000 men, women and children remain inside camps across the island's north, down from 280,000 at the end of the fighting in May with the defeat of the guerrillas.

Camp inmates will be allowed to come and go freely from the start of December, said Rajapakse.

The country's former top military general, Sarath Fonseka, who defeated the Tamil Tigers in May, had criticised the government for dragging out the civilian resettlement process.

Fonseka, who quit as chief of defence staff last week and is widely expected to challenge President Mahinda Rajapakse in elections expected by next April, had vowed to work for the speedy release of civilians.

Basil Rajapakse, the younger brother of the president, repeated a pledge the entire resettlement will be completed on schedule by January 31.

He made the announcement at the Manik Farm complex, 257 kilometres (160 miles) north of the capital, where he handed over relief supplies.

A batch of 41,000 people were allowed to leave the camps in October, the biggest single release so far.

In May, Sri Lankan troops defeated the Tamil rebels who had been fighting since 1972 to carve out a separate nation in the Sinhalese-majority island.

The government has been widely criticised for holding refugees indefinitely, but it insisted it needed time to weed out rebel fighters hidden among the civilians.

Military officials said about 10,000 ex-combatants had surrendered to security forces and were being held at separate camps ahead of sending them for vocational training.

The government has also said over 1.5 million mines must be cleared and basic infrastructure put in place to allow returnees to resume normal lives.

Critics claimed the civilians were being held as prisoners at the camps which have been off limits for independent media except during guided military tours.

str-aj/ft

Load-Date: November 22, 2009

Shelters are stretched to the 'breaking point'

The Toronto Star
May 12, 2009 Tuesday

Copyright 2009 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A06

Length: 552 words

Byline: Olivia Ward, Toronto Star

Body

In a Sri Lankan camp filled to overflowing with Tamils with shattered limbs, missing family members and destroyed homes, aid workers are bracing for worse to come.

Some 50,000 civilians as well as Tamil Tiger militants are still trapped in a shrinking strip of northern coastline where a military assault against the rebels is underway. Hundreds of civilians, including children, were killed in attacks on the weekend that the UN characterized as a "bloodbath."

Camps where displaced Tamils fled in April after government forces broke through the **Tamil Tigers**' lines are awaiting new arrivals with anxiety. The United Nations reported the camps, run by the Sri Lankan government, are stretched to the "breaking point."

"We already have about 177,000 people here now, and they came to us sick, dehydrated and starving," Care Canada emergency relief worker Melanie Brooks said in a phone interview from the large Vavuniya camp. "We are gearing up for the arrival of the other 50,000 people, and we can only imagine the condition they are in."

But Hamilton-born Brooks, who has spent a week at the camp, said some conditions were improving, people were recovering from wounds and illness, and electrical lines were being installed. She said she had heard no reports of violence against the Tamil refuge-seekers there.

Britain's Channel 4 was expelled from Sri Lanka after it covertly filmed interviews of aid workers in the closed area, who said that some **women** had been abducted and assaulted by soldiers - allegations the government denies.

"We haven't received any direct reports," Brooks said. "There are things that need to be improved. **Women** have been bathing fully clothed outside the camps, because they had no privacy. Now there is a screened-off area for them, and the government has assigned **female** police officers to the camp."

Many people arriving from the conflict zone were so traumatized they could not speak of their experiences. "They'd been living in mud-filled trenches in the conflict zone for months, and they had been through a nightmare," Brooks said. "**Women** were often alone, trying to look after their families without their men. People were missing limbs, and one little girl was caught (in the shelling) and lost the use of both hands."

Although many are recovering physically from their ordeal, she said, "it will take years for them to rebuild their lives. They will need a lot of help."

Shelters are stretched to the 'breaking point'

And she said, with more people expected from the conflict zone at any time, water has become a critical issue in the camps. "We're heading into the dry season and this area doesn't have enough water at the best of times. We're trying to bring in water from rivers and wells, but we need more funding to rent more water trucks. With more people, the need will only increase."

Yesterday, volunteers dug mass graves in the marshes of the war zone for hundreds of civilians killed in the weekend attacks.

A doctor in the area told Associated Press as many as 1,000 civilians may have been killed in two days of shelling that marked some of the worst violence since the civil war flared up again more than three years ago. Both the army and rebels blame each other for the attacks.

The government has brushed off calls for a humanitarian truce, saying any pause in the fighting would give the rebels time to regroup.

Graphic

Tamils, who say they are more than 100 years old, get food rations yesterday at a temporary camp in a school on the outskirts of Vavuniya, Sri Lanka. Melanie Brooks, a Care Canada relief worker, says it will take years for displaced Tamils to rebuild their lives. Melanie Brooks, a Care Canada relief worker, says it will take years for displaced Tamils to rebuild their lives.

Load-Date: May 12, 2009

Schedule for Monday, May 18, 0300 GMT =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur
May 18, 2009 Monday 3:06 AM EST

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Length: 869 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 0300 Schedule for Monday, May 18, 0300 GMT =

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(0700-2000 GMT) Berlin Tel: +49-30-2852-31472 Fax: 31479
(1900-0300 GMT) Washington Tel: +1-202-662-1241 Fax: 1270
(Mon-Fri 0200-1400 GMT/ Bangkok Tel: +66-2-714 2073/4/5/6 Fax: 2071
Sat 0200-1100 Sun 0200-1000 GMT)

ASIA:

Yangon - Aung San Suu Kyi trial begins
(Myanmar-Justice)

Phnom Penh - First Khmer Rouge trial to resume after delay
(Cambodia-Justice)

Colombo - Sri Lanka army mopping up, refugee crisis looms
(SriLanka-Conflicts)

Islamabad - Troops close in on Taliban-controlled towns
(Pakistan-Conflicts)

Kabul - Developments in Afghanistan
(Afghan-Conflicts)

New Delhi - Political situation after Indian election results
(India-Politics)

MIDEAST:

Baghdad - Developments in Iraq
(Iraq-Conflicts)

Tel Aviv/
Gaza City - Situation in the Middle East
(Mideast-Conflicts)

EUROPE:

Schedule for Monday, May 18, 0300 GMT =

Geneva - Start of the 62nd World Health Assembly (WHA)
(World-Health)

- Further talks between Russia and Georgia under the
auspices of the UN (Russia-Conflicts/UN/Georgia)

Vilnius - Developments after Lithuania elects first female
president
(Lithuania-Elections)

AMERICAS:

Washington - Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to meet
President Obama (US-Diplomacy/Israel)

- Final spacewalk to update the Hubble space telescope
(US-Space)

SPORT PLANNED:

TENNIS

Dusseldorf - World Team Cup
(Tennis-ATP/Germany)

Hamburg - Men's and women's tennis rankings
(Tennis-ATP/Rankings, Tennis-WTA/Rankings)

FOOTBALL

Istanbul - Preview of UEFA Cup final, Shakhtar Donetsk
vs Werder Bremen
(Football-UEFACup)

London - Premier League match, Portsmouth vs Sunderland
(Football-England)

Johannesburg - FEATURE: Orange jumpsuits to Brazil yellow: the
other Confed Cup. By Clare Byrne
(730 words/Football-ConfCup/SAfrica)

Amman - FEATURE: Football rivalry sheds light on Jordanian
political taboo. By Elijah Zarwan
(830 words/Jordan-Society/Palestinians/Football/
previous cycle)

Hamburg - NEWS FEATURE: Wolfsburg getting ready to
celebrate German title. By Barry Whelan
(620 words/Football-Germany/previous cycle)

Madrid - FEATURE: Spanish media offer more praise for
champions Barcelona. By Duncan Shaw
(610 words/Football-Spain/Barcelona/previous cycle)

CYCLING

Giro d'Italia rest day

BASKETBALL

Los Angeles - NBA playoffs results of Sunday's games
(Basketball-NBA)

BACKGROUNDERS AND BYLINERS:

Schedule for Monday, May 18, 0300 GMT =

New Delhi - ANALYSIS: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers defeated, but problems remain. By Can Merey
(750 words/SriLanka-Conflicts/previous cycle)

Hamburg - CHRONOLOGY: The Sri Lankan-Tamil rebels conflict
(430 words/SriLanka-Conflicts/previous cycle)

New Delhi - NEWS FEATURE: India's Congress Party sets broad agenda after win. By Siddhartha Kumar
(750 words/India-Elections/previous cycle)

- FEATURE: Rahul Gandhi comes of age with India's 2009 elections. By Sunrita Sen
(740 words/India-Elections/previous cycle)

Isfahan, Iran - FEATURE: For Iran's students, election choice is between bad, worse. By Farshid Motahari
(725 words/Iran-Elections)

Baghdad - FEATURE: Baghdad checkpoints snarl traffic, raise motorists' ire. By Kadhem al-Attabi
(490 words/Iraq-Conflicts/Traffic/previous cycle)

Tel Aviv - PREVIEW: Netanyahu-Obama talks to set stage for future peace efforts
(400 words/Mideast-Conflicts/US/previous cycle)

Cannes - FEATURE: Asian directors show realism of gangland violence. By Andrew McCathie
(780 words/France-Cinema/Cannes/HongKong/previous cycle)

=====

dpa PACKAGE: GERMANY MARKS 60TH ANNIVERSARY
see separate schedule

=====

dpa-SPECIALS PLANNED

Bonn/Hamburg - Uncertainty over a parent's cancer is stressful for children (235 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Berlin - Low level noise pollution poses health risks
(170 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Hamburg - Dust sometimes beneficial to health, study shows
(220 words/ dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

New York - Bath with bleach effective against chronic eczema
(210 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Sydney - Anthropologists row over the hobbit
(280 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Science)

Stuttgart - Increasing activity relieves chronic pain
(290 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

May 1809 0306 GMT

Schedule for Monday, May 18, 0300 GMT =

Load-Date: May 18, 2009

End of Document

The 0530 GMT News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English

May 17, 2009 Sunday 5:55 AM GMT

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Length: 599 words

Dateline: HONG KONG, May 17 2009

Body

Duty Editor: Marc Carnegie

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

-- WORLD HEADLINES --

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka says all freed in 'victory'

YANGON: Doctor released before Suu Kyi trial

NEW DELHI: Ruling party basks in polls triumph

PESHAWAR: Northwest reels as army hunts Taliban

TAIPEI: Mass demonstration over pro-China policies

-- ASIA --

SriLanka-unrest,lead-WRAP

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka says it has rescued all remaining civilians held by the **Tamil Tigers**, after the island's president claimed final victory over the separatist rebels following decades of deadly conflict.

650 words 0600 GMT by Amal Jayasinghe. Picture

Myanmar-politics-SuuKyi,WRAP

YANGON

Myanmar's military rulers release the detained doctor of Aung San Suu Kyi, a day before the pro-democracy leader faces an internationally condemned trial on charges of breaching her house arrest.

The 0530 GMT News Advisory

500 words 0730 GMT

Myanmar-politics-SuuKyi-ASEAN,lead-FOCUS

BANGKOK

Myanmar's Southeast Asian neighbours have been largely silent over the upcoming trial of opposition leader Aung San Sui Kyi, in a fresh display of the bloc's failings as a diplomatic force, observers say.

600 words 0730 GMT by Danny Kemp

India-vote,lead-WRAP

NEW DELHI

India's Congress Party basks in its best electoral showing for decades, after steering its ruling alliance to a second term in office with a resounding win over its Hindu nationalist rivals.

650 words 0630 GMT

India-vote-Gandhi,lead-FOCUS

NEW DELHI

The Congress party's resounding victory in India's elections has shone the spotlight on its youthful star campaigner, Rahul Gandhi, heir to the Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty and a likely future prime minister.

650 words 0700 GMT by Penny MacRae. Picture

We have also moved: India-vote-economy,ANALYSIS

Pakistan-unrest,WRAP

PESHAWAR, Pakistan

Pakistan's northwest reels from a wave of violence as the death toll from a blast in a key city rises to 12 and the army continues their fierce campaign to drive out Taliban rebels that has sent more than a million civilians fleeing.

550 words 0800 GMT by Lehaq Ali

Taiwan-politics-demo-China,lead

TAIPEI

Taiwan's pro-independence opposition takes to the capital's streets to protest President Ma Ying-jeou's China-friendly policies, which they say have compromised the island's sovereignty.

550 words 0800 GMT by Benjamin Yeh. Picture

Health-flu-world,WRAP

KOBE, Japan

Nine more high school students test positive for swine flu in Japan, officials say, as top health officials gather in Geneva for talks on how to contain the spread of the virus.

600 words 0630 GMT by Shingo Ito

Lifestyle-Thailand-transsexual-tourism-pageant

PATTAYA, Thailand

Resplendent in a figure-hugging grey and black dress, Sorrawee Nattee wept tears of joy after being crowned Thailand's most beautiful transsexual at a unique pageant.

500 words moved by Newley Purnell. Picture

Malaysia-Somalia-piracy-shipping,ADVANCER

KUALA LUMPUR

International maritime experts, diplomats and security officials will meet here from Monday to map out ways to protect seafarers and the shipping industry from rampant piracy off Somalia's coast.

600 words moved by Romen Bose and M. Jegathesan

Entertainment-film-festival-Cannes-Australia,INTERVIEW

CANNES, France

Aboriginal director Warwick Thornton offers Cannes a tale of young love and a no-holds-barred look at the troubles blighting indigenous communities with the film "Samson and Delilah".

650 words moved by Emma Charlton. Picture.

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Kuwait-vote,newseries

KUWAIT CITY

Kuwaitis vote for change in their second polls in a year, giving women their first ever parliamentary seats and battering Sunni Islamic groups.

650 words 0800 GMT by Omar Hasan. Picture

afp

Load-Date: May 18, 2009

**PNG rioters strike Chinese shops; Sri Lanka bent on crushing Tamils;
Thousands flee Swat offensive; Burma pressured to free Suu Kyi; League
woman 'decent, stable'**

Kalgoorlie Miner (Western Australia)

May 16, 2009 Saturday

First Edition

Copyright 2009 West Australian NewsPapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: KAL; Pg. 6

Length: 598 words

Body

PORT MORESBY: Chinese nationals in Papua New Guinea have been subjected to attacks and protests for a third straight day, leading police to use tear gas against rioters.

Chinese-owned stores were ransacked in the capital Port Moresby on Wednesday and then in PNG's second largest city, Lae, on Thursday.

Police intervened yesterday morning in another anti-Chinese protest in Port Moresby, using tear gas to disperse a riot in a popular market directed at Chinese businesses.

Chinese nationals and businesses in Port Moresby have beefed up security, some hiring off-duty police as guards, while many have shut their shops as advised by their embassy.

COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan Government vowed yesterday to finish off the **Tamil Tigers** within 48 hours, defying international calls for a truce and warnings of a "humanitarian catastrophe" inside the rebel-held zone.

The signal that a final offensive against the beleaguered separatist guerrillas was imminent came as United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's chief of staff was rushing to the island in a fresh effort to stop the carnage.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the only neutral organisation working in the conflict area, said its staff were "witnessing an unimaginable humanitarian catastrophe."

Former colonial power Britain said it wanted an investigation into alleged war crimes, while the United States announced it was blocking a \$US2 billion International Monetary Fund bailout package for Sri Lanka.

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: Thousands fled fighting between government troops and Taliban in northwest Pakistan's Swat valley yesterday as the military suspended a curfew for eight hours, officials said.

The curfew was being eased in Swat's main city of Mingora. The authorities have advised residents to leave.

Witness say people are leaving in their thousands in their own private vehicles and the army had issued special passes to some 150 buses to transport people.

PNG rioters strike Chinese shops Sri Lanka bent on crushing Tamils Thousands flee Swat offensive Burma pressured to free Suu Kyi League woman 'decent, stable'

RANGOON: Burma faced intense international pressure yesterday to release pro-democracy hero Aung San Suu Kyi after she was imprisoned ahead of a new trial next week for breaching the terms of her house arrest. The ruling military junta took the Nobel Peace Prize laureate from her home on Thursday to Rangoon's notorious Insein prison, where she was charged over a bizarre incident in which an American man swam to her lakeside residence.

The United States led Western calls for her immediate release while rights groups urged the UN Security Council to intervene to help the 63-year-old, whose trial is due to start at the prison on Monday.

AUCKLAND: The woman at the centre of a group sex scandal involving Cronulla Sharks rugby league players was a "decent, stable type with her head screwed on", her former boss says.

Keith Burgess, the woman's manager at the Racecourse Hotel in Christchurch, where the incident occurred, said he had sympathy for the woman but also for the sportsmen involved.

"It's all a big bloody mess, if you ask me," Burgess said of fresh revelations that media personality Matthew Johns was involved in the 2002 group sex incident while he was playing for Cronulla.

Several other unidentified players took part in the incident with a 19-year-old female employee of the hotel, who later complained to police.

However, a police investigation at the time found no wrongdoing and police have since said the case will not be reopened.

Mr Burgess said the incident was a "nightmare that keeps repeating on me".

"We thought it had gone away finally, but it's back and to be honest I've had a bloody gutful of it all."

Load-Date: May 15, 2009

AFP 0700 GMT News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English

May 16, 2009 Saturday 7:01 AM GMT

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Length: 642 words

Dateline: PARIS, May 16 2009

Body

Duty Editor: Sarah Shard

Tel: + 33 1 4041 4636

-- TOP STORIES --

- + Sri Lanka takes last rebel coastline
- + Congress ahead in India's elections
- + Kuwaitis vote for second time in a year

SriLanka-unrest,lead-WRAP

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka says it has smashed the **Tamil Tigers**' maritime capability as Colombo presses on with an offensive to crush the rebels amid growing international pressure over its tactics.

500 words 0700 GMT by Amal Jayasinghe

India-vote,3rdlead-WRAP

NEW DELHI

India's ruling Congress-led alliance is set to return to power, after taking a commanding lead in vote counting from the country's marathon general elections.

600 words 0730 GMT. Picture. Video

Kuwait-vote,2ndlead

KUWAIT CITY

Frustrated Kuwaitis vote in the emirate's second general election in a year amid expectations of a low turnout, Islamists losing ground and women winning their first seats.

600 words 0730 GMT by Omar Hasan. Picture. Graphic

We will also move: Kuwait-vote-country-profile,FACTS

REGIONAL FILING PLANS

-- EUROPE --

British-politics,WRAP

LONDON

British police are to examine allegations over the lavish expenses of lawmakers after the scandal engulfs its first government minister and public anger grows at claims for widescreen TVs, "massage chairs" and luxury rugs.

700 words moved by Guy Jackson

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan-summit,2ndlead

TEHRAN

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is to host a summit with his counterparts from Afghanistan and Pakistan, less than three months after they met to discuss ways of rebuilding war-shattered Afghanistan.

500 words 0830 GMT

-- AMERICAS --

US-justice-military-rights-Guantanamo,newseries

WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama has revived Bush-era military tribunals for top Guantanamo Bay terror suspects that he once branded a "failure," but proposed new rules on evidence and detainee rights.

800 words 0730 GMT by Stephen Collinson

US-space-astronomy-Hubble,newseries

HOUSTON, Texas

Two US astronauts will venture into open space for a third time Saturday to continue repairs on the ailing Hubble Space Telescope and equip the 19-year-old observatory with a new key instrument.

700 words 0730 GMT by Mark Carreau

US-economy-unemployment-auto-company-GM-Chrysler

NEW YORK

Moves by ailing carmakers Chrysler and General Motors to slash their US dealerships will cost tens of thousands of jobs, taking a heavier toll than cuts in production, analysts say.

600 words 0730 GMT by Charlotte Raab

Canada-society-gay,ADVANCER

MONTREAL

The International Day Against Homophobia, initiated by a Quebec organization, will be celebrated in more than 50 countries this weekend, decrying discrimination against gays and lesbians.

500 words 0730 GMT by Philippe Sauvagnargues. Video

US-IT-computer-Internet-WolframAlpha-Google,lead

WASHINGTON

While not a traditional Web search engine, a challenger to Google emerges -- WolframAlpha, named after the man behind the venture, British-born computer scientist and inventor Stephen Wolfram.

700 words moved by Chris Lefkow

-- AFRICA --

Malawi-vote-justice-Muluzi,lead

BLANTYRE

Malawi's ex-president Bakili Muluzi's is to hear a constitutional court decision on his bid to run for president for a third time ahead of next weeks elections.

400 words 0930 GMT by Felix Mponda

-- ASIA --

Pakistan-unrest,WRAP

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan military continues its offensive against Taliban guerrillas in the northwest of the country after tens of thousands more civilians take advantage of a curfew suspension to flee the conflict zone.

550 words 0730 GMT. Picture

Afghanistan-unrest-Iran-NATO-security

HERAT, Afghanistan

AFP 0700 GMT News Advisory

One of Afghanistan's safest areas, the region around Herat, risks falling prey to increased violence as troops flood in to try to quell the insurgency, NATO officers and diplomats say.

700 words 0700 GMT by Lorne Cook

afp

Load-Date: May 17, 2009

End of Document

OPINION

Northern Territory News (Australia)

October 23, 2009 Friday

1 - Edition

Copyright 2009 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: OPINION; Pg. 11

Length: 566 words

Body

Crossin abuses

taxpayers

I READ with dismay yet another politician on an overseas jaunt seems to think it is OK to abuse taxpayers by allowing her husband to tag along all because she has a broken wrist.

You poor dear Senator Crossin, perhaps an all-expenses-paid trip for all the disabled and disadvantaged in the NT is in order.

Toby Ryan, Stuart Park

Refugees our

responsibility

WE, along with most western nations, have a responsibility to accept refugees.

Our involvement in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq has led to an increase in refugees. We have a moral responsibility for them.

In the case of the Tamil refugees marooned in Indonesia, the Australian government under John Howard declared the ***Tamil Tigers*** a terrorist organisation, a declaration Rudd has done nothing about (much as he's done nothing about the draconian anti-terrorist laws).

This declaration has allowed the persecution of Tamil civilians under the guise of anti-terrorist actions to go unchecked and unhindered.

Meanwhile, a good many citizens, some no doubt sporting that obscene sticker on their car, (F*** off we're full) were full of talk about a refugee invasion.

The truth is most of the world's refugees flee to countries neighbouring their own, countries that are economically struggling and have their own serious health and social issues.

These poor countries take up most of the displaced citizens of the world.

OPINION

The few refugees that get anywhere near Australia are infinitesimal comparative to the number out there. So move over, we have plenty of room.

Rohan Wightman, Parap

Cask drinkers

not drunkards

I TOOK offence to the Liquor Licensing Chairman saying that cask buyers were only interested in ``Getting more bang for their buck".

While this is true in many cases, the chairman obviously lives in a different world to many pensioners.

I buy 4L/bottle class premium casks at about \$23 each, not much different to some bottles, and drink responsibly at home with evening meals. Is this pleasure now to be denied me?

We all know, but are afraid to say, that there are two major problems up here.

One is pubs and clubs being open to 4am. The other is some itinerants with alcohol related problems.

Why don't the authorities face reality and treat the cause of these problems and not just tinker with the results? Why must law abiding people be penalised?

Brian Brown, Darwin

Keep abreast

of the times

INTERESTING debate going on about real or fake boobs.

I guess women have to keep abreast of the times.

All I can say is ``thanks for the mammaries".

R Harris, Darwin

Rejected rider

deserves answer

I FOUND the article on October 20 regarding membership of the quarter horse association disgraceful.

Fancy a horse riding club rejecting a 14 year old girl, and not providing a reason.

This is a young girl spending her spare time riding horses, being fit, healthy and staying out of trouble, doing something she loves.

And we Territorians wonder why so many of our youths turn to crime, violence and drugs.

Shame on you NT Quarter Horse Association -- and especially to Jane Cross for her comments.

Name and address withheld by request

Letters to the Editor should be kept to 175 words or less. Send your letters to GPO Box 1300, Darwin, 0801, or email ntnmail@ntn.newsltd.com.au

OPINION

You must include your name, home address or PO Box number. Name and address will be withheld on request.
The Northern Territory News reserves the right to edit letters

Load-Date: October 22, 2009

End of Document

Indians in Sri Lankan jails seek Indian intervention

Indo-Asian News Service

July 22, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 596 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

New Delhi, July. 22 -- Some 40 Indian prisoners languishing in Sri Lanka's prisons are seeking humane treatment, alleging that Indian officials appear deaf to their pleadings and complaints.

A spokesman for the prisoners said some had spent 16 years in jail, but Indian authorities were making no efforts to get them released, in contrast to the concern periodically shown to Indian prisoners in Pakistan. One of the prisoners who contacted IANS using a borrowed mobile telephone said that most of the Indians in three jails were suffering from all kinds of mental and physical ailments. "Life sentence in Sri Lanka means spending the whole life in jail. We are all suffering from various mental and physical problems.

No one is bothered, Sir," the prisoner said. According to a statement laid on the table of the Lok Sabha July 8 by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, a total of 6,540 Indians are jailed in 59 countries on a variety of charges. The statement said Sri Lanka had 33 male and four **female** Indian prisoners. But the Indian who spoke to IANS put the figure at 43 -- 28 at the Wellikade jail, 10 in Ngombo and five in Anuradhapura. The charges against the Indians are mostly of drug trafficking and illegal immigration. "During trial, we admitted guilty because we did not have financial help to appoint lawyers. We are all from very poor families," said the Indian prisoner, adding that the convicts were mostly from Tamil Nadu and Kerala, two coastal states closest to northern Sri Lanka. None of them had any links with the now vanquished **Tamil Tigers**. "The medical treatment is very poor," said the prisoner, adding that he was speaking for all the Indians in Sri Lankan jails. "Five Indians died in jail due to lack of proper medical treatment." According to this prisoner, one of the Indians who died recently was Mustafa, aged 76. "He had to spend three years in jail after his release order. Eventually he died in judicial custody." The prisoner said that in contrast, the Pakistan government used its clout in Sri Lanka to get its prisoners released under a bilateral pact. He said Gopalkrishna Gandhi was the only Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka who got six Indian prisoners freed - all **female**. Indian diplomats in Colombo could not be reached for comments for this story. The prisoner said he and his colleagues had petitioned, separately and collectively, many Indian politicians including present Home Minister P. Chidambaram, Defence Minister A.K. Antony and Minister of State for Railways E. Ahamed. "We have spoken to these ministers through various channels just as we have managed to contact you," he said, when asked how they had contacted Indian leaders. He claimed that the prisoners got replies to their petitions from the Indian president, the external affairs minister as well as the high commissioner in Colombo, promising suitable action. "But there is no progress in our case, and nothing positive happens for us," he said. "The least we want is consular and legal access, better treatment and if possible early release. Even if we have to spend the rest of our lives in jail, we will prefer to do so in India." He added: "We see from newspapers that the government of India is extremely concerned when it comes to the issue of Indians in Pakistani jails. We are ignored. Is it because we are not north Indians?" (T.G. Biju can be contacted at biju.t@ians.in) Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service. For more information on news feed please contact Surit Das at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Indians in Sri Lankan jails seek Indian intervention

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: July 23, 2009

End of Document

SCOPP to close down

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

July 25, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 318 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, July 25 -- The Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) will permanently close down with effect from July 31 and different units under it will be operated through line ministries, its Secretary General Prof. Rajiva Wijesinha said.

