

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:11:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223507911

Documents (100)

1. [Tamils assert authority in northern Sri Lanka](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

2. [JUDGE DISMISSES TAMILS' APPEAL FOR REFUGEE STATUS COURTS](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

3. [Tamils assert authority in northern Sri Lanka](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

4. [Red Cross food ship destroyed in explosion off northern Lanka](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

5. [Court rejects application by ex-premier's daughter on marriage](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

6. [*Tamil rebels enter military territory for first time since ceasefire*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

7. [*Lankan troops consolidate positions in northern captured areas*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

8. [*ROUNDUP: More than 20 soldiers killed in Sri Lankan landmine blast*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

9. [*Sex trade thrives in ancient city in northern Sri Lanka*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

10. [*Pride in a place torn by prejudice*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200211. [*SRI LANKA TALKS MAY END YEARS OF ETHNIC STRIFE*](#)**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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200212. [*Suicide bomber kills himself, policeman in Sri Lankan capital*](#)**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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200213. [*Salvadoran president ratifies bill to impose 10-day ban on alcohol*](#)**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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200214. [*Tamils say 27 civilians killed in Sri Lankan retaliation*](#)**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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200215. [*RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : FOR TAMILS, OFFICIAL TREATMENT MOST UNEQUAL*](#)**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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

16. [Sri Lanka 's Family Rule May Be Reaching Its Limit](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

17. [Search on for missing airliner in northwestern Sri Lanka](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

18. [Court refuses to stay marriage of ex-premier's daughter](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

19. [Monk wields political clout in Sri Lanka](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

20. [BUS STOP BOMB KILLS 11 IN GROZNY](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

21. [Terrorism suspects face expulsion: Top court to rule on deporting men who claim they face torture](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

22. [Court to make landmark ruling on deportation: Risk of torture for terrorist suspects add weight to Supreme's case](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

23. [Sri Lanka Blast Kills 10](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

24. [The day terror defeated our champion league team](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

25. [Supreme Court set to rule on deportations: Sri Lankan , Iranian claim they will face torture if sent home](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

26. [In Sri Lanka , suicide terrorists are motivated by their cause, not religion](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

27. [Government takes lead in Sri Lanka elections](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

28. [25 Tamils feared drowned as boat sinks off northern Sri Lanka](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

29. [Nine die in Tamil suicide bomb attack Prince flies out only hours before blast](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

30. [Politician Deified by Some, Reviled by Others AP Photo Available](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

31. [FIJI](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

32. [Ferry captives crisis; Tigers threaten to kill rivals as 144 are held for sixth day](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

33. [Sri Lankan battle](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

34. [Jaffna 's capture does not mean end of the war](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

35. [--International NewsWatch--](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

36. [Good writing drew Spacek to weepy TV-movie drama](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

37. [*Suicide bomber kills 11*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

38. [*Tamil Tiger Ladies sharpen their claws*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

39. [*SRI LANKA : THREE YEARS LATER, MOTHERS STILL WAIT FOR LOVED ONES*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

40. [*Report Tamils Kill Dozens in Village*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

41. [*Revenge erupts in Sri Lanka war*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

42. [*Tamil Rebels Attack Two Mosques Killing At Least 112*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

43. [*news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua \(part 2\)*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

44. [*Two more skeletons found in mass grave*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

45. [*Rebels allege Pakistan 's involvement in Sri Lankan offensive*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

46. [*1ST LEAD: 38 civilians reported killed in rebel attack on church in Sri Lanka*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

47. [*Rajiv warns off Tamil terrorists*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

48. [UNICEF Action needed against Sierra Leone atrocities](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

49. [The kids aren't all right](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

50. ['union' jack is unfurled](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

51. [Indian troops reportedly storm village](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

52. [Death toll in Sri Lanka bombing climbs to 56](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

53. [Amnesty International calls on new government to protect human rights in Sri Lanka](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

54. [Sri Lanka sees heavy casualties in offensive after oil tank attack](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

55. [news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

56. [Topple Saddam for Iraq 's 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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

57. [BRIEFS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

58. [G2: Television: TV Review: Blown away](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

59. [ROUNDUP: U.N. racism conference opens in S.Africa with call for unity](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

60. [World datelines](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

61. [The Globe at a glance](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

62. [In the jaws of the Tigers](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

63. [Vote-rigging charges, violence colour elections in Sri Lanka](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

64. [Shelling, political death overshadows crucial elections](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

65. [Stupid is as stupid does](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

66. [President survives suicide bomber](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

67. [Datelines](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

68. [BC-Cdn-News-Digest, Rpt ; REPEATING to fix date](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

69. [Leaders' wives avoid protests on Fife day trip](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

70. [COLOMBO EXPO TAKES WAR FROM THE FORE](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

71. [BRIEFLY](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

72. [Contains items from South Korea , Japan and Indonesia . Some of these stories also moved earlier today as separates.](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

73. [BC-Cdn-News-Digest](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

74. [BC-Cdn-News-Digest](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

75. [BC-Cdn-News-Digest, Rpt ; REPEATING to fix date](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

76. [Sri Lanka rebels kill 42 civilians](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

77. [Conflicts await the Pope on tour of Asia](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

78. [BRIEFLY](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

79. [50 KILLED BY BOMB IN SRI LANKA AN OPPOSITION CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT WAS AMONG THE VICTIMS AT AN ELECTION RALLY. HE HAD OPPOSED TALKS WITH TAMIL REBELS.](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

80. [TV - TONIGHT ROGERS' CARD-WISE GOOD OL' SLEUTH IS FUN TO WATCH](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

81. [Political widows risk death to run](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

82. [SRI LANKA : BOMB KILLS OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

83. [SRI LANKA : FRENCH NGO HELPS PEOPLE CAUGHT IN THE WAR](#)

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

84. [160 killed in Sri Lankan ethnic strife](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

85. [Tamil Attacks On Two Mosques Kill At Least 112, Officials Say](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

86. [Bicycle Brigade Versus Baby Brigade in Sri Lanka 's Deadly War](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

87. [Bicycle Brigade Versus Baby Brigade in Sri Lanka 's Deadly War](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

88. [SRI LANKA : TOP-LEVEL TALKS IN TRINCOMALEE , 14 SINHALESE KILLED](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

89. [REBELS ALLEGE MILITARY KILLED TAMIL CIVILIANS](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

90. [1ST LEAD: Over 60 civilians massacred by rebels in eastern Lanka](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

91. [GO ZONE: SRI LANKA : THE SMILING ISLE!; TEMPLES, ELEPHANTS AND EXOTIC CHARMS...](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

92. [Colombo shuts down for Tiger hunt](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

93. [THE FORGOTTEN WARS: Casualties mount as West's sympathy and aid wane](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

94. [2nd Lead: High turnout in Sri Lankan presidential election](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

95. [Rebels suffer heavy casualties in counter-attack in N.E. Lanka](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

96. [Indian troops crack down on bloody rebel feud](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

97. [Sri Lankan government, Tamil Tiger rebels make breakthrough in peace talks](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

98. [Palace in the sky](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

99. [Women: Just doing her job: Helen Carter on her friend Yvonne Ridley, who is being held captive by the Taliban](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

100. [*Why negotiations often fail in Western Africa*](#)

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: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

Tamils assert authority in northern Sri Lanka

United Press International
January 10, 1987, Saturday, BC cycle

Copyright 1987 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 718 words

Byline: By IQBAL ATHAS

Dateline: JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

Body

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the strongest of several guerrilla groups fighting for an independent Tamil state, has established a de facto administration in its stronghold in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

As of Jan. 1, **LTTE** leaders proclaimed, the group has assumed authority over banks, public transport, vehicles and cinemas. It will deploy traffic police, deliver mail and introduce taxes.

Even before the New Year, **LTTE** food inspectors were charging fees to license meat stalls, fish markets, bakeries and hotels. A television station, known as "Nidarshan" or "Freedom," is on the air for six hours a week.

People's Courts, set up in the peninsula's 116 village divisions, have taken over the functions of the police and inquire into disputes. More than 2,500 young **women** have been trained in first aid to serve in 164 health centers.

In the city of Jaffna, novice traffic officers in dark blue trousers and light blue shirts can be seen marching and drilling as they rehearse for their new duties in a 30-acre park studded with valuable ebony trees.

The Sri Lankan government of President Junius Jayewardene has cut off fuel supplies to the region and threatened further measures in retaliation, but is limited in what it can do.

Government forces in the peninsula are confined to an old Dutch colonial fort, daring to venture out only occasionally and in force.

In the city, shops and houses are secured behind rows of sand bags, bunkers have been dug and stand in readiness and air raid sirens are in place. Armed youths, many with walkie talkies or telephones, man sentry points overlooking the security forces' camp.

All the new quasi-governmental activities have been directed and controlled since Jan. 1 from an office headed by Sathasivam Krishnakumar - better known simply as Kittu -- who as local Tigers' commander is the most powerful man in the Jaffna peninsula.

Kittu said in an interview that his office should be regarded as a public relations office and not as a secretariat. It was only established to avoid security problems caused by citizens visiting guerrilla military bases on administrative matters, he said.

Tamils assert authority in northern Sri Lanka

The new measures do not amount to a unilateral declaration of independence, argued Kittu, whose group is still engaged in intermittent negotiations with the government in Colombo.

Rather, he said, they were needed to fill the vacuum left when the central authorities were driven out. The guerrillas' nationalist struggle blossomed into a vicious civil war in 1983 that has since been marked by terrorist attacks on civilians and alleged atrocities by government troops.

Kittu, 31, the bald bespectacled son of a Jaffna printer, said a compromise on ruling the region would be possible "only after the government accepts our basic demands that we are a national race and have our right to self-determination ... Otherwise there will be no compromise at all."

His stance in effect demands partition of northern and eastern Sri Lanka as a homeland for the nation's Tamils, a mainly Hindu minority representing 12 percent of the population and having close ethnic ties with Tamils in southern India.

Such a demand has been rejected by the government, which is dominated by the mainly Buddhist Sinhalese, who comprise 75 percent of the Indian Ocean island's population.

Despite offers of greater autonomy for the Northern Province where 98 percent of the country's Tamils live, Jayewardene has refused the rebels' demand for a merger of the Northern and Eastern provinces.

Kittu played down the importance of direct talks held by his group last month with a delegation led by a government parliamentarian, saying there were no real negotiations. "We received a goodwill mission. We only exchanged views," he said.

He said the Tigers believe Jayewardene's United National Party government is demanding direct talks in order to drive a wedge between his group and the government of neighboring India, which has sought to mediate between the two sides since 1985 because of its large Tamil population.

"We want India involved in any approaches made to us," Kittu said.

The Tigers commander was unconcerned about the blockade of fuel supplies, saying it had been expected.

"Only under these strains can a revolution go on," he said. "These reprisals will strengthen our resolve."

JUDGE DISMISSES TAMILS' APPEAL FOR REFUGEE STATUS; COURTS

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

June 27, 1987 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 4

Length: 535 words

Byline: DANIEL MOORE

Body

Four Sri Lankan Tamils have failed in their application to overturn a decision not to grant them refugee status, and are to remain for at least another week in the detention centre where they have been for the past two months.

A Federal Court judge yesterday dismissed applications by the three women and one man to have a decision that they are not refugees set aside. They had also sought orders to quash decisions made in connection with their applications for entry permits.

In statements, they said the Army had committed atrocities in their villages, destroying their houses and sinking their boats. The father of one had been shot, and the sister of another raped.

On April 26, Premanaerthan Gunaleela, Chelliah Gunaranji, Anthony Karunakaran and Bevary Sundaralingan arrived at Sydney airport, having been refused entry into Fiji.

Instead of continuing to Kuala Lumpur, they waited in the transit lounge for four hours, before joining the passport examination line and saying they wished to migrate to Australia.

They had no Australian visas, but said they wanted refugee asylum because they were persecuted Tamils.

They were taken to Villawood Detention Centre that night, and have since remained there in custody.

In interviews at the centre, Mrs Gunaleela said that since 1984 the Army had regularly harassed the people in her village in the Jaffna area, arresting young people on suspicion of associating with the Tamil Tigers and other militant organisations.

All four said neither they, nor their families, had any contact with political or militant groups.

She said the Army smashed or stole their possessions, and in 1986 her house was destroyed after a bombardment. She had been refused refugee status in India and said if she returned to Sri Lanka, the authorities would want to know why she had left.

Mrs Gunaranji, also from the Jaffna area, said her father had been a policeman when he was shot dead in 1986 after being caught up in a battle between the Army and a group called "the boys".

Her sister had been raped by a soldier, she had been assaulted and the Army had destroyed most of her village.

JUDGE DISMISSES TAMILS' APPEAL FOR REFUGEE STATUS COURTS

Mr Karunakaran said his home, fishing boat and nets had been destroyed by the Army and his 15 acres of paddy fields had been taken over by the Sinhalese people after the Tamils were forced to leave.

Some of his relatives had been involved with the militants, but they were all now dead.

The family home of Miss Sundaralingan had been destroyed by mortar fire in 1984 and she and her father were assaulted by soldiers.

On May 1, the Determination of Refugee Status Committee unanimously recommended the four be denied refugee status. A delegate of the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic affairs accepted that recommendation.

In the Federal Court, it was accepted that if one application failed, all would.

Justice Morling found that as the applicants entered Australia without temporary entry permits, "they are deemed not to have entered Australia", and thus could not invoke the provisions of the Judicial Review Act or argue they had been denied natural justice.

He did, however, extend an order that they not be deported until 4pm on July 3.

Justice Morling urged that the matter be dealt with speedily.

Load-Date: July 20, 2007

End of Document

Tamils assert authority in northern Sri Lanka

United Press International
January 10, 1987, Saturday, AM cycle

Copyright 1987 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 707 words

Byline: By IQBAL ATHAS

Dateline: JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

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Red Cross food ship destroyed in explosion off northern Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 4, 1995, Sunday, BC Cycle 18:10 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 259 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

A ship belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was destroyed off northern Sri Lanka Sunday when it hit sea mines believed to have been planted by separatist Tamil rebels, a Sri Lankan military spokesman said in Colombo.

All but one of the 12-member Indonesian crew had been rescued by the Lankan navy as the ship began gradually to sink off the northern Lankan town of Kankesanthurai, the spokesman said.

The Sea Dancer was carrying food to residents in the northern part of the country where fighting has recently flared up between the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) and government forces.

It was not clear whether the rebels deliberately planted the mines for the ICRC ship or whether the mines were meant for Lankan naval patrol craft operating off the northern coast.

However, the military spokesman in Colombo said it was believed that the rebels had targetted the ICRC food ship.

The ICRC recently condemned an attack by suspected rebels on civilians of the majority Sinhala community in which 42 persons including children and **women** were killed in the north-eastern Trincomalee district on May 26.

The eleven rescued Indonesian crewmembers were taken to a military hospital in the north and were out of danger.

The ICRC operates its own vessels or escorts private vessels carrying food to the north, as rebels often attack ships operated by the Lankan navy.

The rebels are fighting for an independent homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east of the country.
dpa wo mb ks

Load-Date: June 4, 1995

Court rejects application by ex-premier's daughter on marriage

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 16, 1997, Thursday, BC Cycle 09:41 Central European Time

Copyright 1997 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 253 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

A Delhi court Thursday rejected a plea by Priyanka Gandhi, daughter of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, for dismissal of a case filed by a man claiming to be her husband, seeking to stop her forthcoming marriage.

Civil Judge Vipin Kumar Gupta rejected Priyanka Gandhi's plea against V. Ramakrishna Goud on technical grounds, saying the plea did not include a written submission from her.

The ruling is not expected to halt Priyanka's proposed marriage with businessman Robert Wadhera on February 5 because the judge asked her to file a written submission, including her response to Goud's application seeking restitution of conjugal rights.

Press reports said Goud had gone to courts earlier seeking restitution of conjugal rights from other prominent women, including filmstars he claimed had been married to him. He also reportedly claimed to be the husband of Priyanka's aunt, Maneka Gandhi.

In his application filed before Gupta on January 10, Goud, 43, claimed that he had married Priyanka, 25, on November 30, 1991 at her home in Delhi.

Goud, who had filed a purported marriage invitation card and a certified copy of a voter's list reportedly issued by his home state Andhra Pradesh in which Priyanka's name is given as that of his wife, alleged that she had deserted him sometime after their "marriage".

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in 1992 by a suicide bomber thought to be a member of the militant Sri Lankan separatist movement Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). dpa mvb ms

Load-Date: January 16, 1997

Tamil rebels enter military territory for first time since ceasefire

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 24, 2002, Tuesday 12:49 Central European Time

Copyright 2002 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Politics

Length: 283 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Tamil rebels have entered a military controlled area of northern Sri Lanka for the first time since February when Norwegian mediators prompted both sides to sign a peace agreement, military officials said Tuesday.

The rebels consisting of 214 **female** cadres and 78 males were transported by state run buses from an eastern rebel controlled area to the northern part of the country where they are due to take part in a ceremony to commemorate one of their senior cadres who died while on a hunger strike 15 years ago.

The Sri Lankan military and Scandinavian monitors are escorting the five buses, officials said.

The rebels are due to pass through the north central province which is controlled by the military and has a Sinhala majority population.

The rebels were destined for the town of Vavuniya, 254 kilometres north of the capital Colombo, which is also controlled by the military.

Tamil members had been earlier allowed to enter military controlled areas only for political activities.

Rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) are having a week long ceremony to commemorate the death of Thileepan who died on September 26, 1987 while on a hunger strike protesting against the presence of Indian Peace Keeping Forces (IPKF).

The IPKF arrived in Sri Lanka in July 1987 following an agreement between the Sri Lankan government and their Indian counterparts designed to restore normalcy in the country, but eventually the Indian troops were told to withdraw.

Currently Tamil rebels and the government are involved in a peace process aimed at finding a settlement to the 20 year old ethnic conflict which has claimed over 69,000 lives. dpa da sr

Load-Date: September 24, 2002

Lankan troops consolidate positions in northern captured areas

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 19, 1997, Monday, BC Cycle 12:27 Central European Time

Copyright 1997 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 300 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Sri Lankan security forces who have captured two key rebel held towns in the northern part of the island nation Monday consolidated positions before making their next move into rebel dominated territory, military officials said.

"Troops are taking time to build up its forward defences and getting replacements for the injured and killed. There has been no advancing as such in the past two days," a military officer said.

Security forces have captured Omanthai, 264 kilometers north of the capital and Nedunmkeny, situated about 35 kilometers northeast of Omanthai in the biggest ever military offensive against rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched on May 13.

The offensive has so far claimed the lives of over 63 soldiers while the rebel casualties has been put at over 250 killed and more than 300 injured, according to chief military spokesman Brigadier Tiss Weeratunga.

He said that according to intercepted rebel communications, at least 131 senior cadres including a women's wing leader of the rebels were among those killed.

In another development, the advancing troops over the weekend located 42 persons who were hiding in the forest and rescued them. They were brought to a refugee camp in the northern Vavuniya town.

Civilians said that with the fighting raging and heavy shelling around the Nedunkeny area they escaped into the jungle and spent a day without food, but were rescued the following day by the army.

"We thought we will be killed in the shell attacks from both sides," one of those rescued told a relief worker in Vavuniy.

There have been no confirmed reports about civilian casualties so far, but minority Tamil political parties claim that due to air strikes and shell attacks there had been civilian casualties. dpa ds

Load-Date: May 19, 1997

ROUNDUP: More than 20 soldiers killed in Sri Lankan landmine blast

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 19, 2000, Tuesday, BC Cycle 14:02 Central European Time

Copyright 2000 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 284 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

At least 22 soldiers were killed when a military truck ran over landmine in northeastern Sri Lanka in the latest sign that rebels are stepping up attacks ahead of next month's Parliamentary elections, military officials said Tuesday.

The mine blast took place at Vilgamvehara, in the Trincomalee district, 240 kilometres northeast of the capital, on Tuesday evening.

Two soldiers were injured in the blast and were being treated in hospital.

Tamil rebels fighting for independence in the north and east of the country have increased attacks on the security forces ahead of parliamentary election's scheduled for October 10.

The incident came on the same day as the military handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (IRC) the bodies of 45 rebels killed in heavy fighting in northern Sri Lanka during the past two days.

The handover took place in Jaffna, nearly 400 kilometres north of Colombo. Sixteen of the dead were **women**.

Fighting between government troops and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) on Sunday and Monday at Chavakachcheri has left more than 80 rebels and 22 soldiers dead, according to official figures.

The number of injured on both sides was put at 200.

The government is enforcing censorship on military-related news, preventing journalists from independently reporting about the ongoing fighting in the north and east of the country.

Government troops launched an offensive on Sunday and reported the capture of Chavakachcheri town. The troops held off rebel counter attacks Sunday night and were consolidating their positions, the military said.

The rebels regularly challenge the casualty figures given by the government. dpa da pt cw eg

Eds: incorporates Sri Lanka-Bodies

Load-Date: September 19, 2000

Sex trade thrives in ancient city in northern Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 28, 1999, Monday, BC Cycle 09:04 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 284 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

An ancient city popular as a tourist destination in north-central Sri Lanka is becoming known for its thriving sex trade as soldiers use the town as a transit point to and from the battlefield in their war against Tamil separatists, a group of local non-governmental organizations said Monday.

The sex trade in Anuradhapura town, 206 kilometres northeast of Colombo and bordering the strife-torn northern and eastern provinces, has been increasing as violence has scared away tourists, said the NGOs, quoting government officials in the area.

Fighting between government troops and Tamil rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) has been confined to areas north from Anuradhapura.

The local NGOs are Samanalaya (Butterfly), Sama Sevaya (Peace service), Grama Sanvardana Padanama (Village,.Development Foundation), Sama Mithuro (Peace Friends) and FORUT. They are offering counselling to the sex workers in Anuradhapura.

Police late last month carried out a series of raids on brothels and arrested up 30 **women** on certain days, according to officials.

Officials at a clinic for the treatment for sexually transmitted diseases in Anuradhapura said 70 per cent of those who obtain treatment were army personnel of lower ranks.

"Anuradhapura town has become an army town. This has to change. The tourism industry has to be rejuvenated," the chief administrator of the district, Jayampathy Hettiarachchi, was quoted as saying in a local newspaper recently.

Some 40 hotels in the Anur!Zhapura town, which earlier mainly catered to tourists, have converted to brothels or to places that rent rooms on a short-time basis, according to local authorities and police there. dpa ad jh

Load-Date: June 28, 1999

Pride in a place torn by prejudice

The Australian

November 21, 2001, Wednesday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 26

Length: 1368 words

Body

An Australian academic has brought Jane Austen's Pemberley to life on a Sri Lankan mountaintop. Anne Tagge reports

There is a strange isolation, as if one were on a luxury liner

READERS of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* will recall that Elizabeth Bennet, the future "mistress of Pemberley", on first seeing Mr Darcy's home "standing well on rising ground, and backed by a ridge of high woody hills", felt an intense admiration for its site and natural grandeur.

Austen's famous fictional Pemberley was based on Chatsworth in Derbyshire. Now a real Pemberley exists -- in picturesque, though war-torn, Sri Lanka a few kilometres from where a mob killed more than two dozen inmates at a rehabilitation camp for suspected rebels.

The conflict between the island's Sinhalese majority, who are mostly Buddhist, and the Tamil minority, who are mostly Hindu, dates from the 19th century. In 1948 the British colony of Ceylon became independent; it was renamed Sri Lanka in 1972. The government -- dominated by Sinhalese -- instituted policies designed to reverse the favouritism most Sinhalese believe the Tamils received from the British. Since then, the conflict has become increasingly violent, with 60,000 combatants and civilians killed so far. The **Tamil Tigers**, terrorists notorious for suicide attacks, are demanding a separate Tamil nation.

MATP

The Pemberley International Study Centre is a beautifully realised island of culture, everything Austen and Janeites would wish for. Modelled on the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Study and Conference Centre, Pemberley's buildings and gardens are magnificent. The centre is just outside Haputale at an elevation of 1200m in Sri Lanka's central mountain range and has some of the finest views in the country.

The centre's trustees select applicants from around the world to spend up to four weeks as resident scholars. The trustees particularly welcome applications from people who are studying or writing about certain specified fields, including Austen, the environment and archeology, or whose work involves the fine arts or creative writing, as well as Sri Lankan subjects. The wide variety of topics is designed to attract scholars in many fields, so that Pemberley will become a landmark international institution.

Pemberley House is used during another part of the year to provide educational programs for Sri Lankan youth. Members of the Gooneratne family, which owns Pemberley, speak of their gratitude towards their native land and emphasise their goal of using Pemberley to give something back to Sri Lanka.

Pride in a place torn by prejudice

Inland from the cemetery at the port of Trincomalee, where her brother Charles is buried, Austen might be surprised to see the name Pemberley attached to a 19th-century tea estate bungalow gloriously restored, furnished in traditional style and equipped with up-to-date amenities. But on an outside wall of the house is a prominent brass plaque with a quote from *Pride and Prejudice* about Elizabeth's reaction to her Pemberley. "She had never seen a place for which nature had done more, or where natural beauty had been so little counteracted by an awkward taste", with the words "For Yasmine".

The house and the centre are a tribute to Austen scholar Yasmine Bandaranaike Gooneratne from her Darcy, Brendon Gooneratne. A physician and, in his day, an acclaimed cricketer, he is a conservationist devoted to the history of Sri Lanka and the protection of its wild elephants. The Gooneratnes divide the year between Pemberley and Australia, where Yasmine Gooneratne is an emeritus professor of English at Macquarie University in Sydney.

Yasmine's aunt, Sirimavo R.D. Bandaranaike, was the world's first ***female*** prime minister. (Bandaranaike's daughter, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, is head of Sri Lanka's Government.) Gooneratne's publications include *Relative Merits: A Personal Memoir of the Bandaranaike Family of Sri Lanka* and two insightful novels on postcolonial themes, *A Change of Skies* and *The Pleasures of Conquest*. Her finest portrayal of the coloniser's mentality is the 1999 *This Inscrutable Englishman*, a biography of John D'Oyly that she wrote in collaboration with her husband.

D'Oyly worked in the Ceylon civil service in the early 19th century, when Britain controlled only the periphery of Ceylon, not the ancient centres or Kandy, the mountain capital. Although he fell in love with Ceylonese culture, by extending British rule over the entire island he is directly responsible for the British cultural influence in Ceylon -- an influence ironically illustrated in the tastes of the Gooneratnes.

Today, as when D'Oyly arrived, Sri Lanka is divided. The central government has been unable to subdue the insurgents, centred in the northern Jaffna area and eastern provinces. Sri Lanka also still proves more complex and intriguing up close than at a distance. Those of us who were resident scholars at Pemberley House in the summer of 2000 experienced contrasts and surprises. Initially, the centre seemed far from ethnic conflict, but we could not forget the ties of the Gooneratnes to the Sri Lankan political aristocracy and prominent Sinhalese families.

The staff members at Pemberley are non-extremist Tamils. Hard-working and English-speaking, they maintain an elegant, old-fashioned standard of life at Pemberley. Although many of them come from poorer backgrounds, the manager of tea cultivation is the former owner of the entire estate. A well-educated man, he occasionally joined me and fellow scholars before dinner, telling stories of the life of the local tea planters.

Across the road from Pemberley House is an orphanage founded by Father Bosco, a Tamil Christian who takes in children without regard to the barriers that divide Sri Lankans elsewhere. The orphanage uses innovative agricultural practices in its production of eggs and vegetables, which it sells to raise money. It is thus a prototype for solving Sri Lanka's two biggest problems: poverty and tensions among religious and ethnic groups.

Back at Pemberley House, conversation at meals, with one of the Gooneratnes presiding, centres on anecdotes of their early lives in Ceylon along with a formidable blend of literary topics. The Gooneratnes clearly hope their scholars will equal those at Bellagio, where they once studied. We were to use this unique opportunity to concentrate on our projects, with generous help from their numerous academic and professional friends.

Nothing detracted from the intense intellectual atmosphere -- not the splendid tropical landscape, the beautiful house or the news that a cobra had been shot near the new ornamental pool (constructed in the shape of Sri Lanka). Even when everyone watched a complete lunar eclipse from the porch in the light of dozens of tiny oil lamps, Yasmine Gooneratne pointed to the sky and quoted Tennyson's Locksley Hall:

Many a night from yonder ivied casement, ere I went to rest,

Did I look on great Orion sloping slowly to the West.

Many a night I saw the Pleiads, rising thro' the mellow shade,

Pride in a place torn by prejudice

Glitter like a swarm of fire-flies tangled in a silver braid.

On another evening, the guests were army officers, including two young men recently returned from the Jaffna front. Even then, any conversation about politics was discouraged. At the Bellagio of the east, in the mountain heart of a nation at war, the nostalgic Gooneratnes and the resident scholars discuss Austen, elephants and their protection, the attraction of 19th-century British poetry for upper-class families in Sri Lanka, and the failure of the world to see through the publicity of ***Tamil tigers***.

There is a strange isolation to Pemberley House, as if one were on a luxury liner. For the moment, all else in the world is utterly remote, beyond the island of the dinner table, beyond the smoky haze from brush fires. Even the capital seems far away and no one mentions the latest in Sri Lanka's civil war. We read the Colombo newspapers, bought each morning in Haputale, only in our elegant bedrooms.

Anne Tagge is a US writer. She was a member of the first group of resident scholars at the Pemberley International Study Centre, where she studied the history and literature of exploration

www.pemberleyhouse.com

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SRI LANKA TALKS MAY END YEARS OF ETHNIC STRIFE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

September 16, 2002 Monday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: WORLD,; WORLD VIEW

Length: 1382 words

Byline: JASON MARGOLIS, SPECIAL TO THE POST-GAZETTE

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Shiwanthi Kahandaliyanage's father had just dropped her off at dance class when she heard the bomb explode.

"He left and I went to the bathroom. About a minute later I heard somebody say there was a bomb. I just panicked. I was like, 'Oh, my God' , " says 13-year-old Shiwanthi.

Nevertheless, Shiwanthi returned to dance class and finished her lesson. Like most Sri Lankans, she had become conditioned to living a regular life amid explosions.

A few hours later, Shiwanthi found out that her father, Anura, was one of seven killed in the blast. The day was Oct. 29, 2001, and the explosion was the last suicide bombing in the streets of Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka.

For nearly 20 years, civil war has torn apart this small island nation of 19 million off the southeastern coast of India, killing 64,000, displacing a million, ravaging the economy. Now, for the first time in years, there is tempered optimism that peace might be possible. A cease-fire has held for nearly seven months, and peace talks are set to begin today.

At war have been minority Tamils and the Sinhalese majority government. Tamils are predominantly Hindus who speak Tamil; they comprise 18 percent of the population. Sinhalese are mostly Buddhists who speak Sinhala.

Since 1983, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, more commonly known as the "**Tamil Tigers**," have waged a guerrilla war in pursuit of an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east. The international community has labeled the Tigers as terrorists for employing suicide bombers and child soldiers.

The war has raged so long that many Sri Lankans, born into a climate of hate, do not even know why they are fighting anymore, says 35-year-old Sgt. Sarath Gamini Jayantha.

"Why are we killing each other?" he asks. "I went to fight the war, not because I'm a patriot, but because of my hunger. I wanted a job."

Jayantha lost his leg fighting for the Sri Lankan army and was sent to a "War Heroes Village," where he languishes in destitution, removed from society. He and many like him spend their days harnessed to wheelchairs or prosthetic limbs, unable to work and with little to do.

SRI LANKA TALKS MAY END YEARS OF ETHNIC STRIFE

"What irony; I see posters proclaiming wounded soldiers as heroes," says Jayantha. "The rest of society doesn't care about our plight." He's as angry with his government as he is with the Tigers for continuing the war.

Plenty of Tamils feel similarly fed up with both sides.

Many experts believe the time may be ripe for a compromise. With international pressure mounting on terrorist organizations after Sept. 11, the clock may be ticking on the Tigers. More important, a new Sri Lankan government elected in December is ready to talk.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was voted in with a mandate to negotiate, a position the previous government was unwilling to take -- especially after a suicide bomber attempted to assassinate President Kumaratunga in December 1999. The president lost sight in one eye.

The talks beginning today in Thailand under the auspices of Norway will be the first direct negotiations in seven years.

Prof. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, a Tamil and the executive director of the nonpartisan Center for Policy Alternatives, says both sides must make concessions.

The Tigers must "categorically renounce secession and renounce the armed struggle," he said. The Tigers say such steps will not be taken until a comprehensive settlement is agreed upon.

In return, the government must assure considerable autonomy for Tamil communities within a united Sri Lanka and foster a return to normalcy through such measures as restoring fishing rights in the north and pulling the army out of schools and places of worship, according to Saravanamuttu.

At some point, the government also will have to release detainees and repeal the "Prevention of Terrorism Act," which allows the government to imprison suspected terrorists at will, Saravanamuttu said. Roughly 1,600 Tamils are held in prison under the act.

Peace talks do not have a happy history in Sri Lanka. Previous negotiations have tended to produce a hail of mutual recriminations, followed by stepped-up reprisals. So, amid cautious hope there remains widespread suspicion on both sides.

"The crux of the problem, why this was not resolved for such a long time, was the mistrust that both communities have been having," says Joseph Pararajasingham, a senior member of parliament and former head of the Tamil United Liberation Front party. His party now acknowledges the Tigers as sole representative for the Tamils.

In a recent poll by the Center for Policy Alternatives, only 24 percent of the population believe the cease-fire will last. Among Sinhalese respondents, only 19 percent believe the Tigers are committed to peace.

"If the negotiations were between the other Tamil parties and the government, I wouldn't be this skeptical," says Nilakshi Parndigamage, a 20-year-old university student who was born a year before the war began.

Like many, Parndigamage worries that the government is bending too far, having removed many of its military checkpoints under the cease-fire.

"While we are now happily talking about negotiations, I'm sure the city is teeming with terrorists," says Parndigamage. "If the negotiations fail, we're all dead, literally."

It's difficult to predict what the Tigers aim to accomplish with negotiations. Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran is notoriously paranoid and reclusive. In April, he held his first press conference in 15 years, a tightly guarded affair hidden in the jungle.

Saravanamuttu believes the Tigers do have the capacity to change.

SRI LANKA TALKS MAY END YEARS OF ETHNIC STRIFE

"One has to ask, what is it that the [Tigers] want? I would think that the [Tigers] at the end of the day, it's real objective is political power, and that the organization is disciplined yet flexible enough to recognize that it has to adapt."

The United States, India, and Britain have voiced caution about talking with the Tigers. Like the Sri Lankan government, they consider the Tigers a terrorist organization and do not allow its members into their countries.

In a blow to the peace process and public confidence, the U.S. ambassador to Sri Lanka warned in May that the Tigers may undermine the peace process by continuing to recruit child soldiers, resuming arms smuggling and extorting money.

Leaders from India would like to put Tiger leader Prabhakaran on trial for the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991, which was carried out by a female suicide bomber. India, with its own large Tamil minority, has long opposed the armed Tamil rebellion in Sri Lanka.

Nevertheless, the negotiations are set to begin and people like Saravanamuttu are hopeful, in part because the cease-fire has been holding so far.

"There is tremendous war weariness, [and] where the public tastes the importance of normalcy, the [Tigers] have to respond to that," he said. "You've taken the fish out of water. It's the context of conflict in which the [Tigers] have thrived."

If the peace talks fail, there is virtually universal agreement that the country will spiral downward into another bloody phase of the civil war, further crippling the economy and destroying international confidence in Sri Lanka.

"This time if it fails," said member of parliament Pararajasingham, "there is no salvation for this country."

Notorious "Tigers"

Scattered fighting began in Sri Lanka in the mid-1970's and exploded into civil war in 1983 when the "Tamil Tigers" ambushed an army patrol. Sinhalese mobs retaliated, rioting and killing between 400 and 2,000 Tamils. Some 64,000 people have died since then; more than a million have been displaced from their homes.

Experts believe there are 8,000 to 10,000 armed Tigers, including 500 "Black Tigers" -- a corps of suicide bombers who have conducted more such attacks, some 200, than any other organization in the world. The Black Tigers are credited with inventing the explosives-laden "jacket" worn by suicide bombers affiliated with al-Qaida and Palestinian militants.

Black Tigers have attacked civilians on public transportation, at Buddhist temples and in office buildings. In 1997, a truck bomb killed 18 at Colombo's 39-story World Trade Center.

Tigers are notorious for wearing cyanide capsules around their necks so they can commit suicide if captured.

Notes

Jason Margolis is a freelance journalist based in San Francisco.

Graphic

PHOTO: Jason Margolis photo: Sri Lankan men at a "War Heroes Village" spend their days harnessed to wheelchairs or prosthetic limbs.

SRI LANKA TALKS MAY END YEARS OF ETHNIC STRIFE

MAP: James Hilston/Post-Gazette; CIA World Factbook: (Profile Sri Lanka)

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Suicide bomber kills himself, policeman in Sri Lankan capital

Associated Press International

September 15, 2000; Friday

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Section: International news

Length: 1350 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

A suicide bomber triggered an explosion outside an eye hospital in central Colombo Friday, killing himself and a policeman.

It wasn't immediately clear if more people had died in the explosion, police said. Some body parts lay strewn near the site of the blast and several vehicles were damaged.

R. K. Nissanka, a fire department official, said a civilian passing the hospital saw a man acting suspiciously and informed a policeman. The police officer went to question the man who then set off the explosion.

Sri Lanka's health ministry is located next to the eye hospital.

Police cordoned off a one kilometer (half-mile) radius area around the hospital and approximately 50 soldiers moved in investigate. Two army helicopters hovered overhead, observing the scene of the bomb blast.

A suicide bomber triggered an explosion outside an eye hospital in central Colombo Friday, killing himself and four others, police said.

At least 26 people were injured in the explosion, 10 of them critically, said Dr. Hector Weerasekera, director of the National Hospital where the injured were being treated. The dead included a policeman and three civilians who were passing by when the explosion occurred.

It wasn't immediately clear if more people had died in the blast, police said. Body parts lay strewn near the explosion site and several vehicles were damaged.

No one claimed for responsibility for the blast. However, Tamil Tiger rebels fighting for an independent homeland have a suicide squad and often carry out such bombings. They have been battling for a separate area for the minority Tamils in the north and east since 1983.

R. K. Nissanka, a fire department official, said a civilian passing the eye hospital, next to the country's health ministry, saw a man acting suspiciously and informed a policeman on duty. The police officer went to question the man who then set off the explosion.

"I heard a big noise and covered my face with my hands and fell down. All I saw was people running everywhere," said J.W. Ariyawansa, a patient who was coming to the hospital. His right hand was badly injured in the explosion and a piece of shrapnel was lodged in his head.

Suicide bomber kills himself, policeman in Sri Lankan capital

Police cordoned off an area two miles (four kilometers) around the hospital and approximately 50 soldiers moved in to investigate. Two army helicopters hovered overhead.

Last year, President Chandrika Kumaratunga was blinded in her right eye when a suicide bomber, believed to be a member of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, tried to assassinate her during an election rally. Twenty-five people were killed and more than 90 were injured in the attack.

The rebels have carried out three attacks in the capital this year. In March, 31 people were killed in a bombing and shootout near Parliament. In June, a government minister was assassinated by a suicide bomber. Earlier in January, a **female** suicide bomber blew herself up close to the prime minister's residence.

More than 62,400 people have been killed in the Tamil separatist insurgency.

A suicide bomber killed himself and six others in an attack Friday that occurred just minutes after the country's health minister and officials from the World Health Organization had driven past.

The explosion, which injured 24 people, took place outside the Health Ministry and the Eye Hospital. Police blamed the attack on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebel group, which maintains a suicide squad and often targets government ministers.

The suicide bomber and a policeman were killed instantly. Three people died while being taken to the National Hospital, and two died after arriving in the emergency ward, said Pushpa Soysa, head of the nurses training unit. Of the 24 injured, 10 were in critical condition, Soysa said.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast.

Health Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva and some members of a WHO delegation passed the site a few minutes before the explosion, said the ministry's permanent secretary, Tilak Ranaviraja.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga was blinded in her right eye Dec. 18 when a suicide bomber tried to assassinate her at an election rally. Twenty-five were killed and more than 90 were injured.

The **Tamil Tigers**, who have been fighting for 17 years to establish a homeland for the Tamil minority, seldom comment on such attacks. More than 62,400 people have been killed in the war.

The rebels have also been blamed for the suicide bomb assassinations of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993.

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Police cordoned off a one kilometer (half-mile) area around the hospital and 50 soldiers moved in to investigate. Two army helicopters hovered overhead.

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Within hours of the blast, police were searching hotels in the city for suspected Tiger rebels, said Bodhi Liyanage, deputy inspector general of police. "It is an emergency operation and will continue until late in the night," he said. State television reported that four persons were arrested.

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Load-Date: September 15, 2000

Salvadoran president ratifies bill to impose 10-day ban on alcohol

Associated Press International

October 13, 2000; Friday

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Section: International news

Length: 1305 words

Dateline: SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador

Body

The president Thursday ratified a decree to impose a 10-day nationwide ban on sugarcane liquor to curb a methyl alcohol poisoning epidemic linked to the liquor that has left more than 100 dead.

Under the decree ratified by President Francisco Flores, the sale and consumption of sugarcane liquor will be prohibited in 14 provinces starting Friday, a spokesman for the president told the Associated Press. Offenders face fines ranging from dlrs 1,150 to dlrs 57, 471.

The ban does not include fermented drinks such as beer, cider, or wine.

The number of poison-related fatalities has reached 109 with the victims spread over six of this Central American country's 12 provinces, including the capital San Salvador, the authorities said.

Officials originally had reported that 117 people had died.

Police say the poisoned alcohol was sold openly to poor farm workers at liquor stores under the brand name Thunderbolt, a well-known cheap sugarcane liquor.

Police suspect that black-marketers adulterated the alcohol when refilling discarded Thunderbolt bottles. The company has yet to publicly react to the mass poisoning linked to its brand.

The first cases appeared last week in the small town of San Vicente, 35 miles east of San Salvador, where 44 people have since died, said Dr. Roberto Cea, director of the morgue at the Legal Medicine Institute.

Those who drink the contaminated liquor experience headaches, vomiting, stomachaches, blindness and then frequently die.

A ban on the sale of the brand Thunderbolt was announced soon after the first cases, but police say continuing clandestine sales have kept the number of victims rising. There has not been an official mass public awareness campaign.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's party on Friday secured enough support to form a new government, the first step to implementing a peace plan to end the country's 17-year civil war.

The National Unity Alliance, a Muslim coalition being wooed by both Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance and the opposition party, said it had thrown its support behind the president's party.

Salvadoran president ratifies bill to impose 10-day ban on alcohol

The Peoples' Alliance now controls 116 seats in the 225-seat Parliament, three seats more than the required simple majority to form a new government.

Rauf Hakeem, the leader of the Muslim coalition, said its support of the Peoples' Alliance was conditional. He called on Kumaratunga to establish an independent elections commission within 100 days to oversee future elections.

Tuesday's poll for the 11th Parliament was rife with accusations of violence and vote-rigging. At least 71 people were killed during the five-week campaign, according to the independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence.

Even Elections Commissioner Dayananda Dissanayake conceded the elections were not clean and annulled votes at 22 polling stations.

Kumaratunga had campaigned on a pledge to end the war with Tamil Tiger rebels by offering the minority Tamils greater autonomy in a new constitution. The rebels' fight for an independent homeland for Tamils has killed 63,000 people since 1983.

Kumaratunga who lost vision in one eye in a Tiger rebel suicide bombing on Dec. 18 has withstood harsh criticism from the country's powerful Buddhist monks and nationalists who frown on her attempts to grant greater autonomy to ethnic Tamil minorities.

To pass the new constitution, the People's Alliance needed to win a two-thirds majority, or at least 150 seats in Parliament.

But it only won 107 seats in Tuesday's election. The opposition United National Party won 89 seats to finish second, meaning that Kumaratunga had to win the support of minority parties to form a coalition and avoid a hung Parliament.

Though the Peoples' Alliance now has enough seats to form that government, it will need support from at least 34 opposition lawmakers if it is to succeed in pushing through the new constitution.

The Peoples' Alliance had a one-seat majority in the last Parliament and was prevented from passing the constitution. Kumaratunga saw Tuesday's ballot as a referendum on the measure.

Another scenario under Sri Lanka's complex parliamentary system would be to declare the Parliament a constituent assembly and pass the new constitution with a simple majority, an option Kumaratunga has considered.

But this would infuriate the Buddhist clergy and nationalist Sinhalese who are opposed to giving more power to the Tamils. Both groups have threatened to take to the streets in protest of a constituent assembly.

The Sinhalese majority make up about 76 percent of the population, and most are Buddhists. Tamils make up 14 percent and are mainly Hindus; they complain of discrimination in jobs. The remaining 10 percent are Muslims and other minorities.

Meanwhile, Ratnasiri Wickremanayaka, Kumaratunga's prime minister in the previous government, was expected to be sworn in later Friday.

"The swearing-in is definitely today," Wickremanayaka told The Associated Press. "The president has entrusted someone to obtain a good time. It is in our culture."

Major political oaths are performed at auspicious times in Sri Lanka, according to Buddhist astrologers.

Friday was a national day of mourning for Kumaratunga's mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the country's three-time prime minister and the world's first **female** prime minister 40 years ago. Bandaranaike, 84, died of a heart attack after voting on Tuesday.

A state funeral was to be held Saturday.

Salvadoran president ratifies bill to impose 10-day ban on alcohol

"I should be with the body of my mother. But since I have to run the country I don't even have that fortune," Kumaratunga said on state-run television late Thursday.

Sri Lanka's president on Friday swore in a hard-line prime minister who believes the government should keep waging the war against Tamil rebels.

Ratnasiri Wickremanayaka, 67, who also was prime minister in the last government, was sworn in by President Chandrika Kumaratunga after she garnered enough support for a coalition government.

Kumaratunga scrambled to form a coalition after her People's Alliance won only 107 seats in Tuesday's parliamentary elections _ short of a majority, or 113 seats, in the 225-member Parliament.

Kumaratunga had called the election to try to win enough seats to push through a new constitution giving the minority Tamils greater autonomy in the north and east as a way to end the 17-year war waged by the **Tamil Tigers** for a homeland. The war has left 63,000 dead.

But she fell far short of winning the two-thirds majority to adopt the document in a regular session.

"There is an element of uncertainty, the whole issue of conflict resolution does not look good for peace," said Rohan Edirisinghe of the independent Center for Policy Alternatives.

One potential scenario under Sri Lanka's parliamentary system would be to declare the Parliament a constituent assembly and pass the new constitution with a simple majority an option Kumaratunga has considered.

Kumaratunga who lost vision in her right eye after a Tamil Tiger suicide bombing on Dec. 18 had campaigned on a pledge to restore government stability, and had hoped to win the support of moderate Tamils and sideline the rebels.

Wickremanayaka became prime minister in August when Kumaratunga's mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, stepped down. Wickremanayaka was chosen as part of a two-pronged strategy to wage the war and to try to lure the **Tamil Tigers** to the peace table.

Bandaranaike, who was 84 and had been prime minister three times, died shortly after she voted Tuesday. Friday was a day of national mourning, and a state funeral was to be held Saturday.

Wickremanayaka believes a new constitution should better represent the Sinhalese.

The Sinhalese majority, most of whom are Buddhist, comprise 76 percent of the 18.6 million people of this island nation off the southern tip of India. Tamils make up 14 percent and are mainly Hindus. The remaining 10 percent are Muslims and other minorities.

Load-Date: October 13, 2000

Tamils say 27 civilians killed in Sri Lankan retaliation

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 12, 1996, Monday, BC Cycle 15:38 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 314 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

At least 27 civilians including eight children may have been killed in a retaliatory attack by government troops in northeastern Lanka, a moderate Tamil political party spokesman claimed Monday.

A spokesman for the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), Suresh Premachandran, said the civilians were killed when troops indiscriminately fired mortars at the village of Killiveddi, in the northeastern Trincomalee district on Sunday night where two soldiers were killed by rebels earlier in the day.

The two soldiers were killed when rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) attacked a security force patrol in Killiveddi, a village 23 kilometres south of Trincomalee on Sri Lanka's east coast.

Premachandran claimed that a report from the area said that 27 bodies of civilians, including nine **women**, had been brought to the Muttur hospital in the same district, but that the death toll could be higher.

"We will be bringing up the matter with President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Tuesday," he said.

A military statement about the incident in which the two soldiers were killed said that troops retaliated when the rebels attacked them. The statement admitted that a 12-year-old child was killed in the incident but specifically mentioned that the child was killed "due to terrorist (rebel) fire".

Rebels claim to be fighting in the north and eastern parts of the country for an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

In Colombo, Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar called on military personnel to fight the war against rebels in the most "humane" manner and said security forces should be able to differentiate between the "combatants and the non-combatants".

There have been occasional retaliatory attacks against civilians in the north and eastern part of the country during the 13-year war against Tamil separatists. dpa ad

Load-Date: February 12, 1996

RIGHTS-SRI LANKA: FOR TAMILS, OFFICIAL TREATMENT MOST UNEQUAL

IPS-Inter Press Service

August 27, 2001, Monday

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Length: 1223 words

Byline: By J.S. Tissainayagam

Dateline: COLOMBO, Aug. 27

Body

The lack of health care facilities in the war-torn Wanni in northern Sri Lanka forced "Mekala" to head south for treatment. But this journey to Colombo exposed her to the way the government treats members of her community, the minority Tamils.

To begin with, she needed to get a travel pass before leaving the Wanni, a heavily-forested area largely in the hands of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) who have been waging an 18-year-old war to have their own homeland.

Getting this document from government authorities is a must for all Tamils like Mekala who live in the predominantly Tamil-speaking north, if they want to travel to the Sinhala-speaking south of this Indian Ocean island.

"There is no legal basis for the pass system. But the defence authorities say it is required for security reasons," said V.S. Ganeshalingam, a human rights lawyer.

But Colombo looks at it differently, arguing that the policy has been introduced to stop **LTTE** members slipping southward along with Tamil civilians to mount attacks against the state.

The government also requires such pass holders to register in local police stations once they get to Colombo, which Mekala did.

This, too, Ganeshalingam questions, since the policy affects Tamils more than members of other communities visiting the city. "It is illegal to make people to register at police stations. But Tamils are compelled to do it," he said.

Yet, as Mekala learned, complying with all of these state requirements did not prevent the police from taking her into custody one night during a routine cordon-and-search operation.

They did so after they entered her home and discovered she was a Tamil from the Wanni on examining her papers -- which included her national identity card with information in Tamil and Sinhala.

In contrast, identity cards of Sinhalese only have personal information in Sinhala -- thus making it easy for security personnel to distinguish who are Tamils.

What gives the police license to do the search operation in Mekala's home is the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), under which Mekala could be detained for 18 months without trial.

RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : FOR TAMILS, OFFICIAL TREATMENT MOST UNEQUAL

It is while in police and military custody under the PTA that Tamils have been tortured, and in the case of women, raped, to force them to confess to be members of the LTTE, critics here say. Such confessions are admissible in court as evidence.

"The PTA encourages and gives room for torture. Even Amnesty International has urged its repeal, but nothing has happened," explained Ganeshalingam.

This reality only feeds the perception of Tamils, particularly those living in the island's north, that they are denied equal treatment by the state -- a situation that is less so for Tamils living in Sinhalese-majority areas.

Ties between Tamils and Sinhalese in the south since independence in 1948 have been close, with neighborhoods of both communities in parts of Colombo and Kandy living down the same streets and sending their children to the same schools.

But state policies have added to the seeds of antagonism that have escalated today into a full-scale civil war between the majority Sinhalese, who form 74 percent of Sri Lanka's population and Tamils, who make up 18 percent.

The Tamil conflict has led to the loss of more than 65,000 lives since it began in 1983.

To the Tamils, the main reasons for ethnic tensions flaring up were the discriminatory policies of the state in the hands of Sinhalese politicians.

The most sinister of these moves was in 1956, when Sinhala was made the only official language to the exclusion of Tamil. This was combined with governmental policies that undermined Tamil admission to universities, thereby also denying them employment in the government sector.

These problems were aggravated by successive governments that settled Sinhala "colonists" in Tamil areas, leading to changes in the demography of the area and parliamentary representation.

"Discrimination led to Tamils losing their identity in their own areas," said Suresh Premachandran, leader of the Eelam Peoples' Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

Tamils were not spared violence, either. They were victims of ethnic riots at the hands of Sinhalese miscreants, resulting in loss of lives and property. Such anti-Tamil violence began in 1958 and flared up in 1977, 1981 and the most widespread one in 1983, which was aided and abetted by the government of the day.

State repression went hand in hand with the new constitution of 1972, which failed to share power with the minorities and which recognized Sinhala as the only official language.

"Before 1972, the main Tamil political parties were unwilling to function within the Sri Lankan state. In the 70s the state was unable to meet Tamil aspirations, which led to militancy," said Rohan Edirisinha, law lecturer at the Colombo University.

Another constitution that followed did little to assuage Tamil perceptions about the Sri Lankan state. This 1978 document centralised more power in the hands of an executive president functioning out of the predominantly Sinhala-speaking Colombo than what the Tamils wanted -- greater autonomy for Tamil-speaking areas in the north and east.

But to nationalist Sinhalese, the policies of the Sri Lankan state are justified.

They even include 'discrimination' in such a political equation, since they view it as righting a historical wrong by the British colonial power. For them, the British, playing a game of divide-and-rule in Sri Lanka, gave the Tamils more privileges than their numbers warranted.

RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : FOR TAMILS, OFFICIAL TREATMENT MOST UNEQUAL

"Educated Tamils represented 42 percent of the voters at the first election in Ceylon (as Sri Lanka used to be called), even though their due representation was 10 percent, Udaya Gammanpila, spokesperson of the national Sihala Urumeya, told U.S. embassy officials two weeks ago.

"This was due to British colonial policies," Gammanpila pointed out.

"Only if the state is remodeled on the lines of a confederation, or if the Sinhala psyche and polity is unable to accept confederation, a federal setup as in the United States or Canada, could satisfy Tamil aspirations," said Premachandran.

Edirisinha has been working at reformulating a set of proposals put forth by Tamil politicians so that self-determination could be exercised within a united Sri Lanka.

"Though some of the more strident Tamil nationalists might find it unacceptable, a constitution in which certain principles are exercised over the whole of Sri Lankan polity, might allay Sinhala fears that there could be eventual separation," he said.

Those working toward such an end often look to another slice of Sri Lankan reality for inspiration -- the relationship between the Sinhalese and Tamils during their daily social encounters, away from the presence of the state or its representatives.

Despite the tension aggravated by the state, thousands of Sinhalese and Tamils continue to live, work and marry among each other in Colombo and other cosmopolitan centres.

"We get on okay with the Sinhalese in our 'watte' (neighborhood yard)," said Mala, a Tamil domestic worker.

Yet, as Mala observes, a sense of unease for Tamils prevails under this veneer.

"There are various problems such as at the communal washstand. When such problems crop up the Sinhalese scold us using racist epithets. But then it subsides," Mala continues. "But if there are race riots, we are done for."

Load-Date: August 28, 2001

Sri Lanka's Family Rule May Be Reaching Its Limit

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

August 18, 1998, Tuesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL; Pg. 6

Length: 693 words

Byline: John Zubrzycki, Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

Body

Traditions die hard in South Asia, where dynasties dominate the political process and succession all too often has been forced by an assassin's bullet.

An unprecedented number of widows and daughters have stepped into the shoes of murdered statesmen as presidents, prime ministers, or leaders of the opposition. Today women lead governments in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and opposition parties in India and Pakistan.

But nowhere have women retained as much power for so long as in Sri Lanka. The country's current president, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, has used her pedigree to win power, but is now finding it difficult to preserve her charisma in the island's troubled political landscape.

Ms. Kumaratunga's mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, was elected the world's first woman prime minister in 1960 after the assassination of her husband, Solomon. Today Ms. Bandaranaike is back in the post of prime minister, but the position is largely ceremonial. The real power rests with her daughter.