"SCOOP being a facilitator for peace process in Sri Lanka, had several departments playing different important roles during the war times. With the ending of the war we will wrap up the office at BMICH on July 31," he said. Prof. Wijesinha said that once they close the office they will possibly work through Ministries and also will publish a monthly and a six month magazine. Further, its employees will probably join other firms and the relevant ministries, he said. SCOOP had six departments under its management, namely, economic affairs, policy making, social affairs, out reach unit, legal and IDP unit. They will possibly work through relevant line ministries because from its inception it did not have powers to implement anything, he said. He also said that condition of IDPs in camps are getting better day by day and the Government is spending a colossal sum to maintain them and to improve their living condition by providing food, clean water and other hygienic facilities. At present nearly 300,000 people are in IDP camps. A community center for every 5,000 persons will be constructed with the initiative of UNHCR, he said. Prof. Wijesinha said a total of 9,500 **LTTE** cadres are being held, having either surrendered or been identified by the Security Forces and **women** had been separated from men and these people will be rehabilitated so that they can live normal life. Vocational training and English and Sinhala teaching programs will be started for young children, he said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Surit Das at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: July 25, 2009

Sri Lanka may pardon surrendering rebel fighters

The Associated Press

May 3, 2009 Sunday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 599 words

Byline: By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka's government said Sunday it is considering an amnesty for Tamil Tiger rebels who surrender although not for leaders of the insurgency, which is facing defeat after 25 years of civil war.

The rebels, meanwhile, asked Britain and France to keep pushing for a cease-fire after the European nations' recent failure to secure a halt in the fighting to allow civilians to evacuate the war zone.

An estimated 50,000 noncombatants are trapped in a tiny coastal strip along with the cornered rebels in the island's northeast. A recent United Nations report said about 6,500 civilians were killed in the area during the past three months.

The government has rejected the cease-fire calls, saying it is on the verge of victory.

Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said officials from the attorney general's department are studying the legal basis for a possible pardon for rebels who surrender but a final decision has not been made.

He said any such offer would not be open to rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and others convicted in Sri Lanka for various attacks or wanted in neighboring India for the 1991 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"The leadership will be dealt with under the laws of the country," Samarasinghe said.

Gandhi was blown up by a suspected Tamil Tiger **female** suicide bomber at an election rally in southern India in apparent revenge for sending a peacekeeping force to Sri Lanka in 1987.

Samarasinghe said the government also plans to offer vocational training for surrendering rebels to help them reintegrate into society.

Tamil Tiger leaders have vowed no surrender. Every fighter is meant to wear a cyanide capsule and swears an oath to swallow the capsule to avoid capture.

But the government says a number of rebels have already surrendered including the group's former media spokesman and an interpreter for its political wing.

Sri Lanka may pardon surrendering rebel fighters

The **Tamil Tigers**' political head, Balasingham Nadesan, wrote Saturday to British Foreign Secretary David Miliband and his French counterpart, Bernard Kouchner, saying the insurgents are ready to "engage in the process to bring about a cease-fire and enter into negotiations for an enduring resolution to the conflict."

Excerpts of Nadesan's letter were e-mailed to news organizations.

Miliband and Kouchner visited Sri Lanka last week to press for a truce, but the government refused to let up its offensive.

Fighting continued Sunday. The military said it captured a 500-yard (meter) -long earth fortification erected by the rebels to slow the army's advance.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said the rebels were now confined to just a 2.8-mile (4.5-kilometer) coastal stretch. He did not give casualty details from the battle.

The government says the rebels are using civilians as human shields in their final stand.

International pressure for a cease-fire is likely to grow after a pro-rebel Web site reported Saturday that government forces shelled a makeshift hospital in the war zone, killing 64 patients and bystanders.

A government doctor working there confirmed the death toll but declined to say who was responsible for the attack.

The government, which has promised not to use heavy weapons in the densely packed conflict zone, denied the report.

The rebels have fought since 1983 to create an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils, who have suffered decades of marginalization by successive governments controlled by majority ethnic Sinhalese. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the violence.

The rebel group is banned by the United States and the European Union as a terrorist organization.

Load-Date: May 4, 2009

Sri Lanka may pardon surrendering rebel fighters

Associated Press Online

May 3, 2009 Sunday 3:17 PM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 599 words

Byline: By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

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International pressure for a cease-fire is likely to grow after a pro-rebel Web site reported Saturday that government forces shelled a makeshift hospital in the war zone, killing 64 patients and bystanders.

A government doctor working there confirmed the death toll but declined to say who was responsible for the attack.

The government, which has promised not to use heavy weapons in the densely packed conflict zone, denied the report.

The rebels have fought since 1983 to create an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils, who have suffered decades of marginalization by successive governments controlled by majority ethnic Sinhalese. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the violence.

The rebel group is banned by the United States and the European Union as a terrorist organization.

Load-Date: May 4, 2009

AFP 1000 GMT News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English

May 16, 2009 Saturday 10:03 AM GMT

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Length: 670 words

Dateline: PARIS, May 16 2009

Body

Duty Editor: Martin Bennett

Tel: + 33 1 4041 4636

-- TOP STORIES --

+ Sri Lanka takes last rebel coastline

+ India's Congress storms to victory

+ Kuwaitis vote for second time in a year

SriLanka-unrest,2ndlead-WRAP

COLOMBO

Sri Lankan troops capture the last strip of beach held by the **Tamil Tigers**, leaving the rebels completely surrounded and allegedly planning to commit "mass suicide."

600 words 1100 GMT by Amal Jayasinghe. Picture

India-vote,5thlead-WRAP

NEW DELHI

India's ruling Congress-led alliance storms to a commanding election victory, crushing its Hindu nationalist rivals and setting up a second term for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

700 words 1100 GMT by Rupam Jain Nair. Picture. Video

Kuwait-vote,3rdlead

KUWAIT

Frustrated Kuwaitis vote in the emirate's second general election in a year amid expectations of a low turnout, Islamists losing ground and **women** winning their first seats.

650 words 1230 GMT by Omar Hasan. Picture. Graphic

REGIONAL FILING PLANS

-- EUROPE --

Russia-gays-demo,3rdlead

MOSCOW

Moscow police arrest around 20 activists at a gay rights protest, dragging some of them into trucks just hours before the final of the Eurovision Song Contest is to start in the Russian capital.

550 words 1100 GMT by Olga Rotenberg. Picture

Britain-EEurope-finance-economy-banking-EBRD-emerge,WRAP

LONDON

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development continues its annual meeting here, with the focus on guiding crisis-hit central and eastern Europe towards economic recovery.

500 words 1100 GMT by Roland Jackson

Lithuania-vote,lead

VILNIUS

Recession-hit braces for a presidential election expected to propel EU budget commissioner Dalia Grybauskaite, a fierce critic of Vilnius' handling of the economy, to power in her Baltic homeland.

600 words 1015 GMT by Marielle Vitureau. Picture

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan-summit,3rdlead

TEHRAN

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will on Tuesday host a mini-summit with his counterparts from Afghanistan and Pakistan, to discuss rebuilding of war-shattered Afghanistan.

500 words 1300 GMT by Jay Deshmukh

Mideast-Palestinian-politics, lead

CAIRO

AFP 1000 GMT News Advisory

Palestinian representatives from president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party and the Islamist Hamas movement begin a new round of reconciliation talks in Cairo.

500 words 1200 GMT

-- AMERICAS --

US-justice-military-rights-Guantanamo,lead

WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama has revived Bush-era military tribunals for top Guantanamo Bay terror suspects that he once branded a "failure," but proposed new rules on evidence and detainee rights.

800 words 1030 GMT by Stephen Collinson

US-space-astronomy-Hubble,newseries

HOUSTON, Texas

Two US astronauts will venture into open space for a third time Saturday to continue repairs on the ailing Hubble Space Telescope and equip the 19-year-old observatory with a new key instrument.

700 words moved by Mark Carreau

-- AFRICA --

Nigeria-oil-unrest-Philippines,3rdlead

LAGOS

Six Filipinos and four Nigerians held hostage by militants aboard a ship in the volatile Niger Delta were freed overnight by the Nigerian army, an army spokesman says.

600 words moved by Aderogba Obisesan

Malawi-vote-justice-Muluzi

BLANTYRE

Malawi's constitutional court dismisses ex-president Bakili Muluzi's application to run for president for a third time ahead of next weeks elections.

400 words 1030 GMT by Felix Mponda

-- ASIA --

Pakistan-unrest,WRAP-lead

PESHAWAR, Pakistan

Pakistan's military presses its offensive against Taliban militants in the northwest of the country as the UN refugee agency confirms that more than 980,000 people have fled fighting in the last two weeks.

650 words 1200 GMT

We will also move: Pakistan-unrest-northwest-blast,3rdlead

-- ENTERTAINMENT --

Entertainment-film-festival-Cannes

CANNES, France

Oscar-winning director Ang Lee brings a message of hope to Cannes in these troubled times with a "peace and love" movie set at Woodstock in 1969.

500 words 1200 GMT. Picture. Video

afp

Load-Date: May 17, 2009

End of Document

58 LTTE Child Soldiers Admitted for Rehabilitation

Colombo Times

May 1, 2009 Friday

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Length: 154 words

Body

Colombo, May 1 -- FIFTY EIGHT **LTTE** child soldiers under eighteen years of age who surrendered to the Security Forces in the past few weeks were delivered to the VAVUNIYA Police on a District Court order to be taken to AMBEPUSSA Rehabilitation Centre for Children for Rehabilitation.

The VAVUNIYA Police on Thursday (30) produced them before the VAVUNIYA District court.

Thirty eight males and twenty **females** between 14-18 years of age were among those surrendees. Most of them had been forcibly separated from their parents and beloved ones by terrorists in the past 1-2 years.

The VAVUNIYA Police accordingly took all the child soldiers on a bus to AMBEPUSSA Friday (1) morning to be received by authorities. Reports said that those children, some of who remain traumatized or psychologically unbalanced were to be referred for counseling and medication.

Published by HT Syndication with permission from The Colombo Times.

Load-Date: May 18, 2009

The 0100 GMT News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English

April 19, 2009 Sunday 1:24 AM GMT

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Length: 658 words

Dateline: HONG KONG, April 19 2009

Body

Duty Editor: Marc Carnegie

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

-- WORLD HEADLINES --

TEHRAN: US reporter gets eight years in prison

PORT OF SPAIN: US 'anxious' for sign from Cuba

ZAMBOANGA: One hostage still held in Philippines

-- ASIA --

Philippines-attacks-kidnap-ICRC

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines

Two hostages have been freed but Islamic militants in the southern Philippines are still holding a third, an Italian Red Cross worker who was kidnapped with the others more than three months ago.

550 words 0330 GMT

Thailand-politics-protest-society,ANALYSIS

BANGKOK

A gun attack on a leading Thai activist days after bloody battles between troops and protesters in Bangkok has brought the murky rifts among Thailand's elite to the surface, analysts say.

700 words 0400 GMT by Claire Truscott

Cricket-IPL,ROUNDUP

CAPE TOWN

Veteran leg-spinner Anil Kumble and batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar grab the headlines on the dramatic opening day of the Indian Premier League in South Africa.

400 words moved by Chris Burnes. Picture

SriLanka-unrest-Prabhakaran,FOCUS

COLOMBO

As Sri Lanka's decades-long civil war moves into what appears to be a bloody end game, all eyes are on a small strip of coastal jungle, looking for any sign of the Tamil Tigers' elusive leader.

550 words 0300 GMT by Amal Jayasinghe. File picture

India-vote-eunuchs,FOCUS

NEW DELHI

India's one million eunuchs face a unique dilemma every election season -- do they stand in the men's or women's queue at polling stations or stay away altogether?

500 words 0330 GMT by Yasmeen Mohiuddin. File picture

Asia-attacks-technology-Internet

SINGAPORE

Southeast Asian militants are increasingly using the Internet to spread radical ideas, recruit and train supporters, researchers warn, urging regional governments to take action.

650 words 0400 GMT

Health-China-politics,FOCUS

SIZIWANGQI, China

Wang Jun's eyesight is slowly deteriorating from suspected glaucoma but there is nothing hazy about his view of China's health system, which he sees as "really inadequate" -- a widely held view that Beijing is hoping to change.

650 words 0230 GMT by Dan Martin. Picture

Afghanistan-unrest-military-security,SCENE

NISHAGAM, Afghanistan

Nearly eight years after the fall of the Taliban regime, Afghan troops still lack equipment to deal with the increasingly sophisticated tactics of the resurgent fundamentalist movement, and are grappling with the basics.

700 words 0300 GMT by Charlotte McDonald-Gibson. Picture

-- EUROPE --

Germany-US-attacks-trial-Sauerland,ADVANCER

DUESSELDORF, Germany

The 0100 GMT News Advisory

Germany will launch one of its biggest terror trials in decades Wednesday against four alleged Islamic extremists accused of plotting devastating attacks against US interests.

700 words 0130 GMT by Audrey Kauffmann. File picture

Entertainment-books-library-Internet-UNESCO,ADVANCER

PARIS

The World Digital Library, a website offering free access to rare books, maps, manuscripts, films and photographs from across the globe, launches Tuesday at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

550 words 0200 GMT

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Iran-US-media-trial,newseries

TEHRAN

US President Barack Obama says he is deeply disappointed with a court verdict in Tehran, where US journalist Roxana Saberi has been sentenced to eight years in prison on charges of spying for the United States.

600 words 0230 GMT

-- AFRICA --

SAfrica-vote,ADVANCER

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa votes Wednesday in general elections expected to elevate ruling party leader Jacob Zuma to the presidency, less than a month after prosecutors dropped corruption charges against him.

700 words 0200 GMT by Charlotte Plantive. Picture. Graphic. Video.

We will also move: SAfrica-vote-Zuma,PROFILE

SAfrica-vote-presidents,FACTS

SAfrica-vote-facts,FACTS

-- AMERICAS --

Americas-summit-Trinidad,6thlead-WRAP

PORT OF SPAIN

The United States says it is "anxious" for a sign that Cuba wants to improve ties, after both countries expressed willingness for historic talks on a wide range of sensitive issues.

600 words 0130 GMT by Laurent Lozano. Picture.

Load-Date: April 19, 2009

Blair's gospel of faith and public health

The Toronto Star
April 28, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. A15

Length: 639 words

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn, Toronto Star

Body

Like a peripatetic preacher, Tony Blair brought his message of faith - and fear of fundamentalism - to Toronto the Good this month.

From his new pulpit, the former British prime minister is as persuasive and impassioned as they come. That his time came - and went - quite some time ago doesn't deter him.

The doubters will never forgive his role as exhorter-in-chief when America's commander-in-chief invaded Iraq, and so Blair's historical legacy will always be a political casualty of George Bush's War.

In his latest incarnation, he is spreading the gospel for the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, which promotes religion as a force for good. In his pitch, however, he acknowledges the growing concern that religion is itself a cause of conflict.

Not just in the usual places - Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan - but in the places we rarely hear about: Mindanao, Yemen, Algeria.

Now, his foundation seeks to harness the positive energy of the world's major religious faiths as a bulwark against extremism, prejudice and disease. And he wants to enlist religion's global infrastructure - the places of worship that exist in every village and neighbourhood - to galvanize people of faith in his campaigns.

Like the fight against malaria, which kills 1 million people a year.

Blair's idea is to exploit Africa's religious infrastructure in places where it is often better situated and more fully staffed than the local government health clinic. Here in Toronto, he has joined forces with former MP Belinda Stronach's foundation to support distribution of mosquito nets abroad.

By blending these two objectives - private faith and public health - I think Blair has hit on something.

It certainly hit home for me. Listening to him speak, I kept thinking of the two fears that travelled with me during a decade living abroad as a foreign correspondent:

Mosquitoes and mujahideen. Both kept me awake nights.

Blair's gospel of faith and public health

It was easy enough to slip under mosquito nets and use repellents, but the bugs always bit me. Exasperation always gave way to empathy when I saw the local kids who couldn't access the medicines that protected me. Malaria is eminently preventable, which makes the death toll so unfair.

As for the mujahideen I once covered - be they Holy Warriors in the Taliban, Al Qaeda, or some other local manifestation - their terror speaks for itself. Even without Blair, they get plenty of press these days - far more than the mosquitoes, though they kill far fewer people.

Our understandable fear of the Islamists has obscured some important truths.

First, faith is closely tied to culture. Religion often takes the rap for traditional practices that have been grafted on over the centuries. People often unfairly link female genital mutilation to Islam, when in fact it is practised by Coptic Christians in Egypt and is actively discouraged by an Islamist government in Sudan. Honour killings are also blamed on Islam when they are rooted in tribal practices.

Second, Islamic fundamentalists are not alone. Hindu fundamentalists launched a pogrom against minority Muslims in India's Gujarat state 2002. Jewish fundamentalists have wreaked havoc in Hebron and other West Bank settlements, thwarting peace.

Sikh separatists turned much of the Punjab into a battleground two decades ago. And Buddhist chauvinists suppressed Tamil aspirations in Sri Lanka, giving rise to the terrorist Tamil Tigers (who in turn acted brutally towards the country's Muslim minority).

Against that backdrop, Blair's foundation focuses on the world's six major faiths - Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism.

Taken together, they can do a world of good. His agenda is hopelessly ambitious. But if it diverts a few mujahideen, a monk, or a mosquito, it is a vision worth preaching - and pursuing.

Martin Regg Cohn, the Star's deputy editorial page editor, writes Tuesday.

Load-Date: April 28, 2009

The 1030 GMT News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English

April 24, 2009 Friday 10:32 AM GMT

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Length: 646 words

Dateline: HONG KONG, April 24 2009

Body

Duty Editor: Claire Cozens

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

-- WORLD HEADLINES --

KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka: Army says rebel leader trapped

PESHAWAR: Taliban withdraw from Pakistan district

BANGKOK: Thai PM lifts state of emergency in capital

BAGHDAD: Dozens killed in shrine blast

-- ASIA --

SriLanka-unrest,2ndlead-WRAP

KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka

The leader of Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** is trapped in a small strip of jungle in the northeast and intends to make a final stand with his surviving forces, an army commander says.

650 words 1045 GMT by Nicolas Revise. Graphic. Picture

We have already moved: SriLanka-unrest-rebels,SCENE

Pakistan-unrest-northwest,lead-WRAP

PESHAWAR, Pakistan

Taliban fighters start withdrawing from a district outside the Pakistani capital where the government deployed extra forces under US pressure to stop hardliners advancing closer to the capital.

650 words 1100 GMT

The 1030 GMT News Advisory

We have already moved: Pakistan-unrest-northwest-peace,ANALYSIS

NKorea-Russia-SKorea-nuclear,4thlead

SEOUL

Russia's foreign minister leaves Pyongyang after apparently struggling in his mission to persuade North Korea to return to international nuclear disarmament talks.

600 words 1230 GMT. Picture

NKorea-US-military-media,4thlead

SEOUL

North Korea says two detained **female** US journalists will stand trial for unspecified crimes, a move seen by analysts as pressuring Washington to open direct dialogue.

650 words moved by Park Chan-Kyong

Thailand-politics-protest,3rdlead-WRAP

BANGKOK

Thai Premier Abhisit Vejjajiva lifts a state of emergency imposed in Bangkok after violent protests but says troops will remain deployed amid opposition plans to take to the streets again.

650 words 1130 GMT by Boonradom Chitradon. Graphic, Picture

India-attacks-trial,lead

MUMBAI

A Pakistani national on trial in India over the Mumbai attacks is to undergo dental and X-ray tests to determine whether he is a minor who should be tried in a juvenile court, a judge rules.

450 words 1100 GMT by Salil Panchal

Britain-military-Nepal-politics-immigration,3rdlead

LONDON

The British government refuses to offer full settlement rights to all former Gurkhas despite a High Court ruling last year, in a move slammed by the Nepalese ex-soldiers and their supporters.

500 words moved by Katherine Haddon. Picture.

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Iraq-unrest,WRAP

BAGHDAD

Dozens of people are killed in a blast outside a major Shiite shrine in Baghdad, police say, a day after two suicide bombings killed more than 80 people on the deadliest day in Iraq in 14 months.

500 words 1130 GMT by Salam Faraj

-- AFRICA --

Sudan-conflict-Darfur-Chad-rebels,INTERVIEW

NEAR EL GENEINA, Sudan

Chadian rebel leader Timan Erdimi sits in the shade of a mango tree near a dried-up wadi in western Sudan charting out a strategy to topple the government of neighbouring Chad.

700 words 1100 GMT by Guillaume Lavallee. Picture

-- EUROPE --

WHO-health-flu-US-Mexico,3rdlead

GENEVA

Hundreds of human cases of swine flu have been reported in Mexico and the US in recent weeks, including 57 suspected deaths around Mexico City, the World Health Organisation says.

500 words 1200 GMT

Armenia-Turkey-history-diplomacy,lead

YEREVAN

Armenians mark the 94th anniversary of mass killings of their kin under the Ottoman Empire amid signs that decades-old tensions with Turkey may be easing.

600 words 1200 GMT by Mariam Harutunian. Pictures.

G8-climate-warming,lead

SYRACUSE, Italy

Climate change talks gathering the world's top polluters create new momentum towards an overall deal to fight global warming, though 'fundamental differences' remain.

600 words 1200 GMT by Gina Doggett

-- AMERICAS --

Finance-economy-G7-G20,2ndlead

WASHINGTON

The finance officials of the Group of 20 developed and developing countries meet here Friday to try to fine-tune their responses to the global economic crisis after the London G20 summit.

700 words 1100 GMT by Marc Jourdier

afp

Load-Date: April 25, 2009

The 1030 GMT News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English

May 1, 2009 Friday 10:37 AM GMT

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Dateline: HONG KONG, May 1 2009

Body

Duty Editor: Huw Griffith

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

-- WORLD HEADLINES --

MEXICO CITY: Mexico in shutdown to fight flu

PESHAWAR: Pakistan army, Taliban in fierce clashes

TOKYO: Japan jobless rate hits four-year high

-- SWINE FLU --

Health-flu-world,2ndlead-WRAP

MEXICO CITY

Mexico starts a five day shut down to try to halt the spread of swine flu as the virus spreads further around the world.

700 words 1145 GMT by Marc Burleigh. Graphic. Picture. Video

Health-flu-IT-Internet,2ndlead

SAN FRANCISCO

Cyber crooks are capitalizing on influenza fears with torrents of email promising "swine flu" news but delivering malware or dubious offers for potency drugs or penis enlargement.

650 words moved by Glenn Chapman

Health-flu-Philippines-pork-lifestyle,FOCUS

The 1030 GMT News Advisory

MANILA

Known locally as "lechon," the Philippine signature dish of slowly roasted pig is still very much on the menu despite the deadly swine flu outbreak which has rapidly spread around the world.

750 words moved by Heinz Brobo. Picture

-- ASIA --

Pakistan-unrest,WRAP-lead

PESHAWAR, Pakistan

Taliban militants kidnap 10 security personnel as Pakistan's offensive against the Islamist fighters runs into fierce resistance in the country's troubled northwest.

700 words 1100 GMT by Lehaaz Ali. Picture

Finance-economy-Japan,lead-WRAP

TOKYO

Japan's jobless rate hits a more than four-year high as deflation returns to haunt the world's number two economy, which is reeling from its worst slump since World War II.

700 words moved by Daniel Rook

Srilanka-unrest,lead-WRAP

COLOMBO

Sri Lankan troops press on with their blistering offensive against the **Tamil Tigers** ahead of a final push aimed at taking the last stretch of beach and jungle from the ethnic rebels after decades of fighting.

500 words 1130 GMT by Amal Jayasinghe

Finance-economy-Asia-ADB,lead-ADVANCER

MANILA

The Asian Development Bank gathers on the Indonesian island of Bali this weekend for its annual meeting against the backdrop of a crippling economic crisis and the threat of a flu pandemic.

600 words moved

Finance-economy-India,FOCUS

NEW DELHI

India's economy, buffeted by the global meltdown, could start recovering by mid-year amid signs of revival in business confidence, manufacturing and credit growth, economists say.

700 words moved by Penny MacRae

-- AMERICAS --

US-auto-company-Chrysler-Fiat,lead

WASHINGTON

The 1030 GMT News Advisory

Chrysler files for bankruptcy, idling most of its plants, but President Barack Obama insists that a quick restructuring in partnership with Italy's Fiat would give the US carmaker "a new lease on life."

750 words 1100 GMT by Rob Lever

-- EUROPE --

Mayday-demo-world,lead-WRAP

BERLIN

Police in Germany and Turkey fight pitched battles with May Day demonstrators as the traditional labour rallies around the world are dominated by the international economic crisis.

650 words 1130 GMT. Pictures

Netherlands-royals-crime,lead

THE HAGUE

A man who tried to ram his car into the Dutch royal family, killing five onlookers at a parade, dies in hospital as details emerge at how he had lost his job and was about to lose his home.

600 words 1200 GMT by Mariette le Roux

Azerbaijan-crime-shooting,lead-WRAP

BAKU

Hundreds of students gather to mourn the victims of a mass shooting that left 13 dead at a university in Azerbaijan as police announce the detention of a suspect in connection with the tragedy.

500 words 1130 GMT by Emil Guliyev

Entertainment-Britain-poetry,lead

LONDON

Britain names its first **female** -- and openly gay -- poet laureate, to follow in the footsteps of renowned bards such as William Wordsworth and Alfred Lord Tennyson.

450 words 1200 GMT. Picture

afp

Load-Date: May 2, 2009

The 1900 News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English

May 24, 2009 Sunday 7:09 PM GMT

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Length: 662 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON, May 24 2009

Body

Duty Editor: Michael Mathes

News Desk: +1 202 414 0541

-- TOP STORIES --

+ Pakistan army battles in Taliban-held Swat town

+ Netanyahu: Israel will expand settlements

Pakistan-unrest,lead-WRAP

PESHAWAR, Pakistan

Pakistan's military says it has seized several key areas in the Swat valley's Taliban-held main town, as their battle to regain control of the northwest reaches a crucial phase.

735 words moved by Le haz Ali

We have also moved: Pakistan-unrest-Taliban-military,FOCUS

Mideast-conflict-diplomacy-Israel,6thlead

JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel will continue to expand settlements in the occupied West Bank despite calls by main ally the United States to stop.

700 words moved by Ron Bousso. Picture

-- ASIA --

The 1900 News Advisory

SriLanka-unrest,3rdlead-WRAP

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** admit for the first time that their leader was killed by government forces a week ago as the UN demands better access for civilians displaced in recent fighting.

610 words moved by Amal Jayasinghe. Picture

SKorea-politics-Roh,2ndlead

BONGHA, South Korea

Thousands of South Korean mourners pay their last respects to former president Roh Moo-Hyun, whose shock death by apparent suicide came as he faced a massive corruption scandal.

650 words moved by Jung Yeon-Je. Picture

Myanmar-politics-SuuKyi,lead-WRAP

YANGON

Lawyers for Myanmar pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi say they are preparing to open the defence case at her trial this week, as the junta looks set to face further pressure from the West.

700 words moved

-- EUROPE --

Austria-crime-shooting,2ndlead

VIENNA

Some 30 people are wounded, nine of them seriously, as rival factions in the Sikh community clash inside a temple in the Austrian capital, police and emergency services say.

500 words moved. Picture

Finance-economy-energy-oil-G8

ROME

Energy ministers from G8 countries warn oil prices could again soar when the global economic crisis subsides and demand returns, calling for energy-linked investments to head off the possibility.

550 words 2000 GMT. Picture

-- CANNES FILM FESTIVAL --

Entertainment-film-festival-Cannes,5thlead-WRAP

CANNES, France

Michael Haneke's "The White Ribbon," a chilling study of malice in a German village on the eve of World War I, takes the coveted Palme d'Or as the Cannes film festival comes to a close.

650 words 2000 GMT by Rory Mulholland. Picture, Video

We will also move Entertainment-film-festival-Cannes-Haneke,PROFILE

The 1900 News Advisory

Entertainment-film-festival-Cannes-actress,2ndlead

CANNES, France

France's Charlotte Gainsbourg clinches Cannes' best actress award for her taboo-defying role as a woman driven insane by grief in the shock Danish thriller "Antichrist".

600 words 1930 GMT by Emma Charlton. Picture, Video

Entertainment-film-festival-Cannes-Asia

CANNES, France

Asia's dark pictures make a splash at Cannes, with awards going out to films from China, South Korea and the Philippines.