It's a unique double act in more ways than one. President Kumaratunga's husband, a matinee idol, was assassinated while running for president in 1988.

Despite her credentials, Ms. Kumaratunga says she is against family fiefdoms dominating governments.

"I certainly agree that dynastic control of parties is not good," says Kumaratunga, seated in the formal dining room of Temple Trees, her official residence in Colombo. "I agreed to contest only after my mother agreed to contest for parliamentary elections, my brother crossed over to another party, and my husband was assassinated."

Kumaratunga's is not the only dysfunctional dynasty in South Asia, where domestic squabbles often spill over into the political arena. In Pakistan, then-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's estranged brother fought against her in Parliament before being killed in 1996.

Sri Lanka 's Family Rule May Be Reaching Its Limit

In India, Sonia Gandhi's sister-in-law, Maneka Gandhi, fell out with the Congress Party and is now an independent in Parliament supporting the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

South Asia's dynasties have survived much bloodshed, but it's not the best way to run a country, says Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, executive director of the Center for Policy Analysis, a Colombo-based think tank.

"A dynasty is a good thing only in so far as it can deliver the goods," says Dr. Saravanamuttu. "Because you have the dynastic element underpinning the actual structure of the whole party, you don't necessarily attract people who are of good caliber and competence."

But even her harshest critics concede that Kumaratunga has skillfully used her family's charisma to further her own political ends.

"She is an extremely charismatic figure, and this is what she's got going for her," says Saravanamuttu. "She appeals to people across the social spectrum."

That appeal, however, is becoming harder to project. Kumaratunga tops the hit list of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), a separatist guerrilla group that has been blamed for the assassination of two heads of state and numerous terrorist bombings. Her home is ringed by half-a-dozen layers of security. Only last month, police reported that they uncovered an assassination plot using Tamil Tiger suicide bombers.

"My method of proceeding was a very hands-on kind of style where I was always in the streets, with the villagers, with the people. The fact that for the last four years I have not been able to do that has been very damaging," Kumaratunga says. "Up to now, people have had sufficient faith in me," she says. "But it can't go on for very long."

Just how much faith is left may be put to the test soon.

There is speculation in Colombo that Kumaratunga may bring forward the date for presidential elections to try to win a popular mandate for a devolution package giving greater autonomy to the Tamil-dominated north and east - and perhaps bringing an end to 15 years of ethnic strife.

For now, however, the war against the Tamil separatists is her main preoccupation.

"If we fight, we can definitely get the majority of the **LTTE**," Kumaratunga says. "If they are not willing to talk as a government, we will have to go to the logical end."

Graphic

Sri Lanka 's Family Rule May Be Reaching Its Limit

PHOTO: DYNASTIC CONTROL: President Chandrika Kumaratunga is part of a ruling-family tradition in Sri Lanka. Her mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, was the world's first woman prime minister. BY ANURUDDHA LOKUHAPUARACHCHI/REUTERS

Load-Date: August 17, 1998

End of Document

Search on for missing airliner in northwestern Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 30, 1998, Wednesday, BC Cycle 04:59 Central European Time

Copyright 1998 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 270 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

A search operation for debris of a missing domestic passenger airliner has been launched off the northwestern coast of Sri Lanka amidst strong speculation that the aircraft carrying 48 passengers and a six crew members - four of them Russians - had crashed there, a military spokesman said Wednesday.

The Lion Air plane was reported missing Tuesday, about 20 minutes after it took off from a northern air base. It was due to land a hour later at another air base south of the capital Colombo.

The search for the debris of the aircraft was being carried out off the northwestern coast of Mannar, 312 kilometres north of the capital, in the early hours of Wednesday by the Sri Lankan Navy and Air Force.

Air Force authorities earlier confirmed the airliner had not made an emergency landing either within military controlled areas or in any area dominated by the rebels.

It was not immediately clear whether the Russian-built Antonov 24 had crashed due to a technical fault or was shot down while flying over the Mannar area, a stronghold of rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

An official statement released by Lion Air said the six-member crew included four foreign cockpit crew members and not two as reported earlier.

Of the 48 passengers on board, 46 of them were confirmed as minority Tamils and 15 of them were women while the youngest was a 18 year old male.

All domestic flights of Lion Air to the north have been suspended until further notice. The airline's office in Colombo has announced three telephone hotlines for relatives of the passengers to seek information. dpa ad jh

Load-Date: October 1, 1998

Court refuses to stay marriage of ex-premier's daughter

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 29, 1997, Wednesday, BC Cycle 11:23 Central European Time

Copyright 1997 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 272 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

A Delhi court Wednesday refused to stay the marriage of Priyanka Gandhi, daughter of assassinated former premier Rajiv Gandhi, as sought in a petition filed by a man who claimed to be her husband.

Judge Vinod Kumar Gupta also called on the petitioner, V.Ramakrishna Goud to pay a penalty of rupees 3,000 for filing a "malicious suit" against Priyanka.

Gupta ordered criminal proceedings to be brought against Goud, who had petitioned the stay of Priyanka Gandhi's marriage to businessman Robert Wadhera next month.

Goud claimed that he had married Priyanka on 30 November 1991 in New Delhi, and told the court that he would get his claim verified by appropriate authorities. He alleged that Priyanka deserted him sometime after their marriage.

To support his claim, he filed a purported marriage invitation card and a certified copy of his food ration card and voters' list reportedly issued by the authorities in Goud's home state Andhra Pradesh, in which Priyanka Gandhi's name figures as that of his wife.

Goud was produced before the court in police custody after he was detained in his town in his home state Andhra Pradesh for allegedly misbehaving with a group of women

Press reports said Goud had gone to courts earlier seeking restitution of conjugal rights from other prominent women, including film stars he claimed had been married to him. He also reportedly claimed to be the husband of Priyanka's aunt Maneka Gandhi.

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in 1992 by a suicide bomber believed to be a member of the militant Sri Lankan separatist movement Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). DPA MVb

Load-Date: January 29, 1997

Monk wields political clout in Sri Lanka

Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada)

May 24, 2000 Wednesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B7

Length: 695 words

Byline: Regg Cohn, Martin

Dateline: KALUTARA, SRI LANKA

Body

Draped in flowing saffron robes, a monk strides to the microphone and presses his hands together in a traditional Buddhist greeting.

But his hands are soon jabbing the air as he delivers an emotional speech to 250 villagers who draw religious guidance from him.

"Whenever there's a threat to the Sinhalese race or motherland in our history, people step forward to protect Buddhism and our national unity," declares the chief monk, Thebuwane Pinananda.

A half-dozen ceiling fans stir up the tropical heat, breathing life into the nationalist banners hanging onstage. But it is Pinananda's words that whip up the crowd, an impassioned cry for racial solidarity that echoes through the cavernous town hall.

Torstar News Service

Flanked by a half-dozen fellow monks on stage, he has come to bless the meeting of a new Sinhalese nationalist movement, Sihala Urumaya, or Heritage Party.

Here in one of the world's most avowedly Buddhist countries, the sermon of a senior monk can easily inspire - or incite - devout followers.

The call to the faithful has become a battle cry against compromise.

"This political party was created to protect our race," Pinananda exhorts the crowd, beads of sweat glistening on his shaved head.

While government soldiers and separatists guerrillas wage a bloody war of attrition on the country's northern Jaffna peninsula, a struggle is under way here in the southern Buddhist heartland for Sri Lanka's soul. Seventeen years of ethnic strife has claimed more than 60,000 lives, but most influential monks are still insisting on a fight to the finish, rather than a negotiated settlement.

On this day, townsfolk have defied a new government ban on public meetings in order to hear firsthand from their monks. While police watch from a distance, young women in traditional white gowns sing nationalist anthems from the stage.

Monk wields political clout in Sri Lanka

Cloaked in stirring Sinhalese touchstones, the message is stark: The country's ethnic majority group must rebuff the demands of minority Tamils for greater political autonomy, the monks say. Founded last month to counter the growing clout of Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist movement, the new Sihala Urumaya party is widely derided as a chauvinist group that will further polarize the country. But the Buddhist imprimatur on this budding political movement ensures it will be taken seriously.

A sister group, the National Movement Against Terrorism, has its offices in one of the main Buddhist temples in Colombo, 40 kilometres to the north.

Inside the tranquil temple grounds, monks hand out literature targeting their nemesis, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***), a feared guerrilla group that uses suicide bombers and assassins to press their claim for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.2 million Tamils.

The Buddhist-backed anti-terrorism movement has run afoul of human rights groups for failing to distinguish between illegal Tiger terrorism and legitimate Tamil activism.

A recent leaflet warns Sri Lankans that any Tamils could be ***LTTE*** infiltrators, casting suspicion on perhaps 18 per cent of the population.

The nuances have long since faded from Sri Lanka's political discourse. One of South Asia's most robust democracies until this month's draconian restrictions were imposed, its political fabric is under strain not only from politicians who indulge in demagoguery, but Buddhist monks who dabble in mythology.

For Pinananda, the chief monk, Buddhists must brook no flexibility from the government in negotiations, lest the Sinhalese be sold out.

"In Buddhism, you have love and kindness for one another, but that doesn't mean that if your enemy threatens you that you should do nothing," Pinananda, 44, says in an interview after the public meeting. A Buddhist ruler "must not shy away from war if it is necessary to protect the country."

On Tuesday, President Chandrika Kumaratunga urged Sri Lankans to donate money for the war effort as government troops battled Tamil Tiger rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Kumaratunga asked people to donate two days of their monthly salary to a special fund and "refrain from holding any unnecessary celebrations" in a show of solidarity toward soldiers battling the rebels.

Graphic

AP; Mummy Makeover - An Egyptian worker brushes a nearly 2,000-year-old mummy Tuesday which was recently discovered at the Valley of the Golden Mummies in Bahariya Oasis, 375 kilometres southwest of Cairo. Some 102 mummies were discovered in the last two months, mostly poor and middle-class citizens between the ages of 30 and 40.

Load-Date: December 2, 2002

BUS STOP BOMB KILLS 11 IN GROZNY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

September 17, 2002 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: WORLD,; WORLD BRIEFS

Length: 636 words

Body

MOSCOW -- An explosion ripped through a crowded bus stop and a passing bus yesterday in the center of Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, killing at least 11 people and wounding nearly 30.

Russian officials said the blast was caused by a remote-controlled bomb hidden by separatist rebels in a garbage container. The attackers escaped. Many of the dead and injured were women and children.

Separately, 12 Russian servicemen were killed in various rebel attacks over 24 hours this weekend, and there were reports that an attack last night killed another soldier and a police officer.

Russian officials have said that the rebels' heightened activity is a sign that they are using Georgia as a base of operation with the tacit agreement of Georgian authorities. President Eduard A. Shevardnadze of Georgia repeated again yesterday that Georgia was moving against armed fighters in the Pankisi Gorge, which is said to be a base for several hundred Chechen fighters and Islamic militants.

Shevardnadze also said yesterday for the first time that Russian troops were in the gorge, as well as Americans. U.S. Special Forces troops have been in Georgia since May to train and equip Georgia's military. Moscow denied there was any Russian presence in Pankisi.

Sri Lanka peace talks

SATTAHIP, Thailand -- The Sri Lankan government began talks with Tamil Tiger rebels yesterday, taking a major step toward peace after 19 years of fighting.

The negotiations, brokered by Norway, were seen as the best chance to end the conflict that has killed more than 64,500 people on the island off India's southeast coast. The talks on a secluded Thai naval base are the first official face-to-face negotiations between the Tamil Tigers and Sri Lankan officials.

Famine in Africa worsens

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- With grain stores dwindling, the scourge of HIV/AIDS decimating an already weakened population and farmers fearing another grim harvest, the food crisis in southern Africa has worsened and now threatens more than 14 million people, United Nations officials announced yesterday.

BUS STOP BOMB KILLS 11 IN GROZNY

James T. Morris, the U.N. special envoy for humanitarian needs, said here that a new assessment had found 14.4 million people in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland are in dire need of food assistance -- up from previous estimates of 12.8 million.

Jaruzelski trial in Poland

WARSAW, Poland -- A Warsaw court began hearing witness testimony yesterday in the long-delayed trial of Poland's last communist leader, Wojciech Jaruzelski, for his role in the 1970 massacre of striking shipyard workers.

Jaruzelski, a 78-year-old retired general, is accused of ordering soldiers to fire on shipyard workers protesting food-price increases on Dec. 17, 1970, when he was defense minister. Forty-four people were killed and more than 1,000 were wounded.

Food poisoning in China

BEIJING -- Hundreds of people fell ill after eating food laced with rat poison at a snack shop selling fried dough, sesame cakes and rice in the Chinese city of Nanjing, and police opened a criminal investigation into the poisonings yesterday.

Authorities refused to release a death toll, but state media said more than 200 people were sickened and suggested dozens, including many children, might have died.

Also in the world

Italy's Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu began an investigation into a weekend shipwreck off the coast of Sicily that plunged scores of illegal immigrants into stormy waters, killing at least 15. The dead were among the 300 who left Liberia aboard the merchant ship in early September. . . A bus carrying Catholic pilgrims plunged into a gorge in western Argentina Sunday night, killing 49 people and injuring 27 others. Survivors said the bus had lost its brakes shortly before barreling off the road and tumbling more than 300 feet.

Load-Date: September 18, 2002

Terrorism suspects face expulsion: Top court to rule on deporting men who claim they face torture

The Ottawa Citizen

January 11, 2002 Friday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; Crime

Length: 635 words

Byline: Janice Tibbetts

Body

The federal government is preparing for the rapid expulsion of two suspected terrorists in anticipation that they could be ordered deported today in a Supreme Court ruling on whether people can be sent to countries where they face torture.

"Obviously there would be some preparation being done," said Danielle Sarazin, a spokeswoman for the Immigration Department.

The decision promises to be a monumental one, providing the first glimpse of the court's view of how far it will go in handling cases involving national security and suspected terrorists following the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Manickavasagam Suresh, of Sri Lanka, and Mansour Ahani, of Iran, could be sent to their homelands as early as Monday if they lose their final appeals in the country's highest court.

The Ottawa Citizen

Barbara Jackman, the lawyer for the two men, said the federal government has promised that Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani would not be expelled for at least 72 hours after the decision.

"It's not a lot of time," said Ms. Jackman, who is already making preparations in the event the pair lose in the high court.

She intends to ask the UN to rule on the case on the grounds that their deportation could violate an international convention against torture.

But she acknowledged that the UN could only exert moral pressure on the Canadian government, which wants to deport the two men because they are classified as threats to national security.

Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani, both refugees, have been fighting their deportation since the early 1990s and have lost at every turn. Federal officials allege that Mr. Suresh, 46, is a key fundraiser with the terrorist ***Tamil Tigers*** and that Mr. Ahani, 37, is a trained assassin with the Iranian secret service.

Mr. Ahani has been in jail for several years in Hamilton, while Mr. Suresh is free on bail and is living in Toronto.

Terrorism suspects face expulsion: Top court to rule on deporting men who claim they face torture

There are several scenarios that could occur as a result of today's ruling.

Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani could win their cases and be allowed to stay in Canada if the court decides that it violates their constitutional right to life, liberty and security of the person to deport them to countries where there is a serious risk they will be tortured.

Another possible outcome is the court could decide their constitutional rights are being violated, but that it is a justifiable infringement to protect the security of Canadians. That means they would be deported.

The ruling could also be more muddy than straightforward, with the court potentially sending the cases back to Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan for redetermination, with guidelines on how to handle cases where potential deportees could face torture.

The federal government describes Mr. Suresh as a dedicated and trusted leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, an organization for Sri Lanka's ethnic minority that engages in torture, executions, ethnic cleansing of Muslims, kidnapping and forcible conscription of children.

Mr. Ahani claims in court documents he was jailed in Iran after defecting from an Iranian state security mission to blow up safe houses containing women and children, all in support of the Islamic Revolution.

Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani received sympathetic treatment when their lawyers appeared before the Supreme Court in a hearing last May.

Several judges stressed that it would violate UN conventions to send people to countries to be tortured. But the hearing was held before Sept. 11 and Justice Minister Anne McLellan has said she expects that the tragic events will be taken into account in deciding Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani's fate.

"The Supreme Court lives in the real world and obviously they read the papers," Ms. McLellan said three months ago, after deciding against asking the Supreme Court to reopen the case.

Load-Date: January 11, 2002

Court to make landmark ruling on deportation: Risk of torture for terrorist suspects add weight to Supreme's case

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

January 11, 2002 Friday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; Crime

Length: 629 words

Byline: JANICE TIBBETTS

Dateline: OTTAWA

Body

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Southam News

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Court to make landmark ruling on deportation: Risk of torture for terrorist suspects add weight to Supreme's case

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Load-Date: January 11, 2002

Sri Lanka Blast Kills 10

Associated Press Online

June 7, 2000; Wednesday

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Section: International news

Length: 3821 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

An explosion in the suburbs of the capital killed a Cabinet minister and at least nine others today, a military spokesman said.

The explosion killed C.V. Gooneratne, minister for industrial development, said Brig. Palitha Fernando.

Another Cabinet minister, transport minister A.H. M. Fowzie, said he had heard 14 were killed in the explosion.

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The cause and other details were not immediately known.

However, Tamil Tiger rebels, who have been fighting for 17 years to create a homeland for minority Tamils, are known for setting off explosions that target government officials.

Fighting has intensified in the last two months as the rebels made a series of lightning advances in the north, overrunning several army camps to arrive at the doorstep of Jaffna city.

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At least 500,000 civilians live in Jaffna peninsula. The city of Jaffna was the rebel capital from 1990-1995. The military took it back the peninsula in a series of operations.

Sri Lanka Blast Kills 10

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been fighting since 1983 to create a homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, who make up 18 percent of the 18.6 million population. The war has left 62,000 people dead.

An explosion in the suburbs of the capital killed a Cabinet minister and at least nine others today, a military spokesman said.

The explosion killed C.V. Gooneratne, minister for industrial development, said Brig. Palitha Fernando.

The cause and other details were not immediately known.

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The bomber's severed head and limbs were scattered around a traffic island, while police officers and army commandos gathered evidence and pushed the crowd back from the site.

Minister for Industrial Development C.V. Gooneratne was among the 21 people killed, said the director of Kalubowila Hospital, Dr. W.G. Gunawaordena. The minister's wife was one of seven people in serious condition among 60 injured people brought for treatment, he said.

Gonadeniye Sumanatne, a Buddhist priest at a nearby temple, said he had seen many bodies strewn across the road.

No cars were damaged in the area, indicating that the bomber had walked up to the minister. He had been surrounded by supporters and the deputy mayor of Ratmalana suburb, who was also killed, according to the hospital director.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

However, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have fought for 17 years to create a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east, have a unit of suicide bombers known as the Black Tigers, who are known for targeting government officials.

Police could not say why Goonaretna was on foot in the district that he represents in parliament. But witnesses said he may have been collecting money for the war effort on the first-ever War Heroes Day, set aside to recognize those who have died in battle.

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President Chandrika Kumaratunga had urged Sri Lankans in a speech before the explosion occurred to support the military.

"This is the most sacred moment for the nation," said Kumaratunga, who was blinded in her right eye in a suicide bombing in December. Gooneratne is the first minister of her government to be assassinated.

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Suicide bombers have assassinated several high-ranking politicians, including President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993 and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. The **Tamil Tigers** denied they killed Gandhi and have never commented on Premadasa's death.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga was blinded in the right eye when a woman suicide bomber tried to assassinate her in December.

Police imposed a curfew in the neighborhood where today's bomb exploded after reports spread of mobs attacking minority Tamils in revenge.

Many of the injured had extensive facial injuries and their clothes were stained with blood. "I was walking beside the minister's entourage when the explosion took place," said G.A. Yohanhe. "All I remember is falling on the ground."

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Gooneratne, the bomber, and 20 other people were killed, said the director of Kalubowila Hospital, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena. The doctor said the minister's wife was among seven people seriously injured and that 53 others were treated at the hospital.

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There was no claim of responsibility for the bombing. But it was similar to past attacks by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which has been fighting for 17 years to create a separate homeland for minority Tamils.

The rebels have a suicide unit, the Black Tigers, known for targeting government officials and politicians.

A government statement said the motive was to mark "a day that was specially meant to pay tribute to the war heroes battling to maintain the ... territorial integrity of the nation." War Heroes Day was declared to boost the morale of the 40,000 troops fighting the rebels in northern Jaffna peninsula.

Before the bombing, all traffic in the capital stopped and people were told to observe two minutes of silence as President Chandrika Kumaratunga said in a televised speech, "This is the most sacred moment for the nation."

Jehan Perera of the Peace Council, an independent think tank, said the bombing was probably the Tiger's response to the holiday. He said Gooneratne was "a soft target and a shocking choice" for assassination.

"He was not involved in the military end of the government. But he used to go about quite freely," Perera said.

After the bombing, mobs began attacking homes in Ratmalana belonging to minority Tamils, a government official said on condition he not be named.

Perera said Gooneratne was very close to his constituents.

"They would be so angry and upset they would want to retaliate at anyone," Perera said. "They cannot capture the Tiger. So they say these Tamil people are the nearest thing to a Tiger."

The government imposed a curfew on the bombed neighborhood and two adjacent suburbs and barred journalists from the area. The army's rapid deployment force surrounded a low-cost housing area in the neighborhood and searched for suspects, a member of the force told The AP.

The Information Department issued a statement appealing to the public "to stay calm at a sensitive time such as this when emotions are running high." It added that steps had been taken "to protect all communities from any backlash."

A survivor said the bomber had hopped out of a taxi and greeted the minister before detonating the bomb in an intersection.

G.A. Yohan, another survivor who had an injured arm and was having trouble hearing, said: "I was walking beside the minister's entourage when the explosion took place. All I remember is falling on the ground."

Afterward, the bomber's severed head and limbs were scattered around a traffic island.

Police dragged one man from the scene. Later, officers said he was being investigated.

About half of the Tamil rebels are believed to be women, many recruited as children, and women are often suicide bombers. They are known to wear their hair short and sometimes dress like men.

The gender of the bomber could not immediately be determined. The disfigured head had close-cropped hair like a man, and there were trousers on the body.

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Fighting has intensified in the last two months as the rebels made a series of lightning advances in the north, overrunning several army camps to arrive at the doorstep of Jaffna city.

In Washington, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart condemned the "reprehensible act" but urged a continuation of efforts to resolve the bitter conflict.

"Such terrorism should not and cannot detract from efforts to reach a negotiated solution to the current conflict in Sri Lanka," he said. "The United States stands firmly in support of a solution that offers justice and human rights for all the citizens of a unified, peaceful, and prosperous Sri Lanka."

As part of the War Heroes Day ceremonies before the bombing, all traffic in the capital stopped and people were told to observe two minutes of silence as President Chandrika Kumaratunga in a televised speech called the event "the most sacred moment for the nation."

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Load-Date: June 7, 2000

End of Document

The day terror defeated our champion league team

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

October 11, 2001, Thursday

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Section: LOCALPHOTO; Pg. 1

Length: 585 words

Byline: Steve Gee and Stephen Birch

Body

AUSTRALIA'S world champion rugby league team was today denounced for aborting the Kangaroos' tour of England over fears of terrorist attacks.

The decision, announced last night, caused uproar in England with fans and officials attacking the Kangaroos.

English Rugby League officials were today attempting to persuade the Australian Rugby League to reconsider its decision or send a Kangaroo A team of young players.

MATP

But the ARL ruled out the offer.

ERL director Greg McCallum said today he would write to ARL chief executive Geoff Carr and chairman Colin Love proposing to scrap the four club games and instead play just the three Tests.

Officials also were threatening to sue the ARL in a bid to recoup estimated profits of up to \$A8.8 million for the tour.

McCallum, while refusing to criticise the players, said the decision would do massive damage to the international game, particularly in England where the ERL has been battling to hold on to star players in the face of rugby union poaching.

"They said it's all or nothing but I'm asking them to reconsider the impact. I think they'll wake up in Australia in the morning with a bloody nose," he said.

"I'm not criticising the decision. I know there are significant emotional circumstances involved.

"I'm asking them to consider the impact of the decision. There are widespread implications of this decision that affect men, women and children here."

But Love today ruled out shortening the tour or sending an Australia A squad.

He said the tour may be rescheduled for next year, depending on developments in the terrorism crisis.

Australian captain Brad Fittler maintained today: "It [the tour] hasn't been cancelled. Hopefully, it's just been

The day terror defeated our champion league team

postponed. If we're going to wait another year to see another Kangaroo tour then I think it's worth waiting."

Love, who conceded there was no evidence the Kangaroos would be at risk, said the ARL stood by the players' decision.

"I think the major concern was that if things do escalate or deteriorate they're [the players] going to be 12,000 miles away," he said.

"Their families are back here [in Australia] and they have concerns.

"We are obligated to take their concerns into account and when you've got 12 players who say 'look we really don't want to go' [you have got to listen to them]."

The decision to cancel the trip -- the first full Kangaroo tour in seven years -- was announced last night after 12 of the players, headed by Fittler, revealed they were pulling out because of safety fears in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and subsequent bombing in Afghanistan.

The Australian team was supposed to leave on Saturday, with the first Test scheduled for November 3.

The decision to pull out was roundly criticised in England today with respected newspaper The Times, leading the condemnation.

English supporters also inundated fan sites with e-mails accusing the Australians of wimping out, with one branding the Kangaroos "chickens".

"For years, several have wondered just what the two yellow stripes down the Australian shirt symbolised, if anything. Whilst that is unclear, what is clear today is those inside the jerseys are more yellow than the stripes." wrote league fan Chris Murray.

The Times said: "The Australians are building up quite a history of ducking out of their obligations at the first hint of trouble."

"Their cricketers failed to play in Sri Lanka in the World Cup because the Tamil Tigers had been getting active."

More reports: Sport

Load-Date: October 17, 2001

Supreme Court set to rule on deportations: Sri Lankan, Iranian claim they will face torture if sent home

The Ottawa Citizen

January 11, 2002 Friday

EARLY EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; Crime

Length: 639 words

Byline: Janice Tibbetts

Body

The federal government is preparing for the rapid expulsion of two suspected terrorists in anticipation that they could be ordered deported today in a landmark Supreme Court ruling on whether people can be sent to countries where they face torture.

"Obviously there would be some preparation being done," said Danielle Sarazin, a spokeswoman for the Immigration Department.

The decision promises to be a monumental one, providing the first glimpse of the court's view of how far it will go in handling cases involving national security and suspected terrorists following the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Manickavasagam Suresh, of Sri Lanka, and Mansour Ahani, of Iran, could be sent to their homelands as early as Monday if they lose their final appeals in the country's highest court.

The Ottawa Citizen

Barbara Jackman, the lawyer for the two men, said the federal government has promised that Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani would not be expelled for at least 72 hours after the decision.

"It's not a lot of time," said Ms. Jackman, who is already making preparations in the event the pair lose in the high court.

She intends to ask the United Nations to rule on the case on the grounds that their deportation could violate an international convention against torture.

But she acknowledged that the UN could only exert moral pressure on the Canadian government, which wants to deport the two men because they are classified as threats to national security.

Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani, both refugees, have been fighting their deportation since the early 1990s and have lost at every turn. Federal officials allege that Mr. Suresh, 46, is a key fundraiser with the terrorist ***Tamil Tigers*** and that Mr. Ahani, 37, is a trained assassin with the Iranian secret service.

Mr. Ahani has been in jail for several years in Hamilton, while Mr. Suresh is free on bail and is living in Toronto.

Supreme Court set to rule on deportations: Sri Lankan , Iranian claim they will face torture if sent home

There are several scenarios that could occur as a result of today's ruling.

Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani could win their cases and be allowed to stay in Canada if the court decides that it violates their constitutional right to life, liberty and security of the person to deport them to countries where there is a serious risk they will be tortured.

Another possible outcome is the court could decide their constitutional rights are being violated, but that it is a justifiable infringement to protect the security of Canadians. That means they would be deported.

The ruling could also be more muddy than straightforward, with the court potentially sending the cases back to Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan for redetermination, with guidelines on how to handle cases where potential deportees could face torture.

The federal government describes Mr. Suresh as a dedicated and trusted leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, an organization for Sri Lanka's ethnic minority that engages in torture, executions, ethnic cleansing of Muslims, kidnapping and forcible conscription of children.

Mr. Ahani claims in court documents he was jailed in Iran after defecting from an Iranian state security mission to blow up safe houses containing women and children, all in support of the Islamic Revolution.

Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani received sympathetic treatment when their lawyers appeared before the Supreme Court in a hearing last May.

Several judges stressed that it would violate UN conventions to send people to countries to be tortured.

But the hearing was held before Sept. 11 and Justice Minister Anne McLellan has said she expects that the tragic events will be taken into account in deciding Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani's fate.

"The Supreme Court lives in the real world and obviously they read the papers," Ms. McLellan said three months ago, after deciding against asking the Supreme Court to reopen the case.

Load-Date: January 11, 2002

In Sri Lanka, suicide terrorists are motivated by their cause, not religion

Associated Press International

October 14, 2001 Sunday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 813 words

Byline: DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

They appear on foot, on a truck or aboard a boat, carrying hidden explosives. They approach their human target and - in a blast of fire and smoke - complete their mission.

Suicide attackers such as these have killed Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and dozens of people caught in two explosions that damaged a twin-towered, 37-story building known as Sri Lanka's World Trade Center.

What motivates a suicide bomber has become a crucial question since 19 hijackers killed themselves - and thousands of innocent people - by crashing four airliners into the Pentagon and New York's far taller World Trade Center on Sept. 11.

With many people worried about similar attacks as the international war on terrorism proceeds, Sri Lanka's 18 years of civil war may offer some insights into the behavior of suicide bombers.

While the attackers here are not Muslim extremists - like those believed associated with Osama bin Laden who are blamed for the U.S. attacks - their tenacity shows how hard it can be to root out fanaticism.

"If you are strongly committed to a cause, suicide is immaterial," said N. Mendis, a senior psychiatrist at Colombo National Hospital. "These are very conscious acts."

The attackers were from the Hindu Tamil rebels who have waged a war against the government and military, dominated by the majority Sinhalese Buddhists, to win an independent Tamil state in northern Sri Lanka. Since 1983, the battle has killed more than 64,000 people, mainly Tamils.

By government count, the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have carried out 66 major suicide terrorist attacks - and many smaller ones.

The suicide bombings began in July 1987 when a rebel drove a truck full of explosives into an army camp, killing 40 soldiers.

In 1991, a Tamil woman drew international attention when she blew herself up in southern India as she bowed to touch Gandhi's feet in a traditional gesture of respect.

In Sri Lanka , suicide terrorists are motivated by their cause, not religion

Premadasa was killed in 1993 when a bomber approached him at a May Day parade. In 1996, bombers drove an explosive-laden truck into the Central Bank in Colombo, the island nation's capital, damaging the nearby World Trade Center. The center was bombed again the following year but has been rebuilt.

Despite Sri Lanka's religious divide, scholars say the suicide bombers are not motivated by patriotism, not holy zeal. To them, the bombings aren't suicide but death for a noble cause: freedom and equality for the Tamil minority.

"They are driven by a sense ... that a political solution to the Tamil question cannot be found," said R. Sambandan, leader of the mainstream Tamil United Liberation Front party.

The attackers become heroes to the rebels. Many are said to have eaten a last meal with reclusive Tamil guerrilla commander Vellupillai Prabhakaran.

"They are told their families will be taken care of, they become martyrs," said Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, head of the Center for Policy Alternatives, an independent think-tank.

Prabhakaran's philosophy has a core of fatalism. He has advocated suicide as the ultimate form of military discipline, and many of his rebels - including teen-age boys and girls - wear a cyanide capsule on a string around their necks so they can commit suicide to avoid capture.

Tamil bombers often come from downtrodden and oppressed groups and have little to lose, just as some of their Muslim counterparts do.

"Many of them are picked from families who have suffered discrimination, have suffered tragedy," Saravanamuttu said.

But there are also differences from the Muslim attackers, one being the assailants' gender.

About one-third of the suicide attacks in Sri Lanka have been carried out by women. Muslim suicide bombers are almost always men.

The Tamil suicide bombers also have stuck to their own land - apart from the assassination of Gandhi shortly after Indian peacekeepers left Sri Lanka - though they have relied on an international network for money and arms.

But the major difference from Muslim militants is that Sri Lanka's suicide bombers are not motivated by visions of heaven but by their freedom struggle and charismatic leader.

Critics say charisma is not Prabhakaran's only tool, however.

Some former Tamil fighters say Prabhakaran has forced Tamil families in rebel-held areas to devote at least one child to his cause, and a U.N. report also noted the rebels often recruit children as fighters since they can be easily indoctrinated.

Another report by Tamil intellectuals said most of those inducted by the Tamil militia, known as the LTTE, "are young and politically immature" and can be returned to normal childhood if rescued in time.

"Taken out of the LTTE's influence, they become ordinary boys and girls, totally devoid of the fire with which they were charged under conditions of martial regimentation."

On the Net:

Rebel site: www.eelamweb.com

Govt. Site: www.priu.gov.lk

Load-Date: October 14, 2001

In Sri Lanka , suicide terrorists are motivated by their cause, not religion

End of Document

Government takes lead in Sri Lanka elections

The Associated Press

October 11, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 583 words

Byline: By DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's governing party appeared poised Wednesday to win a majority of seats in parliamentary elections seen as a test of her proposals for ending Sri Lanka's devastating civil war.

With 90 percent of the vote from Tuesday's elections counted by evening, Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance was leading with 88 seats, or 48 percent of the vote. The opposition United National Party had 72 seats, or 39 percent. But election officials said the final count would not be complete until Thursday.

Under Sri Lanka's complex electoral system, seats are allocated based on the percentage of total votes polled by a party in each district. The Peoples' Alliance needs at least 113 of the 225 seats in parliament to form a government.

Tuesday's vote in this island nation off India's southern tip was a tumultuous one, marked by violence, death and bitter accusations. A day later with a 10 p.m. curfew imposed, many people remained at home, monitoring state radio and television for results. Soldiers patrolled the capital with AK-47s slung over their shoulders, stopping cars at checkpoints.

The driving political issue in the election was the bloody civil war between rebels of the Tamil minority and the majority Sinhalese-dominated government. Some 63,000 people have been killed in 17 years of violence.

Seeking to placate Tamils and sideline rebel factions fighting for a separate homeland in the north, Kumaratunga - who was blinded in one eye in a Tamil Tiger rebel suicide bombing Dec. 18 - has pushed a new constitution that would give regional governments more power.

Political disputes blocked her attempts to pass the constitution, and she sees Tuesday's vote as a referendum on the measure. Opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe has said his party would immediately de-escalate fighting and start talks with the **Tamil Tigers** if it were to take over the government.

Final results, being counted by hand, were expected late Wednesday. The commission said it was delaying counting in four districts after poll monitors reported violence and fraud.

At least 71 people were killed during the five-week campaign and on election day, according to the independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence. A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of Kumaratunga's party at Ragama, northeast of the capital, police said.

Government takes lead in Sri Lanka elections

Seventy-five percent of the 12 million registered voters in this South Asian island nation of 18.6 million turned out, Elections Commissioner K. Senanayake said.

The death of Kumaratunga's mother, former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, cast a pall over the vote. The 84-year-old Bandaranaike, who in 1960 became the world's first prime minister, died of a heart attack shortly after casting her vote Tuesday.

A state funeral will be held Saturday.

Bandaranaike was elected prime minister on July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became India's first woman leader. Bandaranaike regained office a third time in 1994 when her daughter appointed her prime minister but retired in August to let the president appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections.

"As the first democratically elected woman prime minister in the world, she made history and was an inspiration to the women of the world," India's President K.R. Narayanan said. "It is appropriate that her last act was to cast her vote in the democratic elections being held in Sri Lanka."

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: <http://www.eelamweb.com>

Sri Lankan government: <http://www.priu.gov.lk>

Graphic

AP Photos COL101-102

Load-Date: October 12, 2000

25 Tamils feared drowned as boat sinks off northern Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 3, 1999, Tuesday, BC Cycle 08:19 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 319 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

At least 25 ethnic Tamil civilians, including women and children, were feared drowned when a boat carrying a group of refugees from a rebel-controlled area into a military dominated area in northern Sri Lanka capsized, a local newspaper reported Tuesday.

The boat had capsized off Ponneryn in mid-sea, 350 kilometres north of the capital on Saturday, but the incident had not been reported to civilians living in the military controlled northern Jaffna peninsula until late Monday, the Tamil language Thinakaran newspaper said.

The tragedy occurred as the overloaded boat sailed through rough seas, according four persons who had been rescued.

The refugees were returning to the northern Jaffna peninsula, 396 kilometres north of the capital, from the areas held by the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

A spokesman for the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) based in Jaffna confirmed that they had been informed of the incident, but were unable to move into the area until they received clearance from the rebels.

The four survivors confirmed that the civilians had decided to return to the Jaffna peninsula because the conditions in the areas held by the rebels were becoming worse due to a shortage of food and medicine.

A dispute between the Sri Lankan military and the Tamil rebels about the opening of a safe route to the rebel-held areas has resulted in a short supply of food and medicines to the rebel-held areas for the past month.

A military spokesman said that civilians regularly return to the Jaffna peninsula from rebel-held areas by boat despite the risky conditions.

Tamil rebels fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and eastern parts of Sri Lanka are currently confined to the central part of the northern province known as the Wanni region, while in other areas they have control of small pockets. dpa ad jh

Load-Date: August 3, 1999

Nine die in Tamil suicide bomb attack Prince flies out only hours before blast

THE JOURNAL (Newcastle, UK)

February 7, 1998, Saturday

Edition 1

Copyright 1998 Newcastle Chronicle & Journal Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS,

Length: 282 words

Body

** missed drop char **A WOMAN suicide bomber killed herself and eight others and injured five in an attack in Colombo - hours after Prince Charles ended his visit to Sri Lanka.

Police said the attack had probably been timed to coincide with the royal visit but heavy security had delayed the bombing.

They blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam - the main rebel group fighting for an ethnic Tamil homeland in a war that has killed more than 50,000 people in the last 15 years.

The explosion happened about 300 yards from the gates of Sri Lanka's air force headquarters.

The defence ministry said nine people - the woman, three men in the van in which she was travelling, three airmen and two women soldiers - were killed.

B D M T Dissanayake, Colombo's deputy inspector general of police, said a woman detonated explosives contained in her handbag when the van in which she was riding with two companions was stopped at an air force check point.

"It is a very ruthless attack by the LTTE," Dissanayake said. "They had probably planned to attack earlier but could not do so."

Police said the woman bomber was wearing an explosives-stuffed jacket.

Security had been particularly tight in Colombo since Prince Charles's arrival on Tuesday. He flew out of Colombo for Nepal six hours before the bombing.

Tamil separatist suicide bombers have regularly attacked military and civilian targets in the Sri Lankan capital. They were blamed for the January 25 bombing of one of the nation's holiest Buddhist temples.

That forced the government to shift a celebration of Sri Lanka's 50 years of independence from the temple in the eastern city of Kandy to the more secure parliament complex on Colombo's outskirts.

Graphic

Nine die in Tamil suicide bomb attack Prince flies out only hours before blast

Aftermath: The bombed van which had been stopped at a checkpoint.

Load-Date: January 14, 1999

End of Document

Politician Deified by Some, Reviled by Others AP Photo Available

Associated Press Worldstream

April 28, 1995; Friday 08:39 Eastern Time

Copyright 1995 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: International news

Length: 585 words

Byline: KRISHNAN GURUSWAMY, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India

Body

In a country that loves movies and political scandal, people are riveted by the unfolding drama surrounding a south Indian leader who may be hauled into court on corruption charges.

Jayalalitha Jayaram is revered as a goddess by some and reviled by others as an eccentric despot. Either way, the chief minister of Tamil Nadu state is still providing entertainment, 17 years after she left her career as a movie queen to become the queen of Indian politics.

Her accusers weave a tale of greed, violence and political intrigue around her. Her loyalists are alleged to have beaten up opposition politicians, burnt down newspapers and murdered reporters who exposed corruption in her government.

On Thursday, Jayalalitha _ who is known only by her first name _ lost an appeal against Governor Chenna Reddy who had cleared the way for her prosecution on corruption charges.

She is accused of doling out lucrative government contracts to her supporters and of using dummy organizations to profit for herself.

The governor's permission is needed to sue a chief minister, who is the highest elected official of a state. If she is charged, a special court must try the case.

Since the governor is appointed by the federal government, the issue has ballooned into a political problem for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao after the outraged chief minister severed her alliance with Rao's Congress Party.

The latest court order also emboldened the opposition to launch a campaign to unseat her in next year's state legislature elections.

Politics in Tamil Nadu has always been different from the rest of India's 26 states. For years, its politicians have been drawn from the fantasy world of movies.

The biggest of them all was M.G. Ramachandran, who quit acting and jumped into politics in the 1970s, frequently comparing himself to Ronald Reagan.

Politician Deified by Some, Reviled by Others AP Photo Available

In all his movies, MGR, as he was popularly known, was the savior of women, the champion of the downtrodden, a man who never smoked, drank or told lies. In election after election, he won nearly all the women's votes.

Jayalalitha, who was MGR's longtime companion and movie co-star, inherited his political mantle when he died in 1987.

Her party, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, won nearly all the seats in a state legislature election in 1991, shortly after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

That was largely because her rival political party supported the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka, who were blamed for the assassination.

Jayalalitha's critics say the overwhelming majority in the legislature went to her head. Wearing a bulletproof vest, she is driven around the state in 1,000-car convoys, past hundreds of towering cardboard likenesses of her portly figure.

People hail her as "Mother Goddess!" or "Revolutionary Leader" never referring to her by name even in private conversation, which might be seen as disrespectful.

When the chief minister turned 47 in February, her supporters vied with one another to toast her birthday. They put up 150-foot figures of her along the roads; floated a state-run bus company in her name, dug 47 ponds in the shape of the letter 'J'; fed 47,000 poor people, gave gifts to people for 47 days.

Critics say industrial growth has been tardy in the state; violence against minorities has risen, separatist rebels from neighboring Sri Lanka still roam freely in Tamil Nadu, human rights abuses by police are rampant, attacks on the media and judiciary are rising and political dissent is not tolerated. ,(kg/aks/am)<

Load-Date: April 28, 1995

End of Document

FIJI

The Toronto Star

August 1, 2000, Tuesday, Edition 1

Copyright 2000 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS

Length: 341 words

Body

Rebel leader George Speight, whose coup helped topple the government, has been charged with some criminal offences and is still being investigated for treason, police said today.

Assistant Police Commissioner Moses Driver would not give details of the charges, but said they were not treason-related.

Burundi Uniformed men killed 53 men, women and children in the village of Butaganzwa July 22 when they refused to go to a government resettlement camp, an Italian-based missionary news service said yesterday. The army denied the massacre allegations, saying the victims were caught in cross-fire between soldiers and rebels, MISNA reported.

Peru President Alberto Fujimori's government called for a return to "cordiality" in relations with the opposition yesterday, softening earlier warnings adversaries would be punished for deadly inauguration day riots. But opposition leaders said they won't back down, regardless of prosecution threats.

India Former movie star Raj Kumar was kidnapped Sunday with three other men at his home in Gajanur, officials said yesterday. No clear reason was given for Kumar's kidnapping by the gang led by the notorious Veerappan, who is wanted dead or alive.

Sri Lanka The cabinet yesterday approved a set of constitutional reforms aimed at ending the country's long-running ethnic war, government officials said. The radical package aims to devolve powers to regions, including one administered by Tamils, in an attempt to offer the ethnic minority a political alternative to the

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

FIJI

United States Wildfires raged in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Washington and Wyoming yesterday, crackling through a more than 200,000 hectares of timber, bush and brush. It's the worst fire season since 1988, when two million hectares burned in the West, a spokesman for the National Interagency Fire Centre said.

Indonesia Recent medical tests show ex-president Suharto is fit for trial on charges of massive corruption, the government said yesterday.

Load-Date: August 3, 2000

End of Document

Ferry captives crisis; Tigers threaten to kill rivals as 144 are held for sixth day

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

September 4, 1995

Copyright 1995 South China Morning Post Ltd.

Section: Pg. 14

Length: 577 words

Byline: From GASTON DE ROSAYRO in Colombo and agencies

Body

THE hostage ferry Irish Mona remained a floating bomb yesterday with the fate of the 144 people on board unknown and the Government uncertain how to handle the crisis.

As the sea drama entered its sixth day, the hijackers from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam threatened action against rival Tamil militants aboard the vessel being held off Sri Lanka's northeastern coast of Mullaitivu.

The Tigers say they will execute members of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), whom they have branded "traitors", a Defence Ministry official said yesterday.

Military sources said the area around the hijacked vessel had been heavily mined and the Navy could not take the risk of approaching it.

Mines destroyed two Dvora-class fast-attack craft, killing five naval personnel, when they tried to rescue the hijacked vessel. Both vessels were carrying 18 crew members when they hit the mines. The fate of the rest of the crew was not known, according to a senior navy officer.

"We are not in a position to launch any rescue mission because it could risk more lives," said a Defence Ministry official. "We are biding our time and monitoring the situation carefully."

The leader of the EPDP, Douglas Devananda, accused the Government of vacillating over the hostage crisis, alleging it had sought to wash its hands of the problem.

Mr Devananda has made an urgent appeal to the International Committee of the Red Cross to secure the release of all passengers and crew on board.

Defence Ministry officials said they were awaiting information from the Red Cross on the fate of the hostages, but were not optimistic about prospects of an early release.

Red Cross officials negotiating the release of the hostages declined to identify them or say why the ship had been singled out.

They confirmed the rebels had imposed conditions for the captives' release but declined to say what they were.

Ferry captives crisis; Tigers threaten to kill rivals as 144 are held for sixth day

The rebels clandestine radio, "Voice of Tigers", remained silent about the drama.

Defence officials said they did not know what was going on aboard the ferry as all communications were cut soon after the hijacking.

But monitoring of rebel communications had indicated the Tigers' naval wing, comprising **female** Sea Tigers, had attacked the first Israeli-built Dvora. The second was attacked when it came in search of the first vessel.

The ferry was on its way to Karainagar on the tiny island of Karaitivu, where the inland civilian areas are controlled by the anti-Tiger EPDP. The island is linked to the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula by a three-kilometre causeway.

Defence officials said attacks by the Tigers, fighting for a separate homeland in the north and the east of the country, appeared to be part of a rebel ploy to divert the Army's attention from an expected offensive against Jaffna.

Meanwhile, sources said that proposals aimed at ending the civil war, which has cost 50,000 lives since 1972, look unlikely to go before Parliament for several months.

"There is a general feeling that no political solution is possible until and unless the Government is able to militarily weaken the **Tamil Tigers**," a senior minister said.

The Government would find it difficult to convince the majority Sinhala community of the need to grant greater autonomy to Tamils unless the Tigers were defeated, he added.

"At least three ministers have made suggestions to water down the proposals," said a government source.

Load-Date: September 5, 1995

Sri Lankan battle

United Press International
July 11, 1995, Tuesday, BC cycle

Copyright 1995 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 628 words

Byline: BY IQBAL ATHAS

Dateline: COLOMBO, July 11

Body

A recent series of mis-targeted Sri Lankan air force strikes leveled a church in the northern Jaffna peninsula and killed at least 65 civilians, aid workers confirmed Tuesday. Although the government in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo denied the tragedy, a report by the International Committee of the Red Cross said the Church of St. Peter and Paul, which was packed with refugees, was destroyed Sunday by a direct hit from a government bomb. "During the attack 65 people were killed and 150 wounded, including women and children," an ICRC communique said. Independent observers say the civilian death toll, however, could be as high as 250. Those reports could not be immediately confirmed. In the wake of the attack, which was part of the Sri Lankan military's large-scale offensive in rebel-held Jaffna, the ICRC has called for better protection for non-combatants in Sri Lanka's 12-year civil war. "The ICRC calls on the parties involved to respect civilian lives, property and place of refuge," the Geneva-based humanitarian aid organization said. A Defense Ministry spokesman when contacted by United Press International, continued to maintain Colombo's denial of the destruction of the church and the civilian deaths. But the spokesman did refer to reports of the attack when warning that information was inaccurate and planted as propaganda by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. "We are aware that they are trying to deceive people by talking about civilian casualties," Defense Ministry spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said. But he added, "If the incident is correct, we feel sorry whether it is our bomb or a Tamil Tiger bomb that killed these men, women and children." The deadly attack, according to the ICRC and other witness accounts of the government air strike, is just the latest in Sri Lanka's ongoing civil war, which has claimed more than 35,000 lives. Tamil separatist guerrillas have been fighting government troops in a bid to establish an independent homeland in the north and eastern portions of the island nation. Early Tuesday, Sri Lankan troops repulsed an attack by rebel forces and resumed their advance in an operation designed to capture rebel strongholds in Jaffna. Government forces were able to break a siege by guerrillas near the strategic northern village of Tunavi, after they were brought to a virtual standstill Monday afternoon, Munasinghe said. So far, 10 Sri Lankan soldiers have been killed and nearly 70 wounded in the operation involving nearly 10,000 government troops backed by tanks and heavy artillery. The coordinated land, air and sea assault -- Colombo's largest military operation since the late 1980s -- was launched earlier this week. The offensive, code-named "Operation Leap Forward" is an effort to draw out and kill as many guerrillas as possible, Munasinghe said. But many analysts believe the objective of the operation is to lay the foundation for a larger bid to recapture the entire Jaffna region from guerrilla forces. For years, Tamil Tigers have been running their own civil administration in the region in open defiance of the Sri Lankan government. In an apparent effort to re-establish political control over the region, President Chandrika Kumaratunga has ordered the military to "establish civil administration and launch development activities" in the areas it has captured. Following a series of battlefield victories in the first hours of the operation, the advance of government troops was stalled by

Sri Lankan battle

rebel forces Monday afternoon, Munasinghe said. No figures were available for the rebel losses in the fighting, but the clandestine guerrilla radio station "Voice of Tigers" said at least 150 civilians had been killed in the first two days of fighting.

Load-Date: July 12, 1995

End of Document

Jaffna's capture does not mean end of the war

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

December 7, 1995 Thursday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 8

Length: 570 words

Byline: TIM McGIRK Herald Correspondent

Body

NEW DELHI, Wednesday: For the past five years, Sri Lanka's second city, Jaffna, has been rebel territory. Until yesterday, Jaffna was the centre of the mini-State set up by the **Tamil Tigers**, in which the rebels ran their own schools, judged "traitors" in their courts, raised war taxes and recruited an army of teenagers ready to die.

But now government troops have finally captured Jaffna, hoisting the Sri Lankan flag - a growling golden lion - over the town's 400-year old fort.

The conquest of Jaffna cost the Sri Lankans dearly. It took their troops 50 days to move 16 kilometres through swamps and rice paddies, dodging snipers, landmines and counter-attacks by the Tiger suicide battalions. The army lost more than 450 soldiers and a third of the air force was destroyed. But in the end, the Sri Lankan forces overran the rebel citadel.

In the capital, Colombo, and elsewhere on the island, people celebrated the army's victory - a major turning point in the 12-year ethnic war between the Sinhalese and the Tamil minority - by shooting off firecrackers in the streets.

How long the Sri Lankan flag will continue to fly over Jaffna remains to be seen. The rebel leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, survives, and he has taken the remainder of the Tiger forces, an estimated 8,500 fighters, into the jungle with him.

Hidden in the marshy jungles of Killinochchi and Mullattivu, the Tigers cannot be trapped by the army. Even as Jaffna fell, the rebels launched a raid on a police commando camp in Batticaloa, in the eastern provinces.

High on the list of Tigers the Sri Lankan authorities would like to catch is an Australian woman, Adele Balasingham. Originally a nurse working in Britain, she met and fell in love with Anton Balasingham, the Tamil ideologue, and now takes an active part in training fresh **female** recruits, some of whom go on to become suicide killers.

A senior Tamil commander known as Karikalan, interviewed at a jungle base near Batticaloa, told The Sydney Morning Herald: "Adele is still on the Jaffna peninsula. Prabhakaran and our other leaders are not runaways. They are prepared to shed their blood for the cause."

If Ms Balasingham, who is in her 40s, is caught, the Sri Lankans may execute her.

Jaffna 's capture does not mean end of the war

Karikalan said the Tigers would play hit and run. "If the enemy comes in vast numbers, we'll withdraw and strike where the enemy is weak."

But without Jaffna, the Tigers may be crippled. When they controlled the city, they ruled more than one million Tamils. The rebel administration collected money for weapons and recruited teenage guerillas from the school. The rebels have now lost this source of revenue and fighters.

Victory in Jaffna, however, does not signal the end of the war, which has claimed more than 38,000 lives and nearly beggared the tropical island State. Even though the rebels were chased from their stronghold, they still control large areas of Jaffna peninsula and operate on the mainland of north and eastern Sri Lanka.

More than 400,000 Tamils are now in jungle refugee camps, and the Tigers are refusing to let them return to their homes in Jaffna.

Nor are the prospects of peace more likely after Jaffna's fall. Sri Lanka's President, Ms Chandrika Kumaratunga, is trying to coax the Tigers back into negotiations. Today, she offered the guerillas an amnesty and repeated her offer of a devolution package for the Tamils.

But Prabakharan said he would not bargain "at the barrel of a gun".

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

--International NewsWatch--

Broadcast News (BN)

June 21, 1995 Wednesday

Copyright 1995 Press News Limited, All Rights Reserved

Section: GENERAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

Length: 622 words

Body

(Internet Fantasy) A U-S federal judge has dismissed charges against a suspended University of Michigan student accused of making threats over a computer bulletin board.

Jake Baker was arrested after sending stories fantasizing about the rape-torture-slaying of a fellow student on the Internet.

Baker said the stories were merely fantasy, and he posed no threat to the student or to anyone else.

Today a Detroit judge ruled the communication was just "a rather savage and tasteless piece of fiction."

He also suggested the case would have been better handled as a disciplinary matter within the university. (APB) (Britain-Shell)

Britain has denounced Shell's decision not to sink an unwanted oil platform.

Shell yesterday abandoned plans to sink the Brent Spar rig after pressure from environmental groups.

Instead, the rig will be dismantled on shore.

Britain's energy minister says there are many problems with onshore disposal.

He says Shell will have to convince the government this option is actually a better one.

Britain approved Shell's original decision to sink the platform. (AP) Israel-Rights)

An Israeli woman is going to court to try to gain entry to the country's combat pilots' course, restricted to men only.

Israel's military regulations ban all women from combat duty, including flying.

Alice Miller, a licenced commercial pilot, argues the measures are discriminatory.

A lawyer for the air force says it's too expensive to put women through flight training when their careers could be cut short by pregnancy. (Reuter) (Nepal-Crash)

A bus packed with tourists from India has plunged into a river in Nepal.

Officials say they fear at least 51 people could be dead.

The Trishuli river is swollen because of heavy rains in the area.

--International NewsWatch--

Another two people were drowned on Tuesday when a truck fell into the river further downstream. (Reuter) (Phillipines-Explosion)

A 12-year-old boy was killed and 26 people injured when a Philippine army ammunition dump exploded today.

Four powerful explosions ripped off the roofs and shattered the windows of 10 army buildings and damaged houses near a warehouse in Zamboanga.

An army spokesman says old artillery and mortar rounds were stored in the warehouse.

Many of those injured in the accident were children on their way home from a nearby school. (Reuter) (Rebels-Arms)

The American ambassador to India says the U-S will support the Sri Lankan government in its battle against Tamil rebels.

Frank Wisner says Washington will do its part by seeing that no arms reached the rebels.

The ***Tamil Tigers*** recently made Washington's "terrorist list" after the rebels broke off talks with the Sri Lankan government. (Reuter) (Vienna-Wiesenthal)

A right-wing politician in Austria says he opposes making Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal an honorary citizen.

Joerg Haider says a U-S institute that bears Wiesenthal's name is misleading public opinion.

Haider is upset because the Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles displays Haider's picture, along with Hitler, Stalin, Idi Amin, and Pol Pot.