600 words 2000 GMT by Claire Rosemberg

-- AFRICA --

Entertainment-Morocco-music-disaster,6thlead

RABAT

A stampede at a world music festival in the Moroccan capital Rabat, which featured top names such as Stevie Wonder and Kylie Minogue, left at least 11 people dead, most of them women and children.

500 words moved. Picture

Sudan-conflict-Darfur-Chad,2ndlead,WRAP

Darfur rebels take control of the town of Umm Baru near the border with Chad after violent clashes with Sudanese army forces, the UN says.

550 words 1930 GMT by Guillaume Lavallee.

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan-summit,4thlead

TEHRAN

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his counterparts from Afghanistan and Pakistan declare their joint commitment to battling Islamist extremism and drug smuggling.

700 words moved by Farhad Pouladi. Picture

-- AMERICAS --

US-space-astronomy-Hubble,7thlead

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California

The space shuttle Atlantis makes a picture perfect landing in California Sunday, nearly two days behind schedule at the end of a successful mission to repair and upgrade the Hubble Telescope.

700 words 2000 GMT. Picture

afp

The 1900 News Advisory

Load-Date: May 25, 2009

End of Document

More facilities for pregnant girls in Wanni

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

May 17, 2009 Sunday

Copyright 2009 The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 303 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 17 -- The National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) will provide more probation officers and paediatricians at the Chettikulam Government Hospital to meet the needs of pregnant mothers who arrived in the cleared areas during the past few months.

It is reported that about twenty-five pregnant mothers who came from the No Fire Zone (NFZ) were admitted to the Chettikulam hospital. NCPA Chairman Jagath Wellawatte told the Sunday Observer that his Authority has received information regarding the increase in the number of teenage pregnancies among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and he visited hospitals in the North last week to look into the welfare of such persons. He said that almost all teenage girls who came to the cleared areas were given in marriage by their parents to prevent them being forcibly recruited to the **LTTE** as child soldiers. "According to doctors in the Chettikulam Hospital, these teenage pregnant girls are given treatment to deliver babies, but 25 percent of them suffer from malnutrition," he said. The NCPA Chairman has called upon the Health Department to study the matter further and provide the needs for these pregnant mothers. Asked what action has been taken by the NCPA on children in welfare camps, he said all of them are safe and not a single child abuse case has been reported so far due to the excellent facilities provided. He said in keeping with the duties of the NCPA, a special Monitoring Mission Unit (MMU) was set up in Vavuniya under the guidance of former DIG Daya Petikirikoral. "In addition, six officials including **female** officers were also appointed to look into various other activities such as mental and physical abuses that could take place at welfare camps," he said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka).

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: May 18, 2009

Four-member committee to look into GSP+ concession

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

October 3, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 292 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Oct. 3 -- There was a great deal of misunderstanding about the GSP+ concession to the apparel industry but President Mahinda Rajapaksa had appointed a four member ministerial sub - committee to look into the GSP+ concession. The Government is not prepared to allow any external forces to conduct any inquiry in the country to consider giving the concession which could be an interference with the sovereignty and dignity of the country, said Export Development and International Trade Minister Prof G.L.Peiris addressing the weekly Cabinet press briefing Thursday. We were able to defeat terrorism under a well planned strategy but no country believed that we could defeat the **LTTE**. Under the GSP+ concession 7,200 varieties of goods could be exported duty free to all EU countries. The greatest benefit from the concession would be to working **women** in the rural sector.

"At this juncture when our economy is growing rapidly with peace achieved denying the GSP+ concession would be a deprivation of human rights of the low income groups of people in the country. The four member ministerial sub-committee was continuing a dialogue with all parties concerned including employers, and trade unions. The Ambassador for the European Union based in Brussels is also continuing a dialogue with the EU," the Minister said.

Though the GSP+ concession is useful to the country, the Government is not prepared to get it at whatever cost but with dignity and honour for the country and we would at all costs safeguard the Armed Forces even at the cost of our lives," Prof Peiris said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: October 3, 2009

UN HUMANITARIAN CHIEF CONTINUES TOUR OF SRI LANKAN DISPLACEMENT CAMPS

States News Service

November 18, 2009 Wednesday

Copyright 2009 States News Service

Length: 331 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

The following information was released by the United Nations:

The United Nations humanitarian chief today continued his mission to Sri Lanka with visits to camps in Vavuniya and Mannar, where a large number of the civilians displaced by the recently-ended conflict between the Government and Tamil rebels are still living.

Currently, some 150,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain in camps, approximately half the population at its peak during the fighting earlier this year, before the Government declared an end to its military operations with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) in May.

Some 135,000 of them are in Vavuniya's Menik Farm, which Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes visited today.

While there Mr. Holmes visited a clinic, a rehabilitation centre for handicapped people, including those with conflict-related injuries, a school, a supplementary feeding centre run by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and a vocational training and education programme for **women**.

The IDPs with whom Mr. Holmes spoke "confirmed their desire to return home, but wanted more information about the return process, including the time of their own return and details of the support they would have on arrival," according to a news release issued by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Local officials reiterated to the Under-Secretary-General the Government's commitment to ensure the return of all IDPs in the camp by the end of January 2010, OCHA added.

In Mannar, he met with displaced people at transit sites and with patients in a district hospital.

On his return to the capital, Colombo, Mr. Holmes met the Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs and other Government officials.

He is expected to conclude his three-day visit tomorrow with meetings with President Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights, the Secretary of Defence, and other officials.

UN HUMANITARIAN CHIEF CONTINUES TOUR OF SRI LANKAN DISPLACEMENT CAMPS

Load-Date: November 18, 2009

End of Document

German social activists here

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

November 1, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 282 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Nov. 1 -- Well-known German social service activist Dr. Armin and his wife Elizabeth Wegener together with Mohamed Shahul Hameed and his wife Lidwina Storey domiciled in Germany have extended their patronage to promote the living standards of the lower income groups in Sri Lanka.

They are engaged in this yeoman service for more than thirty years in Sri Lanka. During their first visit in 1986 Dr. Armin and his wife Elizabeth Wegener adopted a **female** child as the symbol of visiting Sri Lanka and to build up the bilateral relationship prevailing between both countries.

Dr. Armin said that the prevailing peaceful situation in Sri Lanka after the eradication of **LTTE** terrorism removes the barricades to reach the people in the Northern part of the country.

Since 1986 they are regularly visiting Sri Lanka and closely watching the needs of the poor community. It led them to identify and solve several problems of the poverty stricken society in this country.

Dr. Armin stated that they also raised funds to help the tsunami affected community in Sri Lanka.

They are keen to take part in the wellbeing of Sri Lankans he added.

Armin noted that for the past three to four years they are supporting different communities at different level and raise money in Germany for this purpose.

We have organised a fund to sponsor and to raise funds in order to support poor families and poor children.

Wheel chairs, sewing machines and other important components have been donated by them to the people who are in need. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka). For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: November 2, 2009

Economic imbalance in IDP camps

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

October 1, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 285 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Oct. 1 -- The JVP led Centre to Scan Issues of IDPs (CSII) had received 723 complaints from the displaced people in Welfare Villages in Vavuniya, its convenor JVP Parliamentarian Vijitha Herath said yesterday.

He pointed out that the major issue had been the growing mental distress of the less fortunate who were unable to obtain essential items unlike the others who were economically capable.

Mr. Herath told a news conference that this situation had become a serious issue in the camps according to the complaints received from the IDPs.

Quoting these complaints he said that there were IDP families who had brought large sums of cash with them when they were left their homes while there were others who received cash from their relatives residing abroad. He said these people with cash were able to purchase the necessary provisions from various shops that were set up within the camps while others who were without cash were unable to do it.

"This has caused mental distress among the poor people within the camps and it had become a serious issue," he said. Some displaced people had complained that there was difficulty in obtaining milk powder while stocks of essential items such as rice, flour and dhal were provided for groups of 50 families.

Mr. Herath read out a letter sent by a female who had worked as the Planning Officer in a state organization in which she had appealed for freedom.

She had also said that they had not received the freedom they expected when escaping the clutches of the LTTE during the war. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: October 1, 2009

Troops will not face war crime charges: mr

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

September 22, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 309 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Sept. 22 -- President Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday insisted that he would not permit Sri Lanka war heroes to be produced before an international war crime tribunal amidst an outcry by the global community calling for both the President and troops to face such charges.

Addressing a group of **women** SLFP activists of the Galle district at Temple Trees yesterday, the President said: "Some elements are attempting to produce me and war heroes before an international war crimes tribunal, but I will not produce our war heroes, who committed to create a united country."

He said that the main objectives of those elements were to create an impression of the country by saying that Sri Lanka violated human rights.

They used certain private media reports and statements made by pro-**LTTE** parties as evidence in this regard.

Certain parties in the South help them by giving false information, he revealed.

Reiterating that no one would be allowed to tarnish the image of the country, the President said nobody has the right to betray the country. "There should be a country for both present and future generations and therefore the government is committed for the betterment of the country," he said.

The President said that the government was now fulfilling the responsibility of creating a prosperous tomorrow for the country after eliminating terrorism.

The government has also focused its attention on creating a moral society in the country and also develop the resources of the country.

"It is the responsibility of the people in the southern province to teach a proper lesson to those elements who are engaged in conspiracy against the country," the President said the gathering. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: September 22, 2009

Troops will not face war crime charges: mr

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Two Tamil hunger strikers taken to hospital in Paris

Agence France Presse -- English

May 13, 2009 Wednesday 10:51 AM GMT

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Length: 304 words

Dateline: PARIS, May 13 2009

Body

Two Tamil hunger strikers were taken to hospital on Wednesday after French police broke up a demonstration in a central Paris square.

The two men, who said they had been on hunger strike for 36 days, were taken from the Place de la Republique to a nearby hospital, one of them against his will.

"I want to stay here until we are met by an official from the French government," said the young man, Shamugarajah Naveenthan, before being escorted to a fire brigade ambulance.

"We are French Tamils. France is the country of human rights, but who is fighting for human rights? If there was oil in Sri Lanka, France and the US would be tackling the situation there," he said.

On Tuesday, at least 8,500 Tamils marched through the heart of Paris to demand an end to the Sri Lankan government's offensive against separatist rebels in their homeland.

"We are not terrorists, we want our country," proclaimed a banner borne by the well-organised column of men, women and children, many of them wearing symbols of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Several hundred of the demonstrators, some of them playing drums, stayed on the streets in Place de la Republique overnight, disrupting traffic until police moved in early Wednesday.

The European Union and the United States consider the Tigers, who have been fighting a bloody war for independence from Sri Lanka since 1972, an illegal terrorist group.

Nevertheless, there has been international concern about mounting civilian casualties since February, when government forces began an operation that has pushed the rebels back to a single besieged enclave.

According to United Nations estimates, some 6,500 civilians have been killed and 14,000 wounded in the offensive, which has seen 200,000 refugees fleeing the front line and left 50,000 trapped by the fighting.

soh-jagt/ed/cnp/dc/mb

Two Tamil hunger strikers taken to hospital in Paris

Load-Date: May 14, 2009

End of Document

UPI NewsTrack TopNews

UPI

April 22, 2009 Wednesday 10:03 PM EST

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Length: 851 words

Body

Four hostages held in Niger freed

BAMAKO, Mali, April 22 (UPI) -- Two Canadian diplomats and two tourists kidnapped more than four months ago in Niger have been released, officials said Wednesday.

Canwest News Service reported the diplomats were released in Mali, under a deal officials made with al-Qaida operatives.

Canadian diplomat Robert Fowler and his assistant, Louis Guay, were freed Tuesday night, along with a German and a Swiss tourist, both women.

"They are free and they appear to be in good condition, but they will undergo an extensive medical checkup," said one United Nations official. "Our Niger-based security official has physically seen them. This is the happy ending for the Canadians that we were hoping for."

The news service reported that two other tourists, a British man and a Swiss man, were still being held by a North African branch of al-Qaida.

South Africans await election outcome

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, April 22 (UPI) -- A huge turnout in South Africa's elections that included Nobel laureate Nelson Mandela Wednesday was expected to leave the African National Congress in control.

Led by Jacob Zuma, the ANC has gained votes in each election since 1994, but Congress of the People, an ANC splinter group, threatened the party's overall power in the legislature, CNN reported.

Despite the day's cold weather, the lines were so long there were shortages of ballots so voting was extended at some polling stations, the Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported. Some people waited up to five hours to cast their ballots.

UPI NewsTrack TopNews

"This country is my country -- I have to vote for this country to be free. Maybe things can change. That's why I'm voting," one voter told ABC Online.

"We want the ruling party to continue ruling this country, because we haven't seen anything wrong with this ruling party," another voter was quoted as saying.

BuaNews reported other voters paused to watch Mandela, 90, vote at the Killarney Country Club in Houghton, where a special ballot box was set up for Madiba.

Mandela, wearing his familiar Madiba shirt in a bright yellow and a black overcoat with his trademark AIDS badge pinned to it, walked into the voting station with the help of his cane and Gauteng Premier Paul Mashatile. After voting, Mandela smiled and waved to the cheering crowd, BuaNews said.

Twenty-three million people were registered to vote. Turnout is estimated to have been more than 80 percent, the BBC reported.

Most civilians out of Sri Lankan war zone

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 22 (UPI) -- A top Tamil Tiger rebel who surrendered Wednesday says no more than 15,000 civilians remain trapped with the rebels in the no-fire zone, the military said.

Colombo Page reported Daya Master, a former English teacher who was the media coordinator of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, surrendered to the Sri Lankan army with members of his family.

Also surrendering was George Master, a former translator of the late **LTTE** political wing leader, S.P. Thamilselvan, along with his family members.

Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka, commander of the Sri Lankan army, said with the arrival of a large group Tuesday the total number of civilians who have fled the war zone stood at 150,232, the newspaper said.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa said Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran should now face the consequences of his refusal to surrender.

"In keeping with the traditions of Buddhism, the government was ready to pardon those who are ready to change their ways to a better path," the president said at an event in the Temple Tree, referring to high-level government posts given to two other former rebel leaders.

"The security forces had now advanced further into **LTTE** held area, confining them to just 8 square kilometers (3 square miles)," he said. "More Tamil civilians are coming to the safety of government held areas."

On Monday, Rajapaksa gave Prabhakaran and his top commanders 24 hours to surrender before making an "all out" bid to seize the remaining rebel-held territory.

The Sri Lankan government says it was close to ending its decades-long conflict with the rebels seeking an independent state in the country's northeast territory. An estimated 70,000 people have died since fighting began in 1983.

Somali president: Piracy violates Islam

MOGADISHU, Somalia, April 22 (UPI) -- Pirates preying on commercial shipping off the coast of Somalia are violating Islamic principles and endangering the country, Somalia's new president said.

President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, in an interview with Voice of America, also called on insurgents to lay down their arms. He said that those who refuse are trying to destroy Somalia.

Somalia has had no real government since 1991. Sharif, who built up a regime with some stability in the Mogadishu area, was overthrown by the Ethiopian Army but became president in January with a parliamentary vote.

Sharif said that the pirates are harming Somali culture and drawing naval vessels from many countries to the region, VOA reported.

The parliamentary decision approving Sharia law throughout Somalia has deprived the insurgency of any justification, Sharif said.

Load-Date: April 23, 2009

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HEAVY FIGHTING, ALONG WITH CASUALTIES, CONTINUE IN SRI LANKA CONFLICT ZONE - UN

States News Service

May 13, 2009 Wednesday

Copyright 2009 States News Service

Length: 307 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

The following information was released by the United Nations:

Heavy fighting between Government forces and Tamil rebels is reportedly continuing in the conflict zone in northern Sri Lanka, with heavy casualties, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

This follows weekend clashes in the area between the army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) in which hundreds of Sri Lankan civilians were killed.

The UN estimates that over 50,000 people remain in the conflict zone, a shrinking pocket of land on the northern coastline, while more than 196,000 people have managed to leave and crossed to Government-controlled areas.

OCHA said it has been informed by the Government of Sri Lanka that it will soon issue identification cards to the internally displaced persons (IDPs) once the registration process is completed, UN spokesperson Michele Montas told a news conference in New York.

The cards will allow for IDPs to travel outside camp locations for employment, purchasing provisions and other essential activities. Currently over 20,000 IDPs have already registered for IDs and the process is ongoing.

Since the recent large influx of IDPs, many of the camp management duties have been taken over by the military.

"The UN continues to emphasize the need for the camps to be managed by civilians, and reiterates the need for more civilian police, including **women** police and police from the Tamil community," said Ms. Montas.

Also today, an International Committee of the Red Cross-flagged ship carrying 25 metric tons of food turned back due to fighting in the conflict zone, for the second time in as many days.

An additional 500-ton shipment of mixed food commodities is ready for departure from Trincomalee later today, and another shipment of 25 tons of food is planned for Thursday.

Load-Date: May 13, 2009

HEAVY FIGHTING, ALONG WITH CASUALTIES, CONTINUE IN SRI LANKA CONFLICT ZONE - UN

End of Document

Humanitarian mission, an example - Minister

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

May 12, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 288 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 12 -- Transport Minister Dullas Alahapperuma said Sri Lanka set an example to the entire world as a result of the humanitarian mission launched by the valiant Armed Forces in the battlefield.

"The humanitarian mission carried out by Sri Lanka is a new concept during a war situation in the world," he said. The Minister addressing a ceremony for a new national museum for railways established yesterday by the Sri Lanka Railway Service at the Old Fort Railway Station premises at Technical Junction, Maradana, said a number of innocent civilians died in various military operations conducted worldwide, in Afghanistan and Iraq. "But due to the sheer commitment of our heroic Armed Forces, the lives of thousands of innocent civilians held hostage by LTTE terrorists have been saved," he said. "We saw our women soldiers feeding and looking into the needs of the displaced babies. This act of humanity was witnessed by the entire world," he said. Today the world is learning a lot from our humanitarian mission as it is the best war strategy implemented by one of the best Security Forces in the world. This is mainly due to the high literacy rate intelligence and discipline nurtured through the Buddhist philosophy when compared to Security Forces of other countries. The Minister said President Mahinda Rajapaksa has allocated huge amounts of money to develop the railway and it is currently being revived as a one of the best passenger transport systems in Sri Lanka. The museum contains items of antique value such as old locomotives, compartments, machinery, rare photographs, and documents used by the Railway Department for over 150 years. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: May 12, 2009

EXTERNAL LANKA LEAD INDIA TWO LAST NEW DELHI

UNI (United News of India)

April 23, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 290 words

Dateline: Kochi

Body

Kochi, April 23 -- There were apprehensions of rising civilian casualties even as more than 100,000 people fled the conflict zone. As the situation worsened, Sri Lanka called international help to handle the "emergency humanitarian situation."

The Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry has said 102,790 civilians escaped the conflict zone so far this week. "Our friends in the international community are most welcome to provide emergency relief assistance by way of semi-permanent shelter, water purification plants, sanitation facilities and medical assistance," Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama said in Colombo. As the humanitarian situation worsened following closing-in of the Sri Lankan troops on the last **LTTE**-held bastion, the UN voiced deep concern over the safety of tens of thousands of civilians trapped in a shrinking pocket of land on the northeast coast where fighting raged. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) described the situation as "chaotic." According to the Sri Lankan Defence Ministry, more than 60,000 civilians fled the area since April 20 with nearly 83,000 leaving between October 2008 and April 2009. More than 81,000 are now accommodated in relief camps. About 1,200 tonnes of humanitarian assistance, which was due to embark for the area on April 19, could not leave due to the fighting, according to OCHA. No assistance had been delivered in the conflict area since April 1. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said it was providing some 25,000 hygiene packs for **women** and girls to meet their needs. It had also provided over 20 beds to furnish the proposed post-natal care unit at a hospital in Vavuniya. Published by HT Syndication with permission from United News of India.

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Load-Date: April 24, 2009

The Sri Lankan government faces charges of violating humanitarian law; SRI LANKA: U.N. Probes Civilian Deaths as Guns Fall Silent

IPS (Latin America)

May 25, 2009 Monday

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Length: 834 words

Byline: Sherazad Hamit

Body

A rash of similar charges has also been made against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) which unsuccessfully fought for a separate nation state in Sri Lanka.

The warring parties are accused of killing, wittingly or unwittingly, thousands of civilians, including **women** and children, despite several appeals by the United Nations and international humanitarian organisations to observe a no-fire zone in the conflict areas.

The move to penalise both the Sri Lanka government and the **LTTE** has been initiated primarily by the European Union.

The special session, scheduled to take place May 26, is being convened at the request of 17 of the 47 members of the HRC, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Britain.

'It is hoped that the holding of this special session will contribute towards the cause of peace,' HRC president Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi was quoted as saying,

The HRC has had only 10 previous special sessions relating to, among others, Palestine, Lebanon, Darfur, Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to a statement by the Geneva-based U.N. Watch released Friday, Sri Lanka has 'preempted scrutiny' by the Human Rights Council by submitting its own resolution, supported by 12 allies, that praises the South Asian nation for winning the war against a 'terrorist group' and calls for funding by the international community.

The text, titled 'Assistance to Sri Lanka in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights', has been co-signed by Indonesia, China, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Bahrain, the Philippines, Cuba, Egypt, Nicaragua and Bolivia.

Meanwhile, several international human rights and humanitarian agencies are raising concerns about restricted access to civilians and the government's insistence on a limited international role.

Around 60,000 to 80,000 civilians, reportedly the last of those trapped within the conflict zone, have been making their way to the checkpoints and camps at Vavuniya and Manik Farm over the last several days.

The Sri Lankan government faces charges of violating humanitarian law SRI LANKA : U.N. Probes Civilian Deaths as Guns Fall Silent

The U.N. and international aid groups have been granted limited access to the areas in and around the conflict zone, leaving them unable to confirm the status of the internally displaced not already in camps and to deliver much needed assistance.

'We hope all civilians are out of the conflict zone. It is hard to be absolutely sure,' said U.N. under-secretary-general John Holmes, the world body's chief humanitarian coordinator.

'Whenever access is denied we are concerned. There were promises made that were never fulfilled. I think our main concern is to help the people who have got out,' he told reporters Wednesday.

The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Red Cross have been receiving civilians and monitoring their processing into camps. The World Food Programme has also set up feeding tents to tend to the malnourished as soon as they arrive.

At least 220,000 civilians have already reached the camps in Vavuniya and Manik Farm, both of which have been receiving the latest influx of the internally displaced. The sheer numbers of civilians and the speed of their arrival have put an even greater strain on the health, sanitation, and water systems, described by the UNHCR as sub-standard.

By the end of the week, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is expected to have grown to more than 250,000, said Ann Veneman, executive director of the U.N. children's agency UNICEF, which is building latrines, bathing facilities and nutritional centres for the malnourished.

The UNHCR has erected over 25,000 shelters and plans on 10,000 more to speed up decongestion in the major camps. However, the agency continues to face restrictions to entering IDP sites imposed by authorities, hindering its ability to deliver assistance to those unable to reach camps, U.N. officials say.

The Sri Lankan government has vowed that up to 80 percent will be resettled by the end of 2009 - a target Holmes called 'ambitious' in light of the magnitude of the crisis.

He stressed that reconstruction and de-mining had to take place quickly in order to prevent the issue being used as a pretext for preventing the displaced from returning to their homes.

In addition to mobilising humanitarian assistance efforts and facilitating a political reconciliation process, Holmes urged the government to provide relief workers with full and unconditional access to civilians, and to expedite the screening and separation of former combatants from civilians.

The separation of former combatants and sympathisers from the civilian population has become a particularly sensitive issue following reports that three Tamil doctors working for Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) were recently interrogated at Omanthai and have yet to be released.

In response to these reports, Holmes reminded the government that 'these are people who have performed heroically and deserve every praise and care.' © 2009 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

Load-Date: May 25, 2009

A distracted India ignores crisis engulfing neighbourhood (Comment)

Hindustan Times

May 11, 2009 Monday

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Length: 799 words

Body

The firm action being taken by the militaries of Pakistan and Sri Lanka against the Taliban and the remnants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (***LTTE***) respectively over the last week, though deemed to be purely "internal national security issues", have resulted in the biggest humanitarian crisis since the East Pakistan exodus of millions of refugees in early 1971.

Almost three quarters of a million people are affected. About 500,000 are fleeing the Swat Valley in Pakistan while more than 200,000 Tamil refugees are trying to seek safety in the most impoverished clusters set up by the Colombo government.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has described these two events as catastrophic and together they are unprecedented by way of macro human suffering and the loss of life will be colossal - when more accurate reports come in. Furthermore, Afghanistan is under steady attack from US and NATO forces in their single-minded focus on the war against the Taliban - which has received fresh impetus after the Obama-Zardari-Karzai tri-lateral summit in Washington last week.

More alarmingly, there have been media reports of white phosphorus having been used against Afghan citizens - the most harrowing report being that of a young girl who survived such an attack. This is reported to be the first case of such an attack and may well testify to the Hiroshima tenet that the survivors may envy the dead. Even if it is one little girl who has been so disfigured for life - in a region that is grossly insensitive to gender equity and the lives of ***women*** - the enormity of this humanitarian tragedy cannot be ignored or brushed aside.

To add to the current South Asian litany of human woe and wanton turpitude by a state apex that is entrusted with the safety of their citizens, Nepal is teetering on the brink of a complex political impasse - and if Kathmandu tips over, the lives of the disadvantaged Nepali citizens will further deteriorate.

And New Delhi is currently distracted with the last phase of the national elections and in effect has a lame duck government that now lacks both the will and the capacity to respond in an appropriate manner to this unfolding human tragedy in the neighbourhood. To compound matters, the media focus on market-driven trivia like the Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket series is a veritable case of Nero and the fiddle.

Terrorism and religious radicalism have no doubt plagued both Sri Lanka and Pakistan for decades and in both cases, the powers that be, including the military, have been culpable for allowing the domestic malignancy to acquire the proportions it has now assumed.

The root causes for this tragic turn of events that cumulatively affect 750,000 people have been debated ad infinitum for the last few months and the global community that includes the more powerful members have their own

A distracted India ignores crisis engulfing neighbourhood (Comment)

cross to bear - but the scale of the human problem calls for immediate action that will mitigate the human suffering and loss of life.

Given South Asia's distinctive demographic density and appalling lack of basic infrastructure in crisis situations - recall the tsunami of 2004 - the immediate challenge is to ensure that an epidemic does not break out in the make-shift camps and overnight tenements that have sprung up in Pakistan and Sri Lanka where squalor is rife.

The UNHCR is doing what it can but its efficacy will be predicated on the aid and relief material that is made available by the donor countries.

While images and media reports from Pakistan are still available and are deeply anguishing - the situation in Sri Lanka is exacerbated by the draconian media clampdown enforced by the Colombo government. Are 200,000 Tamil refugees displaced - or is the figure much higher? At this point we just do not know. Even the local media has little access to the plight of the Tamil refugees caught between the shrinking **LTTE** and the Sri Lankan military. This information void is reiterated by former Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraveera who noted cynically: "A free media is virtually non-existent in Sri Lanka today."

India must take empathetic cognizance of this humanitarian tragedy in Pakistan and Sri Lanka and provide what succour it can in a manner that would be politically acceptable to these two countries. Civil society in India could be encouraged to do its bit and raise the necessary relief material. Various provisions in the SAARC charter could be innovatively interpreted and relief provided in a collective manner with the involvement of international agencies that have the wherewithal to step in at short notice.

(10.05.2009 - C. Uday Bhaskar is a well-known strategic analyst. He can be reached at cudayb@gmail.com)
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Load-Date: August 4, 2009

Pakistan: Waziristan Operation

Right Vision News

September 28, 2009 Monday

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Length: 1381 words

Dateline: Pakistan

Body

Pakistan, Oct. 28 -- Are we heading towards a blind alley? Is this war in Waziristan going to be a death knell for 170 million Pakistanis? Will the anti-Muslim Allied forces succeed in wiping off Pakistan from the world map? Most of the Pakistanis are going to say 'No' in response to all such questions; simply because they have confidence on their Army and determination of winning this war is running in their veins combined with a strong belief in God. In spite of so many unfortunate suicide attackers roaming around and mercilessly exploding themselves and killing many people, the life in Pakistan is still moving on smoothly. The mosques are full of 'Namazis', the markets with customers, the roads with vehicles and peddlers, the restaurants with diners and educational institutions with learners.