Haider's party is being accused of anti-semitism.

Simon Wiesenthal is not directly connected with the Wiesenthal Centre, even though it bears his name. (Reuter) (Shuttle-Delay)

Thunderstorms and a gas leak are threatening to postpone Friday's scheduled launch of the space shuttle "Atlantis."

NASA engineers are trying to fix a helium leak in the shuttle's steering system.

They say the leak can likely be fixed by Friday.

However, weather forecasters are calling for stormy weather, which could delay the launch until the weekend.

"Atlantis" is scheduled to dock with the Russian space station, "Mir."

This will be the first link in 20 years between an American and a Russian spacecraft. (Reuter)

(International NewsWatch by Doug Watt)

Load-Date: October 10, 2002

Good writing drew Spacek to weepy TV-movie drama

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 29, 1994 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 1994 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: NOW; Pg. D2; News

Length: 568 words

Byline: By ERIC KOHANIK

Body

Throughout her career, actress Sissy Spacek has always tried to immerse herself in solid, multi-dimensional roles.

Oddly enough, though, it's been almost 20 years since the actress has tackled a network TV project.

"I've always been attracted to meaty roles and I've been real fortunate in features," Spacek explained during a recent interview in Los Angeles. "There's some real good writers around. And now, there's some real good writers working in television."

THE SPECTATOR

According to the actress, that's what attracted her to A Place For Annie, a new Hallmark Hall Of Fame drama that hits the screen this weekend (Sunday, 9 p.m., Ch. 7, 9, 13, 24).

Keep plenty of Kleenex on hand for this one, though. The emotional drama casts Spacek as Susan, a pediatrics nurse who takes pity on an abandoned baby who has tested positive for HIV. After gradually becoming attached to the infant, she applies to become the child's foster mother.

The move causes problems for Susan, both personally and professionally. For one thing, she encounters a slew of babysitters who want nothing to do with the child after they find out she is HIV positive.

Succeeds

Finally, she succeeds in hiring an elderly widow (played by Joan Plowright). And things go well -- that is, until the child's real mother suddenly shows up a year later, just as Susan is finalizing her plans for legal adoption.

"Anyone who has children knows that a subject like this is completely and totally heartwrenching," says Spacek. "It's tricky when you have something this emotional."

According to Spacek, though, such meaty projects are making television much more attractive to actresses.

"There are a lot of us in my age range," quips Spacek. "So, it's a mad scramble for the parts. But television is more of a women's medium. That's where more of the good parts written for women tend to be right now."

Tonight's TV highlights:

Good writing drew Spacek to weepy TV-movie drama

- * NHL hockey playoffs go down to the wire with Game 7 between the Montreal Canadiens and the Boston Bruins (7.30 p.m., Ch. 3, 5, 25) and Game 7 between the Buffalo Sabres and the New Jersey Devils (7.30 p.m., Ch. 29).
- * Prefer baseball action? Take your pick of the Chicago White Sox vs. the Detroit Tigers (7 p.m., WGN); the Los Angeles Dodgers vs. the New York Mets (7.30 p.m., WOR); and the Toronto Blue Jays vs. the Minnesota Twins (8 p.m., Ch. 9, 10).
- * And, for basketball buffs in the crowd, there's NBA playoff action between the New Jersey Nets and the New York Knicks (7 p.m., TBS) and the Portland Trail Blazers and the Houston Rockets (9.30 p.m., TBS).
- * Kenny Rogers fans can check out the singer's last outing of the season as that colorful casino troubleshooter in MacShayne: Final Roll Of The Dice (9 p.m., Ch. 2, 11, 12). This time, the sleuth comes to the aid of a hot-tempered rock star (played by Maria Conchita Alonso) who is charged with the murder of her ex-husband.
- * Investigative Reports (9 p.m., A&E) turns its attention to Suicide Killers, an interesting report on the **Tamil Tigers** of Sri Lanka. They're known as one of the most ruthless guerrilla groups in the world, thanks in part to the cyanide capsules around their necks so they can commit suicide in case of capture.
- * L.A. Law worked an earthquake into one of its episodes last month. Now, Diagnosis Murder (8 p.m., Ch. 4, 11, 35) does the same as Dr. Sloan (Dick Van Dyke) suspects foul play when a friend is found dead in his mansion after a quake.

Graphic

Sissy Spacek in A Place for Annie

Load-Date: October 13, 2002

End of Document

Suicide bomber kills 11

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

January 6, 2000, Thursday

Copyright 2000 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 22

Length: 320 words

Byline: AMAL JAYASINGHE in Colombo

Body

COLOMBO -- Eleven people were killed when a woman suicide bomber detonated explosives strapped to her body outside the Sri Lankan prime minister's office in Colombo yesterday.

The bomber killed herself and five others on the spot and wounded 18, police said.

Five more people died later and five others were in a serious condition.

REUTERS, AFP

Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike was not in her office in Flower Rd at the time of the explosion at 9am, they said. Police suspect rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were behind the blast.

Human flesh and limbs were strewn across the road outside the blood-spattered gates of the prime minister's office.

This is the second suicide bombing involving members of the same political family within weeks. On December 18, a suspected **LTTE** rebel suicide bomber blew herself up at a campaign rally for President Chandrika Kumaratunga, Mrs Bandaranaike's daughter. Mrs Kumaratunga was among the 100 wounded, and at least 26 people were killed.

Days later Mrs Kumaratunga won a second six-year term.

At the site of yesterday's attack, deputy inspector general of police Jagath Jayawardena said two **women** constables and two policemen of the prime minister's office, a passerby and the bomber were killed in the explosion.

Flower Rd is used by VIPs, but it was not immediately clear if the suicide bomber was aiming to kill a particular person, officials said.

The prime minister's office was not damaged.

Officials said the suicide bomber was walking past the prime minister's office when security guards stopped her.

A woman who witnessed it said: "She started weeping and was pointing to her leg as if to say something when there was a big bang."

No group has claimed responsibility.

Suicide bomber kills 11

Hundreds of armed police and troops swooped on the scene shortly after the blast and cordoned off the area as forensic experts began piecing together what happened.

Load-Date: December 3, 2001

End of Document

Tamil Tiger Ladies sharpen their claws

Sunday Herald

April 1, 1990 Sunday

Copyright 1990 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 628 words

Byline: SKELTON R

Body

Jaffna Jaya Mylvagaham, 26, carries the badge of all guerrilla fighters: an impeccably maintained AK47. Around her neck are two glass capsules of cyanide. For six years the platoon commander has waged war against the Sri Lankan and Indian armies, in a cruel and brutal separatist conflict for the far north of Sri Lanka.

"I had no alternative but to fight. The Sri Lankan troops were murdering our people and destroying our property. It is a dangerous war where there is no place for fear when the bullets fly," she said.

Miss Mylvagaham is something of a paradox; she uses the tactics of the terrorist yet her self-proclaimed cause is to bring Swiss-style democracy to the Tamil-dominated north.

As the leader of a 30-member all-woman platoon of ***Tamil Tigers***, Miss Mylvagaham has set up ambushes, manned road blocks and carried supplies. Since the separatist revolt was launched by the Tigers in 1983, 11,000 people have died. The war has been particularly vicious, with both sides committing atrocities. Entire families, including young children, have been butchered in the "war of liberation".

When Tiger casualties reached crisis point, the leadership turned to ***women*** and teenage boys, 11 and 12-year-olds, to replace fallen troops.

Miss Mylvagaham, like all "Tiger Ladies", wears her cyanide capsules. Death was preferred to rape and torture, she said: "Some of our ***women*** were captured by Indian troops before they had a chance to take their capsules. Their bodies were never found, but we know they were tortured and raped." The ***women*** form an unusual part of the Tamil liberation front. Their existence in the male-dominated guerrilla force runs contrary to social and religious conventions. Miss Mylvagaham conducted her first interview since leaving the Tamil Tiger jungle camp a week ago, from her new two-storey headquarters, surrounded by her 30-woman cadre. On the walls were pictures and posters of her platoon's 27 martyrs.

The heroine is "Lieutenant Imelda", who died with six other ***women*** when Indian troops overran their roadblock.

The ***women*** were alert, disciplined and, by Sri Lankan standards, highly educated: many graduates or former students from Jaffna University. Despite the presence of military hardware the atmosphere was relaxed and almost jovial.

Young cadres respectfully interrupted their leader, correcting her English and embellishing her stories with extra snippets. Miss Mylvagaham: "We are trying to get peace, but we are unable to . . ." Cadre: "Give up the struggle." Miss Mylvagaham: "The talks are the first step in the fight for . . ." Cadre: "Freedom." Asked if cadres could marry even though boyfriends were banned, with alcohol and cigarettes, she said: "Of course." The cadres laughed.

Tamil Tiger Ladies sharpen their claws

Miss Mylvagaham said: "We want a separate state where we can run our lives without interference from Colombo. We do not want to be discriminated against. In Switzerland there are no problems between the Italians, Germans and French - it is an ideal model for us; we are not interested in socialist revolution."

Following the withdrawal of India's 28,000-strong peace-keeping force last week, the "Tiger Ladies", as they are known by their male officers, have moved out of the jungle and into the streets of Jaffna.

Cycling down dusty roads with AK47s and rocket launchers strapped to their backs, they have jolted the town's chauvinistic citizens.

One old teacher complained: "Our social fabric and lifestyle have been completely destroyed - life will never be the same after seeing these young girls carrying weapons." The Tamils are adjusting to a new life in which women are no longer subservient but figures of authority and teenage boys saunter around the streets in jungle greens carrying AK47s.

END OF STORY

Graphic

Pride of the Tigers: Jaya and her platoon on the front line. They would rather die than submit.

Load-Date: September 24, 2003

SRI LANKA: THREE YEARS LATER, MOTHERS STILL WAIT FOR LOVED ONES

IPS-Inter Press Service

February 18, 1993, Thursday

Copyright 1993 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 658 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Feb. 18

Body

There are mothers in Sri Lanka who are still waiting for news of loved ones who disappeared in a bloody three-year insurgency that was crushed in 1989.

Human rights groups say an estimated 60,000 people either disappeared or were killed during the government's counter-insurgency operations against the left-wing People's Liberation Front (JVP).

The JVP which tried to overthrow the government, launched a campaign of assassinations. The government responded by letting loose death squads who stalked the land arbitrarily shoot suspected JVP sympathisers.

International attention focused on the island's human rights situation with the slaying of a Sri Lankan journalist, Richard de Zoysa on Feb. 18, 1989.

De Zoysa was a prominent actor, newscaster and, at the time of his death, a correspondent for Inter Press Service (IPS), a Rome-based Third World news agency.

Manorani Saravanamuttu, the young journalist's mother, in sworn affidavits identified and named two of the armed men who knocked at her door in Colombo at three in the morning and dragged her son away.

His bullet-riddled body was found a day later on a nearby beach. Three years later, de Zoysa's mother still waits for justice.

A magisterial inquiry into the abduction and killing was terminated in August 1990 because of what Sri Lanka's attorney general called "lack of evidence."

The police officers have since slapped a damages suit against Saravanamuttu for defamation.

Saravanamuttu has involved herself in the "Mother's Front," a group of women whose sons and husbands have disappeared.

The Front, set-up by Mahinda Rajapakse and Managala Samaraweera, two members of parliament from the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), has tried with little success to pressure the government to disclose information regarding whether or not the people on their list are alive or dead.

Sri Lanka's human rights record is up for scrutiny again this week in Geneva where the U.N. Human Rights Commission is meeting.

SRI LANKA : THREE YEARS LATER, MOTHERS STILL WAIT FOR LOVED ONES

The Richard de Zoysa case continues to be spotlighted by international agencies.

Bradman Weerakoon, special advisor to President Ranasinghe Premadasa, is in Geneva to defend the government's position.

Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremasinghe told reporters yesterday that Amnesty International (AI) had in its latest report conceded the human rights situation has improved in Sri Lanka.

According to the Amnesty report, "the government of Sri Lanka now displays much greater openness to scrutiny by international human rights organizations."

However, it adds that "many of the AI recommendations for human rights safeguards, which it said it had accepted in late 1991 have not been implemented."

The report released last week points out that although there were fewer "disappearances" in 1992 in the south part of the island, scores of people are missing in the east where government troops are bogged down in a war against Tamil rebels.

Sri Lankan human rights activists say more than three thousand people have disappeared in the east since fresh hostilities started in June 1990 when the rebels walked out of peace talks in Colombo.

Donor countries, while continuing to exert pressure on the government, however, concede that some effort has been made to improve human rights abuses.

At a recent meeting in Colombo the government told donor nations that all efforts were being made to prevent "disappearances" and to list all detainees.

The Amnesty report also accuses the Tamil Tigers of "gross abuses of human rights."

The University Teachers for Human Rights (UTHR) from northern Jaffna has endorsed the Amnesty report. In a report released last week, the group describes the chilling brutality inflicted on an estimated four thousand prisoners held by the Tigers.

"The whole pattern of Tiger prison camps and the meticulous administration of the system give the appearance of being consciously drawn from films and books about the Nazi and Stalinist prison complexes," the report says.

Load-Date: February 20, 1993

Report Tamils Kill Dozens in Village

The Associated Press

October 6, 1987, Tuesday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 608 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil militiamen attacked a Sinhalese village in eastern Sri Lanka on Tuesday night with axes, guns and daggers, killing at least 38 men, women and children, a police official said.

The official, Nimal de Silva of the Batticaloa district 135 east of Colombo, said in another attack six members of two Sinhalese families living in Batticaloa city also were killed Tuesday night.

Earlier Tuesday, officials said Tamil guerrillas killed 14 Sinhalese, including eight soldiers, in revenge for the suicide deaths of 11 Tamil militants while in police custody.

The Tuesday night killings in the Pullikuda village were "clearly the work of the Tamil Tigers," De Silva said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

"The women and children were butchered and the men were shot," he said.

First reports indicated that 75 houses were burned and at least 38 people were killed, said De Silva, a police superintendent. Pullikuda is about six miles north of Batticaloa.

On Tuesday morning, members of the rebel group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam killed eight soldiers and dumped their bodies at the Jaffna bus station, officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

Attacks on three police stations and a cement factory in northern Sri Lanka killed six people late Monday, they added.

The revenge killings followed the cyanide capsule deaths of 11 rebels, who killed themselves while in government custody Monday to escape interrogation and identification. They were arrested last week while allegedly trying to smuggle arms to India.

Under an accord signed by India and Sri Lanka on July 29, the Tamil rebels agreed to surrender their weapons. Southern India, which has a large Tamil population, was headquarters for Tamil guerrilla outfits.

Tamil rebels have threatened to renew the armed struggle for a separate homeland in Sri Lanka, presenting a serious challenge to a fragile peace that was established in the India-Sri Lanka accord. The treaty was designed to end the 4-year-old Tamil ethnic war.

Report Tamils Kill Dozens in Village

The soldiers killed by the rebels were captured last March in an attack in Jaffna, about 185 miles north of Colombo.

The ethnic violence has continued despite the presence of more than 10,000 Indian peacekeeping troops in Sri Lanka, spread out in the Northern and Eastern provinces.

In the eastern district of Trincomalee, at least 12 people have died in Tamil-Sinhalese violence since last Wednesday. More than 200 homes and shops have been burned.

Residents arriving in Vavuniya from Jaffna said tension was mounting in the north and that camps of the Indian troops were surrounded by Tamils. Vavuniya is about 150 miles northeast of Colombo.

The Tamils are demanding that the bodies of the rebels who committed suicide be returned, according to the residents who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"The mood is ugly and all the towns in the Northern Province have closed down," one resident reported. "Roadblocks have been placed to prevent the movement of Indian and Sri Lankan troops."

Meanwhile, reports from Trincomalee said Tamil rebels wounded three Sinhalese civilians and an Indian soldier.

Residents there told The Associated Press by telephone that Tamil militants fired on the Sinhalese as they were returning from the cremation of a Buddhist monk killed in sectarian violence.

One resident, speaking on condition of anonymity, said about 50 trucks were evacuating Sinhalese residents to police stations and army camps. Thousands of Sinhalese residents already have fled the area.

Tamils, who are mostly Hindu, comprise 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. Tamils say they are discriminated against by the majority Buddhist Sinhalese.

End of Document

Revenge erupts in Sri Lanka war

The Guardian (London)

July 9, 1990

Copyright 1990 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 561 words

Byline: By CHRISTOPHER MORRIS in Kalmunai

Body

A TAMIL woman outside the temple in Kalmunai, weeping hysterically, displayed the remains of an identity card. It belonged to her son, Chandrikumar, aged 23, and had been found in the burnt out ruins of a shop. Residents said more than 30 bodies had been dumped there.

Other women crowded round, each with a photograph 'He is missing, this is my son, they have taken him away.'

On June 11, 11 Sri Lankan soldiers were ambushed and killed by Tamil Tigers on the road just outside Kalmunai, unleashing a fresh round of conflict. The war has now claimed more than 1,000 lives.

The police station in the town was attacked and many of those captured are believed to have been shot by the Tigers.

When the army moved into Kalmunai 10 days later, revenge was the order of the day. According to the townspeople, the advancing soldiers saluted at the place of the ambush, and then set about burning Tamil houses.

More than 70 men were taken into custody, and most are still missing. Bodies began to appear; six outside the hospital, including that of a Tamil policeman released by the Tigers before they took his Sinhalese and Muslim colleagues away.

The arrests are continuing, and hundreds are said to have disappeared. The army says it releases most of those detained immediately, but no one knows where they are.

'They are taking in innocent people now. All the Tigers have fled to the jungle. But what can we do? If we complain, become prominent, we will be killed ourselves,' said a resident.

The chairman of the citizens' committee was abducted last week and his two sons have also disappeared.

Anyone who associated with the Tigers seems to be regarded as a legitimate target, although, as one man pointed out, the government itself had held talks with the Tigers for more than a year.

Now Tamil civilians seem to be paying for the excesses of their former protectors. Before they left Kalmunai, the Tigers looted Muslim shops and houses and extorted money from Muslim businessmen. A Muslim leader said: 'I hate to think what would have happened if the army hadn't arrived.'

Further up the coast, in Batticaloa, five burning bodies appeared on the roadsides on Friday. Many residents interpret them as a warning.

Revenge erupts in Sri Lanka war

People say they have already been told by the army that if they do not co-operate they will face the same fate as the People's Liberation Front or JVP.

Thousands of people, including many civilians, were killed in southern Sri Lanka last year when the anti-government rebellion, led by the JVP, was ruthlessly suppressed by security forces.

Just a few miles north of Batticaloa, the Tigers are still patrolling the roads in trucks with Tiger-striped camouflage. The area leader, known only as Karikalan, exuded a confidence shared by his teenage cohorts.

He said guerrilla warfare could continue for a long time. 'This is becoming a people's movement, and they are ready to struggle for independence.'

The Tigers have also been indulging in their own forms of justice. Villagers, mostly Muslims, who welcomed the army as they passed through the area on the way to Batticaloa, are said to have been abducted and killed.

Revenge and reprisal seems to have become a way of life. A prominent citizen, too frightened to be identified, said nothing could be done to stop the cycle of killings. 'Absolutely nothing. We are at a loss. The people just try to survive.'

Load-Date: June 8, 2000

Tamil Rebels Attack Two Mosques Killing At Least 112

The Associated Press

August 4, 1990, Saturday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 622 words

Byline: By DEXTER CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: KATTANKUDI, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil militants burst into two mosques in eastern Sri Lanka and killed more than 110 people as they knelt in prayer, officials said Saturday.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but officials and witnesses said the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were responsible for the massacre in which 75 people were also wounded.

The Tigers broke a 13-month cease-fire on June 11 and resumed their 7-year-long war for independence in the Tamil-dominated north and east of this Indian Ocean island. More than 3,000 combatants have been killed in the latest fighting.

Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, make up 18 percent of the population. The predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese dominate the government and military and account for 75 percent of the population.

Military officials said the rebels kill Moslems and burn their homes and shops because the Tigers suspect them of supporting the government.

Moslem leaders, however, said Moslems, who make up 7 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, are being killed because they are neutral.

Brig. A.M.U. Seneviratne, army commander of the Batticaloa district, said 30 Tamil rebels crossed a lagoon near this Moslem town, 140 miles east of Colombo, divided into two groups and attacked the mosques during Friday evening prayers.

The rebels sprayed machine-gun fire from three sides into the Meera Juma mosque, where about 200 worshipers had gathered, and also lobbed grenades. Amid screams and smoke, they fled before soldiers could arrive from a camp about two miles away. Another group attacked the smaller Thaik mosque, which had about 30 worshipers inside.

"I was kneeling down and praying when the rebels started shooting," said Mohammed Ibrahim, a 40-year-old businessman. "The firing went on for 15 minutes. I escaped without being hit and found myself among bodies all over the place."

Tamil Rebels Attack Two Mosques Killing At Least 112

Another witness, Mohammed Arif, a 17-year-old student said: "Before I escaped from a side door and scaled a wall, I saw a Tiger rebel put a gun into the mouth of a small Moslem boy and pull the trigger."

Seneviratne said most of the victims were shot in the back or side.

Town coroner Mohammed Noordeen said he examined the bodies of 112 people from the Friday evening massacre. Police and other sources gave casualty figures that reached as high as 131. All the victims were men.

Evidence of the carnage was apparent today when the government flew reporters to the area. The floor of the mosque was splattered with blood and the walls pockmarked with bullet holes.

Bodies were lined up in neat rows, wrapped in traditional Moslem white burial clothes. Small cardboard placards gave the name of the victim and the number of the corpse.

One hundred twelve of the dead were later buried in a mass grave at the Meera Jumma mosque.

Groups of sobbing Moslem women flocked to the two mosques.

Vehicles carrying bodies, with Moslem clergymen chanting verses, rolled past armed soldiers patrolling the town. Shops, homes and businesses were closed.

In Colombo, a Moslem member of Parliament and opposition leader said the government failed to protect Moslems or give them arms to protect themselves.

"This is a brutal massacre of innocent civilians by the Tiger terrorists who do not hesitate to enter mosques and kill civilians," said Mohammad Ashroff, of the Sri Lanka Moslem Congress party.

"We are compelled to conclude the government is a silent, sadistic observer of the conspiracy against the Moslems, if not a passive participant in it," he told reporters.

The Tamil Tigers did not immediately respond.

This was the second attack blamed on Tiger rebels on a mosque in the area in one week. In a similar attack July 29, the militants killed 10 worshipers in Samanthurai, 25 miles east of Batticaloa.

news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua (part 2)

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JANUARY 13, 1995, FRIDAY

Length: 354 words

Dateline: hong kong, january 13; ITEM NO: 0113213

Body

following are news items from the asia-pacific desk of xinhua in hong kong today: hke011328 --foreign exchange rates in hong kong hke011329 --indonesian minister on export hke011330 --australian dollar falls below 76 us cent line hke011331 --trading on hong kong stock exchange hke011332 --indonesia continues search for crash airplane hke011333 --indonesian fertility rate drops 50 pc in 20 years hke011334 --macao launches internet services hke011335 --indonesia worries about future of plywood export hke011336 --indonesia concerned over young prostitutes hke011337 --indian prime minister meets with perry hka011338 --weather information for asian-pacific cities hke011339 --malaysian-made satellite to be launched in 1997 hka011340 --roundup: public security meets challenge in hk hke011341 --visiting uae president watches horse, camel show hke011342 --pak-belarus agreement signed for tractor supply hke011343 --nepali new govt to carry out transparency policy hke011344 --aid program for poor villages goes on in indonesia hke011345 --roundup: indo-us military ties strengthened (1) hke011346 --roundup: indo-us military ties strengthened (2) hke011347 --lte ready for political talks with lankan govt. hke011348 --uae president supports pakistan on kashmir issue hke011349 --uae president ends official visit to pakistan hka011350 --transactions at philippine stock exchange hke011351 --adb funds tourism infrastructure in nepal hke011352 --investments in philippine export zones quadruple hke011353 --philippine coffee exports up 383 pct in 1994 hke011354 --philippine central bank defends peso hke011355 --hongkong bank wants to operate in philippines hke011356 --intl meeting on women, health held in nepal hka011357 --news analysis: hk stock market keeps on decline hke011358 --pakistan offers tremendous tourism potential hke011359 --manila's agri-lands subject to long-term lease hke011360 --manila assures firm desire for peace hke011361 --1995-2005 declared "philippine environment decade" hke011362 --major foreign exchange rates in philippines hke011363 --zero-missile region to prevent arms race: pak pm

Load-Date: January 14, 1995

Two more skeletons found in mass grave

Associated Press International

September 07, 1999; Tuesday 14:08 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 325 words

Byline: NADESHPILLAI VITHYATHARAN

Dateline: JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

Body

Investigators Tuesday found two skeletons of Tamils from a suspected mass grave in a northern Sri Lankan town where hundreds of Tamils were reportedly killed in military custody and allegedly buried in 24 mass grave sites, witnesses and officials said.

One of the skeletons had long black hair, suggesting it was either of a women or a Hindu priest, said an official involved in the investigation. Tamil Hindu priests generally keep long hair.

Digging of the alleged grave sites resumed Tuesday after Sri Lanka's military gave an assurance to Jaffna district judge Manikkavasagam Ilancheliyan that it would not interfere.

The army had briefly arrested P. Selvarajah, the president of the Jaffna Missing Persons Guardian Association, while he witnessed the digging and took him for questioning about some grenades that were allegedly found near his house. Ilancheliyan had reprimanded the area's top military officials for interfering in the court proceedings and investigations.

The Sri Lankan government ordered the exhumation of the grave sites after five soldiers, convicted of rape and murder of a Tamil school girl last year, said Tamils who were killed in custody were buried in and around Jaffna.

On Monday, municipal workers, dug up one site near a Hindu temple, but no bodies were found. But on Tuesday, investigators ordered the digging of an area close to the original site and found the two skeletons.

The skeletons were handed over to the police for forensic tests.

All the 24 alleged grave sites will be exhumed over the next few weeks.

One of the soldiers, Lance Corporal Somaratne Rajapaksha, had told the court that he had followed his superiors' orders to bury the dead, and volunteered to disclose the sites where 400 Tamils were buried in Chemmani, a Jaffna suburb.

Amnesty International has said 540 people disappeared in Jaffna. The LTTE have been fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east since 1983.

Two more skeletons found in mass grave

Load-Date: September 7, 1999

End of Document

Rebels allege Pakistan's involvement in Sri Lankan offensive

Associated Press International

June 13, 1997; Friday 03:24 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 333 words

Byline: DEXTER CRUEZ

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil Tiger rebels Friday accused Pakistan of helping Sri Lanka plan its military campaign to capture a vital highway in the guerrilla-controlled north.

Sri Lanka denied the allegation, calling it a sign of desperation by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

"We feel we are quite capable of fighting the LTTE as we have been doing for many years," said Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, the military spokesman.

The rebels, in a statement from their London office, said the Sri Lankan military's four-week-old offensive "was planned jointly with Pakistani military officials."

The guerrillas quoted independent sources but did not identify them.

The statement also said: "Pakistani officials converged at Sri Lanka's Anuradhapura army headquarters immediately prior to the launch of the military offensive."

Each side claimed to have killed more than 300 of its enemies.

Independent accounts are not available because the government has barred journalists from the area 135 miles (220 kilometers) north of Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital.

Sri Lanka has sent senior military officers to India, Pakistan and some western countries for training in the past. American soldiers were in Sri Lanka recently to train troops in evacuation techniques, reconnaissance, surveillance, radio operations and field engineering.

Pilots from East European states also are known to have flown Sri Lankan Air Force planes.

Early this week, more than 1,000 rebels attacked soldiers at two places 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of the government front line, destroying an ammunition dump and a bridge. The damaged bridge was repaired Wednesday, military officials said.

In their statement, the rebels claimed 325 government soldiers were killed in a massive rebel counterattack behind government lines early this week.

Rebels allege Pakistan 's involvement in Sri Lankan offensive

They said 80 of their fighters were killed, including 21 women. On Friday, the military raised the rebel death toll to 320 from 210, apparently basing its claim on radio intercepts.