It all proves that we the Pakistanis are a brave and fearless nation; it is nothing but a foolish attempt of shattering our national unity and deforming our religious identity. One day we are going to prove that we are the strongest nation, a nation which possess exemplary courage, matchless perseverance and an iron will. Pakistan is fighting a war in a multi-dimensional battle field. We have a long row of enemies and a very brief queue of friends and unluckily some of these friends are our veiled enemies. We have lack of resources, shortage of supplies and scarcity of support. The world around us is trying its utmost to crush us morally, spiritually, economically and politically. The only aim and objective of our enemies is to declare us a nation promoting and projecting terrorism in the name of religion. We are being given different names and titles like Islamic fundamentalists, Islamic extremists and Islamist militants. The world is treating us as criminals. We are being slaughtered with a double edged sword. Our so-called friend USA is on one hand asking us to Do More and More against the terrorists and on the other hand patronising the forces which are helping out the terrorists. This double-game has become very much painful for us yet it is not going to last very long. The Pakistan army, the government of Pakistan and above all the people of Pakistan, all have joined their hands together to pay back the international conspirators in the same coin. The nation is against every force which is favouring and supporting terrorism at any level; be it the Taliban, the CIA or the RAW. The Pakistani nation knows well that it will have to sacrifice a lot in this struggle against terrorism but even then it is eager, willing and enthusiastic in its fight against terrorism. The war we are fighting is not for the supremacy of USA; it is for the supremacy of Islam. For the last many years, the western world is projecting Islam as a religion fanning militancy. The use of the phrase "Islamic Militants" in the western press and media needs to be questioned. Why the term 'Militancy' has been specified only for the Muslims by the western media? Why don't they use the terms like Christian militants, Jewish militants and Hindu militants? The western world has forgotten the Israeli brutality in Gaza against innocent Palestinians. Just a few months back, the Israeli aircraft were showering burning bombs at innocent lives in Palestine, turning their homes into graves; but the western media never called this brutality the violence of the Jewish militants. What about the Hindu extremists who shamelessly demolished the Babri mosque in India; and what about the Hindu fundamentalists who have deprived the helpless Kashmiris of their basic rights. Do the western media ever call them the Hindu militants? Islam is a religion of peace and serenity. It

Pakistan : Waziristan Operation

has nothing to do with terrorism. It never preaches harsh attitude. The personality of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is the truest embodiment of the teachings of Islam. Any one who believes in terrorism but claims to be a follower of Islam is either deceiving himself or the others. Islam means protection for the children and the women and for all those who are the weaker ones. When we analyse the recent wave of terrorism in Pakistan, we find the terrorists targeting women and children. Last week the horrible suicidal attack at the Islamic university Islamabad taking lives of innocent students including girls is the example. A Muslim can never do it. If there was something like militancy in Islam, the most favourite target would be the creator of the Satanic Verses, Salman Rushdie and the Cartoonist of Denmark who tried to humiliate Islam and the Muslims by drawing ridiculous sketches. This hostile attitude of the western journalists against the Muslims and Islam is certainly condemnable. They are simply tarnishing the image of the Muslims and presenting Islam as an uncivilized religion. The miscreants in Waziristan and the neighbouring tribal areas have nothing to do with Islam. They have waged a war against Pakistan at the beck and call of those who dream of weakening Pakistan. The western media is helping these anti-Pakistan forces by introducing this war as an attempt of crushing the Mehsud tribes. The Mehsud tribes have never been against the state of Pakistan. History is replete with the tales of sacrifices these tribes had been laying for the defense and security of Pakistan. They are simply a volunteer army striving day and night for the integrity and safety of Pakistan. Same is the case with the Wazir Tribes. The chief of the army staff General Kayani has recently written an open letter to the people of Waziristan in which he has expressed his strong confidence in their fidelity and loyalty. This letter has not only strengthened the bonds between the Pakistan army and the tribes in Waziristan but also generated a new air of confidence on the part of the tribes who have been facing suppression and atrocities of the miscreants since long. It is the result of this letter that the tribal lords like Gul Bahadur and Maulvi Nazeer have assured the government of Pakistan of their full support and assistance in the ongoing Operation Rah-e-Nijat in Waziristan. The western media in collaboration with the Indian intelligence agencies is trying its best to portray Islam as a religion strongly linked to terrorism and violence. No religion preaches violence and terrorism. These are the traits of an individual not of a religious philosophy. If American policies are becoming the cause of spreading frustration in the Muslim world, it does not mean that Christianity or the Christians are responsible for it. Sticking to the basic fundamental rules and regulations of a religion is neither a crime nor a sin. It would be very unfair if we defame and disrepute the Muslims by calling them militants or the fundamental terrorists. Such an attitude will give birth to a very harsh and volatile reaction against the western world. The activities of the terrorists in Pakistan have a strong resemblance with the activities of the LTTE in Sri Lanka; same type of suicidal attacks on the security personals and bomb explosions on public places; same air of terror and horror. Salute to the people of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan security forces that they never lost their heart and faced the wild storm of terrorism with courage and determination for so many decades and ultimately succeeded in throwing the trouble creators out of Sri Lanka. No doubt the ultimate operation clean up against the LTTE was fully supported by Pakistan and China but even then the actual credit goes to the Sri Lankan forces. Pakistan is also sailing in the same boat now. India is nurturing the miscreants in Swat and Waziristan in the same way as it had been supporting LTTE in Sri Lanka. Pakistan has a bigger army which is very much professional and skillfully trained. The people of Pakistan are supporting the army in all possible manners. This game of terrorism in the name of religious militancy is just coming to its expected end. Victory is eager to garland us but such auspicious occasion won't be very much pleasing and comforting to those who desire to see us shattered and scattered; either they are from the East or the West. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: October 28, 2009

Waziristan Operation

The Financial Daily

October 27, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: Vol. 3; No. 85

Length: 1352 words

Byline: ALI SUKHANVER

Body

Are we heading towards a blind alley? Is this war in Waziristan going to be a death knell for 170 million Pakistanis? Will the anti-Muslim Allied forces succeed in wiping off Pakistan from the world map? Most of the Pakistanis are going to say 'No' in response to all such questions; simply because they have confidence on their Army and determination of winning this war is running in their veins combined with a strong belief in God. In spite of so many unfortunate suicide attackers roaming around and mercilessly exploding themselves and killing many people, the life in Pakistan is still moving on smoothly. The mosques are full of 'Namaziz', the markets with customers the roads with vehicles and peddlers, the restaurants with diners and educational institutions with learners. It all proves that we the Pakistanis are a brave and fearless nation; it is nothing but a foolish attempt of shattering our national unity and deforming our religious identity. One day we are going to prove that we are the strongest nation, a nation which possess exemplary courage, matchless perseverance and an iron will.

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Waziristan Operation

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The western media in collaboration with the Indian intelligence agencies is trying its best to portray Islam as a religion strongly linked to terrorism and violence. No religion preaches violence and terrorism. These are the traits of an individual not of a religious philosophy. If American policies are becoming the cause of spreading frustration in the Muslim world, it does not mean that Christianity or the Christians are responsible for it. Sticking to the basic fundamental rules and regulations of a religion is neither a crime nor a sin. It would be very unfair if we defame and disrepute the Muslims by calling them militants or the fundamental terrorists. Such an attitude will give birth to a very harsh and volatile reaction against the western world.

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Load-Date: September 19, 2011

Xinhua world news summary at 1530 GMT, May 26

Xinhua General News Service

May 26, 2009 Tuesday 1:18 AM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 380 words

Body

WASHINGTON -- U.S. President Barack Obama Tuesday nominated Sonia Sotomayor, a Hispanic ***female*** federal judge, to the Supreme Court.

Obama made the announcement at the White House to fill the U.S. Supreme Court seat being vacated by Justice David Souter, who has announced to retire in June. (U.S.-Supreme Court-nominee)

- - - -

HELSINKI -- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday condemned the latest nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), urging the DPRK to stop testing nuclear weapons and return to the six-party talks as soon as possible.

After meeting with Finnish President Tarja Halonen during his visit here, Ban said he sincerely hoped that the DPRK could resolve all the differences through a dialogue in a peaceful manner. (Helsinki-Ban Ki-moon-DPRK)

- - - -

HANOI -- Ministers attending the 9th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) here on Tuesday unanimously agreed to enhance political dialogue between Asia and Europe to advance mutual understanding and friendship.

According to the Chair's Statement passed in the meeting, ministers reiterated their support for the progress made in ASEAN Community building, regional integration of East Asia and South Asia. (ASEM-Meeting)

- - - -

LOME -- Nigerien President Mamadou Tandja on Tuesday declared the parliament of the Central African country has been dissolved, agencies quoted state radio as reporting.

According to the reports, Tandja signed a decree to dissolve the parliament on the advice of the prime minister and the speaker of parliament. No further details or reasons of the move were available. (Nigeria-Parliament)

- - - -

VAVUNIYA -- The military in Sri Lanka said Tuesday that 9,100 Tamil Tiger rebels have surrendered themselves to the government and most of them have been sent to rehabilitation centers after proper legal procedure.

Xinhua world news summary at 1530 GMT, May 26

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara told a group of foreign journalists visiting the Internal Displaced Person (IDP) camps in Vavuniya that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) members fled to government controlled areas among civilians and surrendered themselves to the authorities. (Sri Lanka-Tamil Tiger-Surrenders)

Load-Date: May 28, 2009

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Waziristan operation

Pakistan Observer

October 28, 2009 Wednesday

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Section: Vol. XV; No. 300

Length: 1348 words

Byline: Ali Sukhanver - , [Email: alisukhanver@hotmail.com](mailto:alisukhanver@hotmail.com)

Body

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Waziristan operation

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When we analyze the recent wave of terrorism in Pakistan, we find the terrorists targeting the women and children. Last week the horrible suicidal attack at the Islamic university Islamabad taking lives of innocent students including girls could be the most suitable example in this respect.

A Muslim can never do it. If there were something like militancy in Islam, the most favourite target would have been the creator of the Satanic Verses, Salman Rushdie and the Cartoonist of Denmark who tried to humiliate Islam and the Muslims by drawing ridiculous sketches. This hostile attitude of the western journalists against the Muslims and Islam is certainly condemnable. They are simply tarnishing the image of the Muslims and presenting Islam as an uncivilized religion.

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The Mehsud tribes have never been against the state of Pakistan. History is replete with the tales of sacrifices these tribes had been laying for the defense and security of Pakistan. They are simply a volunteer army striving day and night for the integrity and safety of Pakistan. Same is the case with the Wazir Tribes.

The chief of the army staff General Kiyani has recently written an open letter to the people of Waziristan in which he has expressed his strong confidence in their fidelity and loyalty. This letter has not only strengthened the bonds between the Pakistan army and the tribes in Waziristan but also generated a new air of confidence on the part of the tribes who have been facing suppression and atrocities of the miscreants since long.

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Waziristan operation

supported by Pakistan and China but even then the actual credit goes to the Lankan forces. Pakistan is also sailing in the same boat now.

India is nurturing the miscreants in Swat and Waziristan in the same way as it had been supporting **LTTE** in Sri Lanka. Pakistan has a bigger army which is very much professional and skillfully trained. The people of Pakistan are supporting their army in all possible manners.

This game of terrorism ongoing in the name of religious militancy is just coming to its expected end. Victory is eager to garland us but such auspicious occasion won't be very much pleasing and comforting to those who desire to see us shattered and scattered; whether they are from the East or the West.

Load-Date: November 16, 2011

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On the dissolution and resurrection of nationalisms

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

October 6, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 1357 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Oct. 6 -- About 6-7 years ago, when I was working at the Sunday Island, in the course of a conversation with senior reporter and good friend, Franklyn Satyapalan, I mentioned that I am all for a strong Tamil nationalist movement because I believe that community and identity are important in the overall sense of meaning for an individual. I added that by the same token I want there to be a strong Sinhala nationalist movement as well.

Frankie had an interesting response: 'Machang, it's impossible. You might think the Tamil community is strong, but they are not. They are divided and petty and fighting among themselves. Just like the Sinhalese.'

Perhaps it was the larger-than-life political 'reality' of the ***LTTE*** (carefully developed by an efficient propaganda machine buttressed to the maximum by sycophants and cowards masquerading as academics and 'civil society' activists in the NGO circuit) that led people to believe in a Tamil monolith. Well, today, the lie is out and the true dimensions of Tamil nationalism have become very apparent and so too the differentiations.

Today we hear less about 'self-determination'. 'Devolution' is mentioned almost in passing. As for the 13th Amendment, it's more about lip-servicing than anything else. N. Srikantha of the TNA in a comment on the 13th Amendment included the 'devolution' disclaimer, trashed the piece of legislation as having done nothing except benefit politicians and but to my mind focused more on a different kind of constitutional reform and one based on the separation of powers.

No, I am not saying that the issue of devolution is out of the equation, but it is far less pronounced than it was before. No one talks of federalism today in stark contrast to a few years ago when anyone opposed to federalism ran the risk of being badmouthed as an extremist, chauvinist or worse.

The ups and downs of 'preferred resolution' to the largely 'constructed' phenomenon mis-named 'The National Question' indicates to me the artificiality of it all; the untenable nature of the foundational premises of the project in terms of history, geography and demography and a marked tendency on all sides to toss around totalizing categories and superficial claims, all with a thick coating of rhetoric.

I've been reading over the past week several comments that were published on account of the 20th anniversary of the assassination of Rajani Thiranagama and apart from the celebration of Rajani's life and politics, there seems to be convergence and championing of ethics, values and a humanism that transcends identity politics.

These comments, by the way, were authored by either staunch Tamil Nationalists or ardent sympathizers. They echo sentiments expressed recently by a Tamil columnist to whom I put the proposition I had offered Frankie. He said, 'no putha, we have to go out of all that; we have to be and work together; we can't get stuck in nationalism'.

On the dissolution and resurrection of nationalisms

I am unwilling to let go of identity politics altogether, but I think it is useful and necessary to understand that identities themselves are not unproblematic categories, that there is a lot of differentiation within these and that political gatherings that cut across them should not be ruled out.

I am particularly inspired by an article on these issues authored by Pradeep Jeganathan titled, ' what's left of the National Question' (Sunday Island of September 27, 2009, <http://www.island.lk/2009/09/27/features7.html>).

Pradeep argues that the identity-binary, Sinhala-Tamil was indistinguishable until a century or so ago and that it was a deliberate product of the British colonial project. I would agree that a particular defining of category was privileged and underlined by that exercise, but would not agree that these identities, Sinhala and Tamil were non-existent prior to the colonial project getting into full swing.

I believe that a re-examination of identity-construction of both 'Sinhala' and 'Tamil' as well as the feeding-off-one-another that occurred over the past century is necessary because the current assertion of identity and articulation of identity politics is heavily laden with historical claim.

Pradeep claims, 'nationalism, which operates through inherited colonial boxes, masks diversity and social inequality' and asks, 'where in a nationalist orientation is space for the rights of domestic workers, battered women, queer people and the pauperized?' He is correct.

'To think in terms of the rights of citizens, is also of course, to think in terms of language, religion, region and custom. These are group rights of course, as are the rights of plantation workers, or single mothers or journalists. Alliances across groups of citizens become inevitable, and those that are not blinkered by nationalism will see the power of such alliances, to make Sri Lanka a better home for all of us.'

'Nationalisms' have been lazy over the years and deliberately so because it is the easier path. Today, as we strive to redefine our tomorrows and relations with each other, not just in terms of 'Sinhala-Tamil', but in terms of other categories ignored or 'peripharized' in the political discourse, we need a different platform of engagement that does not ignore the 'ethnic' but seeks to identify its appropriate worth in the political equation.

I think that considering other elements of identity would not necessarily diminish our sense of who we are as Sinhalese, Tamils, Moors etc., but in fact enhance our understanding of the complex reality we inhabit. It is only such an exercise of self-examination that will permit us to relate to one another in a less arrogant and boorish manner than we have over the past century. It is not the disavowal of 'Sinhala' and/or 'Tamil' that will lead us out of the mess we've got ourselves into but a brave engagement with these terms and what they really mean.

If I were to meet Frankie again, the proposition would be different. I still believe that the political project to dissolve Sinhala and Tamil in a meaningless 'Sri Lankan' is not innocent and seeks among other things to divest all of us of our individual and collective 'rootednesses', a condition for plunder, domination and erasure of identity so much a part of the colonial project. On the other hand, being Sinhala and/or Tamil does not mean that we cannot or should not be conscious of and assert other strands of who we are, in terms of religious conviction, political preference, identification with region etc.

Identity is not a project to be abandoned as we seek to find our way forward in a post-conflict Sri Lanka. It is a project that needs re-examination, a greater 'nuancing' and endowed with a greater degree of humility than we have been willing to employ in the past, even as we celebrate our ancestors, where they came from and what they did.

It is a marked aversion to that kind of exercise that has led to people lamenting the lack of a unified Tamil voice for example (or for that matter the absence of a similarly unified Sinhala voice in the 90s and the first years of this century) a cry that is born of a scandalous refusal to see the differentiation within category. That is the recipe for madness and the process that gave us the monster called the LTTE and the horror that was the war.

Most of the hand-wringing that we see today on the part of people who were fascinated with the LTTE or at least the so-called Tamil Nationalist Project (aka 'Eelam') can be sourced to this sloth. There is no reason to be sad. There is, on the other hand, every reason to be optimistic because today there is greater space to consider different

On the dissolution and resurrection of nationalisms

conceptualizations of the issues. Sure, there is no guarantee that we are going to get to Utopic three weeks from now, but there is no reason to commit mass suicide either. We can try and I think Pradeep would be optimistic, as am I, and as for Frankie, he might not think that this 'monolith' nature of the Tamil polity is not as bad as he may have thought earlier. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: October 6, 2009

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US diplomat on Quetta Shura

The Statesman

October 16, 2009 Friday

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Section: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR; Vol. 8; No. 548

Length: 338 words

Byline: Col (R) Shahid Zahur - Rawalpindi

Body

It is apropos US Consul General, Mr Stephen' press conference in Quetta on 14th Oct. It's very unfortunate that instead of recognising Pakistan's allout efforts in combating terrorism, 'Do more' mantra is still continuing. After 9/11 Americans went all out, killed hundreds of thousands of people including women and children to punish the terrorists.

Similarly the echo of Mumbai attacks is still being heard and Pakistan which is a major sufferer in the GWOT is being targeted. The world did not show same type of support for Pakistan on the terrorists attack on General Headquarters of Pakistan.

The way Pakistani soldiers conducted the operation is commendable and shows the resolve to combat the terrorism. Instead of giving full support and appreciation, a new cat is out of the US bag.

Insurgency is a different kind of operation and it may take decades for elimination. Take the example of IRA. How much time and efforts it took? Sri Lankan took 30 years to end LTTE menace and it only became possible once Indian's support to Tamils was stopped. A few terrorists might have sneaked into Balochistan and even other parts of the country but does it mean that they are controlling the world affairs, of course not.

It's important that USA in particular and the NATO in general must eliminate the root causes of terrorism. Indian involvement in Afghanistan and Pakistan has been confirmed even by Gen McChrystal and Rehman Malik. Afghanistan is the breeding ground which is providing funding (narco money) and training to terrorists.

It's time that the double game should end, Afghan border must be sealed and Afghan refugees should be repatriated immediately. America should understand that instead of blaming Pakistan, they should stop encouraging India and monitor their activities.

They were the closest ally of Soviet Union, once it dismembered and now they are again the partner of another super power in the same country. Let's hope that history doesn't repeat itself and Americans wisen up to get out of the Indian trap.

Load-Date: September 19, 2011

Red Cross halts aid as 300,000 refugees beg for food and water; The UN is demanding access to sealed-off internment camps where conditions are becoming desperate, writes Robert Bosleigh

The Times (London)

May 21, 2009 Thursday

Edition 2

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THE TIMES

Section: NEWS; Pg. 44,45

Length: 1460 words

Byline: Robert Bosleigh

Body

The Red Cross has suspended distribution of emergency aid to nearly 300,000 civilians displaced by the Sri Lankan Army's victory over the **Tamil Tigers**. The move came as details emerged of desperate conditions in the internment camps where officials say that refugees might have to stay for up to two years.

Accounts gathered covertly by aid workers and relayed to The Times yesterday described severe shortages of food, water, medicine and clothing in the camps. "My children are begging me for food and water. It is killing me to see us like this," Kothai, a woman interned in the Vavuniya region in the north of the country, said.

Many of the civilians are sick, malnourished and suffering from battlefield injuries after being fired on by both sides in the bloody climax of the 26-year civil war, witnesses say. More than 200,000 people have walked up to 50 miles (80km) to reach more than 40 camps with barbedwire fences, according to the United Nations.

The aid agency Médecins sans Frontières said that 50,000 people had arrived in the region since last Friday. An estimated 80,000 more are on their way. One traumatised woman who escaped from the conflict zone last week said: "There are dead bodies everywhere. I cannot talk about it."

The Sri Lankan military, which on Tuesday released pictures of what it claimed was the corpse of Velupillai Prabhakaran, the rebel leader, said that his body would be buried close to where it was found on the banks of the Nanthikadal lagoon in the north east.

"We cannot keep a decomposing body for long," Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara told The Times. "It will be buried soon." He said that Prabhakaran's body had been identified on Tuesday by two former members of the Tigers who had defected to the Government, including a translator who had been with him until four months ago. There were no plans to carry out any further verification, such as a DNA test, he added.

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The UN has accused the Sri Lankan authorities of blocking access to civilians who were either trapped in the conflict area or who fled to the camps. "We need to have access, I repeat, total access, without the least let or hindrance - for the UN, for non-governmental organisations and for the Red Cross," Elisabeth Byrs, a spokeswoman for the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said.

On Tuesday the Government barred the Red Cross from the chronically overburdened internment camps where ethnic Tamils who escaped the war zone are being forcibly held. The organisation then suspended operations. There have been reports of rapes of Tamil women - although it is impossible to verify such claims as journalists are also banned from the area.

The UN said yesterday that it had no idea how many people had died in the camps. Save the Children said that at least a quarter of the pregnant and breastfeeding women detained were suffering from acute malnourishment. At least a third of the children were malnourished, it added.

It is not known how many civilians were unable to leave the combat zone in the north east of the country, where the Tigers made their last stand. The area, which appears to have been devastated, has been sealed off by the Army. The Red Cross had been the only neutral organisation in the conflict zone. It had between 20 and 25 staff there but has not heard from them since last week.

The UN was negotiating with the Government yesterday in an effort to win access for Ban Ki Moon, the Secretary-General, to the area when he visits Sri Lanka tomorrow. Military officials insisted that only a handful of civilians caught in the fighting had required medical assistance. The Government, which says that it is coping, has severely restricted access to the camps to aid agencies and the UN since the weekend.

The Army plans to detain those in the camps while it screens them for escaped Tiger fighters. It had suggested that this would take as long as two to three years but an international outcry led it to promise to process 80 per cent of those held by the end of this year.

The UN has demanded access to oversee the screening process but has been refused. Experts have voiced alarm at the camps because of Sri Lanka's human rights record. "The concerns ... reflect terrible recent experiences of disappearances [of government opponents], arbitrary detentions, the mistreatment of detainees and a lack of accountability," Sam Zarifi, of Amnesty International, said.

If the camps were regarded as part of a conflict zone, by blocking aid while failing to provide adequate care, the Sri Lankan Government was contravening the Geneva Conventions, he argued. If the war was regarded as being over, the Government was ignoring internationally accepted guidelines on the treatment of displaced people.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, which is responsible for setting up the camps, did not return calls asking for comment yesterday. Rajiva Wijesinha, secretary of the ministry, told The Times in February that "of course" people would be forced to stay in the camps.

"This is a situation where we're dealing with terrorists who infiltrate civilian populations. Security has to be paramount," he said.

Concerns over the camps will raise questions about the sincerity of President Rajapaksa's pledge on Tuesday in an address to Parliament to build bridges between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority.

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'War monk' sets his sights on Britain after ruthless victory

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"All people are human," he told The Times yesterday. "But we are happy the Tamil terrorists have been crushed. Sri Lanka has provided a great example to other countries."

Now, after helping to vanquish one of the world's most vicious terror groups, he has his sights set on another foe: Britain.

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The JHU claims to have been the first organisation, in 2000, to have insisted that it was possible to beat the Tigers through military force. Mr Rathana, referred to in some diplomatic circles as "the war monk", was later instrumental in persuading Mr Rajapaksa to abandon a Norwegian-brokered peace settlement.

He alleged yesterday that the Tigers had been backed by Britain and the United States. He believes they called for a ceasefire as the conflict reached its peak to allow the rebels to regroup.

"We were surprised that these so-called democracies would try to rescue these terrorists," he said. "Our real friends are China and Russia," he added - two nations that supplied Sri Lanka with the arms that helped it to beat the Tigers.

There are signs that his attitudes are striking a chord among ethnic Sinhalese. On Monday there was a violent protest outside the British High Commission in Colombo, at which an effigy of David Miliband, the Foreign Secretary, was burned. Many of the protesters were JHU supporters.

Some in Sri Lanka fear that such angry sentiments could thwart efforts to reconcile the country's minority Tamil population with the majority Sinhalese, and stand in the way of a lasting peace.

Fighting Buddhists

Siddhartha Gautama, later known as the Buddha, was born into the Kshatriya warrior caste in Ancient India. Although he would renounce violence later, he was raised in a martial setting

Zen Buddhism became an important strand of the Japanese samurai philosophy starting in the 13th century. Buddhist warrior monks also played an important role in feudal Japanese armies and were particularly valued for their fierceness in battle

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In 2007 the US Navy commissioned its first Buddhist chaplain, Lieutenant Jeanette G. Shin. American military chaplains of all faiths are unarmed but do serve on the front lines Source: Times database

Online

Pictures: humanitarian catastrophe worsens timesonline.co.uk/asia

Graphic

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A photograph from the Sri Lankan military shows what it says are civilians crossing a lagoon to escape the war zone. The Government has barred the Red Cross from the camps set up to contain and question the refugees

REUTERS

Load-Date: May 21, 2009

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Edition 1

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THE TIMES

Section: NEWS; Pg. 44,45

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Jeremy Page, page 34

Online

Pictures: humanitarian catastrophe worsens timesonline.co.uk/asia

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'War monk' sets his sights on Britain after ruthless victory

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REUTERS

Load-Date: May 21, 2009

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US diplomat on Quetta Shura

The Statesman

October 16, 2009 Friday

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Section: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR; Vol. 8; No. 548

Length: 338 words

Byline: Col (R) Shahid Zahur - Rawalpindi

Body

It is apropos US Consul General, Mr Stephen' press conference in Quetta on 14th Oct. It's very unfortunate that instead of recognising Pakistan's allout efforts in combating terrorism, 'Do more' mantra is still continuing. After 9/11 Americans went all out, killed hundreds of thousands of people including women and children to punish the terrorists.

Similarly the echo of Mumbai attacks is still being heard and Pakistan which is a major sufferer in the GWOT is being targeted. The world did not show same type of support for Pakistan on the terrorists attack on General Headquarters of Pakistan.

The way Pakistani soldiers conducted the operation is commendable and shows the resolve to combat the terrorism. Instead of giving full support and appreciation, a new cat is out of the US bag.

Insurgency is a different kind of operation and it may take decades for elimination. Take the example of IRA. How much time and efforts it took? Sri Lankan took 30 years to end LTTE menace and it only became possible once Indian's support to Tamils was stopped. A few terrorists might have sneaked into Balochistan and even other parts of the country but does it mean that they are controlling the world affairs, of course not.