On Wednesday, graf 13 pvs

Load-Date: June 13, 1997

End of Document

1ST LEAD: 38 civilians reported killed in rebel attack on church in Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 21, 1999, Sunday, BC Cycle 09:38 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 319 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

At least 38 Tamil civilians were killed and 56 injured in a rebel artillery and mortar attack on a church in northwest Sri Lanka, the defence ministry said on Sunday.

The ministry said Tamil rebels had on Saturday shelled civilians who had taken refuge in the grounds of the Catholic church at Madhu, about 312 kilometres south of Colombo.

The statement made no mention of any damage to the church building and only said that shells had landed on church premises.

The ministry said the injured, including 16 **women** and 25 children, have been evacuated from the Madhu area to Vavuniya hospital, some 60 kilometres east of the area of fighting.

All civilians killed and injured were said to be Tamils.

Earlier, the Catholic bishop for the area, Rev. Rayappu Joseph, said at least 4,000 civilians had taken refuge in the church grounds during the past few days and that they were now running short of food supplies.

'We have made an urgent appeal to the government to send more food to the area, but fighting is preventing sending any supplies', he said.

The attack came as government troops recaptured the Madhu church area and forced rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) to withdraw by Saturday night, the ministry said.

Heavy fighting has been reported between government troops and rebels in the region for four days, leaving at least 10 soldiers and more than 50 rebels dead, according to official estimates in Colombo.

Security forces had been holding the area around the church after taking it from rebels in June, but rebels had again seized the area last Thursday.

The rebels, who are fighting in north and eastern Sri Lanka for an independent homeland for minority Tamils, have intensified their attacks against the security forces in the recent weeks.

The Sri Lankan government is strictly enforcing censorship on news related to the military operations. dpa da pt

1ST LEAD: 38 civilians reported killed in rebel attack on church in Sri Lanka

Load-Date: November 29, 1999

End of Document

Rajiv warns off Tamil terrorists

The Sunday Times (London)

April 26 1987, Sunday

Copyright 1987 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Issue 8490.

Length: 647 words

Byline: IGABAL ATHAS and AMIT ROY

Guests: JAFFNA

Body

PRESIDENT Junis Jayewardene's strategy of trying to produce harmony between Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil communities is now in ruins His efforts are being directed at forestalling a ferocious Sinhalese backlash as anger across the communal divide deepens.

This is the political fallout of two of the worst atrocities, allegedly committed by Tamil terrorists, in Sri Lanka's long ethnic struggle.

Jayewardene's strategy is to allow Italian-built Marchetti planes of the Sri Lankan air force to bomb Tamil areas in Jaffna. His ministers insist that the raids will continue 'until all terrorist camps are destroyed'. But this is empty rhetoric.

For one thing, the terrorists do not stay still. For another, the 28-000-strong army, predominantly Sinhalese and not always well disciplined, could not hold Jaffna.

About the only hopeful thing that happened last week was an indication that Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, is preparing to read the riot act to the Tamil separatists.

About 130,000 Sri Lankan Tamils live as refugees in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, which has a population of 50m Tamils and is just across the narrow Palk Straits from their own island. The terrorists find support among the refugees.

Rajiv last week called in the Tamil Nadu chief minister, M G Ramachandran, for talks which will almost certainly lead to a toughening of the Indian attitude towards the separatists.

At one time India was broadly sympathetic to the plight of the Sri Lankan Tamils, but the latest terrorist outrages have horrified Indian public opinion.

Ordering passengers off a bus, choosing victims on the basis of their religion and then killing them in cold blood has become a particularly nasty aspect of sub-continental terrorism. It happens in the Punjab.

In Trincomalee, eastern Sri Lanka, 127 men, women and children were killed in cold blood, allegedly by the Tamil Tigers, the most powerful of the terrorist groups.

Rajiv warns off Tamil terrorists

In the Colombo bomb blast, the names suggest that all but three of the 106 people killed were Sinhalese. As their funerals are held, the Sinhalese community seethes, thirsting for revenge.

By announcing inflated figures for terrorists killed in the air raids - about 100 in two attacks - the government hopes to head off a massacre of Tamils living in the south in mixed communities.

Nobody wants to discuss the peace plan worked out by Jayewardene with the backing of the Indian government. This envisages giving autonomy to the Tamil areas in the north and part of the east, and setting up provincial assemblies. But the terrorists, fearing that a deal might just be done with Tamil moderate leaders, have successfully torpedoed the plan.

Hardliners in the Sinhalese community will not be unhappy that the peace process has been halted. They never did not approve of the devolution plan which they feared was the first step towards granting Tamil separatists their demand for an independent homeland of Eelam.

Jayewardene has hawks in his government who will now press for a military solution. In the past, the president was strong enough to control them but at 80 his ability to remain at the helm of Sri Lankan politics for much longer must obviously be in doubt.

The Tamils, who constitute 18% of the population, had legitimate grievances. When the British gave Sri Lanka independence in 1948, the Tamils suffered. In employment, education and share of power in the island, they were clearly victimised. But there was another, subtler, factor - Buddhist chauvinism. The Sinhalese were Buddhists; the Tamils are Hindus.

Part of the Buddhist clergy are among the most unhelpful and aggressive elements in Sri Lankan society. They have consistently opposed any accommodation with the Tamils. The root of the Sri Lankan problem lies mainly in religious bigotry fuelled by priests on both sides.

Additional reporting by Jon Swain.

Load-Date: September 21, 2000

UNICEF
Action needed against Sierra Leone atrocities

M2 PRESSWIRE

May 25, 1998

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Length: 842 words

Body

Outraged by the latest reports of atrocities in Sierra Leone that get "worse and worse", UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy called today for concerted international action to ensure that children are protected.

The depravity of the atrocities has been escalating, as evidenced by recent news stories describing how 17 civilians, including women and children, were brutally tortured and mutilated, some suffering amputations of their hands, ears, breasts and genitals.

In the past two weeks, over 300 people, a large number of them women and children, have been treated for wounds inflicted by groups of armed men, remnants of the ousted Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and the rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), who continue to operate in the eastern Kono district and in the north of the country. And the toll could be even higher; the 300 known casualties include only those who were able to reach a hospital.

Last February a Nigerian-led force known as ECOMOG pushed the rebels from power in Freetown and restored Sierra Leone's Government.

"The children of Sierra Leone have had three strikes against them during these long years of civil conflict," Ms. Bellamy said. "First, they were made into child soldiers; then they became targets during recent atrocities; and now they are largely forgotten by the international community." She again supported the call for an International Criminal Court which could bring to justice those who commit such horrific acts against the young and helpless.

Because of what is happening in Sierra Leone, Ms. Bellamy welcomed the planned mission next week to the country of Olara Otunnu, the United Nations Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. She sees this as an opportunity for the UN to work with the Government to implement the recent commitment by the Deputy Minister of Defence to demobilize children in the Civil Defence Forces.

Ms. Bellamy remarked on Otunnu's recent success in winning commitments in Sri Lanka from the Government and the leadership of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), including agreements not to use children below 18 in combat and not to recruit them below 17. The LTTE leadership also agreed to receive instruction on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

"In almost all conflict zones, the world is daily confronted with unspeakable violations of the rights of children," she said. "We desperately need in Sierra Leone the same kind of commitment to children made by the combatants in Sri Lanka."

UNICEF Action needed against Sierra Leone atrocities

In addition, she called on donors to respond generously to UN intera-gency appeals for Sierra Leone. So far, in response to the present flash appeal, March-May 1998, UNICEF has received only US\$ 765,000 of the US\$ 4 million requested. "In light of what is happening in Sierra Leone, donors should collectively contribute the required amount in order to permit UNICEF and other agencies to do their work," Ms. Bellamy said.

In Sierra Leone even babies have been victims of atrocities. One report in early May said that rebels chopped off the limbs of four children and more than 10 adults as they were going to morning prayers. Of this group, 10 people died. The wounded were admitted to the regional hospital where hundreds have sought refuge, in Makeni, in the north of the country.

Families have been rounded up, locked into houses and then burnt alive, according to victims' reports. Hospitals can hardly cope with the influx from the fighting. UNICEF and its NGO partners report a severe shortage of drugs, dressing items, plastic sheeting, mattresses and blankets. Many of the wounded have to sleep on the floor.

Living conditions have deteriorated dramatically during the past year. Only 10-15 per cent of Sierra Leone's 4.5 million people have access to basic health care. The mortality rates, even in the main hospitals, are very high. In Freetown's children's hospital, 76 deaths were reported in March for 350 admissions. The main causes of death were anaemia, acute respiratory disease and malnutrition. Five new-born babies died of neonatal tetanus within a five-week period, reflecting the low level of vaccination among pregnant women even in the capital.

Measles epidemics are on the rise, particularly among the tens of thousands of internally displaced people. Thirteen deaths from measles have recently been confirmed. UNICEF supported a district health team to immunize children at the camps. And mass immunization campaigns continue in safe areas. UNICEF is also working with the communities to chlorinate wells to prevent an outbreak of cholera as the rainy season approaches.

Schools have been destroyed and teachers killed or displaced during the war. Over 55 per cent of children age 6-14 years are out of school.

"Our commitment has always been to the most vulnerable," Ms. Bellamy said. "The only way to keep this commitment in Sierra Leone is to work on every level to bring a stop to the killing and maiming of the children there."

Load-Date: May 25, 1998

The kids aren't all right

The Times (London)

October 17, 1998, Saturday

Copyright 1998 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features

Length: 2218 words

Byline: Ann McFerran

Body

Robbie Williams has seen his share of infatuated teenage fans. But when he finds himself surrounded by the poverty-stricken children of Sri Lanka, pop stardom is the last thing on anyone's mind

On a narrow, ochre-earthed road in the heat of the equatorial, midday sun, a crowd of dark-skinned children swarm around a young white man who is dribbling a football at a frenetic pace. The ball bounces backwards and forwards as the children, most of whom are shoeless and skinny, scream with frenzied pleasure and try to grab the young man. "Stop, stop," he cries, sweat pouring from his face. "You've totally exhausted me. I can't go on." He hunkers down to their height, blows his cheeks into a clown face, tosses one child in the air and dangles another on his knee. "Hi, who are you?" he says, beaming as the children giggle. "Me? I'm Robert Williams from Stoke-on-Trent."

This impromptu meeting between some of the world's most deprived young people and one of its most privileged youths, pop icon Robbie Williams, was not part of the schedule of UNICEF's (the United Nations Children's Fund) celebrity-led trip to Sri Lanka. But for Williams this brief stint playing Pied Piper to these children was, he says, "better even than Glastonbury or playing with Tom Jones at the Brit Awards".

Currently number one in the charts, on the eve of his keenly awaited new album, he could be anywhere in the world doing whatever he wishes. But instead he is in Sri Lanka's war-torn northern province to help immunise children under five against polio for UNICEF. His playmates are some of Sri Lanka's displaced children in the northern district of Vavuniya. With nearly 11,000 others, they live in large hangar-like tents that line the road. Roofed with corrugated iron and covered with plastic sheeting, they survive, in fetid heat with little sanitation, on a diet of rice spiced with chilli or dhal. They have no idea who their visitor is except that he is from England, an important guest of UNICEF, and they are thrilled to welcome him.

Since 1977, UNICEF has been involved in an ambitious programme to eradicate polio by the year 2000 by targeting the world's worst-affected countries with national immunisation days. Over the past decade they have negotiated annual one-day ceasefires in war-torn countries so that children caught in fighting zones can be immunised. A start was made in El Salvador in 1985, where immunisation increased from just 3 per cent to 80 per cent in 1992. Since the programme started in Sri Lanka four years ago, no cases of polio have been reported, although the country's proximity to India, where the incidence of polio is still high, means it is crucial that the work continues.

Last year, another music icon, Ian Dury, who himself contracted polio as a child, became the programme's celebrity ambassador when he went to Zambia to bear witness to the immunisation of two million children. This year, he decided "we needed some new blood in the firm" and, accordingly, invited Williams to join him. Dury is by

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turns charming and cantankerous, one moment extolling UNICEF's mission with the panache of a committed zealot, the next fuming about "the cult of personality. This isn't bloody Hello! magazine. I'm here for UNICEF."

Dury's ambiguous take reflects most people's views on celebrities and charity. UNICEF has had its star ambassadors since the Fifties, but it was Bob Geldof's headline-hitting mission to "feed the world" in the mid-Eighties, and the potent mix of film footage of starving children with popular song that was surely the forerunner to this trip. UNICEF won't put a figure on the kind of money that Williams and Dury help to generate, but a spokesperson says: "Without the help of celebrities it would be very difficult to make the public aware of the work we're doing. You cannot put a cost on their involvement."

Bumping along with Robbie and his manager Gabby Chelmicka in a UN vehicle a few miles from the front line, the 24-year-old rock star seems transformed from the young man I'd first met two days earlier, slumped in the first-class lounge at Gatwick airport. Then, wearing a Star Wars T-shirt and his trademark baggy denims, he looked uneasy, vulnerable, a bit lost, making a last-minute phone call to his All Saints' girlfriend, Nicole Appleton. He lights a Silk Cut and volunteers: "I don't think I'm going to come back from this trip... Don't get me wrong. I just think either I'll get shot, or I'll come back a changed man. Yeah, changed. That's what I need right now. It's like I've reached number one and I'm thinking what have people said about me?" Appropriately, Williams and Dury met at a photocall for Music for UNICEF, a campaign raising money for children in conflict. Dury had been recruited as a celebrity ambassador for UNICEF a year before, when press officer Jo Bexley "wrote me a letter of such sweetness, I could not refuse. But I'm not exactly keen on charity. I think that should be the government's job. I went to see Robert Smith, who runs UNICEF in England, and he explained to me that the organisation was about looking after children. My old man was chauffeur to Danny Kaye, who was UNICEF's first goodwill ambassador. I thought he'd be proud of me."

For his first assignment, Dury went on a "happy" to Zambia, where there was no famine or war. His encounter, however, with severe poverty and Aids orphans, left him alternately "blubbing and hugging. Blimey, it was phwaww!" - Dury emits a sound somewhere between a spit and a primal scream - "One moment I was hugging as many children as possible, then I'd be rushing round the corner crying my eyes out. I returned extremely emotionally involved with UNICEF. I think it made me stronger and even more intelligent. And I'm extremely intelligent."

Perversely, the man who wrote *Reasons to be Cheerful* insists that contracting polio at the age of seven was no reason for him to be sad. "I might have been horrible if I hadn't got polio. I mean I am horrible now, but I might have done something really horrible, like being a bank manager."

In May, this year, on his 58th birthday, Dury revealed that he had been diagnosed with cancer of the liver, for which there is no known cure. "I didn't laugh nor did I shake my fist at the sky," he says. "I cried when my friends cried, and when I got letters saying, 'You haven't time to go'. But I'm an extremely lucky geezer. I can afford to pay for the most advanced treatment in Europe, and apart from a couple of bits sticking out of my chest it's a doddle compared to a calliper. I can carry on leading my abnormal life; I get up, have a grumble and kick just as much as I always have."

When he told Williams he was going to Sri Lanka with UNICEF to help immunise 1.8 million children under five, the younger singer asked if he could come, too. "Ian Dury is a big hero of mine," he says. "I said to Gabs, 'You're going to have to find room in my schedule for this one'." UNICEF arranged the trip around a three-day visit to the Tamil-dominated northern peninsular of Jaffna for the Day of Tranquillity. Sri Lanka's conflict might be loosely compared to Ireland's, with its Sinhalese majority and 18 per cent Tamil minority. The notorious ***Tamil Tigers*** (the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or the ***LTTE***) have been compared to the IRA, but unlike the IRA, who want a united Ireland, the rebel Tigers' aim is to secede and create their own independent state of Eelam, of which Jaffna is the jewel in the crown. Days before our departure from London a bomb killed several people in Jaffna, including the mayor. Williams and Dury were stalwart. "I don't know about politics," said Williams, "I'm going for the children."

Later, I ask him to elaborate on exactly why he is here. "On the flight out I was asking myself just that," he says. "I was reading this book about the Pet Shop Boys in America, which was a bit of a bad thing for me to be reading

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because it was saying how everyone wants to see themselves as a great humanitarian but how people often do it for themselves." He imitates a nasal Radio 1-style star, "You know: 'It's smashing, nice, I do a lot of charity work but I don't like to mention it, mate.' Of course some people are doing it for themselves rather than any cause. But I think, 'Rob, you're going to a place that's war-torn, you're placing yourself in danger; you'll do some good.'" Nicky cried before I left. She didn't want me to go to Sri Lanka. But she wasn't half as scared as I was when I saw those soldiers! In a cynical way you could say I'm using my celebrity to bring attention to kids being immunised, with the help of UNICEF. It is a big deal for me, but when people come to shake my hand I feel embarrassed because it's me who should be shaking theirs. I have to admit, however, it goes deeper than that. I want to be enriched. Give us a ciggy, Gabs," he calls. I offer him one of mine. "Thanks, but I'll have a Silky. There's a side to the industry I'm in which can make me feel bitter. A pessimist sits on my shoulder who says: 'What you do doesn't mean anything.' Because of what happened to me in Take That, success brings a pain with it; I relate success to sadness. Yet as I say this, I know I hate hearing pop stars moaning."

Picked for Take That on the same day he failed all his GCSEs, Williams spent five years being moulded into a money-making teen heart-throb only to be dropped and forced to fend for himself. His famous and lengthy lost weekend of sex, drugs and booze was followed by rehab and a meteoric rebound to success. "I'm not in Sri Lanka to get rich," he says. "I'm here because I want to put my life into place. What I worry about at home doesn't matter. I want to see how people smile in the face of adversity and carry on. Does that sound awfully shallow?" he asks, suddenly. "I don't want to sound selfish but I do want to remember what life was like before I became famous."

At the eleventh hour our trip to Jaffna is diverted. Because of the bomb five days earlier the UN cannot guarantee our safety, so we go to Vavuniya instead. An impoverished region, it also suffers from rebel LTTE attacks but is less high profile. At the main clinic parents are arriving with their children. Williams and Dury give the first inoculation using a pipette. Babies cry while older children stick out their tongues. Men arrive on bicycles and women have walked, often for two hours, carrying babies and wearing their best clothes. A man carrying an old Take That album asks for Williams's autograph.

In a school near another temporary clinic a singing lesson is conducted by a woman who is both displaced and disabled. She has no idea of the stellar status of her guests but she immediately organises a recital. Watching their teacher intently, the schoolgirls' song is potent and sweet. "I think we've got a hit here," says Williams. "Now if my manager can talk to yours I think we'll get on to Top of the Pops." The schoolgirls stare at him uncomprehendingly. Williams closes his eyes and breaks into a rendition of his song Angels. The girls are thrilled and everyone cheers each other.

Then on to a camp that houses mainly refugees who fled their Jaffna homes for India only to return to find them turned to rubble. Under a huge awning, they gather excitedly like kids awaiting Father Christmas at a primary-school party. The children crawl all over Williams as he runs through his routine, a sort of rhythmic rap. "I'm Robbie. How are you? I'm good. Hope you are too." Word has spread of our visit. The atmosphere is rising to a hysterical pitch. As we are about to leave, a man carrying his three-year-old grandson approaches Williams. "Bring him to England with you," he pleads in perfect English, holding out the small boy. Williams's eyes glaze as he mutters, "Sorry, mate. Can't do that."

Later that afternoon, Williams plunges into the pool where some young British people doing Voluntary Service Overseas are playing water handball. The ball flies in his direction and he responds with a deft header. "I'm Robbie," he says. "I know," says a young woman, smiling. They share their travellers' tales of Tiger suicide bombers and pacifist Buddhist monks. "You should go back to England and do a gig for Sri Lanka," says the woman.

"I am," says Williams, "but for UNICEF." Gabby has just come off the phone. Good news. His two Wembley concerts have sold out in less than 24 hours. But Williams is quiet and reflective - not that fussed, it seems. England and Wembley concerts are another world.

That night, he tells me: "What happened today has put my life in perspective. Here, I'm just some white bloke making funny faces. I'm not this Robbie Williams character who I have to be 24 hours a day in England. So much of

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my life in England has to do with money. I feel so much more serene and relaxed here. Being with those kids made me want to have my own so much. Oh, so much! I feel I've been and done some good and I've done some good for myself, too. Certainly I'll never forget those children's smiling faces."

The UNICEF trip is featured on Here & Now on BBC1 on Monday at 7.30pm. Donations can be sent to Room TIM50, UNICEF, Freepost, Chelmsford CM2 8BR, or telephone the 24-hour donation line with your credit-card details, quoting the UNICEF Timesappeal (0345 312312)

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End of Document

'union' jack is unfurled

The Sunday Herald

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Section: Pg. 24

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Byline: Alan Taylor

Body

PITY poor Jack McConnell. Instead of receiving applause for his call for tourist chiefs to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Union of the Crowns next year, he simply provoked "a political storm".

For his pains, the First Minister was duly dubbed 'Union' Jack. To which one can only add that any initiative which is approved by Brian Monteith, a silly Tory, deserves the severest scrutiny.

However, I do think that the Nats might have been better concentrating their ire on another of Mr McConnell's ideas to reinvigorate the beleaguered tourist industry; namely his proposal to "celebrate" the 700th anniversary of the execution of William Wallace in 2005. Book now for your tickets to the hanging, drawing and quartering.

Hot off the Wee Free Press

SEEKERS of truth need look no further than the West Highland Free Press, whose star columnist is Prof Donald MacLeod, a big cheese in the Wee Free. In a recent column, the prof turned his attention to John Leslie, the too tall television presenter, who is the subject of as yet unproven allegations of a sexual nature - as the prof was himself once.

Astonishingly, Prof MacLeod, a man of formidable intellect and wide interests, says Leslie is someone whom he had never heard of until Ulrika Jonsson never mentioned him. Pull the other one, prof! He'll be telling us next he's never seen Richard and Judy. By contrast, Prof MacLeod highlights one Angus MacLeod, who died recently at the age of 86. His life, says Prof MacLeod, "had more significance than John Leslie, Roy Keane and Ulrika Whatever combined."

Moreover, he didn't abuse women or break knees. Rather he revitalised his native village of Calbost and was the architect of the Scottish Crofters Union. All of which brings a tear to one's een. But what it has to do with John Leslie et al goodness only knows. If I were him I wouldn't take a Sunday flight to Stornoway in the near future.

They're just too Biggs to drink milk

WHY can't our business leaders be more like the Americans? Take if you will the California Milk Processors Board (CMPB), which is not prepared to sit and watch while milk sales drain away. In order to combat falling sales and generate publicity, the board is hoping to persuade a town to change its name to Got Milk? following in the footsteps of Hot Springs in New Mexico, which became Truth and Consequence as part of a promotion for a 1950s game show.

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The first town to be asked was Biggs, near Sacramento, which took the offer seriously, as it ought. In return for changing its name, the CMPB offered funding for a possible museum. Biggs would then have become the centre of a marketing campaign to celebrate 10 years of the Got Milk? advertising campaign, which has featured a lot of milk-moustachioed celebs, including Venus and Serena Williams.

Biggs, which doesn't have any milk-related industry at the moment and is mostly interested in rice production, mulled over the CMPB's offer before politely turning it down. "This is Biggs, not Got Milk?," said one town resident, "and Biggs it will be." Now the hunt is on for another town to take its place.

I have a hunch this is an idea whose time has come and could prove a winner for some Scottish towns. Cumbernauld, for example, could change its name to Frae Girders, in homage to its plant which bottles Irn Bru. Or how about Dundee, home of DC Thomson, king of comic publishers, becoming simply Dandy? Or Aberdeen as No Mean City? The potential is boundless.

What do Hootsmon writers actually do?

TODAY, apparently, What a Hoot on Sunday, sister paper of the Hootsmon and the Evening Hoot, has an article about the proposed purchase of the Sunday Herald and its sister papers, the Herald and Evening Times by the Barclay brothers, owners of the whole Hoot empire.

This in itself is remarkable since barely a cheep has been heard from Barclay Towers about the sale, which would have enormous detrimental repercussions for what the Financial Times describes as the "plurality" of the press in Scotland. Even more remarkable, however, is that the article was commissioned and written especially for the paper, albeit by a freelance, since no member of staff wanted to be tarred with such a blatant piece of Andrew Neil-inspired propaganda.

Readers of the Herald stable of papers may not be aware of the revolution taking place in Edinburgh where the norm now is to buy in articles from publications around the globe that fit Mr Neil's "war against terrorism" agenda. Thus, over the past week, What a Hoot and its siblings have gleaned pieces already published in the Economist, Spectator, New Republic, Independent, UK Press Gazette, the New York Times and Rossiyskaya Gazeta, a Moscow-based paper.

Unless you can be bothered to read the small print, you could be forgiven for thinking that the latest recruits to Barclay Towers include Paddy Ashdown, Janet Street-Porter and Mikhail Gorbachev. Dream on. In fact, what you get when you buy What a Hoot etcetera are scrapbooks full of stale journalism masquerading as newspapers. One never ceases to wonder at Mr Neil's ingenuity. I fear he has missed his vocation. In another existence he would be selling snake oil.

Someone wants a slice of Martel's Pi

THERE'S no hit without a writ, so they say. As soon as success strikes, up pops someone determined to acquire a slice of it. It was almost inevitable that this would happen to this year's Booker Prize winner, Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*, which is published by Canongate.

It is claimed Martel pinched the plot of *Pi* from Moacyr Scliar, the Brazilian author of *Max and the Cats*. In Scliar's novel, published 20 or so years ago, a Jewish boy shares a lifeboat with a black panther; in Martel's a shipwrecked Indian boy survives in a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger.

Though Martel acknowledges he got the idea for his novel from Scliar, he denies plagiarism, and insists hasn't even read *Max and the Cats*. For his part, Scliar says "an idea is intellectual property". Consequently, his lawyers are talking to Martel's lawyers, who are the only people likely to profit from this nonsensical argument.

As others have pointed out, you need only look at the story of Noah for a literary precedent. There are no new stories under the sun but the ways of telling them are infinite. Scliar, if he's a serious novelist, should realise this. I suspect what rankles most is Martel calling him "a lesser writer". That wasn't too clever.

'union' jack is unfurled

TV squaddies were chumps on parade

THIS is the time of year when one's thoughts turn to matters military. My colleague Trevor Royle, who is one of the few people I know who can tell one end of a barrel from another, has a letter in the latest issue of Scottish Legion News, the official journal of the Royal Legion in Scotland, complaining mildly about the "blimpish tone" it adopted towards the TV series Lad's Army, on which he was a historical adviser.

In particular, he took exception to the use of the word "moron" to describe the participants. Quite right, too, concedes SLN, the use of "morons" was sloppy journalism. What it really meant to say was "total and utter morons".

'Polaris' continues his erratic flight

FRIENDS of Paul 'Polaris' Harris, who was frogmarched out of Sri Lanka a couple of days ago, were bemused to learn that he has been described by a senior Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry official as "a threat to national security". The word is that he has upset the **Tamil Tigers**. Jings! Crivens!

In a career which can fairly be said to have been chequered, Polaris has had numerous incarnations, beginning in Aberdeen where, while still at university, he published a bestseller about pirate radio ships with the proceeds of which he purchased the Norwegian consul's Mercedes-Benz. Later, he went on to found an Edinburgh-based publishing company, among whose many jewels was The DC Thomson Bumper Fun Book.

When fighting broke out in Yugoslavia, Polaris found himself in Zagreb and overnight transformed himself into a war correspondent dressed in trademark cravat who - even while being shelled on bullet-scarred balconies - continued to behave as if he were at a soiree in the New Club.

One of the few comic moments in the appalling Balkan conflict came when Polaris, never one to miss a promotional opportunity, handed a stunned John Major, there to offer succour to the troops, a signed copy of one of his books.

In recent years, when not swanning around the Far East, Polaris has lived at Whittingehame House in East Lothian, where his driving - how can one put this diplomatically? - veered towards the erratic. One local, informed of Polaris's latest scrape, said: "Put that man behind a wheel and he causes a helluva a lot more damage to Haddington's hedgehogs than the **Tamil Tigers**."