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It's time that the double game should end, Afghan border must be sealed and Afghan refugees should be repatriated immediately. America should understand that instead of blaming Pakistan, they should stop encouraging India and monitor their activities.

They were the closest ally of Soviet Union, once it dismembered and now they are again the partner of another super power in the same country. Let's hope that history doesn't repeat itself and Americans wisen up to get out of the Indian trap.

Load-Date: September 19, 2011

Rape used as weapon of war in Sri Lanka: Clinton

Hindustan Times

October 3, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 318 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Oct. 1 -- Sri Lanka on Thursday brushed aside US secretary of state Hillary Clinton's comment that rape was used as a weapon of war during the fighting against the separatist **LTTE**.

Delivering her speech at the UN Security Council on Wednesday, Clinton said that rape was used as a weapon of war in Balkans, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. She added that in too many countries and in too many cases, the perpetrators were not punished, and the impunity encouraged others to commit the same crime.

Clinton's speech came as the UNSC adopted a resolution creating new tools to combat sexual violence against **women** and children in conflict situations. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton chaired Wednesday's meeting, which came on the last day of the United States' presidency of the council.

Secretary to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights Rajiva Wijesinha speaking to Ada Derana regarding Hillary Clinton's comment that rape was used as a tactic of war in Sri Lanka said, "To my knowledge, this is not true and I have not come across such an allegation."

Wijesinha said Clinton "tends to make generalized statements, it is clear as she did the same during her campaign for Presidency against Barack Obama and we should take a leaf out of Obama's book and forgive her for this statement".

HE added, "What has been remarkable is that the SL army forces have never had any allegations as such thrown at them".

Meanwhile, the Ministry added that international donors had provided nearly USD 196 million to assist in humanitarian efforts in Sri Lanka.

This included more than USD 155 million for projects detailed in the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP), with the reminder earmarked for humanitarian assistance outside of the CHAP. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Hindustan Times. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: October 3, 2009

Rape used as weapon of war in Sri Lanka : Clinton

End of Document

SRI LANKA: TENS OF THOUSANDS STILL TRAPPED IN SHRINKING COMBAT ZONE, UN SAYS

States News Service

April 22, 2009 Wednesday

Copyright 2009 States News Service

Length: 349 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

The following information was released by the United Nations:

The United Nations voiced deep concern today over the safety of tens of thousands of civilians trapped in a shrinking pocket of land on Sri Lanka's north-east coast where fighting rages between the military and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

The situation in the area is chaotic and reliable information is difficult to obtain, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said.

According to the Sri Lankan Ministry of Defense, over 60,000 civilians fled the area since 20 April, with nearly 83,000 leaving between October 2008 and April 2009. More than 81,000 are now accommodated in camps.

"While there are no verifiable numbers of overall casualties, we believe that significant numbers have been killed and injured in the military operation," UN spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters.

Delivering aid to those trapped in the combat area remained shipment remains difficult as well. Some 1,200 metric tonnes of humanitarian assistance, which was due to embark for the area on 19 April could not leave due to the fighting, according to OCHA. No assistance has been delivered to the conflict area since 1 April.

In addition, available stocks of non-food items to internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have fled to the Vavuniya district will soon be exhausted because of the large influx of new arrivals.

In response to influx, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said today that it was providing some 25,000 hygiene packs for **women** and girls to meet the needs of the large number of IDPs.

In addition, the agency said that it has provided over 20 beds to furnish the proposed post-natal care unit at a hospital in Vavuniya.

Along with other UN agencies and humanitarian organizations, UNFPA voiced deep concern over the plight of tens of thousands of civilians unable to flee the fighting.

"**Women** and girls have unique needs," said agency representative Lene K. Christiansen. "UNFPA is working with government and non-governmental partners to ensure that these needs are not overlooked in the current crisis."

SRI LANKA : TENS OF THOUSANDS STILL TRAPPED IN SHRINKING COMBAT ZONE, UN SAYS

Load-Date: April 23, 2009

End of Document

Xinhua world news summary at 1530 GMT, May 26

Xinhua General News Service

May 26, 2009 Tuesday 11:40 AM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 380 words

Body

WASHINGTON -- U.S. President Barack Obama Tuesday nominated Sonia Sotomayor, a Hispanic ***female*** federal judge, to the Supreme Court.

Obama made the announcement at the White House to fill the U.S. Supreme Court seat being vacated by Justice David Souter, who has announced to retire in June. (U.S.-Supreme Court-nominee)

- - - -

HELSINKI -- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday condemned the latest nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), urging the DPRK to stop testing nuclear weapons and return to the six-party talks as soon as possible.

After meeting with Finnish President Tarja Halonen during his visit here, Ban said he sincerely hoped that the DPRK could resolve all the differences through a dialogue in a peaceful manner. (Helsinki-Ban Ki-moon-DPRK)

- - - -

HANOI -- Ministers attending the 9th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) here on Tuesday unanimously agreed to enhance political dialogue between Asia and Europe to advance mutual understanding and friendship.

According to the Chair's Statement passed in the meeting, ministers reiterated their support for the progress made in ASEAN Community building, regional integration of East Asia and South Asia. (ASEM-Meeting)

- - - -

LOME -- Nigerien President Mamadou Tandja on Tuesday declared the parliament of the Central African country has been dissolved, agencies quoted state radio as reporting.

According to the reports, Tandja signed a decree to dissolve the parliament on the advice of the prime minister and the speaker of parliament. No further details or reasons of the move were available. (Nigeria-Parliament)

- - - -

VAVUNIYA -- The military in Sri Lanka said Tuesday that 9,100 Tamil Tiger rebels have surrendered themselves to the government and most of them have been sent to rehabilitation centers after proper legal procedure.

Xinhua world news summary at 1530 GMT, May 26

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara told a group of foreign journalists visiting the Internal Displaced Person (IDP) camps in Vavuniya that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) members fled to government controlled areas among civilians and surrendered themselves to the authorities. (Sri Lanka-Tamil Tiger-Surrenders)

Load-Date: May 27, 2009

End of Document

Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary at 1600 GMT, May 22

Xinhua General News Service

May 22, 2009 Friday 1:15 AM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 392 words

Body

COLOMBO -- The military in Sri Lanka said Friday that 6,261 government soldiers were killed and 29,551 injured since 2006 when the government began its current military offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels.

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara also said over 22,000 members of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) were killed before the troops finally won the war on May 18. (Sri Lanka- Soldiers-Death)

HONG KONG -- Hong Kong reported the fourth confirmed case of influenza A/H1N1, which involved a **female** student who recently came back from the United States, local health authorities announced Friday evening.

The patient, a 19-year-old local resident studying in the U.S., returned from New York in the U.S. to Hong Kong onboard the Cathay Pacific flight CX831 on May 18, said Thomas Tsang, controller of the Center for Health Protection at a press briefing on Friday. (HK-A/H1N1)

ISLAMABAD -- Pakistani leaders Friday vowed to work with the new Indian government and to resolve all disputes peacefully.

They made the remarks in their messages of felicitations to the leaders of the Indian ruling Congress Party over their election victory. (Pakistan-India-Ties)

NEW DELHI -- India's new government including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and 19 ministers, led by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), has been sworn in at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Presidential Palace Friday evening.

Singh has thus become the second Indian prime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to serve a second term after a full term. (India- New-Government)

ISLAMABAD -- At least 10 people were killed in a blast Friday evening in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, according to local TV reports.

Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary at 1600 GMT, May 22

About 30 others were also injured in the explosion at the Khyber market near a cinema in Peshawar, the provincial capital of North West Frontier Province (NWFP). (Pakistan-Blast)

ISLAMABAD -- In the last 24 hours, 17 militants were killed and four others arrested in an operation in northwestern Pakistan, according to a military statement Friday.

Three security forces personnel including an officer were killed and 10 others injured in various areas of Swat of North West Frontier Province (NWFP), said the statement. (Pakistan- Militants)

Load-Date: May 24, 2009

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U.N. Probes Civilian Deaths as Guns Fall Silent

Colombo Times

May 23, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 891 words

Body

Colombo, May 23 -- The Sri Lankan government, which has claimed military victory against a 26-year-old brutal insurgency in the country's northern and eastern provinces, will be battling charges of violating humanitarian law at a special session of the U.N. Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva next week.

A rash of similar charges has also been made against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) which unsuccessfully fought for a separate nation state in Sri Lanka.

The warring parties are accused of killing, wittingly or unwittingly, thousands of civilians, including **women** and children, despite several appeals by the United Nations and international humanitarian organisations to observe a no-fire zone in the conflict areas.

The move to penalise both the Sri Lanka government and the **LTTE** has been initiated primarily by the European Union.

The special session, scheduled to take place May 26, is being convened at the request of 17 of the 47 members of the HRC, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Britain.

"It is hoped that the holding of this special session will contribute towards the cause of peace," HRC president Martin Ihoeghian Uhomobhi was quoted as saying,

The HRC has had only 10 previous special sessions relating to, among others, Palestine, Lebanon, Darfur, Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to a statement by the Geneva-based U.N. Watch released Friday, Sri Lanka has "preempted scrutiny" by the Human Rights Council by submitting its own resolution, supported by 12 allies, that praises the South Asian nation for winning the war against a "terrorist group" and calls for funding by the international community.

The text, titled "Assistance to Sri Lanka in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights", has been co-signed by Indonesia, China, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Bahrain, the Philippines, Cuba, Egypt, Nicaragua and Bolivia.

Meanwhile, several international human rights and humanitarian agencies are raising concerns about restricted access to civilians and the government's insistence on a limited international role.

Around 60,000 to 80,000 civilians, reportedly the last of those trapped within the conflict zone, have been making their way to the checkpoints and camps at Vavuniya and Manik Farm over the last several days.

The U.N. and international aid groups have been granted limited access to the areas in and around the conflict zone, leaving them unable to confirm the status of the internally displaced not already in camps and to deliver much needed assistance.

U.N. Probes Civilian Deaths as Guns Fall Silent

"We hope all civilians are out of the conflict zone. It is hard to be absolutely sure," said U.N. under-secretary-general John Holmes, the world body's chief humanitarian coordinator.

"Whenever access is denied we are concerned. There were promises made that were never fulfilled. I think our main concern is to help the people who have got out," he told reporters Wednesday.

The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Red Cross have been receiving civilians and monitoring their processing into camps. The World Food Programme has also set up feeding tents to tend to the malnourished as soon as they arrive.

At least 220,000 civilians have already reached the camps in Vavuniya and Manik Farm, both of which have been receiving the latest influx of the internally displaced. The sheer numbers of civilians and the speed of their arrival have put an even greater strain on the health, sanitation, and water systems, described by the UNHCR as sub-standard.

By the end of the week, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is expected to have grown to more than 250,000, said Ann Veneman, executive director of the U.N. children's agency UNICEF, which is building latrines, bathing facilities and nutritional centres for the malnourished.

The UNHCR has erected over 25,000 shelters and plans on 10,000 more to speed up decongestion in the major camps. However, the agency continues to face restrictions to entering IDP sites imposed by authorities, hindering its ability to deliver assistance to those unable to reach camps, U.N. officials say.

The Sri Lankan government has vowed that up to 80 percent will be resettled by the end of 2009 - a target Holmes called "ambitious" in light of the magnitude of the crisis.

He stressed that reconstruction and de-mining had to take place quickly in order to prevent the issue being used as a pretext for preventing the displaced from returning to their homes.

In addition to mobilising humanitarian assistance efforts and facilitating a political reconciliation process, Holmes urged the government to provide relief workers with full and unconditional access to civilians, and to expedite the screening and separation of former combatants from civilians.

The separation of former combatants and sympathisers from the civilian population has become a particularly sensitive issue following reports that three Tamil doctors working for Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) were recently interrogated at Omanthai and have yet to be released.

In response to these reports, Holmes reminded the government that "these are people who have performed heroically and deserve every praise and care."

Published by HT Syndication with permission from The Colombo Times.

Load-Date: May 24, 2009

Two three-year-olds die in LTTE shelling

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

April 16, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 166 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 16 -- Two three-year-old boys who suffered serious injuries in LTTE shelling in uncleared areas died after they were admitted to Pulmoddai Hospital on Tuesday night, police said.

The two boys who were among a group of civilians rescued by the army and moved to government controlled areas in Trincomalee were reportedly brought from the Mullaitivu area. Police Spokesman SSP Ranjith Gunasekara told Daily Mirror that according to Pulmoddai police the victims had been injured by shelling in the uncleared areas. The victims were Dinesh Yalini, a resident of Valayarmadam, Puthukudiyirippu, Mullaitivu and the other Kuhadas Obison of Ramanadanpuram, Kilinochchi. The migration of civilians from the uncleared areas of Pudumathalan and Valayarmadam to government controlled areas is continuing. 135 had arrived in Pulmoddai yesterday, comprising 42 males, 38 females and 55 children, the Ministry of Defence reported. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: April 16, 2009

Jaffna's drive to prosperity

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

September 2, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 860 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Sept. 2 -- Jaffna, the main city in the North, is now on the cusp of a development revolution. The area has progressed rapidly since its liberation from the LTTE in 1995. A recent event marked the revival of paddy cultivation in the peninsula. The Nallur Kovil festival attracted hundreds of thousands of devotees from here and abroad. Trade and education exhibitions conducted in Jaffna have been tremendously successful.

The biggest boost to the fortunes of Jaffna was the liberation of the entire North from the LTTE in May this year and the subsequent opening of major highways including the Kandy-Jaffna A9 to commercial traffic. This means that Jaffna is no longer an 'island' cut off from the rest of Sri Lanka.

Before the opening of the A9, goods and passengers had to be transported by sea via Trincomalee. This was an expensive, time consuming process. The prices of goods were much higher in Jaffna due to this situation.

This picture is now being changed. Leading businesspersons and analysts say Jaffna has the potential to become a leading bustling business centre in the country. The banking sector has already realized this - the leading private banks are scrambling to gain a foothold there. Telecommunications services are expanding at an accelerated pace. The entry of the Sri Lanka Air Force as a commercial carrier to the Colombo-Jaffna air route has also helped the business sector in Jaffna.

Other investments in logistics, food processing, industries, education, transport, warehousing, tourism and cold storage post harvest technology are in the offing. More foreign investors should be encouraged to set up ventures in the peninsula.

The National Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka (NCCSL) is playing a leading role in this transformation, along with the relevant business chambers in Jaffna.

A 50-member delegation from the NCCSL recently visited Jaffna to meet the Jaffna business community and to explore opportunities there. The NCCSL's visit had resulted in progress towards developing business ventures.

The NCCSL is already assisting the Jaffna Women's Chamber of Commerce under the Business Processing Fund, a grant by the Netherlands Government. The Fund will provide machinery and equipment to start business and nearly 50 recipients have benefited from this scheme.

The Ministry of Industries is also planning to set up an industrial zone in Jaffna which will accommodate local and foreign investments.

Jaffna 's drive to prosperity

The linkage between the Southern and Northern business communities augurs well for the economy. The re-integration of the North and the East to the national economy will definitely help increase its growth rate.

The easing of restrictions on fishing and the recommencement of agricultural activities in the North are just two factors that will drive this growth. It is also important to identify other potential businesses that had been affected by the conflict and take steps to revive them. All possible incentives and concessions should be granted for rejuvenating these businesses. This will help generate employment for the Jaffna youth. leaving no room for certain elements to exploit their frustrations.

As a city which suffered the brunt of the conflict, Jaffna does have many woes. There should be better roads and improved access to the road network.

Other infrastructure facilities too have to be developed. It was only recently that Jaffna received a 24-hour electricity supply. The electricity network in Jaffna must be expanded to meet the rising demand from homes and industries.

The much-anticipated recommencement of train services to Jaffna will enable goods to be sent by rail at affordable rates. Facilities should be provided for tourists to visit Jaffna. The city needs more star class hotel rooms to cater to this influx of local and foreign tourists. More tourist spots in the peninsula must be identified. Another exciting area for growth is education - there is a dearth of educational opportunities for Jaffna students. Educational institutions will thus be able to thrive in Jaffna.

The Port at Kankesanthurai must be developed to facilitate exporters and importers. This must be done with an eye on the huge Indian market. Jaffna can position itself as a 'gateway to India' due to its proximity. A ferry service too will be ideal to cater to passenger transport needs between the two countries.

The NCCSL has suggested the opening of a 'one-stop shop' for dealing with all business inquiries on Jaffna. This is a timely proposal because red tape and other impediments will not be conducive for the rapid development of Jaffna. This should necessarily have offices in Colombo and Jaffna. Our trade missions abroad can promote this 'one stop shop' among potential investors in those countries.

Jaffna has a resourceful, persevering people who can be fully involved with the development drive envisaged under the Uthuru Wasanthaya program. All government and private sector stakeholders must strive to make it a great success. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: September 2, 2009

Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary at 1600 GMT, May 22

Xinhua General News Service

May 22, 2009 Friday 12:11 PM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 392 words

Body

COLOMBO -- The military in Sri Lanka said Friday that 6,261 government soldiers were killed and 29,551 injured since 2006 when the government began its current military offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels.

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara also said over 22,000 members of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) were killed before the troops finally won the war on May 18. (Sri Lanka- Soldiers-Death)

HONG KONG -- Hong Kong reported the fourth confirmed case of influenza A/H1N1, which involved a **female** student who recently came back from the United States, local health authorities announced Friday evening.

The patient, a 19-year-old local resident studying in the U.S., returned from New York in the U.S. to Hong Kong onboard the Cathay Pacific flight CX831 on May 18, said Thomas Tsang, controller of the Center for Health Protection at a press briefing on Friday. (HK-A/H1N1)

ISLAMABAD -- Pakistani leaders Friday vowed to work with the new Indian government and to resolve all disputes peacefully.

They made the remarks in their messages of felicitations to the leaders of the Indian ruling Congress Party over their election victory. (Pakistan-India-Ties)

NEW DELHI -- India's new government including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and 19 ministers, led by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), has been sworn in at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Presidential Palace Friday evening.

Singh has thus become the second Indian prime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to serve a second term after a full term. (India- New-Government)

ISLAMABAD -- At least 10 people were killed in a blast Friday evening in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, according to local TV reports.

Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary at 1600 GMT, May 22

About 30 others were also injured in the explosion at the Khyber market near a cinema in Peshawar, the provincial capital of North West Frontier Province (NWFP). (Pakistan-Blast)

ISLAMABAD -- In the last 24 hours, 17 militants were killed and four others arrested in an operation in northwestern Pakistan, according to a military statement Friday.

Three security forces personnel including an officer were killed and 10 others injured in various areas of Swat of North West Frontier Province (NWFP), said the statement. (Pakistan- Militants)

Load-Date: May 23, 2009

End of Document

Three LTTE female suicide bombers arrested in Sri Lanka

Right Vision News

August 29, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 158 words

Dateline: Pakistan

Body

Pakistan, Sept. 29 -- This is the second time the former suicide bombers of the **LTTE** have been detected during a brief period. Due to information obtained in Galle police detectives surrounded a house in Settikulam but one of them committed suicide by biting a cyanide capsule. But the three suicide bombers yesterday could be arrested alive. Due to information divulged by them suicide kits, large amount of C-4 explosives also have been found. Wickramaratne was speaking at the 10th Sri Lanka Police awards ceremony assessing the outstanding services of the Police Officers. 216 officers came in for acclamation. Among them were officers who successfully arrested suspects of a 94.3 million rupees bank robbery within 48 hours along with the total cash robbed from Divulapitiya. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: September 28, 2009

Red Cross says Sri Lankans in 'catastrophic' situation

The Canadian Press(CP)

April 21, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 913 words

Byline: KRISHAN FRANCIS, AP

Body

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka _ Tens of thousands of civilians trapped in Sri Lanka's northern war zone face a "catastrophic" situation, the Red Cross said Tuesday, amid fears a final assault against the Tamil Tiger rebels would lead to a dramatic rise in casualties.

The UN and others have called for a negotiated truce to allow civilians to leave the rebel-held coastal strip, and the government says more than 52,000 had escaped since Monday.

But it has refused to heed those international pleas to halt the fighting, saying it is on the verge of crushing the separatists and putting an end to the 25-year-old war.

In Ottawa, thousands of Tamil protesters packed the front lawn of Parliament on Tuesday, calling on the Canadian government to pressure Sri Lanka to end its offensive.

The United Nations estimated more than 4,500 civilians have been killed in the past three months.

The rebels said more than 1,000 civilians died Monday in a government raid, while the government said it rescued thousands after they broke through a barrier built by the insurgents that protects their last stronghold.

Human rights groups say the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are holding many people in the enclave against their will and using them as human shields. Those groups have also accused the government of indiscriminate shelling in the region. Both sides deny the allegations.

Thousands of civilians also fled in packed small boats, and they were picked up by navy patrols and transported to camps where Tamils who have escaped the war are being held. More than 2,000 people in about 100 boats were picked up Monday.

The Red Cross said about 50,000 civilians were still stranded, while Human Rights Watch put the number between 50,000 and 100,000.

A worker for Doctors Without Borders said hundreds of wounded were arriving at her hospital in Vavuniya, south of the war zone, in government-arranged buses, and some had died en route. The hospital is overcrowded with 1,200 people being accommodated in a facility with only 400 beds, said mental health officer Karen Stewart, according to a statement from the aid group.

Red Cross says Sri Lankans in 'catastrophic' situation

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres was concerned about the "dramatic situation" for civilians still in the war zone, said commission spokesman Ron Redmond.

"There are innocent civilians _ women and children _ caught in the middle of the conflict ... so the high commissioner is saying there should be a pause in the hostilities and the LTTE should allow civilians to leave," Redmond said.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara denied that 1,000 civilians died, saying 17 civilians were killed Monday by rebel shelling and by three suicide bombers.

"Our troops are rescuing the trapped civilians. It's the LTTE which is preventing civilians from fleeing," Nanayakkara said.

It was impossible to get independent accounts of casualties because journalists are restricted from the war zone.

The number of fleeing civilians made it clear that the government had vastly underestimated how many people were caught in the fighting.

"Both sides need to show far greater concern for civilians, or many more civilians will die," said Brad Adams, Asia director for the New York-based group Human Rights Watch.

A final government offensive "could lead to a dramatic increase in the number of civilian casualties," the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

"The situation is nothing short of catastrophic. Ongoing fighting has killed or wounded hundreds of civilians who have only minimal access to medical care," said Red Cross operations director Pierre Kraehenbuehl. "I cannot remember ... as much concentrated pain and exposure to violence with very, very minimal possibilities to reach anywhere that could be called safe."

The UN Children's Fund South Asia director Daniel Toole said he was worried about the safety of children still in the war zone because "our greatest fear is that the worst is yet to come."

The military spokesman said there was no fighting Tuesday evening, adding that it avoids using heavy, long-range weapons.

Nanayakkara said 39,081 civilians fled the war zone Monday, the most in a single day, and at least 13,000 people crossed over Tuesday, with the stream continuing.

Encouraged by the exodus, the government Monday asked the rebels to surrender within 24 hours, warning of a final assault if they failed. The ultimatum expired at noon Tuesday without a response from the rebels.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa rejected a call by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown for a pause in the fighting, his office said Tuesday.

The president's office said in a statement that Rajapaksa deemed a pause "unnecessary" considering the "unexpected exodus of civilians" when the two leaders had spoken by phone Monday.

Red Cross spokeswoman Sarasi Wijeratne said the organization could not confirm or deny the figures quoted by the military. According to figures received by the Red Cross, 11,000 people crossed the front lines Monday and another 5,000 came Tuesday, she said.

The UN refugee agency said it is ready to provide shelter and aid to tens of thousands of displaced civilians.

Redmond said the UNHCR was working with the government to make more land available for displacement camps because existing sites were overcrowded, he said.

Red Cross says Sri Lankans in 'catastrophic' situation

The rebels have fought since 1983 for an independent state for Sri Lanka's ethnic minority Tamils. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the years of violence.

- With files from The Canadian Press

Load-Date: April 22, 2009

End of Document

As Sri Lanka Conflict Ends, WFP Responds To IDP Challenge

NEWS Press (English)

May 19, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: International; International organizations

Length: 331 words

Byline: World Food Programme

Body

WFP is boosting food stocks and preparing nutritionally-rich food for women and children in order to meet the needs of IDPs displaced in the final days of Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war.

WFP is already feeding 250,000 people in temporary transit camps but the number of IDPs is expected to rise to more than 280,000 in coming days.

Over the last few months, more than 265,000 people have been displaced by the battling between Sri Lankan government forces and the LTTE Tamil Tiger rebel movement. They include about 80,000 who fled the conflict zone over the weekend as the civil war came to an end.

Full rations and fortified food

The majority of the IDPs have already passed through the government-screening point at Omanthai, a town in the northern Vavuniya district. They are now in more than 40 temporary transit centres/welfare villages - primarily in Vavuniya. The IDPs are currently completely dependent upon humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs.

As well as providing full rations to the people in the temporary transit centres, WFP is gearing up to provide additional fortified food to all children under the age of five years and for pregnant and lactating women.

To meet the daily food needs of the IDP population, WFP is boosting food stocks in its Vavuniya hub and also putting mobile storage units in place in the temporary transit camps.

Cooking round the clock

More than 50,000 people who passed through the government screening point at Omanthai have received cooked meals provided by WFP. WFP's partner at Omanthai, Sevelanka has been cooking round the clock.

Another 15-20,000 arrivals were expected in Omanthai on Tuesday, with another approximately 20,000 en route. To maintain food distributions through the end of the year, WFP is appealing for \$40US million for 2009. Although WFP

As Sri Lanka Conflict Ends, WFP Responds To IDP Challenge

has enough food to meet current needs, it takes up to six months to translate new funding into meals for the IDPs, so we are urging donors to confirm commitments quickly.

Load-Date: May 19, 2009

End of Document

The 1030 News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English

May 24, 2009 Sunday 10:41 AM GMT

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Length: 676 words

Dateline: HONG KONG, May 24 2009

Body

Duty Editor: Eleanor Wason

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

-- WORLD HEADLINES --

PESHAWAR: Pakistan army fights to control key town

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka to allow aid access

KUWAIT CITY: 18 US troops in Kuwait catch swine flu

-- ASIA --

Pakistan-unrest,lead-WRAP

PESHAWAR, Pakistan

Pakistan's military says it had seized several key areas in the Swat valley's Taliban-held main town, as their battle to regain control of the northwest reaches a crucial phase.

650 words 1200 GMT by Lehas Ali

Pakistan-unrest-Taliban-military,FOCUS

BINAI BABA ZIARAT, Pakistan

From the dizzying heights of a Taliban rebel command centre, Pakistani generals sense victory in Swat as they tour an elaborate warren of tunnels and caves built into a mountain ridge.

700 words moved by Jennie Matthew. Picture

Pakistan-unrest-economy,FOCUS

KARACHI

Growing Islamist violence has crippled the economy in northwest Pakistan, made tens of thousands of people unemployed and exacerbated the poverty that breeds fundamentalism, business leaders say.

700 words moved by Hasan Mansoor

SriLanka-unrest,2ndlead-WRAP

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka says it will allow UN aid workers access to civilians detained in camps after the defeat of the **Tamil Tigers**, but only after it has weeded out rebels hiding among the refugees.

550 words 1100 GMT by Amal Jayasinghe. Picture

SKorea-politics-Roh,2ndlead

BONGHA, South Korea

Thousands of South Korean mourners pay their last respects to former president Roh Moo-Hyun, whose shock death by apparent suicide comes as he faces a massive corruption scandal.

650 words 1100 GMT by Jung Yeon-Je Picture

Myanmar-politics-SuuKyi,lead-WRAP

YANGON

Lawyers for Myanmar pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi say they are preparing to open the defence case at her trial this week, as the junta looks set to face further pressure from the West.