Graphic

The Williams sisters have, but alas not the town of Biggs

Load-Date: November 12, 2002

Indian troops reportedly storm village

United Press International
October 23, 1987, Friday, AM cycle

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Section: International

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Byline: By ADAM KELLIHER

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Indian troops infuriated by a rebel land mine ambush rampaged through a village in eastern Sri Lanka Friday, killing at least 14 civilians and leaving much of the Tamil settlement a charred ruin, residents said.

An Indian diplomat said rebels detonated a circle of mines around an Indian patrol as it walked through Kalawanchikudy, a village of about 15,000 people some 16 miles west of the eastern port town of Batticaloa.

She said the blast killed three soldiers and injured three others. Police and Sri Lankan officials said four soldiers were killed. They were members of an estimated 25,000-strong Indian force deployed across Sri Lanka's north and east to enforce a July Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord.

The diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said the attackers, believed to be members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, engaged the surviving members of the 12-man patrol in a firefight in which the Indians killed three rebels. She denied reports of Indian soldiers storming the village.

Village residents, contacted by telephone from Colombo, said the blast prompted about 60 soldiers -- who arrived in armored personnel carriers and trucks -- to rampage through the village, setting fire to about 150 houses, firing submachine guns and taking away about 100 young men.

They behaved like "mad dogs," said a professional who asked not to be identified. "I saw it myself. They were carrying a gun in one hand and a petrol can in the other."

He and three other residents reported 14 people -- 12 men, a woman and a child -- died in the hour of pillage and at least 25 others were injured, most from bullet wounds. The residents reported troops executed a 26-year-old man who was the son of the late president of the Federal Party, a moderate Tamil political organization.

"They came here to keep the peace, but they are very uncivilized," said a businessman. "I saw them drag a 14-year-old girl into the lane and shoot her."

The residents said more than 1,000 homeless people were sheltered in temples and churches because the city and surrounding residential areas were smoking ruins.

A hospital official said he expected more wounded to die because ambulance drivers were unwilling to brave an Indian-enforced curfew and take the seriously wounded to Batticaloa.

Indian troops reportedly storm village

One leading Tamil civilian said at least 50 people had gathered at his home. As he spoke, loud shrieks and wails could be heard in the background.

"The women are crying because they have lost their men, their children and their homes," the elderly Tamil said. "It is not anger. It is anguish. What has happened today will change their point of view about the Indians."

The Indian diplomat denied the entire episode, and said troops had conducted search and cordon operations after the mine blast.

"The Indian peacekeeping force has not set fire to any house," she said. "If any houses have been set alight, then this has possibly been done by miscreants to discredit" the Indian forces.

The rampage was similar to an Oct. 15 incident at Sathurukondan, about 5 miles north of Batticaloa, when troops were reported to have gone on a rampage after a mine blast tore apart a truck, killing 20 soldiers.

In northern Jaffna, Indian officials reported troops were still meeting fierce resistance from the LTTE rebels, who were holding up the advance into their stronghold with mines and running street battles.

The Indian official said troops trying to occupy Jaffna had fanned out and were consolidating their positions in parts of the town already secured. She said there was a steady advance into Jaffna, but did not report much progress beyond positions held Thursday.

"The LTTE presence in Jaffna is being subject to pressure from all directions and their escape routes are being blocked," a foreign ministry official in New Delhi said. But a Sri Lankan military official said many rebels have gone underground and staged a tactical withdrawal, filtering through the Indian lines to regroup for attacks from the rear.

"One surprising thing is that even after capturing their vital points they are still resisting," a military official said.

He would not estimate how many rebels remained in the town, but said it was difficult to distinguish civilians from guerrillas once the combatants hid their weapons and stopped fighting.

The official said Indian helicopters Friday scattered leaflets across rebel-held areas of Jaffna calling for residents not to flee the densely-populated fishing port.

The military spokesman said 147 Indian troops had been killed in the 14-day offensive, which was designed to disarm the rebels. The Colombo diplomat said 651 rebels had been killed.

Death toll in Sri Lanka bombing climbs to 56

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 24, 1994, Monday, BC Cycle 12:16 Central European Time

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Dateline: Colombo, Oct 24

Body

A bombing attack at a political rally in Sri Lanka has killed at least 56 people, including opposition presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake, according to the latest death toll Monday.

Besides Dissanayake, 52, nearly the entire leadership of the oppositional United National Party (UNP) was wiped out in the blast.

The UNP had been defeated in parliamentary elections August 16 by the New People's Alliance led by Mrs Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Police experts speculated that a **female** suicide bomber may have blown herself up in the attack Sunday night at an opposition campaign rally in Thotalanga, eight kilometres north of the capital Colombo.

The head of a woman was found on the roof of a nearby two-storey building, leading police to believe that it was torn from the body and hurled a wide distance because she was at the centre of the explosion. This would indicate the woman herself set off the bomb.

The bomb exploded as Dissanayake sat down on the rostrum after addressing the rally. The blast hurled bodies, chairs and parts of the podium through the air, leaving a gory chaos.

It was initially believed that Tamil rebels were responsible for the blast. The government imposed a nationwide curfew and cancelled a second round of peace talks with the Tamil rebels which had been planned later on Monday.

But doubts arose later about Tamils being responsible for the bombing.

Instead, there was speculation in Colombo about a power struggle within the UNP following its narrow election defeat two months ago. Some sources said even the army could be involved.

Dissanayake, as well as army leaders, were opposed to the government having started peace talks with rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

The government said next month's presidential elections would go ahead as planned. Election commissioner, Chandrananda de Silva, said the UNP had been called to name a new candidate within three days.

Death toll in Sri Lanka bombing climbs to 56

Prime Minister Mrs Kumaratunga is the NPA candidate for the presidential election scheduled for November 9.
dpa ba

Load-Date: October 24, 1994

End of Document

Amnesty International calls on new government to protect human rights in Sri Lanka

Associated Press International

December 18, 2001 Tuesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 351 words

Byline: SHIMALI SENANAYAKE; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Amnesty International on Tuesday said it hoped the government of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe will uphold human rights as he assumes leadership in this war-ravaged island nation.

Wickremesinghe's United National Front, elected to power in parliamentary elections held on Dec. 5, has promised peace to a nation plagued by a war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels since 1983. The rebels are fighting to divide the country of 18.6 million people on ethnic lines.

Amnesty urged the government to share responsibility

"In order to prevent human rights violations and secure the confidence of the people, security forces must be held to account for the abuses they commit. The prime minister must clarify the government's policy on this when he addresses Parliament," the London-based human rights watchdog said in a statement.

Parliament was to convene Wednesday. Amnesty said it had written to the prime minister in this regard.

The Front in its election manifesto had promised a reinforcement of fundamental rights, safeguarding women's rights and the appointment of an independent commission to solve the problems of the 1.6 million internally displaced people.

Amnesty has previously accused Sri Lanka of human rights violations including arrests, disappearances and torture by members of the security forces.

"In the past, investigations have proceeded very slowly... in some violations such as torture, including rape...no member of the security forces has ever been convicted," the statement said.

Incidents of abuse and rape by members of the Sri Lankan security forces had been reported in the past, mainly in the northeast of the country where most of the fighting between government troops and rebels is taking place.

"Planned negotiations with the LTTE could also bring about an improved human rights situation in the country," the statement said.

Amnesty International calls on new government to protect human rights in Sri Lanka

Wickremesinghe has said he would enter into talks with the rebels to bring about a solution to the conflict. The prime minister will leave for India on Saturday to garner further support from Sri Lanka's neighbor to rejuvenate the peace process.

Load-Date: December 18, 2001

End of Document

Sri Lanka sees heavy casualties in offensive after oil tank attack

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 23, 1995, Monday, BC Cycle 10:58 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 361 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Government troops forged ahead Monday with a major offensive against Tamil rebel strongholds in northern Jaffna peninsula in the wake of the weekend's devastating rebel attack against oil reserves in Colombo. A military spokesman said Monday the government lost 29 soldiers and claimed to have killed over 75 rebels in the offensive, described as the biggest so far against rebel-dominated Jaffna peninsula. As the offensive entered its seventh day Monday, the death toll of rebels was put at more than 425 and the number of soldiers killed in the offensive as 105. Troops backed by air support have advanced southwards from strategic Palaly military base and were heading in the direction of the northern capital of Jaffna, but military official declined to comment whether the objective of the offensive was taking control of the town. On Sunday they were 8 kilometers northeast of Jaffna town. A military spokesman said that on Sunday rebels continued to fire mortars on the advancing troops after putting up resistance during the initial stages of fighting in the morning. In addition to the deaths of 27 military personnel, 51 soldiers were also wounded. According to rebel radio, 150 rebel cadres were also wounded in the fighting, bringing the number of separatist casualties to over 650 within a week. Military officials have warned that rebels could carry more diversionary attacks in areas outside the northern province in an attempt to halt the ongoing offensive against rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) in the north.

In a related development, rebels killed seven civilians belonging to the majority Sinhala community in Siyambalanduwa village, 325 kilometres southeast of the capital Colombo early Monday. Rebels Saturday dawn had raided three other villages in the eastern part of the country and killed 66 civilians, including women and children, most of them Sinhalese. Rebels also attacked two oil reserves in the capital Colombo on Friday in another effort to divert attention of security forces from the north. Rebels claim to be fighting in the north and east for an independent homeland for minority Tamils. dpa ad

Load-Date: October 27, 1995

news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

Copyright 1998 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency

NOVEMBER 29, 1998, SUNDAY

Length: 402 words

Dateline: hong kong, november 29; ITEM NO: 1129173

Body

following are news items from the asia-pacific desk of xinhua in hong kong sunday: hke112901 --chi haotian winds up visit to singapore hke112902 --myanmar hospital upgraded by french association hke112903 --sri lanka's rebels look for peace talks mediated by third party hke112904 --first sextuple are born in singapore hke112905 --major news items in leading pakistani newspapers hke112906 --major news items in leading indian newspapers hke112907 --sri lankan government cautious on ltte's offer hke112908 --bangladeshi finance minister on "sick industry" issue hke112909 --greens accuses howard government's standing on kakadu hka112910 --chinese win women's doubles at h.k. open badminton hka112911 --martin wins women's singles at h.k. open badminton hka112912 --results of hong kong open badminton championships (1) hke112913 --inflation falls in indian hka112914--santoso win men's singles title at h.k. open badminton hka112915 --17th macao international marathon held hka112916 --results of h.k. open badminton championships (2) hke112917 --congress wins landslide victory in india's state assembly elections hka112918 --danes win mixed doubles title at hk open badminton hka112919 --results of hong kong open badminton championships (3) hke112920--pak fm sees no chance of accidental nuclear war with india hka112921 --weather information for asian-pacific cities hke112922 --malaysia to resume joint military exercises under fpda hke112923 --idb to provide loan to malaysia hka112924 --results of hk open badminton championships (4-last) hka112925 --indonesians win men's doubles title at hk open badminton hke112926 --malaysia forms special task force on public places' cleanliness hke112927 --infrastructure build-up in philippines underway hke112928--thai army moves to check sharp rise in hiv-infected draftees hke112929 --india's ruling party suffers major setback in state assembly elections hke112930 --ruling nepali congress expels assistant minister hke112931 --thai official likely to become wto's new chief hke112932 --bangladeshi navy ships recover smuggled goods hka112933 --south korean golfer takes hong kong open crown hka112934--samsung action asia challenge breathes life into hk hke112935 --india's congress party not to pull down bjp-led government

Load-Date: November 30, 1998

Topple Saddam for Iraq's women

University Wire

April 1, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Daily Texan via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 729 words

Byline: By Paulette Chu, Daily Texan

Dateline: Austin, Texas

Body

In 1905, a quarter of Russia's revolutionary terrorists were women. German women with the Baader-Meinhof Gang terrorized Europe in the late 1960s and '70s. In India, a Lady Tiger of the Sri Lankan Tamil Tigers secessionists bombed Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. And in last three months three Palestinian women -- ages 18, 21 and 27 -- detonated themselves and civilians.

"I am going to fight, instead of the sleeping Arab armies who are watching Palestinian girls fighting alone," said the latest female suicide bomber, Aayat Mohammed Al-Akhras, 18, in a video.

U. Texas-Austin

On the opposite end of extremes, Western feminists have long advocated pacifism over nationalism -- even under unspeakable circumstances. In opposition to World War II, writer Virginia Woolf said, "As a woman, I have no country. As a woman, I want no country. As a woman, my country is the whole world."

In Woolf's world, a better world, such idealism would be defense enough. In a better world, it wouldn't have taken the U.S. military to liberate Afghanistan's women -- women the Feminist Majority Foundation lobbied for first in 1996, when the Taliban took Kabul. It's largely because of feminists' efforts that the international community refused to recognize the evil regime.

Now, given the constant carnage maiming the Middle East -- and its ties to American security -- it's time feminists drop the outdated dogma, reaffirm their commitment to empowering women and support ousting one of the world's most brutish misogynists: Saddam Hussein.

About 81 percent of American women support military action against terrorists; 79 percent say war is sometimes justified and 70 percent support using force against Iraq, according to recent polls by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

Starting in October 2000, Saddam's Iraqi regime decapitated dozens of women accused of prostitution, according to Amnesty International. Officials then hung the women's severed heads outside their families' homes, according to the Committee in Defense of Iraqi Women's Rights.

Other crimes against Iraqi women include systematically raping female prisoners; raping wives, sisters and daughters of suspected dissidents and mailing videos of the rapes to family members; abducting young women for

Topple Saddam for Iraq 's women

perverted dignitaries; and allowing male relatives to kill allegedly adulterous women, according to Human Rights Action France.

A recent report in The New Yorker also details Saddam's genocide of ethnic Kurds in northern Iraq. Between 50,000 to 200,000 Kurds died. Nearly 4 million were exposed to chemical, and possibly, biological weapons, including mustard gas and nerve agents. Iraqi scientists in 1995 reportedly admitted to weaponizing aflatoxin, a biological agent that destroys livers.

Iraqi Kurds have since experienced abnormally high infertility rates, and Kurdish women are suffering equally abnormal miscarriage rates. Children often have neural tube defects, extra toes, fused fingers, leukemia and liver cancer.

"I will kill them all with chemical weapons!" said Saddam's cousin Ali Hassan on a tape reportedly obtained by Human Rights Watch. "Who is going to say anything? The international community? Fuck the international community and those who listen to them."

Sadaam's regime also openly pays \$ 10,000 to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers. Since America must help facilitate a resolution for Palestinians and Israelis before toppling Saddam, his influence in the conflict also sustains his power. And, he has reportedly associated with al Qaeda since 1992, according to The New Yorker.

But Saddam's biggest threat is his unknown nuclear arsenal and his hatred for America. This, of course, includes pacifists and feminists alike. As a geneticist told The New Yorker, "Please understand, the Kurds were for practice."

Feminist poet Audre Lorde wrote, "When I care to be powerful -- to use my strength in the service of my vision -- then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

In a better world, there would always be a better solution than force. In a better world, pacifism would always trump militarism. But as past and current history demonstrates, a better world -- and hope for a better world -- remains elusive, so long as fear lets chauvinists, misogynists and terrorists reign rampant.

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Load-Date: April 1, 2002

BRIEFS

Philadelphia Daily News
October 20, 1995 Friday PM EDITION

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 21

Length: 371 words

Byline: Daily News wire services

Body

SRI LANKA

20 SERVICEMEN DIE DURING FIREFIGHT

At least 20 servicemen were killed during a firefight at a Colombo fuel depot, one of two set ablaze today by suspected Tamil Tiger rebels, the military said. Reuters photographer Anurrudha Lokuhapuarachchi saw the bodies of seven air force personnel, one policeman and two civilians at the main gate of the Kolonnawa oil storage depot and body parts of a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber.

Military headquarters said altogether eight soldiers, 10 air force personnel and two Special Task Force police commandos had been killed.

At least 25 people, including the Colombo correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation, were wounded in the shooting between suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels inside the compound and security forces, witnesses said.

TEHRAN, IRAN

MILITANTS PROTEST USE OF WORD 'RAP'

More than 1,000 militants demonstrated yesterday against "rap" - a term anti-Western radicals use to mean all Western trends now popular among many young Iranians.

The slogan-chanting protesters gathered at a shopping mall in northwestern Tehran, where young Iranians hang out to show off their fashionable Western clothes.

"The corrupt culture of the West must be condemned," the demonstrators chanted.

For more than a month the militants have been staging weekly protests in Tehran.

Rap culture seems removed from Iran, where Western pop music is banned and women in public must be covered head-to-toe or risk arrest.

BRIEFS

But among young Iranians who keep up with the latest pop hits through a remarkably efficient underground network, rap music is all the rage, particularly in the affluent suburbs.

MOSCOW

YELTSIN TO REMOVE PRO-WESTERN AIDE

President Boris Yeltsin confirmed yesterday that he will dismiss his longest-serving loyalist, foreign minister Andrei Kozyrev, setting the stage for another unpredictable lurch in Russian foreign policy.

There is no indication who will replace Kozyrev or when he will leave, but the sacking of the veteran minister is another warning of Russia's unhappiness with the West.

Kozyrev, a moderate and pragmatic career diplomat who speaks English fluently, was one of the few remaining pro-Western figures in Yeltsin's inner circle.

Notes

WORLD

Load-Date: October 18, 2002

End of Document

G2: Television: TV Review: Blown away

The Guardian (London)

April 4, 2002

Copyright 2002 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: G2, Pg. 22

Length: 665 words

Byline: Gareth McLean

Body

The modern suicide bodysuit is very comfortable to wear, explained the terrorism expert from the University of St Andrews as if he were doing a department-store demonstration of thermal underwear. According to the oddly cheerful academic on *Everyman* (BBC2), a suicide bomber can carry two to three kilograms of explosives and 1000 to 2000 ball-bearings with relative ease. The *Tamil Tigers*, world leaders in suicide-suit technology, have also developed a bikini bomb, especially with women in mind. Unlikely to be subjected to a search "down there", they can carry a deadly payload past their target's security to secure their own place in posterity.

Chilling, compelling and sometimes surreal, this horribly timely *Everyman* tried its best to provide insight into the minds of suicide bombers as well as to discuss their methods. To do the latter was easy enough, since methods are easier to document than apparent madness. Illuminating of the mindset of those who will don a suicide bodysuit or drive then detonate an explosives-laden truck was trickier, though I suspect *Everyman* did as well as any documentary could. Experts, psychologists and former CIA men talked of motivations, religious justifications and how the key to understanding lay not in the individual but in the organisation (like Al-Qaeda), but the real insight came from interviews with the families of young Palestinian men - and latterly, women - who had blown themselves up to kill Israelis. From a land in which martyrdom is advertised on billboards and terrorists have promotional videos (I told you it was surreal), this was traumatic, sobering television.

You could criticise *Everyman* for its patchy history of suicide killers, leaping from the original "assassins" - Muslims at the time of the Crusades - to the kamikaze pilots of the second world war without mention of those who participated in nationalist struggles in 19th-century Europe and Russia, but this hardly mattered given its comprehensive cataloguing of suicide killers today. A brilliant piece of television journalism, director and producer Ian Stuttard should be proud.

Indeed, the most chilling moment of *Everyman* wasn't the graphic description of what happens to a bomber's body when they detonate their explosives but the interview with Alaa who spoke of how the Israeli occupation of her homeland had "murdered" her dreams and left her no choice but to become a suicide bomber, a martyr. Alaa was eight years old.

Bringing West End plays to the masses who either live too far away from centres of cultural fecundity and can't get their tractors on the motorway or are too thrifty to fork out for heftily priced theatre tickets is a laudable enterprise. Sadly, *The Mystery of Charles Dickens* (BBC4) was a missed opportunity as it was, like *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* before it, simply the videoing of the theatre show. Unlike Joe Egg, Peter Ackroyd's drama lends itself easily to adaptation. With a little effort, it could have been transformed into an intimate tete a tete between a conspiratorial Simon Callow and the camera - a sort of Jackanory for grown-ups - rather than remain the recording of Callow

G2: Television: TV Review: Blown away

doing necessarily big acting for an audience in a large auditorium. It's not as if there was a cast of thousands who would have needed paying (it's a one-man show) and seeing as the BBC forked out to have Callow render the play for Radio 4 last Christmas, it seems unlikely the corporation cannot afford his daily rate. While it was a delight to see Callow's physicality boisterously transformed for each of Dickens' characters and for the author himself, this was paltry compensation.

If only life were as simple, wholesome and refreshing as Alan Titchmarsh - surrounded by emerald peas and juicy tubers under a cerulean sky - intimated in How to be a Gardener (BBC2). "Growing vegetables is the ultimate achievement. Dropping a seed in the soil, waiting and watching, hoping and helping, and finally stuffing it in your mouth."

Load-Date: April 4, 2002

End of Document

ROUNDUP: U.N. racism conference opens in S.Africa with call for unity

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 31, 2001, Friday, BC Cycle 16:03 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 694 words

Dateline: Durban, South Africa

Body

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan at the start of the World Conference Against Racism on Friday urged the international community to unite in its efforts to find common ground on racism and discrimination.

"If we leave here without agreement we shall give comfort to the worst elements in every society," he cautioned at the opening ceremony of the eight-day conference on Friday.

Annan called on the conference to admit that all countries had issues of racism and discrimination to address.

"Rather than pick on any one country or region let us aim to leave here with a commitment from every country to draw up and implement its own national plan to combat racism in accordance with general principles that we will have agreed.

"Let us rise above our disagreement. The wrangling has gone on for too long," Annan said. Mutual accusations were not the purpose of the conference, he noted.

Annan noted that the Jewish people had been victims of anti-Semitism in many parts of the world and the target in Europe of "the ultimate abomination" - the Holocaust.

It was therefore understandable, he said, that many Jews resented deeply accusations of racism directed against Israel, particularly when it coincided with "indiscriminate and totally unacceptable attacks on innocent civilians".

Yet we cannot expect Palestinians to accept this as a reason why the wrongs done to them - displacement, occupation, blockade, and now extra-judicial killings - should be ignored, whatever label one uses to describe it.

Over a dozen world leaders, some 6,000 delegates and dignitaries were in the port city of Durban at the start of the conference which is steeped in controversy over the question of the Middle East and reparations for slavery and colonialism.

Despite months of negotiations, the issue of a call by Arab nations for the inclusion of text which condemns Israel for discrimination against the Palestinians had by Friday yet to be resolved.

The issue of reparations also remained in dispute Friday while South African President Thabo Mbeki appealed to the conference to be inspired by "a new internationalism that says that we are determined to unite in action to repair the gross damage that was caused in the past."

ROUNDUP: U.N. racism conference opens in S.Africa with call for unity

Large parts of the conference declaration and programme of action, had by Friday, however been agreed, including text on issues such as indigeneous peoples, migrants, refugees and people of African descent, Annan told the assembly.

A team diplomats from the United States and a delegation from Israel was were among the more than 150 official delegations in attendance at the opening session on Friday.

The United States earlier threatened to boycott the conference over the inclusion of text equating Zionism with racism, but in a last-minute bid to negotiate its deletion dispatched a team to Durban on Thursday.

Israel despatched representatives to the conference which Jewish delegates at a related non-governmental organisation forum in the run-up to the conference alleged was rife with anti-Semitism and racism.

A strong anti-United States and anti-Israel sentiment meanwhile prevailed as Palestinian demands dominated a protest march meant to highlight an array of issues, through the streets of Durban on Friday.

Large groups of people among the crowd of an estimated 15,000 were seen carrying Palestinian flags, posters bearing anti-Zionist slogans and banners.

The protest also gave a voice to a activists representing the Dalits of south Asia, the Tibetan cause, Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers**, landless people, **women** and minority groups and local anti- privatisation protestors.

The protest came at the end of a five-day conference-related NGO forum which brought together an estimated 7,000 delegates from across the world.

Delegates at the conference will in the coming days debate the strategies and concrete measures to combat the global scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances.

The conference is expected to culminate in the adoption by September 7 of a final declaration and a programme of action. dpa bve cro

Eds: updating

Load-Date: September 1, 2001

World datelines

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

April 4, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 678 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret News wire services

Body

Czech Republic

PRAGUE -- An American stuntman died Thursday during an accident when filming a scene for Rob Cohen's new thriller "XXX," police said. Police spokesman Jan Holub refused to identify the 45-year-old victim, who died when he smashed into a bridge while parasailing after a boat in the Vltava River in downtown Prague. "XXX" is an urban spy thriller about an extreme-sports athlete recruited by authorities to infiltrate a crime ring.

England

LONDON -- Prime Minister Tony Blair is likely to tell President Bush at their weekend summit that he agrees Iraq poses a serious threat to the West but that now is not the time to launch an offensive against that country.

LONDON -- Thousands of guests were evacuated from a holiday park after a huge fire swept through the complex Thursday, police said. A spokeswoman for Center Parcs in Suffolk, eastern England, said the blaze had caused substantial damage to the complex, which is set in 400 acres of woodland and was occupied by some 3,500 guests and 400 staff. Nobody was reported injured in the fire.

France

PARIS -- More than 140 firefighters battled a blaze Thursday on the roof of the luxury Grand Hotel Intercontinental, which was empty because of renovations. No injuries were reported in the fire at the hotel, located on rue Scribe, near the Place de l'Opera.

India

AHMADABAD -- Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee traveled Thursday to the western state of Gujarat, hoping to end India's worst Hindu-Muslim fighting in a decade. Some Gujarat residents, however, said his visit came too late and would do little to stem the violence, which has left 817 people, mostly Muslims, dead in five weeks.

Liberia

MONROVIA -- The government reported a new rebel attack in the north on Thursday as U.N. officials toured the West African country to determine the effect of an arms embargo and other U.N. sanctions. President Charles Taylor's government is expected to use recent rebel attacks in support of his call for an end to the arms embargo, which it says prevents the government from properly defending itself.

World datelines

Nepal

KATMANDU -- Nepal's King Gyanendra on Thursday relaxed restrictions on the media and political parties that were imposed under a state of emergency the monarch declared in November. The measures were decreed on Nov. 26 after communist rebels withdrew from peace talks and launched a series of deadly attacks on police and the army.

Nigeria

ABUJA -- Villagers stormed a boat servicing a drilling rig off Nigeria's southern coast, taking hostage the 10 international and Nigerian oil workers aboard, Shell Oil said Thursday. The 10 workers -- one American, four Ghanaians, one Filipino and four Nigerians -- were captured Tuesday by 40 young men from the village of Amatu, Bayelsa state.

Somalia

MOGADISHU -- The American flag and seal looted from the U.S. Embassy in 1990 were returned to visiting U.S. diplomats, who left Thursday after urging faction leaders not to let this war-torn country become a terrorist haven. The president of Mogadishu University returned the battered U.S. flag, embassy seal and a bronze eagle during a Wednesday dinner in what he said was a goodwill gesture toward the United States.

South Africa

JOHANNESBURG -- The Constitutional Court upheld a ruling forcing the government to immediately begin distributing a key drug to HIV-infected pregnant women. The government, which has come under criticism for its often confusing approach to fighting AIDS, had resisted creating a widespread program to provide the drug nevirapine to HIV-infected pregnant women. The drug has been shown to severely reduce women's chances of passing the virus to their babies during labor.

Sri Lanka

COLOMBO -- The secretive leader of the Tamil Tigers will make his first public appearance in a decade next week to tell the rebels' version of Sri Lanka's 18-year-old separatist war, the rebels said Thursday. Velupillai Prabhakaran -- convicted in India of ordering the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi -- will hold a news conference in Sri Lanka's northern jungle area on Wednesday.

Load-Date: April 4, 2002

The Globe at a glance

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

October 27, 2000 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2000 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. C02; News

Length: 678 words

Body

1. Britain

Heath ready to quit

Former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath said he would give up his seat in the House of Commons at the next general election, which is expected in 2001. Sir Edward, 84, was prime minister from 1970 to 1974, when Margaret Thatcher replaced him as the Conservative Party leader.

2. Ireland

The Hamilton Spectator

Equality act in effect

The Equal Status Act went into effect to protect citizens against discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion and membership of the Gypsy community. The act creates a government position to handle discrimination complaints. The government recently faced criticism after the High Court ruled it had failed to provide adequate educational facilities for an autistic child.