700 words moved

Mongolia-politics-vote,3rdlead

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia

Voters in Mongolia go to the polls to choose a new president less than a year after allegations of vote-rigging in parliamentary elections triggered deadly riots that shocked the nation.

550 words 1100 GMT by Peter Oetzmman. Picture

-- EUROPE --

UN-climate-talks-Demark,lead-WRAP

COPENHAGEN

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, former US vice-president Al Gore and hundreds of top business leaders meet in the Danish capital to find ways companies can tackle climate change and boost the "green economy".

500 words 1300 GMT by Slim Allagui. Picture

Entertainment-film-festival-Cannes,lead-WRAP

CANNES, France

The 1030 News Advisory

The Cannes showdown between the world's greatest film directors reaches its climax with a bleak French prison drama tipped to let France take the top prize for the second year in a row.

650 words 1100 GMT by Rory Mulholland. Video, pictures

Britain-royals-security,newseries

LONDON

Buckingham Palace suspends a royal chauffeur after he reportedly allowed two undercover journalists into Buckingham Palace grounds for cash, letting one of them pose for photographs sitting in Queen Elizabeth II's Bentley car.

450 words 1130 GMT

-- AFRICA --

Entertainment-Morocco-music-disaster,3rdlead-WRAP

RABAT

A stampede on the final night of a world music festival in Morocco which featured top names such as Kylie Minogue, Alicia Keys and Stevie Wonder leaves at least 11 people dead, most of them women and children.

500 words 1200 GMT

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Health-flu-world,WRAP

KUWAIT CITY

Eighteen US soldiers test positive for swine flu at an American military base in Kuwait, as Australia shuts down a school after identifying two more cases of the disease.

650 words 1100 GMT. Picture. Graphics.

Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan-summit,lead

TEHRAN

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad hosts a summit with his Pakistani and Afghan counterparts aimed at finding ways to combat Islamic extremism and drug smuggling.

500 words 1130 GMT by Farhad Pouladi. Picture

-- AMERICAS --

US-space-astronomy-Hubble,lead

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

Rain or shine, the crew of the US space shuttle Atlantis will have to attempt to land Sunday after bad weather forces delays in their return to Earth for two consecutive days.

600 words moved by Patrick Baert

afp

The 1030 News Advisory

Load-Date: May 25, 2009

End of Document

AFP 0700 GMT News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English
May 21, 2009 Thursday 7:13 AM GMT

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Length: 690 words

Dateline: PARIS, May 21 2009

Body

Duty Editor: Roddy Thomson

Tel: +33 1 40 41 46 36

-- TOP STORIES --

- + Arrests over New York 'attack plot'
- + Death for killers of Lebanese diva
- + Hero's welcome for Biden in Kosovo

US-attacks-justice,lead

NEW YORK

Four men are arrested on charges linked with planning attacks against a Jewish synagogue and US warplanes based at a New York military base, prosecutors say.

750 words 0730 GMT by Luis Torres de la Llosa

Egypt-Lebanon-trial,3rdlead

CAIRO

A Cairo court sentences an Egyptian tycoon and a hitman to death for the brutal slaying of the businessman's lover, one of the Middle East's most glamorous singing stars.

550 words 0730 GMT by Samer al-Atrush. Pictures

US-diplomacy-Kosovo-Serbia-Biden

PRISTINA

Vice President Joe Biden travels to Pristina for the final stop of a landmark Balkans tour in which he can expect a hero's welcome for backing Kosovo's independence from Serbia.

500 words 0800 GMT by Ismet Hajdari. Picture

FILING PLANS BY REGION

-- EUROPE --

Russia-EU-summit,lead

KHABAROVSK, Russia

Russian and EU leaders meet in a Trans-Siberian Railway city deep in Russia's Far East in a bid to set their rocky relationship back on track after a series of crises.

650 words 0830 GMT by Stuart Williams. Picture

Health-flu-WHO-phase,lead

A month after the WHO alerted the world to a potential flu pandemic, the agency is caught between the contagious nature of a new virus that has spread to 41 countries and doubts fostered by the mildness of swine flu.

600 words 0900 GMT by Alexandra Troubnikoff

We will also move: Health-flu-world,WRAP

Germany-history-politics-vote,ADVANCER

BERLIN

A new brand of German patriotism will be on show on Saturday in celebrations marking 60 years of democracy, culminating in the election of its president, a largely ceremonial post.

675 words 0730 GMT by Simon Sturdee

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Iraq-unrest,WRAP

BAGHDAD

Violence surges in Iraq as a suicide bomber kills seven members of an anti-Qaeda militia in Kirkuk a day after a powerful car bomb ripped through a Baghdad street filled with diners killing 40 people.

650 words 0800 GMT

Lebanon-Israel-spies,FOCUS

BEIRUT

Beautiful women, clandestine trips abroad and a hurried escape across a mine-infested border... All are aspects of alleged Israeli espionage networks unravelling in Lebanon and worthy of a spy novel.

680 words 0730 GMT by Jocelyne Zablitz. File picture.

-- AMERICAS --

US-politics-Obama-security,2ndlead

WASHINGTON

US President Barack Obama aims to grab back the initiative in a riotous debate unleashed by his order to shut Guantanamo Bay, under political fire from critics and allies alike.

750 words 0730 GMT by Stephen Collinson. Picture

We have also moved: US-Senate-justice-Guantanamo-jail,FACTS

US-attacks-justice-Guantanamo,2ndlead

WASHINGTON

A top Al-Qaeda suspect accused in the 1998 US embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania held at Guantanamo Bay will be brought to trial in New York, becoming the first detainee to be prosecuted in a US civilian court.

550 words 0800 GMT

US-space-astronomy-Hubble,lead

HOUSTON, Texas

President Barack Obama praises the crew of the shuttle Atlantis for their perseverance in a difficult mission to extend the life of the 19-year-old Hubble Space Telescope.

750 words 0800 GMT by Mark Carreau. Graphic. Picture. Video

-- ASIA --

Indonesia-air-accident-military,2ndlead

MAGETAN, Indonesia

Indonesian air investigators sift through the charred debris of a military transport plane that crashed into homes before bursting into flames, killing more than 100 people.

500 words 0830 GMT

Myanmar-politics-SuuKyi,2ndlead-WRAP

YANGON

Myanmar's military junta puts the trial of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi behind closed doors, after allowing diplomats and journalists to attend the hearing for just one day.

700 words 0900 GMT. Picture, video

AFP 0700 GMT News Advisory

SriLanka-unrest-Tigers

COLOMBO

Two senior members of Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** may have been executed by government troops or shot by their own side while trying to surrender, according to diplomats and a British newspaper report.

600 words 0730 GMT. File picture

We will also move: SriLanka-unrest-politics,ANALYSIS

afp

Load-Date: May 22, 2009

End of Document

Doublespeak of the West

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

May 10, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 813 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 10 -- Doublespeak is a double barrel name for Western Foreign Policy. Lets examine the varying stands shown to the **LTTE** and the Talibans-Sri Lankan and Pakistan civilians by the West.

Hillary Clinton says (in a bout of doublespeak?) she "deeply regrets Afghan casualties" in the Afghanistan theatre of war due to overhead bombing by US fighter planes. Pakistan has declared war on the Taliban militants at the bequest of America. The fighting on the edge of Swat Valley has led to the inflow of nearly 500,000 refugees from the war zone.

It is a war designed by United States with active participation and heavy funding against ethnic Pashtun tribesmen in the North West frontier carried out by Pakistan on the instructions of White House. These are the tribes that sheltered Osama bin Laden and the Talibans after the attack on the Twin Towers which led to the invasion of Afghanistan. CIA funding It was America that assembled the Talibans as an effective fighting formation to be their proxies in their war against the occupying Soviet forces, with CIA funding. The madrasas (Islamic schools) in Pakistan which is alleged to breed terrorism in the Islamic world was created by funding originating from US, Britain and Saudi Arabian sources. To the United States, the terrorists in Pakistan and Afghanistan on the borders of the North West frontier must be mowed down by helicopter gun ships and heavy armour. Otherwise it is detrimental to Western interest. Taliban must be eliminated comprehensively, is the Western military anthem. Yet Miliband or Kouchner have not opted to visit the devastated regions in Pakistan and make a humanitarian plea to save the civilians trapped in a war zone where heavy weaponry and air strikes are the order of the day. They have not made an appeal on behalf of the civilians who cannot flee due to a round the clock curfew. The West is not seeking Pakistani military assistance to save the civilians from a war situation. They show no concern for civilians unlike in Sri Lanka. The Pakistanis or the Afghans do not have a vocal Diaspora with a vote catching machine to deliver voters in the West on polling day. No Western Power is seeking an amnesty for the Islamic militants. Instead there is rendition to torture camps to elicit confessions. It is conducted on foreign soil to escape from the due process of the law under American territorial jurisprudence. No calls for ceasefires There are no calls of ceasefires from America instead the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the President of Afghanistan are summoned to Washington and demanded the war be intensified to wipe the Talibans from the face of the Earth. The West is calling on Sri Lanka to enable the **LTTE** to surrender to an international third party. In Afghanistan more Western fighting forces are inducted to fight the Talibans-there is no call for a pause for negotiations or opportunity to surrender to a friendly force. The Nordic countries are not sending emissaries to talk peace. Instead efforts are being made to enlarge the fighting contingent and arming them with modern sophisticated weaponry. Are we stupid as the West to create Madrasas and Talibans and bin Ladens as surrogates and then be the target of attack and undergo a metamorphosis after 9/11 and then declare war? Is it smart foreign policy that in the American backyard the bulk of the Latin American nations are electing by popular vote administrations hostile to the US? Did not America have to bail out of Vietnam and Laos? In the humanitarian lexicon is there a difference between Sri Lankan refugees from

Doublespeak of the West

Wanni and the Pakistan refugees from the SWAT Valley? They are civilians by status and the West sadly is not sending emissaries to speak on their plight. Why not a call for a ceasefire for those innocent civilians in the SWAT Valley on whom the West has turned a blind eye and are instead firing to kill? Indeed Hillary Clinton admits US helicopter gun ships had targeted innocent civilians. How many children and women died in these attacks? In fact America is persuading the Pakistanis and the Afghans to intensify the attacks. Has the west forgotten we are providing food and medical facilities to the civilians including the terrorists for the last 25 years during the entire course of the War? Has the West carried on a war while supplying provisions free to the enemy? The bottom line is what is good for America is not what is best for Sri Lanka. Interfering West do not have our interest in their agenda. We have to steer our ship to suit our voyage. The West will sail with the flag of skull and bones to navigate any country to dangerous waters to extract the best for themselves. We must be circumspect to work on the lines of our priorities. National Interest of two countries can never be the same. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka).

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: May 11, 2009

POLICING TAMIL DEMONSTRATIONS COST £8 MILLION SAYS MET CHIEF

Press Association Mediapoint

May 19, 2009 Tuesday 3:05 PM BST

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Section: HOME NEWS

Length: 699 words

Byline: Joe Sinclair, Press Association

Body

Demonstrations by pro-Tamil supporters have cost the country's largest police force almost £8 million, it was revealed today.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson said the demonstrations, which have been going on for 43 days, meant the force was "extraordinarily stretched".

And he suggested the protests required Government intervention to create "some kind of exit strategy".

Speaking in front of the Home Affairs Committee, Sir Paul said the cost of policing the Tamil demonstrations - "just short of £8 million" - was more than the cost of policing the G20 protests, which came to £7.2 million.

About half of the total - £3.72 million - came from additional policing costs, including overtime.

"We have to provide such a level of resources that it is reducing policing on the streets of London," he said.

"Whatever the rights and wrongs of any demonstration, it has to be said that policing that demonstration is a huge drain."

He said it was "damaging our performance" and led to a "lack of policing on the streets of London", adding: "At this moment in time we are extraordinarily stretched."

Commander Bob Broadhurst said one problem faced by police was the lack of a spokesperson for the demonstrators and another was their "ability to mobilise hundreds, and yesterday thousands, in a very short space of time, which overwhelms police resources."

"When that happens they tend to put their women, children and babies at the forefront, which makes it difficult for us to use force."

POLICING TAMIL DEMONSTRATIONS COST £8 MILLION SAYS MET CHIEF

Ten pro-Tamil demonstrators were arrested and about 25 police officers were injured in clashes outside the Houses of Parliament last night. Mr Broadhurst said one officer suffered a broken nose.

The angry scenes took place just after midnight as police moved demonstrators off a busy road opposite Parliament where they had been staging a sit-down protest since yesterday afternoon.

On Sunday, the rebel Tamil Tigers conceded defeat in their bloody 25-year conflict with Sri Lanka's government which has claimed an estimated 70,000 lives.

Nimalan Seevaratnam, who is on the seventh day of a hunger strike and at the heart of the protests, said the clashes were prompted by reports, which he insisted were inaccurate, that Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran had been killed in Sri Lanka.

He said the arrests and injuries overnight were ``an unfortunate thing".

``When they see this news, they couldn't control their anger and had to do something more than what they had done," Mr Seevaratnam, 41, said.

``The obvious thing was to break the barrier.

``It's very emotional for us when more than 50,000 people are dying. The people went into the street. None of the structures were damaged.

``They felt very angered when they see the papers reporting the Tamil Tiger leader dead when we know that's not the truth.

``He is the Robin Hood of the Tamils. He has long life and he will live much longer than anyone thinks."

Mr Seevaratnam also insisted that he wanted ``justice to prevail" and did not want to see a repeat of the disturbances.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said the 10 protesters were arrested for a variety of public order offences.

The clashes happened just a few hours before Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa told his parliament that the entire country was unified for the first time in 30 years, following the government's defeat of the Tamil Tiger rebels.

Protesters have been demonstrating in Parliament Square, with several going on hunger strikes.

They have also held marches through the capital to highlight the plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Yesterday they moved en masse at around 4pm from the grassy area in the square to occupy parts of Bridge Street and Westminster Bridge, a major thoroughfare through central London.

Traffic in the area was diverted and a large police presence gathered around the protesters, with police helicopters seen circling above Parliament Square.

Rangadesch Palasooriyakumar, 29, from Mitcham, south west London, said he was at the front of the crowd as police began moving the protesters back into the square.

``Police started pushing us back, and people were falling over each other on the road. This caused a lot of anger and upset."

Load-Date: May 20, 2009

ANOTHER "VOICE OF AMERICA"

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

October 12, 2009 Monday

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Length: 1319 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Oct. 12 -- Wars are fought with various types of weapons; from swords, bows and arrows and spears of bygone ages to the sophisticated weaponry of various types in modern day warfare. All these weapons were designed to kill the enemy or at least injure and maim enough to incapacitate them. The sophistication of weapons which are available to man to kill another man is indeed astounding. In fact the degree of sophistication is so great and pronounced that it is difficult for anyone to understand why there is more research and manufacture of newer, 'more efficient' types of weapons for slaughtering fellow human beings.

Instead of conventional weaponry, man also makes use of other means of destroying each other-biological weapons for example-and the list of instruments of war keeps on growing-secrets-jealously guarded.

There are other types of weaponry too; extraordinary innovations limited to the imagination of some people.

Introducing missy Clinty

"Meeooww, Ooty, missy Clinty has made an eye opening comment on the war situations across the world. She has said that some countries are using rape as a weapon of war and that the Sri Lankan armed boys are also guilty of it." As usual it was Tommo the pussycat who had swept through the Daily Dodger for news. His pal Ooty, an owl hardly glanced at a newspaper but preferred to listen to the news pussy doled out occasionally.

"Thuhoot! Who the devil is missy Clinty? Is she one of your ex-floozies?"

"Don't be ridiculous, Ooty. She is Billy's wife." "Oh, hell! It's getting worse. You mean that her hubby is a goat? Thuhoooot-hee-hee." "Puh-leeze, be serious. Missy Clinty is a failed could-have-been Yankee president. She is, how shall I say-like a failed State. And such failures tend to lose themselves in loose talk, any talk, just to show the world that they are not like a failed state but in good bloody state sort of thing."

"So missy Clinty is a good talker, aah?"

"Meeowyep (Yep). She is a good political actress too. Why haven't you seen her in full flight on TV? Wow! She is really something on the boob tube. But few people know that her speeches are written by backroom guys and gals. Apparently Clinty is too dense to write sense-not that the scripts written by other characters are sensible either."

"Huh? Why's that?"

Crooked

umpiring

ANOTHER "VOICE OF AMERICA"

"Ya see, Ooty with their fingers in every goddamn pie you can think of, the Yankee doodles have appointed themselves as the umpire of the world. But they are hora umpires. So even when TV replays show that a world player is NOT OUT, up goes the Yankee finger, 'Oh, no, no, you are bloody well OUT!'"

"Toooot! Now I can see the Yankee horseplay."

"Purrrr, and Clinty is a yank State Secretary."

"You mean she takes shorthand and does the filing?"

"No, she is not that type of secretary; she is the American Secretary of State. You see she tried to sprint in the Yankee presidential race and managed only a hobble losing to Obah-ma who shrewdly made an old enemy sit at his breakfast table just to keep her from saying this and that about him. Clinty took the job and began to say this and that about other people and is making a kanji of things."

"How's that?"

Missile launches

"For example, she sent misguided cruise missile all over the ruddy place when our governors' were at war with the LTTE fellows. And our governors' lokkas did a lot of ducking. They are still ducking the damn things. Sometime ago Clinty woke was prodded awake when the armed forces were hammering the Tigers in a final show down. It was then she began to beep like the Road Runner. A red faced Clinty beeped, 'This is a damn outrage. The Sri Lanka army has broken loose and is slaughtering Tamil civilians caught up in the war. We and the whole world are really mad that the Sri Lankan army is causing so much damage to other human beings,' or something like that."

"Thuhoot. That's all bloody crap. We know that the armed boys saved Tamils being used as human shield by the Tigers. In fact some of the boys died in the save operations."

"Sure, but apparently Clinty did not know or pretended not to know of Tiger doings and went ahead with whatever she wanted to do or expected to do. And that was to throw about high handed statements against our governors' government, conveniently forgetting how the Yanks were bombing the crap out of ordinary folk in Pakistan. She also forgot Yankee explosive pizza deliveries in Iraq and Kosov."

"Why is madam Secretary training her missiles at our governors' government?"

Backing terrorists

"Purrrsst! There are a lot of Tamil Johnnies in Yankee land who voted for

Clinty when she was hobbling towards the White House. I suppose

that was her way of thanking the Tamil diaz-pora who followed her hobble.

She would have surely known that the LTTE was labeled as terrorists in her own country? Perhaps she got do-re-me from her Tamil fans as campaign funds. Who knows-and remember she is a political actress. But then, no self respecting secretary of state will blare away in support of terrorists playing hell in another sovereign state."

"Toot, toot! Rank, Yank arrogance of cultivated stuff: "We are the greatest": "We are always right" and "You do as we tell you". Evidently theirs is also a culture of sly pretences."

Confused Secretary of State

"Meeoowyep! (Yep) Recently, she kicked another bucket of crap. While bossing another Un-united Nations do, Clinty has sailed forth and said, "We have seen rape used as a weapon of war. During the period between 2006 and 2009 we have received reports that rape was used as weapons of war in Bosnia, Burma, Turkey, Thailand, Sri Lanka and elsewhere in the world."

ANOTHER "VOICE OF AMERICA"

"Toot-ha-ha," the owl laughed the way owls do. "Can you believe that! I can't imagine that our lokkas' armed boys threw away their guns and things to rape their way to a war victory. This missy Clinty must be a very, very, very confused dame." The owl was tickled pink.

"Meeooww. And the armed boys fought a terrorist army full of male tigers with a sprinkling of females. What does that tell you?"

The owl shook his head.

Warriors of a different kind

"According to Clinty's broadside our armed boys are homos!" Pussy began to cackle the way pussies do. "Anyway if the armed boys could win wars using rape as a weapon it's a great achievement because instead of blood being spilt, the wars can be won by acts of love. Okay, okay, they call it rape but there can be love in it too, right?"

"Thuhooot." The owl clapped his wings. "Imagine that. Maybe Clinty can advise Yankee troops to follow the Sri Lankan example. Anyway what did our lokkas say to the Clinty barrage?"

Pouring used oil-as usual

"They were mad and made 'it's not true, it's all bullshit' and 'we want an apology' sort of noises. Yanks don't apologize, but they are smart Alecs in pouring used oil on troubled waters. They oiled Clinty's outburst away by saying: 'in the most recent times, say from 2006 to 2009, we have not received any reports that rape was used as weapons of war in Sri Lanka or elsewhere. We hope this explains the issue.'"

"Toot! The cunning buggers. If their clarification is only for that period, what about the time before that, aah? They can pull another fast one later by saying that there were reports of rape used as weapons in our governors' war earlier when the Tamil Diaz-pora pinch them again. Anyway what did our lokkas say to that one?"

"They grinned and said, 'Oh, that's OK then. We want to have friendly relations with the US who have been so..nizzzze.and cooperative in our times of need.blah.blah.' But our lokkas have gone a step further in seeking a bit more of pally Yankee cooperation. They have asked them for advice in handling the 10,000 LTTE suspects being held in camps in the North."

"Toot! Great shot, great shot!" Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: October 12, 2009

AFP 1400 News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English

May 24, 2009 Sunday 2:24 PM GMT

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Length: 699 words

Dateline: PARIS, May 24 2009

Body

Duty Editor: Beth O'Connell

Tel: +33 1 40 41 46 36

-- TOP STORIES --

+ Pakistan army battles in Swat Taliban-held town

+ Suicide bomber kills seven in Somalia

+ Space shuttle to land in California

+ Swine flu hits US soldiers, more Asian countries

+ All eyes on Cannes for top film winner

Pakistan-unrest,lead-WRAP

PESHAWAR, Pakistan

Pakistan's military says it had seized several key areas in the Swat valley's Taliban-held main town, as their battle to regain control of the northwest reaches a crucial phase.

650 words 1200 GMT by Lebaz Ali

We have also moved: Pakistan-unrest-Taliban-military,FOCUS

Pakistan-unrest-economy,FOCUS

Somalia-unrest,2ndlead

MOGADISHU

AFP 1400 News Advisory

A suicide car bomber kills seven people, mostly soldiers, in an attack on a Somali government military camp, as residents flee embattled Mogadishu where foreign fighters have reportedly joined the insurgency.

450 words 1500 GMT Mustapha Haji Abdinur

US-space-astronomy-Hubble,3rdlead

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

NASA says the crew of the US space shuttle Atlantis will have to land in California after bad weather in Florida forced delays in their return to Earth for three consecutive days.

650 words 1600 GMT by Patrick Baert

Health-flu-world,lead-WRAP

KUWAIT CITY

Eighteen US soldiers who tested positive for swine flu are removed from a military base in Kuwait, as most new cases are reported in Asia where Australia was forced to shut down a school.

650 words 1530 GMT. Picture. Graphic

Entertainment-film-festival-Cannes,3rdlead-WRAP

CANNES, France

The Cannes showdown between the world's greatest film directors reaches its climax with a bleak French prison drama tipped to let France take the top prize for the second year in a row.

650 words 1500 GMT by Rory Mulholland. Video, pictures

Ceremony starts 1715 GMT. Winner announced around 1800 GMT

FILING PLANS BY REGION

-- AFRICA ---

Entertainment-Morocco-music-disaster,4thlead

RABAT

A stampede at a world music festival in the Moroccan capital Rabat, which featured top names such as Kylie Minogue, left at least 11 people dead, most of them women and children, police said Sunday.

500 words 1500 GMT. Picture.

-- EUROPE --

UN-climate-talks-Denmark,lead-WRAP

COPENHAGEN

AFP 1400 News Advisory

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, former US vice-president Al Gore and hundreds of top business leaders meet in the Danish capital to find ways companies can tackle climate change and boost the "green economy".

500 words 1430 GMT by Slim Allagui. Picture

Britain-royals-security,lead

LONDON

Buckingham Palace suspends a royal chauffeur after he reportedly allowed two undercover journalists into Buckingham Palace grounds for cash, letting one of them pose for photographs sitting in Queen Elizabeth II's Bentley car.

600 words 1500 GMT GMT by Michael Thurston. File Picture.

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Mideast-conflict-diplomacy-Israel,5thlead

JERUSALEM

Ultra-nationalist Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman rules out a return to Israel's pre-1967 war borders, as its largely right-wing cabinet rebuffs calls to remove Jewish settlements built on Palestinian land.

650 words 1430 GMT by Ron Bousso. Picture.

Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan-summit,3rdlead

TEHRAN

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his counterparts from Afghanistan and Pakistan declare their joint commitment to battling Islamist extremism and drug smuggling in the region.

650 words moved by Farhad Pouladi. Picture

-- ASIA --

SriLanka-unrest,2ndlead-WRAP

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka says it will allow UN aid workers access to civilians detained in camps after the defeat of the **Tamil Tigers**, but only after it has weeded out rebels hiding among the refugees.

550 words moved by Amal Jayasinghe. Picture

SKorea-politics-Roh,2ndlead-WRAP

BONGHA, South Korea

Thousands of South Korean mourners pay their last respects to former president Roh Moo-Hyun, whose shock death by apparent suicide comes as he faces a massive corruption scandal.

650 words moved by Jung Yeon-Je Picture

Myanmar-politics-SuuKyi,lead-WRAP

YANGON

Lawyers for Myanmar pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi say they are preparing to open the defence case at her trial this week, as the junta looks set to face further pressure from the West.

700 words moved

afp

Load-Date: May 25, 2009

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**DE-MINING; A DAUNTING TASK FOR THE ARMY- BRIGADIER
NANA YAKKARA**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

November 18, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 1404 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Nov. 18 -- Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara briefed the Daily Mirror on the role of the Sri Lanka Army in the post conflict scenario, recruitment for the army in the future and the various allegations which have been made against the army.

Q: What is the role of the Sri Lankan Army in the post conflict scenario?

In the post conflict scenario, the army has a tremendously important role to play especially in assisting the government in post-war development work. The first major task is the de-mining process. There are over a million mines in those areas; there are no records [of where the mines have been laid] and there are no identifiable patterns of mine-laying. We will have to consider that each and every inch of the land is being mined and ensure that the whole area is de-mined before the resettlement of IDPs. De-mining has become a daunting task for the army. A separate contingent of army engineers have been deployed on de-mining tasks. Attention is also needed in the repair and reconstruction work on roads, bridges, and irrigation tanks and also in the provision of infrastructure facilities. Because of the war which was spread over the last 30 years, there has been no development work in these areas. We also didn't have time to train our troops in the skills needed and as a result had to conduct professional training programmes for the troops. But, we also had to recognize the need for our troops to have a break because they were completely involved in offensive operations especially in the Jaffna peninsula and the Vanni.

Q: You mentioned the de-mining process. It is believed that 70% of the de-mining has been done by the Sri Lankan Army. How do you intend to proceed in de-mining the rest of the area?

It's not possible to give exact figures. There are certain areas that are used for agricultural purposes. Then there are the major roads leading to the Jaffna peninsula. The 70% of the area de-mined represents essential areas connected with the resettlement process. Among the major areas identified are roads [leading to the resettlement areas], the areas earmarked for resettling IDPs, and land in paddy and other agricultural produce. We also have the tanks which we are to renovate. We have prioritized these areas and according to those priorities 70% of them have already been completed.

Q: You spoke of re-training the soldiers. Are you planning on opening new training schools or acquiring the services of foreign trainers?

No, we don't have plans of having training schools or engaging foreign trainers. Our soldiers are conversant with many trades and bear varied skills. You name it; we have it. The army should be able to operate independently, and

DE-MINING; A DAUNTING TASK FOR THE ARMY- BRIGADIER NANAYAKKARA

to achieve that independence, we have in our ranks men with various types of skills. And, we can sharpen their skills by training them according to army standards set out in our training programmes. Because of the offensive, there was little opportunity for such training. Now there is no need to conduct any offensive operations but we are yet on a defensive role-so we need more time.

Q: You mentioned how involved the soldiers are now in the development process of the North. So here one sees a shift in the mind sets of the soldiers; from being in protective roles to roles in administration. How do you see the soldiers dealing with this change?

Due to our culture, the average Sri Lankan can fit into any kind of scenario in any kind of environment. Our soldiers are cultured like that. They are not just carrying out instructions given by the hierarchy. They are educated and at the same time they could do some work using their own initiatives. Though they were completely on offensive operations, there is no necessity that they undergo training or counselling to fit into the post-war scenarios, like other armies do. Because of their family backgrounds and the way they were associating with society they can fit into any kind of environment. But if there are a few individuals who could not adjust to this change, our officers are trained to identify such army personnel and offer them counselling so that they'll be able to perform jobs in any other environment other than in offensive climates.

Q: In the recent past there have been a number of accusations against the army especially from the US. At one point, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that rape had been used as a weapon of war. Recently the US State Department submitted to Congress a report on various war crimes said to have been committed by the Sri Lankan Army. As someone from the army, how do you respond to these allegations and how do you see these accusations made by the international community?

This is not the first time such accusations have been levelled against us. During the offensive over the past three years, there were many accusations against Sri Lanka. Forgetting that the Sri Lanka Army is the only army in the world that rescued over 300,000 people from the clutches of a terrorist organization-the LTTE-with a minimum number of casualties, we were accused of human rights violations. Our instructions were to destroy the enemy with zero causality to the civilians. We carried out our operations accordingly, and not a single human rights violation has been reported by the evacuees. You can check with these civilians none of whom complained about any human right violations [on the part of the Sri Lankan Army]. Our troops have even sacrificed their meals for the sake of these civilians. Our women soldiers helped deliver babies of pregnant women amongst the evacuees. Humane assistance of various kinds and facilities were provided to the evacuees who were mistreated during their time with the LTTE. We have carried out investigations at the divisional and sectional levels and found that these allegations were false and were made merely to tarnish the good work carried out by the Sri Lankan Army.

Q: The issues surrounding the Chief of Defence Staff, General Sarath Fonseka has sparked some controversy in the past few weeks. There also has been speculation about his entry into politics. What would you say from the point of view of the army, on the subject?

We have made our stand clear on this matter. Be it General Fonseka or any other person in the military, as long as someone is in the army he can't enter politics. But if you decide to leave the army, then that person can enter politics.

Q: Is this due to legally binding agreements between the army and a soldier or is it on ethical grounds?

There is a legally binding agreement and it is also on ethical grounds.

Q: Now that the war is over, what has been done to address the psychological needs of the soldiers since they have to shift their mindsets from an offensive role to a defensive role? Recently there were reports of how a soldier had blown up a school bus full of children.

We have experienced such issues and as I said before this was due to personal disputes. Just because an individual in the army does something disagreeable, it's not a problem faced by the entire army. It is a pyramid like organization and at every level you have a person who will take responsibility and is accountable for these people.

DE-MINING; A DAUNTING TASK FOR THE ARMY- BRIGADIER NANAYAKKARA

As such, at each of these levels we have made necessary arrangements for their education. The majority of the incidents which were reported to the effect that army soldiers were involved, those responsible had deserted the army some time back. These individuals used the military training they have received to harm civilians. We have made necessary arrangements to arrest these deserters and deal with them.

Q: How will the Sri Lankan Army assist in the global war on terror?

The same situation that was prevailing in Sri Lanka is prevailing in Haiti. And with our experience over the last 30 years, our troops are quite capable of understanding the situation that is prevailing there, the way we should assist them, and the way we should operate there. We can assist the other armies fighting terrorism and offer them training if they wish. There have been many requests by other armies requesting such training and I think this is a good indication that they have recognized the task that we have accomplished [by defeating the **LTTE** militarily]. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: November 18, 2009

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SRI LANKA: UN AGENCY BOOSTS SUPPORT FOR DISPLACED PREGNANT WOMEN

States News Service

May 7, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 395 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

The following information was released by the United Nations:

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said today it is stepping up support for women and girls affected by the conflict in northern Sri Lanka, particularly those who are pregnant, amid disruptions to reproductive health services caused by ongoing fighting.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), over 196,000 people have fled the conflict zone, a shrinking pocket of land on the north-east coastline, where clashes continue between Government troops and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). It estimates that at least 50,000 people are still trapped there.

UNFPA believes that at least 3,000 pregnant women have fled the fighting in recent days and some 350 of them will give birth in the next month.

"In this overwhelming situation, it is important that women's specific health concerns, from their hygiene needs to life-threatening complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, are not overlooked," said UNFPA Representative in Sri Lanka Lene K. Christiansen.

The agency noted that typically, around 15 per cent of women giving birth will develop complications that require blood transfusions or emergency surgical care. Pregnancy-related disabilities and death often rise in conflict situations when reproductive health services are disrupted, it said in a news release.

UNFPA is expanding its support for mobile reproductive health clinics offering pre-natal and post-natal care, services for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, and psychosocial counselling. Since December 2008, 139 mobile clinic sessions have been conducted in Vavuniya and Mannar, serving 5,550 people.

In addition, the Fund will continue distributing personal hygiene packs for displaced women and girls, maternity kits for pregnant women, and reproductive health supplies for hospitals providing emergency life-saving care for pregnant women.

Furthermore, to ease overcrowding, UNFPA has furnished a ward at the Ayurvedic Hospital in Paipeymadu Vavuniya, where displaced mothers and newborns can receive post-delivery care.

SRI LANKA : UN AGENCY BOOSTS SUPPORT FOR DISPLACED PREGNANT WOMEN

UNFPA hopes to secure \$1 million to increase its response, as part of the larger \$50 million appeal launched this week by the Government of Sri Lanka and the UN to meet the most immediate humanitarian needs of civilians fleeing the fighting.

Load-Date: May 7, 2009

End of Document

COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO 2020 SUMMIT, SRI LANKA AND OTHER ISSUES

States News Service

April 22, 2009 Wednesday

Copyright 2009 States News Service

Length: 2203 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: CANBERRA, Australia

Body

The following information was released by the office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia:

STEPHEN SMITH : Thanks very much for coming. Firstly, I welcome very much the fact that the Cabinet is meeting in Perth, in the seat of Cowan, and I very much welcome my Cabinet colleagues to Western Australia.

Chris Evans and I, of course, are very pleased that the Cabinet's meeting here. And later this evening, of course, there'll be another community Cabinet meeting just down the road in Ballajura.

Today, the Prime Minister has released the Government's response to the 2020 Summit. We were very pleased with that process. There are a very large number of good ideas, very many of which the Government is taking forward.

If I can just comment on a couple in my own area, firstly, the deployable civilian capacity. This is an idea from the 2020 Summit which AusAID, as the lead agency, has been working on for some time and we expect that by about August-September of this year we'll have a complete policy framework in place.

We see civilian deployable capacity, of course, in other countries: United States, United Kingdom, and our ambition here is to complement the good work, for example, that our military and defence assets do and perform in the aftermath of disasters, whether, for example, it's the Chinese earthquake or the tsunami.

What we've discovered in recent years is that the initial response is often coordinated between defence or military assets of different countries. But in the aftermath, we need very much to look at technical assistance and reconstruction.

So we're very pleased that we're able to take that idea from the 2020 Summit forward. Also, I'm very pleased to see that the Prime Minister has announced that his Australia-

Asia Endeavour Awards, funded to the tune of \$15 million, will also be progressed. This will enhance the educational engagement and the people to people engagement between young Australians and our Asian neighbours. This is also a very good initiative.

Very quickly, can I just make a couple of remarks in other areas? Sri Lanka, I've released a further statement today. We remain very concerned about the risk to a very large number of civilians in Sri Lanka. We again call upon the Sri

COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO 2020 SUMMIT, SRI LANKA AND OTHER ISSUES

Lankan Government and the Tamil Tigers to cease hostilities, to enable civilians to withdraw from the area of hostilities.

We welcome the fact that there are reports that many thousands of civilians were able to leave the hostile areas in the last 24-48 hours, but there are, clearly, very many thousands more who are caught in the hostile territory, and we call upon both the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Tigers to allow civilians to remove themselves from the area.

Finally, later this evening, tonight, I will be leaving Perth to go to Turkey. I have the great honour of leading the Australian delegation at the Anzac Day celebration or commemorations in Gallipoli. I'm looking very much forward to that. Anzac Day these days, of course, not just commemorates the Gallipoli battle, but also, I think, commemorates the sacrifice that Australian servicemen and women have made over a long period of time. I think Anzac Day, the modern celebration or commemoration of Anzac Day, also underlines some of our great Australian characteristics and values and virtues. So I'm very much looking forward to getting to Gallipoli for the Anzac Day commemorations.

I'm happy to respond to your questions.

QUESTION: On the civilian capacity, can you explain how that would actually work, who would be involved? Would it be attached to a department? Would it be like the US Peace Corps?

STEPHEN SMITH : Well, AusAID will be the lead agency and we will have, potentially, a civilian contribution. They may be civilians who are already engaged in public service or civilians from private enterprise who have the necessary technical expertise and capacity to assist in either long term reconstruction or other non-military activity. For example, I was recently in China in the aftermath of the earthquake in Sichuan Province and had a look at some of the contribution that Australians are making there, including the rebuilding, effectively, of a hospital.

So, whether the technical expertise is in construction, whether the technical expertise is building the capacity of the adversely affected communities, it takes on a role which is non-military, non-defence assets.

Generally, we have found that they are used in the immediate aftermath, in the immediate crisis where you need to quickly deploy emergency relief. It's the longer term rebuilding of communities, rebuilding of infrastructure, rebuilding of societies that this complementary effort is aimed at.

QUESTION : On the 2020 priority list, the Republic is left off. Was it something that was still popular or...

STEPHEN SMITH : We've made it clear that, of course, we support Australia becoming a Republic, but the Prime Minister has made it clear that we don't see it as being a priority in terms of timing. The Prime Minister has also made the point from time to time that he sees the best opportunity for Australia to move to a Republic when the current monarch ceases in that role and that's a personal view that I also share.

But, of course, the 2020 Summit wasn't the first institution or gathering to contemplate Australia being a Republic. We support that, but we think it's best done in due course. It's not a timing priority for us.

QUESTION : Are you aware of the extradition process of Hadi Ahmadi has begun?

STEPHEN SMITH : I was in Bali last week for the Bali Process conference, which was very successful. I had a bilateral meeting with my counterpart, Foreign Minister Wirajuda. He made the point to me at the time that the extradition approval was subject to the President's approval. That's now occurred. And now the normal processes will take place.

Our officials will now be pursuing that extradition in conjunction with the Indonesian authorities. So I'm very pleased that the Indonesian authorities have made that decision. I'm very pleased to see the extradition processes start.

QUESTION : When can we expect to see him back here?

COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO 2020 SUMMIT, SRI LANKA AND OTHER ISSUES

STEPHEN SMITH : That will depend upon the Indonesian legal and judicial processes, but the threshold level has been reached and that's a very good thing.

QUESTION: The civilian force, is there going to be any military component at all, training or escorted by the military?

STEPHEN SMITH : The only time that we would see a role for the military would be if, for example, the civilian deployed capacity required force protection or security arrangements. We're not envisaging that on an ongoing basis, but that is a possibility.

We've also learned a lot of useful and good experience from the civilian reconstruction work we do in the Solomon Islands and in East Timor. There, of course, you have Australians and, also, New Zealanders, as part of a defence or military attachment, but there are also civilian attachments to that.

It's also possible that people who can become part of the civilian deployable capacity are also reservists. There are a lot of army or armed services reservists who, for example, from time to time are rotated through either East Timor or the Solomon Islands. So we don't discount the possibility that some people who had experience in East Timor or the Solomons might form part of a civilian deployment - deployed capacity, having had prior experience as a reservist in one of those two locations.

QUESTION : But for civilians involved, would they have to take time off work to do this?

STEPHEN SMITH: We're certainly not proposing to make it compulsory. It would be effectively a voluntary community effort. That's one of the issues we want to look at in terms of the formal policy framework, the extent to which people might be able to be compensated for taking time off from work and the like. So that's one of the precise points that we'd want to have a closer look at.

QUESTION: So they might get paid to a certain minimum level while they're away?

STEPHEN SMITH : It's a possibility but I don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves. It's one of the issues that we do want to have a look at.

QUESTION: Mr Smith, should Indonesia sign up to the United Nations convention on refugees?

STEPHEN SMITH: That's, of course, a matter for Indonesia. That was one of the issues which was the subject of discussion at the Bali process but as a general proposition I'm very, very happy with the cooperation that Australia has with Indonesia.

Foreign Minister Wirajuda has indicated, for example, that he proposes to continue to pursue through the Parliament the question of people smuggling becoming a domestic offence in Indonesia.

Whether Indonesia chooses to join up for the convention is a matter for Indonesia and I'm very happy to leave that to Foreign Minister Wirajuda.

QUESTION: Given how close - I mean, obviously, the latest boatload of asylum seekers isn't from Indonesia but given how close they actually came, is it time that we put a bit more pressure on Indonesia to make sure, especially with rumours...

STEPHEN SMITH : I won't make that assumption. My colleague, the Home Affairs Minister, Mr Debus, has made a detailed statement today and answered questions. We, as a matter of longstanding process, announce when there's been an interception. My understanding is that this boat was under surveillance for effectively a 24 hour period, was intercepted - that was aerial surveillance - was intercepted when it came into the Australian migration zone and is being escorted to Christmas Island. I think there are about 30, 32 adult males on board.

They'll go through the assessments, the usual assessments at Christmas Island, to determine where they're from and how they arrived there so I'm not making any assumptions but what we do know is this and I've made this clear

COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO 2020 SUMMIT, SRI LANKA AND OTHER ISSUES

in the past, in the run-up to the Bali process meeting, in the aftermath of that and before, is that we see the dangers and the risks of very considerable push factors and those push factors, historically or in the recent period generally, so far as Australia's concerned, have come from Iraq and Afghanistan. More recently we've become very concerned not just about Afghanistan but also the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area and also Sri Lanka.

And I've made some separate remarks about Sri Lanka, but there is clearly very grave potential for displaced people coming from Sri Lanka so we're acutely conscious and concerned about these things. That was one of the reasons it was at Australia's request that we saw, for the first time in half a dozen years, a Ministerial meeting of the Bali Process which is aimed at regional cooperation so far as displaced people and people movements are concerned.

QUESTION: In terms of the push factors in Sri Lanka, do you have discussions with your Sri Lankan counterparts about what they can do to try and stop people coming over or is it too hard over there?

STEPHEN SMITH : The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Bogollagama was in Australia last year. That was one of the issues that I discussed with him but our officials in Sri Lanka and our officials in Canberra have been in very detailed conversations with the Sri Lankans about the risks posed by displaced people from Sri Lanka.

Historically, of course, we've seen Sinhalese people coming to - or Sinhalese people being displaced from - Sri Lanka or leaving Sri Lanka and coming close to our shores and there's, of course, a very significant risk that in the future it'll be Tamils who will be displaced and seek to move to Australia via the sea and it's an issue that we're very concerned about and very conscious of.

QUESTION: Are you expecting that number to rise, given what's happening at the moment?

STEPHEN SMITH : As I've said, you know, we're seeing very serious difficulties for civilians in the north-east of Sri Lanka. We continue to urge the Sri Lankan Government to not just attempt to resolve these matters through military means but to enter into a political dialogue. We continue to urge the ***Tamil Tigers*** to lay down their arms. We continue to urge cessation of hostilities to enable civilians to remove themselves from danger zones but the ongoing conflict in Sri Lanka is seeing a very considerable number of displaced peoples and that does add to the risk that some of them will seek to leave Sri Lanka by boat, heading in Australia's direction. We are acutely aware of that.

QUESTION: But do you know if the Sri Lankan authorities are actually doing anything to patrol their coast or is that just unrealistic given the situation?

STEPHEN SMITH : We have been in contact with the Sri Lankan Government and officials but we obviously want to, and will be, doing much more so far as Sri Lanka is concerned. So we have, for example, a very, very good relationship with Indonesia and the work that we do with Indonesia, the work that Indonesia does on our behalf, the work that Indonesia does in this area, is first class work and we appreciate it very much. We need to make sure that other transit countries, whether it's Sri Lanka, whether, for example, it's Malaysia, that we have the same working basis and arrangement with them and that's what we're working very hard to achieve.

Load-Date: April 23, 2009

EPDP names Jaffna Mayor

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

August 12, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 353 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Aug. 12 -- The EPDP, which contested the elections to the Jaffna Municipal Council on the UPFA ticket, has nominated Mrs. Yogeswari Patkunarajah for the post of mayor, and Thurairajah Ilango for deputy mayor.

The party's central committee met last night and took this decision -- which is to be conveyed to UPFA Secretary and Education Minister Susil Premajayantha.

Mrs. Patkunarajah is a Grade One principal and known in Jaffna as 'Yoga teacher'. The UPFA won the Jaffna municipality with 13 members, nine of whom are from the EPDP. The other four are Muslims and members of the All Ceylon Muslim Congress led by Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services Minister Rizad Bathiudeen.

If the EDDP nominee is accepted by the UPFA as mayor, she will be the second **female** mayor to govern the Jaffna municipality. In 1998, Mrs. Sarojini Yogeswari of the TULF became the Jaffna mayor. However, she could not run the council for long since she was gunned down by the **LTTE** pistol squad. Mrs. Patkunarajah obtained 1250 preferential votes at this election and came fifth. Mrs. Ilango topped the list with 3387 preferential votes.

Meanwhile, community leaders representing the displaced Jaffna Muslims are insisting that the deputy mayor's post be given to a Muslim.

IDP Resettlement Council President Dr. Yousuf K. Marikkar told Daily Mirror yesterday that it was the duty of the authorities concerned to offer this post to a Muslim because there was a sizeable Muslim population displaced from the Jaffna peninsula alone.

Dr. Marikkar, a banker hailing from the Mannar district, said this post had been held by Muslim representatives twice in the past.

"They are M. Basheer and M. Raja (whose son was elected this time). Displaced Muslims have placed enormous trust in this government. So we hope this post will be given to one of their representatives," he said.

He said it would be easy to oversee the resettlement of displaced Muslims in Jaffna if this is done. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Surit Das at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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EPDP names Jaffna Mayor

Load-Date: August 12, 2009

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MERCY HEALTH POSTS FOR SRI LANKA WAR VICTIMS

Malaysia General News

May 10, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 377 words

Dateline: VAVUNIYA May 10

Body

In the midst of threatening humanitarian crisis in northern Sri Lanka, MERCY Malaysia has rolled out its healthcare facilities for fleeing Tamil civilians from the war zone.

It has set up four health posts (or mobile clinics) offering extended primary healthcare for thousands of internally displaced people (IDP) at Menik Farm in Cheddukulam, Vavuniya District located in the northern district of the island.

"There is an urgent need for healthcare in these camps. We were invited by the Health Ministry of Sri Lanka to run these projects in these camps. Our four posts will cater for about 100,000 IDP.

"We will fully equip these health posts and once completed, local doctors will run the day-to-day operations. We are still raising funds and will soon start our second project in Sri Lanka," Elliane Arriany Mustapha, MERCY's programme officer told Bernama today.

The four health posts, which are fully funded and equipped by MERCY, would be manned by Sri Lankan doctors in the high-security camps, where over 150,000 IDP are now being housed safely.

Each health post is equipped with beds, minor surgery paraphernalia, medical kits and ECG machine -- all stocked up by MERCY, using funds raised from Malaysian donors recently.

Since early April, MERCY volunteers, including doctors, water engineer, electricians and logistic personnel arrived in Sri Lanka to quickly begin the humanitarian project for war victims who began to pour into Menik Farm, the largest site in the north that shelters escapees.

All the four fully-furnished health posts were successfully completed on Saturday and begun operations immediately, and hundreds of IDPs, mostly young women with new-born babies queued in the blistering heat to seek medical help.

MERCY is the only other humanitarian agency, besides the United Nations, that is providing medical care for IDPs in Vavuniya district.

At least, 190,000 Tamil civilians have fled the combat zone in the north, where Sri Lankan soldiers and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) cadres are fighting a pitched battle, which military officials in Colombo say could be the last leg of the war to wipe out the rebels.

MERCY HEALTH POSTS FOR SRI LANKA WAR VICTIMS

The rebels have staged a 25-year-old armed struggle for a separate homeland for the minority Tamil population in the north.

Load-Date: May 26, 2009

End of Document

Massacre of innocents at colony

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

June 26, 2009 Friday

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Length: 365 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 26 -- Four women and three children were among nine victims of brutal terrorist massacre yesterday at colony 18, a small community of farmers near Mantottam, about 25 miles from Amparai, on the Dambana-Pannalagama Road, security sources said.

A spokesman said that an LTTE group, believed to be from Tirukovil, had arrived at the Mantottam junction on Tuesday night. The terrorists had divided into two groups, one taking on the residents of Mantottam - a group of small houses and boutiques - while the rest went onto the nearby colony. "The Mantottam home guards fought hard and were able to repel the attackers. There were no civilian casualties. We've recovered some grenades from the scene of the fighting," the spokesman said. The group that went onto the colony had herded the residents, all chena cultivators and subsistence farmers, into a single house. "It looks like they tried to blow them up with a couple of explosive devices they had brought. Fortunately, they couldn't set off the blast. Meanwhile, the people in the house attempted to run. That was when they mowed them down with gunfire. Two men, four women and three children were killed. Fourteen others were injured. Eight of the more seriously injured are at the Badulla hospital, while the rest are at Amparai," the spokesman said. He condemned this cowardly attack on defenceless people on Independence Day. "They were all poor, harmless people already burdened by poverty. It was a brutal act," he said. "It looks as though they went to terrorise poor villagers." Police sources said military units had arrived and assisted the home guards at Mantottam to repel the attackers. The police and military were at the scene, reassuring villagers who had fled into the jungles that it was safe for them to return. Senior government officials were on the spot and social services authorities were arranging to issue dry rations and food parcels to the affected villagers. The three children killed in the attack were all under 10 years old. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: June 26, 2009

Tales of conflict and hope from Israel to Kashmir

Mail Today

September 12, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 383 words

Byline: By Karanjeet Kaur

Body

DAY TWO at the PSBT Open Frame Festival dawned on a sombre note - all the screenings focused on stories from conflict- riddled areas in south and west Asia. From the unrest in Kashmir to the Maoist insurgency in Nepal and the hopelessly convoluted intertwining of the Israel- Palestine freefor- all, the films were chilling reminders of the seismic underpinnings of the history of these regions. The festival is taking place at the IHC till September 17.

Priya Krishnaswamy's Fractured Pasts, Shared Futures speaks of the incipient possibility of civil society movements to become agents of change in Kashmir. The film looks at Kashmir through the eyes of three people, including two reporters, Raheel Khursheed and Sameer Arshad. Mumbai- based Krishnaswamy, a graduate from the prestigious FTII, Pune, has edited films such as Bhopal Express and Bombay Boys . She has made 12 documentaries so far, including the The Eye of the Fish - The Kalaris of Kerala , which won the National Award for the Best Arts/ Cultural Film in 2003.

It took her 11 years before she started directing films. Ask her why and she tells you simply, " I had small kids." Fractured Pasts was two years in the making; according to Krishnaswamy, it was the prospect of the civil society, especially women, becoming catalysts of change in the troubled valley that she found most fascinating.

The role of women in conflict resolution was the basis of Julie Bridgham's The Sari Soldiers (Nepal). Ramyata Limbu, Kathmadubased producer of the film, said Bridgham and she tracked down six remarkable women, including a Maoist rebel, a young political activist and a mother whose daughter had been taken away by the state. Can You Hear Me? is an American film, directed by Lilly Rivlin, that looks at women activists involved in the peace process in the Israeli- Palestinian conflict. The sparring between Maha Abu- Dayyeh and Leah Shakdiel, activists respectively on the Israeli and Palestinian sides, becomes a microcosm of the larger conflict in their part of the world.

The Art of Forgetting , by Sri Lankan director Lisa Kois, is a riveting and hard- hitting film about the LTTE- fuelled civil war in Sri Lanka. If these films are any indication, by September 17, it will be a far more enlightened audience that leaves the auditorium.

Load-Date: July 22, 2010

Reintegration of ex-combatants before month's end

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

September 22, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 397 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Sept. 22 -- The Action Plan for implementing the National Framework Proposal on Reintegrating Ex-Combatants will be finalised before the end of this month, Disaster Management and Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said yesterday.

Eight teams assisted by two UNDP and ILO experts are currently working side by side, putting the finishing touches to the document which, once completed will be presented to the donor community for funding and operational support.

"We started work on this action plan to re-integrate ex-combatants even before the conflict finished," the Minister said adding the document, crafted through a very extensive consultation process with civil society inputs and studying international best practices is eagerly awaited by the international community.

The national framework proposal was officially presented to President Mahinda Rajapaksa on September 18 in the presence of visiting UN Under Secretary General for Political Affairs, Lynn Pascoe.

The framework is designed to minimise the risk of socio-economic marginalisation and increase employability of ex-cadres among other things.

"Overall it is designed to prevent the recurrence of the worst kind of man made disaster; terrorism and conflict." United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon also expressed concern on the re-integration of ex-combatants during his visit to Sri Lanka in May, soon after the operations against the **LTTE** concluded.

The Minister said the Disaster Management and Human Rights Ministry will play a co-ordinating role to put the donor community in touch with different line ministries.

The Ministries Defence, Justice, Health, **Women's** Affairs, Foreign Employment, Vocational Training, Labour, National Integration and Social Services are to play an active role in the rehabilitation and reintegration process.

Apart from the ILO and UNDP, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the ICRC and few other INGOs and NGOs are backing the Government with technical, conceptual and operational support.

The rehabilitation of ex-combatants, surrendees and child soldiers had been carried out by the Government since the appointment of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation in 2006. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Reintegration of ex-combatants before month's end

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Load-Date: September 22, 2009

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Civilian exodus continue despite LTTE shelling and mortar fire: 135 escape terror hostage - Mullaittivu

Colombo Times

April 15, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 69 words

Body

Colombo, April 15 -- Civilians held hostage by **LTTE** continued to escape from the terror clutches at Puthumathalan and Valayarmadam, seeking protection with security forces as 135 more people have reportedly arrived into liberated territory today (April 15).

According to our Wanni correspondent, 42 men, 38 **women** and 55 children have sought protection with 58 Division troops now operating in general Ampalavanpokkanai.

Load-Date: May 5, 2009

Roguish bent of Indian Armed Forces

Pakistan Observer

September 24, 2009 Thursday

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Section: Vol. XV; No. 266

Length: 1541 words

Byline: Sajjad Shaukat - , [Email:sajjad_logic@yahoo.com](mailto:sajjad_logic@yahoo.com)

Body

In every country, the main role of armed forces is to defend its home land from external aggression and internal insurgency when civilian authorities fail in quelling the domestic violence. But quite contrarily, under the pretext of defending the homeland, Indian armed forces have broken all records by creating war-mongering activities against its neighbouring states-especially Pakistan. While in guise of maintaining law and order in the volatile regions, they have committed heinous crimes. In coordination with the Indian secret agency, RAW, Indian armed forces have fomented subversion and terrorism in its neighbouring states so as to fulfil Indian ambition of regional dominance. However, application of these roguish designs by the Indian forces has varied from country to country.

Sikkim was the easiest prey for Indian army which it occupied in mid-1970s. Under a well-prepared plan with RAW, on November 30, 1988, 400 well-trained Indian troops infiltrated the capital of Maldives. Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi reacted promptly by sending about 1600 more combat troops. In this way, Maldives was totally brought under Indian influence. For many years, New Delhi has openly been meddling in Nepal's internal affairs by contriving internal strife through RAW and by sending Indian troops clandestinely in civil dresse to destabilize the successive governments. In 2001, a number of Indian military commandos were included in RAW, which had played a key role in the massacre of nine members of the Royal family of Nepal, when the former King tried to drift away from Indian hold.

Indian forces have been involved in training rebels of Chakma tribes (Hindu and Buddhists tribesmen) and Shanti Bahini to carry out subversive activities in Bangladesh. In August 17, 2005, Indian armed forces supplied the explosive devices to RAW whose masterminds rocked various districts of Bangladesh with 370 explosions. In the recent past, well-trained agents of the Indian armed forces were behind a border rebellion in Bangladesh. From time to time, Indian army and navy violated the border, entering the soil of Bangladesh-killing and kidnapping Bangli soldiers entailing local residents. Shelling by the Indian forces, across the border was also vriefed.

Sri Lanka which has now crushed the Tamil rebels successfully, offers an unprecedented instance of incursion by Indian troops. After Premier Indira Gandhi, took a policy decision to support Sri Lankan northern insurgency in August 1983, within years, the number of Tamil training camps increased in Tamil Nadu. Over 20,000 Sri Lankan Tamil insurgents had been imparted armed training-tactics of guerrilla warfare by the Indian military. Specialised training was also imparted by the Indian army instructors to Sri Lankan militants in New Delhi, Bombay and other cities. In this context, Rohan Gunaratne in his book, "Sri Lanka Tamil Insurgency", disclosed that with the Indo-Lanka Accord of July 1987, Rajiv Gandhi ordered the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to fight the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE). Although the LTTE was at war with India, yet Tamil Nadu still remained LTTE's main source of weapon supplies.

Roguish bent of Indian Armed Forces

Apart from Indian army, its rogue navy and air force also played their roguish role in connection with the Sri Lankan insurgents. By openly violating the maritime laws, Indian mischievous navy had supplied larger cache of arms and ammunition to the Tamil rebels. Despite the capture of some Indian ships, and despite the complaints of Colombo, the illegitimate practice continued by the Indian roguish navy. As regards, Indian air forces, its personnel had not only helped the Tamils covertly in constructing air fields, but also provided fighter aircraft, used against the Sri Lankan forces. While explaining the roguish tendencies of the Indian armed forces, the case of Pakistan is of special consideration as since 1947, these rogue forces have left no stone unturned in desablising Pakistan. By taking advantage of the war-mongering style of New Delhi, Indian armed forces deliberately violated the Indo-Pak borders through sporadic shelling and incursion.

Thus India imposed four wars on Pakistan, which were owing to the sinister designs of its forces. It is notable that in 1971, Indian rogue army in collaboration with RAW had imparted training to Bengalis (Mukti Bahini), providing them with arms and ammunition for conducting guerrilla acts against the Pakistani defence forces. Nonetheless, Indian forces had played a major role in the dismemberment of Pakistan. The aftermath of the 9/11 has been availing by Indian cunning armed forces in obtaining its secret aims. Stiff resistance of the Taliban militants and lawlessness in Afghanistan have made it a most conducive place for the Indian army to prepare conspiracy with the tactical support of the US and Israel in order to fulfill their covert strategic designs against Pakistan, Iran and China. Particularly, New Delhi has been running secret operations led by its roguish army against Pakistan from its consulates in Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad, Kandhar and other sensitive parts of the Pak-Afghan border. India has not only increased its military troops in the country, but has also decided to set up cantonments. Notably, our country has witnessed a perennial wave of suicide attacks in the past few months. In this regard, very young boys are being trained by the Indian army and are then being sent from Afghanistan to the troubled spots of Pakistan. No doubt, overtly and covertly Indian armed forces are behind militancy in Pakistan including support to the Baloch separatists.

In this regard, on April 23 this year, in the in-camera sitting of the Senate, the federal interior minister Rehman Malik displayed documentary evidence of Indian use of Afghanistan to create unrest in FATA and Balochistan. Recently, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and ISPR spokesman, Maj-Gen. Athar Abbas also verified Indian infiltration in Pakistan along with supply of arms. A number of developments inside India have also shown the true face of Indian army which has been cooperating with the Hindu fundamentalist organizations regarding acts of sabotage and atrocities being perpetrated on other religious minorities. In this respect, last year, arrest of a serving Lt. Col. Srikant Purohit and a retired army Major Samir Kulkarni and, having close ties with prominent politicians of BJP, VHP, RSS and Bajrang Dal indicated collaboration between Hindu extremists and army officers. The Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of Maharashtra disclosed that these army officials helped train the Hindu terrorists and provided them with the military-grade explosive RDX, used in the Malegaon bombings including other Indian cities.

Besides, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International had charged the Indian Gujarat state administration for officially supporting the massive massacre of Muslims in in 2002. Demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 is another example of this kind. Nevertheless, in all these events, Indian army which was called to restore law and order, clandestinely encouraged Hindu terrorists against the Muslims. In the Indian-held Kashmir, since 1947, Indian military troops have been using barbaric tactics of extra-judicial killings, burning the houses, torture, rape etc. to suppress the genuine freedom movement of the Kashmiris. Last year, discovery of nearly 1000 graves of the unmarked Muslims in the Indian controlled Kashmir showed another evidence of Indian military terrorism. Recently, more such graves have been discovered. Reports suggest that these Muslims were tortured to deaths by the Indian army during custody.

In fact, under the cover of various anti-terrorism laws of the country, Indian armed forces have committed multiple brutal crimes such as encounter killings, illegal custody, torture, forced confession, rape of women, corruption, robbing the houses, kidnappings etc. Most of these anti-human crimes have been committed by the Indian forces during their operations in the East Punjab, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur, and during communal violence.

While Indian constitution declares the country to be a secular state, but in practice ideology of Hindu nationalism (Hindutva) which has been implemented during every successive regime has become the psyche of the Indian

Roguish bent of Indian Armed Forces

armed forces. This ideology, while manifesting itself in several forms such as dominance of Hindu culture, religious fervour and ethnic violence-especially against Muslims and Christians has been encouraged by the Indian defence forces.

According to some sources, after Indian failure in isolating Pakistan diplomatically through self-concocted story regarding the November 26 carnage of Mumbai, Indian roguish armed forces have been preparing a most dangerous plan to use weapons of mass destructions inside the US homeland and major European countries. Particularly employment of these fatal weapons against NATO forces in Afghanistan are also part of the mischievous plan. The aim behind is to implicate Pakistan for having allegedly using these weapons through some Taliban militants. Major purpose is to bring about a full-fledged attack by the US-led western allies on Pakistan.

Load-Date: November 16, 2011

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AS SRI LANKA CONFLICT ENDS, WFP RESPONDS TO IDP CHALLENGE

States News Service

May 19, 2009 Tuesday

Copyright 2009 States News Service

Length: 364 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: ROME, Italy

Body

The following information was released by World Food Programme:

WFP is boosting food stocks and preparing nutritionally-rich food for women and children in order to meet the needs of IDPs displaced in the final days of Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war.

WFP is already feeding 250,000 people in temporary transit camps in the northern areas affected by recent fighting but the number of IDPs is expected to rise to more than 280,000 in coming days.

Over the last few months, more than 265,000 people have been displaced by the battling between Sri Lankan government forces and the LTTE Tamil Tiger rebel movement. They include about 80,000 who fled the conflict zone over the weekend as the civil war came to an end.

Full rations and fortified food

The majority of the IDPs have already passed through the government-screening point at Omanthai, a town in the northern Vavuniya district. They are now in more than 40 temporary transit centres/welfare villages primarily in Vavuniya. The IDPs are currently completely dependent upon humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs.

Northern Sri Lanka

White arrows show movement of IDPs away from conflict zone. Click map to enlarge.

As well as providing full rations to the people in the temporary transit centres, WFP is gearing up to provide additional fortified food to all children under the age of five years and for pregnant and lactating women.

To meet the daily food needs of the IDP population, WFP is boosting food stocks in its Vavuniya hub and also putting mobile storage units in place in the temporary transit camps.

Cooking round the clock

More than 50,000 people who passed through the government screening point at Omanthai have received cooked meals provided by WFP. WFP's partner at Omanthai, Sevelanka has been cooking round the clock.

Another 15-20,000 arrivals were expected in Omanthai on Tuesday, with another approximately 20,000 en route. To maintain food distributions through the end of the year, WFP is appealing for \$40US million for 2009. Although WFP

AS SRI LANKA CONFLICT ENDS, WFP RESPONDS TO IDP CHALLENGE

has enough food to meet current needs, it takes up to six months to translate new funding into meals for the IDPs, so we are urging donors to confirm commitments quickly.

Load-Date: May 19, 2009

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Close to 10,000 Tamil rebels surrender, reports Sri Lankan paper =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 24, 2009 Sunday 10:30 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 397 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

DPA POLITICS SriLanka Conflicts Close to 10,000 Tamil rebels surrender, reports Sri Lankan paper =
Colombo

As many as 10,000 Tamil rebels have surrendered to the Sri Lankan government in the northern part of the country. Most of them are due to undergo rehabilitation, a state run newspaper reported Sunday.

The government has already started rehabilitation programmes for more than 7,200 members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(LTTE) who surrendered before the fighting was officially declared over last Tuesday, the Sunday Observer in Colombo reported.

Rebels who have yet to be sent to rehabilitation centres have been isolated from the thousands of refugees in camps.

Earlier, Sri Lankan Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said that the government will be drafting laws which would provide an amnesty for some members, though court proceedings will be necessary for those facing serious charges.

The number of rebels who surrendered provided some clue to the size of the Tiger's military operations.

Fighting in the final phase of the military operations against the rebels, which lasted 34 months, was fierce, with both sides suffering heavy casualties.

Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa last week

admitted that 6,261 security force personnel, policemen and women and paramilitary group members were killed in the final phase, while nearly 30,000 others were injured.

He did not give estimated rebel casualties, but military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said that an estimated 22,000 rebels were also killed during the period.

On Saturday, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon visited refugee

Close to 10,000 Tamil rebels surrender, reports Sri Lankan paper =

camps in northern Sri Lanka during a one-day visit in which he also met with President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Ban said United Nations and international non-governmental organizations need unimpeded access to refugee camps, where some 300,000 persons are being accommodated after fleeing Tamil-rebel-held areas in the northern part of the country.

Ban also called for an early political settlement to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict and warned that history could repeat itself.

The government should take steps to build confidence among the minorities and address issue of minorities, he said.

Tamil rebels had been fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the northern and eastern parts of the country for the last 26 years.

May 24 09 1030 GMT

Load-Date: May 25, 2009

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Sri Lanka's post-war future to be debated

Gulf Daily News

June 18, 2009

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Length: 359 words

Byline: ANIQA HAIDER

Body

THE future of Sri Lanka following the end of its bloody 26-year civil war will be discussed in Bahrain tomorrow.

More than 500 people, including leading scholars from both countries, are expected to attend the event, Way To Peace From The Rubbles Of War.

It will be held at the Sea Shell Hotel, Adliya, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

The meeting has been organised by the Discover Islam's Sri Lankan Wing in collaboration with the Budaiya Sri Lankan Community.

Main speakers will include former Sri Lankan Club president Sarath Guna-thilaka, who will talk about Buddhism, and Shepherd Flock Global Ministry member Martin Waduge about Christianity.

Visiting Sri Lankan scholar and Muslim **Women** Research and Actions Forum media co-ordinator Ahmad Anwar will speak about Islam.

The GDN reported earlier this month that Bahrain's travel agents were bracing for a surge in tourist bookings after the end of the civil war.

They are hoping to signal a fresh start for tourism to the island and promote it as one of the most attractive holiday destinations in Asia.

More than 13,000 Sri Lankans live and work in Bahrain.

Nearly 70,000 people are estimated to have lost their lives during the bloody conflict, started by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) in 1983 when they demanded a separate nation for the Tamil-speaking Sri Lankans.

It came to an end last month with the death of its chief Velupillai Prabha-karan.

Sri Lanka 's post-war future to be debated

"Sri Lanka is a free country once again, after liberating this beautiful paradise island from the clutches of terrorism," said the chief organiser and Discover Islam's Sri Lankan Wing group co-ordinator Moha-mmed Safeen. "For the past three decades, over 70,000 people perished, thousands of families were displaced and made destitute which demonstrates the consequences of war and violence.

"The intention of this dialogue is to highlight the viewpoint of peace in Christianity, Buddhism and Islam and to offer our care, compassion to unite those who were distanced by the war."

Mr Safeen organised the event with the help of Budaiya Sri Lankan Com-munity president Thushara Gallage.

For more information, call Mr Safeen on 39338538 or Mr Gallage on 39014000.

Load-Date: June 18, 2009

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Red Cross: Sri Lankans in 'catastrophic' situation

Associated Press International

April 22, 2009 Wednesday 12:13 AM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 966 words

Byline: By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

Tens of thousands of civilians trapped in Sri Lanka's northern war zone face a "catastrophic" situation, the Red Cross said, amid fears a final assault against the Tamil Tiger rebels would lead to a dramatic rise in casualties.

The United Nations and others have called for a negotiated truce to allow civilians to leave the rebel-held coastal strip and the government says more than 52,000 had escaped since Monday.

But it has refused to heed the international pleas to halt the fighting, saying Tuesday that it is on the verge of crushing the separatists and putting an end to the 25-year-old war.

The U.N. estimated more than 4,500 civilians have been killed in the past three months.

The rebels said more than 1,000 civilians died Monday in a government raid, while the government said it rescued thousands after they broke through a barrier built by the insurgents that protects their last stronghold.

Human rights groups say the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are holding many people in the enclave against their will and using them as human shields. Those groups have also accused the government of indiscriminate shelling in the region. Both sides deny the allegations.

Thousands of civilians also fled in packed small boats, and they were picked up by navy patrols and transported to camps where Tamils who have escaped the war are being held. More than 2,000 people in about 100 boats were picked up Monday.

The Red Cross said about 50,000 civilians were still stranded, while Human Rights Watch put the number between 50,000 and 100,000.

The U.S. government released satellite images Tuesday showing about 25,000 tents housing civilians squeezed into the last small strip controlled by the rebels, a coastal strip of about only 8 square miles (21 square kilometers). The State Department estimated about 125,000 people were in the conflict zone before the exodus over the past two days.

A worker for Doctors Without Borders said hundreds of wounded were arriving at her hospital in Vavuniya, south of the war zone, in government-arranged buses, and some had died en route. The hospital is overcrowded with 1,200

Red Cross : Sri Lankans in 'catastrophic' situation

people being accommodated in a facility with only 400 beds, said mental health officer Karen Stewart, according to a statement from the aid group.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres was concerned about the "dramatic situation" for civilians still in the war zone, said commission spokesman Ron Redmond.

"There are innocent civilians women and children caught in the middle of the conflict ... so the high commissioner is saying there should be a pause in the hostilities and the LTTE should allow civilians to leave," Redmond said.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara denied that 1,000 civilians died, saying 17 civilians were killed Monday by rebel shelling and by three suicide bombers.

"Our troops are rescuing the trapped civilians. It's the LTTE which is preventing civilians from fleeing," Nanayakkara said.

It was impossible to get independent accounts of casualties because journalists are restricted from the war zone.

The number of fleeing civilians made it clear that the government had vastly underestimated how many people were caught in the fighting.

"Both sides need to show far greater concern for civilians, or many more civilians will die," said Brad Adams, Asia director for the New York-based group Human Rights Watch.

A final government offensive "could lead to a dramatic increase in the number of civilian casualties," the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

"The situation is nothing short of catastrophic. Ongoing fighting has killed or wounded hundreds of civilians who have only minimal access to medical care," said Red Cross operations director Pierre Kraehenbuehl. "I cannot remember ... as much concentrated pain and exposure to violence with very, very minimal possibilities to reach anywhere that could be called safe."

The U.N. Children's Fund South Asia director Daniel Toole said he was worried about the safety of children still in the war zone because "our greatest fear is that the worst is yet to come."

The military spokesman said there was no fighting Tuesday evening, adding that it avoids using heavy, long-range weapons.

Nanayakkara said 39,081 civilians fled the war zone Monday, the most in a single day, and at least 13,000 people crossed over Tuesday, with the stream continuing.

State Department spokesman Robert Wood said the U.S. was pleased so many civilians had fled, but he remained concerned about what he called credible reports of increasing casualties and indiscriminate firing on civilians by rebel forces.

Encouraged by the exodus, the government Monday asked the rebels to surrender within 24 hours, warning of a final assault if they failed. The ultimatum expired at noon (2:30 a.m. EDT) Tuesday without a response from the rebels.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa rejected a call by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown for a pause in the fighting, his office said Tuesday.

The president's office said in a statement that Rajapaksa deemed a pause "unnecessary" considering the "unexpected exodus of civilians" when the two leaders had spoken by phone Monday.

Red Cross spokeswoman Sarasi Wijeratne said the organization could not confirm or deny the figures quoted by the military. According to figures received by the Red Cross, 11,000 people crossed the front lines Monday and another 5,000 came Tuesday, she said.

Red Cross : Sri Lankans in 'catastrophic' situation

The U.N. refugee agency said it is ready to provide shelter and aid to tens of thousands of displaced civilians.

The rebels have fought since 1983 for an independent state for Sri Lanka's ethnic minority Tamils. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the years of violence.

Associated Press writers Bharatha Mallawarachi in Colombo and Eliane Engeler in Geneva contributed to this report.

Load-Date: April 22, 2009

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FOOD AID REACHED 280,000 PEOPLE UPROOTED IN POST-CONFLICT SRI LANKA - UN

States News Service

June 8, 2009 Monday

Copyright 2009 States News Service

Length: 394 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

The following information was released by the United Nations:

Basic food supplies were distributed to around 280,000 people last month following the end of the conflict between Government forces and rebels in north-east Sri Lanka, the United Nations humanitarian wing announced today.

Over 2,200 megatons of food was dispersed, with supplemental food - particularly a corn soya blend - being delivered to underweight young children, as well as to pregnant and lactating **women**, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

For its part, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other agencies providing shelter have built 6,500 emergency structures and over 13,000 tents to date, with more being erected as land is cleared.

OCHA reported that water and sanitation has been a huge challenge, but progress is being made, with half of the latrines needed in place and water currently being provided for 75 per cent of overall drinking and bathing needs.

As of 5 June, 40 per cent of the \$155 million needed for the 2009 Common Humanitarian Action Plan for Sri Lanka has been received, and an additional \$28 million pledged.

Last month, Sri Lanka's Government declared that its military operation against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) was over, ending more than two decades of fighting.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last week repeated his appeal to the South Asian island nation's Government to heed international calls for accountability and transparency, and for an inquiry into alleged abuses committed during the recently concluded conflict with Tamil rebels.

"It is crucially important that the Sri Lankan Government follow up on all the promises that they have made," Mr. Ban told reporters following an informal discussion with Security Council members on Sri Lanka.

"Whenever and wherever there are credible allegations of violations of humanitarian law, there should be a proper investigation," he said, adding that any inquiry must be supported by UN Member States and be "very impartial and objective."

FOOD AID REACHED 280,000 PEOPLE UPROOTED IN POST-CONFLICT SRI LANKA - UN

The Secretary-General also stressed that it was time to unite, and warned against "the risk of triumphalism in the wake of victory," as this will hinder ongoing efforts by the Sri Lankan Government and people, and the international community, to help heal the wounds inflicted during the long-running conflict.

Load-Date: June 8, 2009

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?Women jihadis could enter India?

Hindustan Times

April 15, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 398 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

New Delhi, Apr. 15 -- The mujahidaat, or women terrorists, have reached India's doorstep. Army chief General Deepak Kapoor disclosed on Tuesday that women were being trained on the other side of the LoC to unleash terror in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, "We have information that women terrorists are waiting to infiltrate into J&K." The army chief was responding to a question on the possibility of involvement of women handlers in the Pulwama encounter that ended on Monday. He said it was possible that women were involved in giving directions to the terrorists. Female suicide terrorism will be a new phenomenon in Kashmir and it could compel the army to fine-tune its counter-terrorism strategy. There are several tactical reasons for terror groups to use women. A senior army officer, who did not wish to be named, as he is not authorised to speak to the media, said, "Women arouse less suspicion. Searching and questioning them is also quite complex." So far, women have only played cameo roles such as serving as informers for terrorists or providing shelter. The officer said attacks executed by women terrorists also brought greater publicity. Army sources said Lashkar-e-Tayyeba was raising a new cadre of women fighters. Women are equal in jihad and receive same rewards of martyrdom. A paper on the Role and Contribution of Muslim Women to the Global Jihadi movement by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies says that the Iraq war and Arab-Israeli conflict could have a spiral effect on female jihadists. Several terror groups around the world have used women to carry out strikes. Some Palestinian militant groups have in the past sent female bombers to strike targets in Israel. Young Chechen women had struck fear in the hearts of Russians by staging suicide missions. A third of the members of the Sri Lankan Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were women at one stage. On the issue of Taliban infiltrating into India, Kapoor said, "As far as the army is concerned, there is no trace of Taliban. But whosoever tries to disturb peace and stability of the region --- be it LeT, JeM or Taliban, they will be dealt with in the same manner and will be neutralised." He said there was certain amount of calibration from the other side to push infiltrators into India before the elections. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Hindustan Times.

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Load-Date: April 15, 2009

Why not international probe on UK in Iraq?

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

June 20, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 1465 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 20 -- How often in recent weeks have you heard demands for transparency being made from Sri Lanka by the West - transparency is the key word being used in the current game of Sri Lanka bashing that is going on, whether it comes from the ranks of British Cabinet Ministers or officers of the United Nations.

But in the recent announcement by UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown of an inquiry into what caused the UK to invade Iraq, its conduct of the war against the people of Iraq and its consequences, there is pretty little to show that Brown and his losing string of Labour hacks have any regard in transparency. For all the international involvement of the UK in the war in Iraq, Gordon Brown only offers an internal probe; and that too in private. The British public that lost more than 140 troops, and the Iraqis who lost more than 1.5 million people, will be kept largely in the dark about UK in Iraq as would the world community, quite unlike the demands being heaped on Sri Lanka. Our own people The problem in Sri Lanka is one that involves its own people. Sri Lankan troops did not go to any foreign country, uninvited by the people of that land, to carry out regime change there. They did not do so under the guise of hunting for hidden Weapons of Mass Destruction or WMD. The country's troops were not deployed in the North and East, having misled Parliament on the purpose of their mission. In fact, the Parliament of Sri Lanka, has freely voted to extend the State of Emergency that facilitated the conduct of the military operations against terror, once a month, every month. It was an internal matter that did not see any foreign forces, except when Indian troops came here with the consent of Colombo, and left at the request of Colombo too, having lost nearly 1,800 of their numbers and injury to many more. Sri Lanka purchased its own weapons from a variety of sources, but certainly not from the West, that did not want to provide us with weapons to fight terrorism, although they were engaged in a War Against Terror, in far off lands, that have as a result been torn apart into sectarian violence, and new spirals of violence threatening the very survival of some once stable nations. Sri Lanka fought terrorism the hard way, in the face of a multiplicity of obstacles placed by countries that have their own idea of who or what a terrorist is, and how such forces that are dangerous to society should be eliminated. The recent observation by a Pakistani General leading the operations against the Taliban in the Swat Valley that the leader of the Taliban there should be eliminated, did not raise the ire of anyone in the West. The General said exactly what he thought was necessary in the battle against a terrorist organization spreading mayhem in his own country. It is no different to what Sri Lankan military leaders said earlier about the need to finally rout the LTTE and eliminate its leaders. But many in the West still have the gumption to raise questions as to how the fighting cadres of the LTTE, and its leader who masterminded so much or savagery, was eliminated and the cycle of terror in this country brought to an end. There are many voices rooted in the West that still demand independent and international inquiries into the last days of the LTTE's rout. Probe UK in Iraq The facts of the UK's involvement in the invasion of Iraq, it would show there is every reason to call for a fully independent and international probe into why the UK went to Iraq, what it did there and what it has left the Iraqi people with. The reasons are compelling. They went to a foreign land. They went there uninvited by its people. They went under false pretexts, having lied to their own legislature, the House of Commons, that Saddam

Why not international probe on UK in Iraq ?

Hussein was on the verge of acquiring WMD. They spun and twisted intelligence reports to mislead their own legislature, and even worse, together with those in Washington who misled both Houses of Congress about Iraq and WMD, also misled the UN Security Council on the same matter. They fooled the UN into endorsing the invasion of Iraq, which was in fact an illegal and criminal act. The entire invasion was a war crime of the highest order. All the bloodshed there was a humanitarian catastrophe - bloodbaths aplenty that no one in the UN warned about. But what do we have instead. Gordon Brown, David Miliband and the other pathetic caricatures of true Labour politicians, eating off the hands of a so-called Tamil Diaspora that promises them vote banks and plenty of undeclared stuffed brown paper envelopes, have announced a probe into the UK's participation in the war against Iraq, to be held in private. An international atrocity of such magnitude is to be probed in private, without even the media present to report what happens, at least to the British people, if not the world. Such is the level of transparency practised by those who demand the very extremes of public disclosure from us. Green introspection

We have heard much in recent months of attempts at reforms within the UNP, with the calls for change coming after each election defeat, and similar calls for the stepping down of the UNP's leader who guided the party to this plight. The leader seems quite cozy and the members who shout also appear not too keen to subject the party and its policies to good introspection and soul searching. Very much in contrast is the letter written by the former BJP Minister and party stalwart, Yashwant Sinha, to the BJP's President, after the recent rout of the party of Hindutva policies at the recent Indian General Election. Its contents are important reading to any democrat, and moreso to those of the UNP that is unable to comprehend its continuing defeats and the type of change within that may be needed to change the trend. Here are relevant excerpts from Yashwant Sinha's exceptional call for introspection by a party in defeat, in the hope of success in the future. "It will be obvious even to a casual observer that this election has thrown up a number of issues which we can ignore only at our peril. These relate to our basic tenets, our policies and programs, the issues that we raised during elections, the language in which we expressed them, the strategy that we worked out for the elections, the manner in which that strategy was implemented, the campaign style of our leaders, and finally, the faces that we projected. "One would like to understand the voting behaviour of the minorities, the first-time voters, women, scheduled castes and tribes, the urban middle class, the Government employees and most importantly, the farmers and the industrial workers in this election. Which is the vote bank we have lost? Which is the vote bank we have gained? And finally, an analysis of the factors which helped the Congress Party increase its tally from 145 seats in the last election to 206 in this. "I am sure a detailed review would be instructive and show us the path for the future. At the same time, it would also help us establish the principle of accountability in the Party. "We are shying away from pin-pointing our weaknesses and fixing responsibility. We are hoping that time shall heal our wounds. Thus, while on the one hand, the Party is avoiding a systematic appraisal of its performance, on the other, those who were responsible for the management of the campaign have already made their views public through interviews and articles in the media, drawn their conclusions, apportioned blame and given themselves a clean chit. It is difficult to avoid the impression that in the BJP we put a premium on failure. Our reluctance to introspect and introspect comprehensively and openly is unacceptable to a large number of people within the party. So is the rat race for posts. If we are a party with a difference, let us set an example in abnegation. If the responsibility is collective, then all of us should jointly share the responsibility for our defeat. Let the party implement its own Kamraj Plan under which all office bearers of the party and the Parliamentary Party should resign from their posts which should then be filled up through the process of election laid down by our Constitution. In order to facilitate this and to establish the principle of collective responsibility, I am making a beginning by submitting my resignation from the post of Vice-President of the Party, from the membership of the National Executive of the Party and from all positions of responsibility in the Party at the national and State level. I shall continue to serve the Party as an ordinary worker of the Party and as its member in Lok Sabha from Hazaribagh." Is anybody out there from the UNP listening? Not likely, again. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Why not international probe on UK in Iraq ?

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