3. Greece

German assets appeal

A court is hearing a new appeal by Germany against a decision to confiscate its assets in Greece to compensate victims of the Nazi regime. In October 1997 a Greek court ordered Germany to pay more than \$42 million in compensation to 295 descendants of 218 residents of the village of Distomo slain in 1944. In July a Greek bailiff began seizing German assets, but stopped until the appeal is heard.

4. Austria

Haider inquiry

Public prosecutors said they were investigating whether the far-right leader Joerg Haider may have received confidential police files about his political opponents. The allegations came to light in a book by a former police officer and Freedom Party activist, who said the police had been bribed to hand over information. Haider denied the allegations.

5. Italy

The Globe at a glance

Military cutbacks

Seeking to reduce the Italian military, the Senate approved a law abolishing obligatory military service. The changes will go into effect over seven years, gradually bringing down the number of Italian servicemen from 270,000 to 190,000. Men born in 1985 will be the last to be drafted.

6. Switzerland

Gay couples legislation

The government is preparing legislation to give legal status to gay couples, allowing homosexuals to register their union as a civil pact. The draft provisions would allow male couples to adopt children and female couples to seek medical help to become pregnant. The proposals must be approved by parliament before becoming law.

7. Russia

Twist in spy trial

The espionage trial of the American businessman Edmond Pope took an unexpected turn after a court agreed to allow a key witness to testify. The court had previously rejected the defence's request to call Anatoly Babkin, who Russia's Federal Security Service says sold Pope blueprints of a torpedo. Pope, who says the court is biased, continued his testimony.

8. Egypt

Blow to Mubarak

In a stunning blow to President Hosni Mubarak, only 38 of 118 seats in a runoff election for parliament went to his National Democratic Party. Most were won by candidates who were officially independent. But, perhaps ominously for Mubarak, three seats went to candidates endorsed by the banned Muslim Brotherhood, which hopes to convert Egypt into a fundamentalist state.

9. Uzbekistan

12 stand accused

Prosecutors in Tashkent accused 12 members of two outlawed Islamic groups of murder and terrorist acts. The accusations are the latest effort to stop what the government says are religious extremists intent on overthrowing President Islam Karimov. Human rights advocates say the rights of peaceful Muslims have been violated.

10. Sri Lanka

Mob kills 24 inmates

A detention centre in Sri Lanka was stormed by a mob, leaving 24 inmates dead. All were either surrendered Tamil Tigers or suspected of belonging to the rebel army. Military officials said they were stunned by the massacre, which is seen as a major blow to a rehabilitation program run by the government.

11. Indonesia

Threat to U.S. embassy

Chanting "Kill all Jews!" hundreds of Islamic students demonstrated at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, which suspended visa and consular services because of terrorist threats. Suspended services are scheduled to resume on Monday. Protesters have accused the United States of favouring Israel in the recent Middle East violence.

The Globe at a glance

Load-Date: November 5, 2001

End of Document

In the jaws of the Tigers

The Weekend Australian

May 13, 2000, Saturday

Copyright 2000 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 676 words

Body

The **Tamil Tigers**' success is founded on fanaticism, ruthlessness and fine-tuning the art of suicide bombing

ADVANCING Tamil Tiger rebels poured more fighters into a ferocious battle in the north of the country yesterday, claiming they were within 1km of Jaffna.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam also said they had taken two more military camps in the north of the island to place them on the outskirts of their former stronghold.

Government forces said 200 combatants were killed on both sides, insisting they were resisting the massive separatist push.

If the Tigers recapture Jaffna, it will be a crowning victory for the rebels, who have grown from a small band of barefoot fighters into one of the world's most sophisticated guerilla groups.

* AFP, Reuters

The Tigers are a formidable fighting machine equipped with battle tanks, armoured carriers, long-range artillery pieces, anti-aircraft missiles, machine guns and gunboats to patrol the seas.

Much of their arsenal has been captured from the Sri Lankan military, but a lot also has been smuggled from abroad.

The Tigers' ability to strike hard at the military and snatch spectacular victories even with a small number of fighters -- 5000 to 6000 troops -- emerged again last month when they overran the sprawling Elephant Pass military complex, which they lost in 1996. Sri Lankan army commander Lieutenant-General Sirilal Weerassoriya confessed to a stunned nation after the fall of Elephant Pass that the Tigers were better equipped than the 100,000-strong army.

The guerillas run a global network to raise funds, buy arms and conduct propaganda. The trademark cyanide suicide capsules, which all Tigers carry to take if captured alive, have set them apart from other rebel groups across the world.

The Tigers also are the world's only guerilla force to operate a naval wing, known as the Sea Tigers.

The guerillas, fighting for independence for the minority Tamil community in Sri Lanka's north and east, have a fearsome reputation for kamikaze attacks.

In the jaws of the Tigers

Tamil suicide bombers, known as Black Tigers, were blamed for the assassinations of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa and a string of other political and military leaders.

A suspected Tiger suicide bomber last December blew herself up at an election rally in Colombo in an attempt to assassinate President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who escaped with injuries.

The Tigers have never claimed responsibility for attacks against political and civilian targets.

The group is led by Velupillai Prabhakaran, who rarely emerges from his jungle hideout but has become a cult hero in his community. The rebels are barred from smoking and drinking liquor and need Prabhakaran's permission to get married.

A distinctive Tiger feature is the women's wing, used for intelligence gathering and fighting. The Government has accused the rebels of conscripting young children into their forces to fight against the army.

The Tigers were formed in the mid-1970s and originally were known as the Tamil New Tigers, with the explosive acronym TNT. Military and intelligence officials have consistently said the Tigers are short of manpower and are fighting their last battles.

But time and again the rebels have demonstrated they are not the spent force the Sri Lankan Government says, by launching massive attacks on army garrisons, killing or capturing thousands of troops in the past few years.

Mrs Kumaratunga has offered extensive autonomy to Tamils under a peace plan to settle the 16-year war in which more than 60,000 people have died, but the Tigers have shunned the offer.

As the fall of Jaffna appears imminent, it is not only the besieged Sri Lankan army that is quivering in its boots. The guerillas are bearing a long list of Tamil "collaborators" who face almost certain death.

An indication of how the Tigers would behave if they achieve their goal is the way they gave Jaffna's 40,000-strong Muslim population 24 hours to clear out the last time the guerillas took control of the peninsula.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Vote-rigging charges, violence colour elections in Sri Lanka

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

October 11, 2000, Wednesday, FINAL

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Section: News; B5

Length: 652 words

Byline: BETH DUFF-BROWN

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

As Sri Lankans waited for the results of an election that could stop the 17-year civil war, they also grieved yesterday for Sirimavo Bandaranaike, or Mrs. B, the matriarch of the country's politics.

Tens of thousands of people, including women in white saris and hundreds of saffron-robed Buddhist monks, grieved for Bandaranaike, 84, who died after casting her vote.

The larger political issues were overshadowed by charges of violence and vote rigging in parts of the country and by Bandaranaike's death.

The president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, has pursued a carrot-and-stick approach to the ethnic conflict. She tried to push through a new constitution that would have given Tamils greater political autonomy, but it was defeated in Parliament by the opposition. At the same time, her government has spent more than \$350 million in recent months on new military hardware for its war on the rebels, who have refused offers to negotiate.

The opposition leader, Ranil Wickremesinghe, has said that he, too, favours a political solution to the ethnic conflict. But he says that the government must first have more extensive consultations with the country's two most intransigent forces - the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have been fighting for a separate Tamil homeland since 1983, and the Sinhalese Buddhist monks, who have vociferously opposed any grant of autonomy to the Tamils.

Kumaratunga, leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, and Wickremesinghe are bitter foes. Despite the fact that their parties are not that far apart on the major political and economic issues facing the country, they have proved unable to work together.

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, 84, the world's first female prime minister and the mother of the current president, cast a pall over the parliamentary elections. The government imposed a curfew in Colombo between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of Kumaratunga's party at Ragama, 30 kilometres northeast of the capital, police said. One of the wounded was in critical condition.

Police blamed the attack on political rivalry between Kumaratunga's party and that of her chief rival, the United National Party of former prime minister Wickremesinghe.

Vote-rigging charges, violence colour elections in Sri Lanka

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

The president, who lost an eye to a suicide bomber on Dec. 18, hopes the new constitution will win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war, which has killed 63,000 people and displaced one million.

Kumaratunga's People's Alliance took an early lead in postal ballots, which come from government or military officials or others posted in areas where they are not registered to vote, the Election Commission said. People's Alliance had 46 per cent of the 46,500 postal ballots counted.

The race was primarily between the two main parties: Kamaratunga's People's Alliance and the United National Party, although a record 5,477 candidates from 29 parties and 90 other groups were vying for 225 seats in Parliament in the election.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island country off the southern tip of India, **Tamil Tigers** shelled an administrative centre in Jaffna, which has been under siege since 1995.

The opening of the vote was preceded by two attacks that left three people dead, including a 6-year-old daughter of a ruling party official, police said.

The fatalities brought the total number of people killed in election violence to 66 since campaigning started five weeks ago.

the new york times contributed to this report

Load-Date: October 11, 2000

End of Document

Shelling, political death overshadows crucial elections

The Associated Press

October 10, 2000, Tuesday, BC cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 653 words

Byline: By DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of the matriarch of Sri Lankan politics cast a pall over parliamentary elections Tuesday that could determine the course of the nation's 17-year civil war.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority Tamils. She hopes to win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war.

Many Sri Lankans went to the polls with peace on their minds, hoping the election would help stop the killing here.

By the end of the day, however, they were stunned by news that Kumaratunga's mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike - who 40 years ago became the world's first **female** prime minister - had died of a heart attack shortly after casting her ballot.

Bandaranaike, 84, was first elected prime minister July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India. She regained the office for a third time in 1994, but retired in August to let Kumaratunga appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections to help the battle against the rebels.

Kumaratunga issued no comment on her mother's death.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island nation off the southern tip of India, Tamil Tiger rebels shelled an administrative center in Jaffna, a northern city that has been under siege for years.

Reports from Jaffna, the center of the Tamil war, said 15 to 20 shells fell around the main administrative building before voting started. The army also discovered a time-activated bomb at the city's bus station shortly before polling started. No casualties were reported in either incident.

The **Tamil Tigers**' quest for an independent homeland for the nation's 3.2 million Tamils has claimed about 63,000 lives.

Kumaratunga hopes her seven-party coalition can win the two-thirds majority of legislative seats needed to pass the constitution. The coalition failed to pass the draft constitution in August.

Shelling, political death overshadows crucial elections

The race Tuesday was primarily between the two main parties: Kumaratunga's People's Alliance and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party. A record 5,477 candidates were vying for 225 seats in parliament in the election.

Just after the polls closed, the two leading parties began leveling accusations of vote-rigging, violence and slayings. The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence urged the Elections Commissioner to annul the votes in at least 210 of the 9,500 polling centers.

"The nature and extent of violations have been so widespread and serious as to render the final outcome in these areas utterly meaningless," the center said in a statement.

Reports from around the country indicated widespread problems at polling booths.

The United National Party accused Kumaratunga's People's Alliance of shooting and killing two party supporters at Anuradhapura and Matale, 100 miles and 60 miles east of Colombo. Police confirmed the death in Anuradhapura. The shooting in Matale could not be immediately verified.

The voting was preceded by two attacks that left three people dead - including the 6-year-old daughter of a ruling-party official - and nine wounded, police said.

Two members of Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance were dragged out of their vehicles near Kandy after midnight and beaten to death, police officer Sanath Happugale said by telephone. The area is 55 miles east of the capital, Colombo.

In the second incident, a grenade was thrown into the house of the People's Alliance vice chairman of a southern village council in Elpitiya, killing his 6-year-old daughter.

The fatalities brought the total number of people killed in election violence to 65 since campaigning started five weeks ago.

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: <http://www.eelamweb.com>

Sri Lankan government: <http://www.priu.gov.lk>

Graphic

AP Photos COL101-102

Load-Date: October 11, 2000

Stupid is as stupid does

The Advertiser

September 21, 1999, Tuesday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 52

Length: 608 words

Byline: SCOTT MOORE

Body

IT could be coincidence, but I see conspiracy. My daughter, Kelly, aged 3 (going on 16), refers to my Suzuki as "the slacker's car". Looking at that little doll's face, I find it hard to believe she has figured this out for herself.

My wife claims innocence. She also claims to have had no part in my little angel's order, as I headed for the driver's side, that "Mummy has to drive. Daddy, you can't drive; you're too stupid". I have a piece of plastic that says I'm not too stupid, no matter what my insurance company may think. Where has this come from? How did I become "knucklehead"?

Watching television, Kelly is confronted by men who can't cook anything except mashed potato, can't operate a washing machine, put their drying in the microwave and so on. It's trendy these days for adverts to present women as powerful, confident units and men as idiots that need everything made simple.

Here's a wake-up call, ad makers: many men use and hence buy washing machines. My wife got me with the old "do it badly the first time and you won't have to do it again" ploy, turning my favorite white shirt pink, so she hasn't been allowed near the washing machine for 10 years. I am not excited by ads portraying men as laundry geeks. Give us an ad where a bloke confidently washes his smalls (laundry smalls, that is) while Claudia Schiffer purrs: "I love a man who knows how to handle my delicates."

Though I am not allowed to blame my wife for my girl's biases, it's a different story when my Year 1 boy talks. At a recent parent-teacher night, I was handed a selection of his term's work. This included a project about differences between boys and girls. What is the difference between how boys and girls are made?

"Girls have vaginas and boys run fast," my son replied.

When asked what the differences between the boys and girls in his class were, he replied: "The boys are good at football and cricket and the girls like skipping and are pretty."

The words were his, but the raised eyebrows were directed at guess who? Me. Or more correctly, all men.

Bloody women, they all generalise. Not that we don't sometimes. English poet Alexander Pope said that "every woman is at heart a rake". I presume he wasn't talking about a garden implement as, I can assure you, dragging your wife around the lawn will not pick up autumn leaves.

That renown wag Sir William Gilbert, in Princess Ida, countered masterfully for the ladies with: "Man's a ribald man's a rake, Man is Nature's sole mistake." Thanks, mate!

Stupid is as stupid does

New Idea had a section called Mere Male, in which women had held their helpmeets up to public ridicule. Maybe it still does. In reply, here are three examples of mere female:

A friend was cautioned by his then girlfriend, now wife, not to run over the reflectors on the road so as not to "break the little lights".

Another, reading the news, said: "How about those Tamil Tigers killing that army patrol in their jeep?". "How, the hell did a tiger get into the jeep?" his shocked partner asked.

Musing about George Michael's indecency charge, after an incident in a public toilet, someone said he might have been "spanking the monkey" (a crude colloquialism for interfering with himself). A horrified wife, her face screwed up with distaste asked: "Did he have a monkey in there?"

These stories are useful when the inevitable dinner party tales of men's embarrassing mistakes are raised. They came out recently at dinner at a Greek restaurant. I must admit to feeling a little smug at the reaction.

The effect was ruined somewhat when I dipped my quail in what turned out to be the fingerbowl and complained "this sauce hasn't got much taste." Doh!

Load-Date: March 7, 2002

President survives suicide bomber

The Australian

December 20, 1999, Monday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 7

Length: 664 words

Byline: IAN MacKINNON * Colombo

Body

STRINGENT security measures were imposed across the Sri Lankan capital yesterday after the President survived an assassination attempt by a woman suicide bomber at the President's final election rally ahead of tomorrow's poll.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga underwent eye surgery to remove shrapnel, but was out of danger after the blast in central Colombo which killed 21 people and wounded at least 84.

A second blast, also detonated by a ***female*** suicide bomber within minutes of the first explosion on Saturday evening, killed 12 people and injured 45 more at a rally in support of the President's key rival, Ranil Wickremasinghe.

While no group claimed responsibility for the blasts, few doubted they were the work of the ***Tamil Tigers*** who have waged a bloody 16-year separatist war in the north of the island and regard President Kumaratunga as their biggest target.

In the early hours of yesterday morning, the President's spokesman went on state-run television to explain she remained in hospital with minor injuries and had appealed to her countrymen to remain calm.

However, a curfew was imposed throughout the night across Colombo after the attempt on her life at 9.20pm on Saturday. Police and army road-blocks curtailed movement and armoured cars cruised the streets as a senior army officer warned of further attacks in the days ahead.

There was no suggestion yesterday that voting among the country's 11.5 million electorate in tomorrow's snap presidential poll would be delayed by the blasts which may earn the President a sympathy vote.

Ms Kumaratunga had just left the stage after delivering an hour-long address to 3000 followers who had waited for hours in a monsoon downpour in the grounds of Colombo's town hall.

As she prepared to get into her armoured Mercedes limousine parked near the stage, the bomber, who somehow evaded the high security, began to scale railings more than 20m from the dais.

Police believe she was wearing a jacket packed with explosives which were detonated when she was still 10m from the car. Ms Kumaratunga fell to the ground, but was saved when the car between her and the bomber took the force of the blast.

President survives suicide bomber

Colombo's police deputy inspector-general was caught by shrapnel and died, while three government ministers -- Alavi Mowlana, professor Gamini Peiris and Kingsley Wickremeratna -- were being treated in intensive care.

Forensic experts spent much of the night sifting through the carnage of bloodied and broken bodies. Blue election streamers still fluttered in the breeze while a hand-painted portrait of the President was spattered with blood.

Lake Kodituwakku, Colombo's police chief, inspected the grim aftermath but was unable to explain the security lapse.

"There was a huge security presence," Mr Kodituwakku said. "(But) it was raining (and) in the night it is difficult for security persons."

A similar breakdown in security allowed a suicide bomber to claim the life of then president Premadasa Ranasinghe in May 1993.

In the presidential campaign the following year, the United National Party candidate Gamini Dissanayake and 20 others also died in a suicide blast.

Killer campaign

April 21, 1987: Bomb blast at bus station kills 111.

July 5, 1987: Explosives-laden truck kills 40 troopers.

Nov 9, 1987: Car bomb attack on police station kills 28.

March 2, 1991: Defence minister among 19 killed.

June 22, 1991: Attack on Joint Operations Command kills 21.

May 1, 1993: President Ranasinghe Premadasa and 23 others killed.

Oct 24, 1994: Suicide blast kills opposition leader Gamini Dissanayake and 56 others.

Aug 7, 1995: 22 killed in attack in Colombo.

Jan 31, 1996: 91 killed and 1400 injured when truck bomb explodes in Colombo's CBD.

July 24, 1996: Two bombs on a train kill 70 and injure 600.

Oct 15, 1997: 20 killed, 105 injured by Colombo lorry bomb.

Jan 25, 1998: Truck bomb kills 16 in Kandy, damaging holiest Buddhist shrine.

Sept 24, 1999: 18 killed and 30 injured in a mine attack on a military convoy in Batticaloa.

* AFP

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Datelines

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

September 21, 1999, Tuesday

Copyright 1999 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 705 words

Body

Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian police arrested three more allies of former finance minister Anwar Ibrahim on Tuesday in a crackdown on the opposition following mass anti-government protests spurred by allegations he was poisoned.

Philippines

MANILA -- Transport strikes crippled four cities in the Philippines on Tuesday, and more than 100,000 protesters marched to oppose President Joseph Estrada's plan to rewrite the nation's constitution.

China

BEIJING -- China plans to launch a research satellite in October to monitor natural resources, environmental pollution and climatic changes, the Science and Technology Digest, said on Tuesday.

Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR -- Three key opposition activists were arrested in what appears to be a fresh crackdown on dissent following a wave of demonstrations in support of hospitalized opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim.

Germany

BERLIN -- Pope John Paul has written to German Roman Catholic bishops telling them that the church can no longer hand out counselling certificates to women to enable them to get abortions, a German newspaper said on Tuesday.

Japan

TOKYO -- Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi cruised to an easy victory in the race for president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Tuesday, ensuring he remains premier by virtue of the LDP's grip on parliament.

Indonesia

JAKARTA -- A leader of Indonesia's ruling party said Tuesday it would stick with beleaguered President B.J. Habibie as its candidate for a presidential election in November.

Datelines

JAKARTA -- Shots were fired at the Australian embassy in the Indonesian capital on Monday night, damaging several offices, but no one was hurt, an embassy official said.

Cambodia

PHNOM PENH -- A Cambodian opposition leader urged foreign powers to pressure Prime Minister Hun Sen into accepting a U.N.-administered genocide tribunal for Khmer Rouge guerrilla leaders.

Kenya

NAIROBI -- Thirteen people died, one was blinded and another 16 were hospitalized after drinking home-made beer at a bar in central Kenya, police said on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka

COLOMBO -- Hardline Sinhala nationalists said Tuesday they would seek public support to pressure the Sri Lankan government to intensify its war against Tamil Tigers after the rebels massacred more than 50 civilians in the east.

France

MARSEILLE -- A French court on Tuesday rejected attempts to postpone the fraud trial of seven Church of Scientology officials after legal evidence in the case disappeared.

Lebanon

MARJAYOUN -- Two pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army militiamen were killed in a guerrilla attack in south Lebanon on Tuesday, an SLA source said.

Mexico

OAXACA -- Landslides blocked coastal highways and closed bridges in southern Mexico, while the death toll from more than a week of heavy rains in Mexico climbed to 14, authorities said.

Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO -- Britain's famous fugitive, the "Great Train Robber" Ronnie Biggs, 70, is well on the road to recovery after suffering a mild stroke last week, a spokeswoman said Monday.

Burundi

BUJUMBURA -- Hutu rebels attacked a suburb several miles from the president's residence in Burundi's capital, killing at least six people, an army spokesman said Monday.

Israel

TEL AVIV -- Prime Minister Ehud Barak left Israel on Tuesday on the first visit to Berlin by a foreign leader since it became the seat of government of a united Germany for the first time since World War Two.

France

PARIS, Sept 21 (Reuters) -- A power struggle within French President Jacques Chirac's fractured RPR party turned into a free-for-all on Tuesday when a sixth candidate entered the race to lead the Gaullist movement.

Michele Alliot-Marie, a former youth and sports minister and the only woman candidate so far, became the third Gaullist in as many days to enter the race to head the Rally.

Philippines

Datelines

MANILA, Sept 21 (Reuters) - Transport strikes crippled four cities in the Philippines on Tuesday and more than 100,000 protesters marched to oppose President Joseph Estrada's plan to rewrite the nation's constitution.

Russia

MOSCOW, Sept 21 (Reuters) - Leaders of Chechnya's neighbours in the North Caucasus, ordered by Moscow to seal their borders with the rebel republic, have launched their own initiative to ease mounting tensions in the region, officials said on Tuesday.

Load-Date: September 21, 1999

End of Document

BC-Cdn-News-Digest, Rpt ; REPEATING to fix date

The Canadian Press (CP)

August 25, 1996 Sunday

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Section: NATIONAL GENERAL NEWS

Length: 676 words

Body

Canadian News Digest

Sunday, Aug. 25, 1996

By The Canadian Press

Town mourns loss of heroic woman and mother

PRINCETON, B.C. (CP) - Hay bales stacked beside the pulpit held the boots and saddle of Cindy Parolin as 600 mourners paid respects Saturday to a heroic woman who died saving her son from a cougar.

Parolin, 36, an experienced outdoorswoman, was killed Monday by a 27-kilogram cougar that attacked her six-year-old son Steven after it spooked his horse and he fell off.

She used a stick to beat it away from her child, but the cat turned on her.

The diversion allowed two of her other children to carry Steven away and get help.

The attack occurred as the mother, brother David, 13, and sister Melissa, 11, were on a horseback trip to a wilderness cabin in the province's southern Interior. They were to join the father and another 10-year-old son. ---

Mourners pay homage to native-rights activist

MONTREAL (CP) - About 200 mourners gathered at an old church on the Kahnawake Mohawk reserve to bid farewell to a native-rights activist whose campaign to change a discriminatory law altered the lives of many aboriginal women.

Mary Two-Axe Earley, 84, died last Wednesday of respiratory failure after she had been ill for years and hospitalized since February.

The Mohawk woman had been lobbying since 1968 to strike a section of the Indian Act that robbed aboriginal women of their native status when they married non-native men. The same provision didn't apply to native men.

When the Conservative government amended the Indian Act in July 1985, she became the first aboriginal woman in the country to win back her native status. ---

Tories approve tax cuts, balanced books - if they can form government WINNIPEG (CP) - Progressive Conservatives should cut income taxes by 10 to 20 per cent in their first four years if they can form government, delegates to a national policy meeting decided Saturday.

It was one of the more hotly contested issues and was approved narrowly.

John Crosbie, finance minister in the short-lived Conservative government of Joe Clark, said the Tories should fight the deficit and debt.

"Let's not try to fool ourselves," he said. "You can't have your cake and eat it too."

But tax cuts, considered a sure vote-getter by the party's youth wing, won the day.

"We're very very pleased that the party came out in favor of a tax cut with numbers in front of it," said youth president Tasha Kheiriddin, 24, a Montreal lawyer. ---

One pilot killed in Labrador crash

GOOSE BAY, Nfld. (CP) - One pilot was killed and three others injured after two German jet fighters crashed during low-level training exercises over Labrador on Saturday.

The Tornado jets, with two crewmembers aboard each, went down about 130 kilometres west of Goose Bay.

Three crewmembers were picked up shortly after the crash and were airlifted to hospital at Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay, where they were in stable condition.

Their injuries were not life threatening, said Capt. Vicki Fraser of CFB Goose Bay.

The fourth pilot was found dead some time after the crash.

The pilots were part of a visiting German naval squadron conducting routine flying training. Their names were being withheld until the families were notified. ---

In Short:

New refugee hearing for Sri Lankan orphan

TORONTO (CP) - The Federal Court has given a second chance to a nine-year-old Sri Lankan boy facing conscription by the **Tamil Tigers** terrorist group if he's deported. The court ordered a new refugee hearing for the orphaned child after an Immigration and Refugee Board refused him status in 1994. ---

N.S. doctor becomes CMA president

HALIFAX (CP) - For Dr. Judith Kazimirski, the fight to improve Canada's health-care system is as wide as the nation and as close as the Nova Scotia town she calls home. The 54-year-old family physician from Windsor took over the presidency of the Canadian Medical Association this week. ---

What's Ahead:

OTTAWA - Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police opens 91st annual conference.

WINNIPEG - Federal Progressive Conservative national policy conference concludes.

Load-Date: October 11, 2002

Leaders' wives avoid protests on Fife day trip

Scotland on Sunday

October 26, 1997, Sunday

Copyright 1997 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 677 words

Byline: By Geraldine Murray And James Murray

Body

IT WAS the corporate wives' day to end all others. While their husbands got on with the heady business of negotiations at CHOGM, some of their wives headed out of Edinburgh - and away from a series of street protests - for a well-earned break.

About half of the partners of the heads of state attended the Wifey's in Fife tour, although neither of the two male spouses chose to join them.

Those present included Aline Chretien, the Canadian prime minister's wife, Joan Bolger, wife of the New Zealand prime minister, and Janette Howard, the Australian prime minister's wife.

First stop was Culross, the conservation village restored by the National Trust for Scotland, where the women trooped off two buses and into Culross Palace.

Dressed in an aubergine trouser suit with matching full-length coat, Cherie Blair led the wives across the courtyard to where children from Inchkeith school and Culross primary school were waiting to sing for them.

Blair clapped her hands with delight as she recognised 'Mhairi's Wedding' and joined in. She was also in fine voice for a rendition of 'Coulter's Candy', although she warned the children not to eat too much of the sweet itself because it was bad for their teeth.

Back in Edinburgh, and the women had lunch at Prestonfield House Hotel, where they were joined by Queen Sibonelo of Swaziland, who wore a cream suit and hat with gold trimming. As peacocks strutted around the lawns, the women relaxed and chatted as they posed at the official photocall before going in for a lunch given by Bunmi Anyaoku, wife of the Commonwealth secretary general.

Later it was Mrs Anyaoku's turn to demonstrate her talents as children from the Craigmillar Out Of School project sang a rousing South African celebration song, 'Shosholozza'. They were led by 23-year-old exchange student Zanele Beauty Ntloko.

The visit to the Craigmillar Festival Community Centre also allowed Blair to surf the Labour party website.

One student, Rebecca, asked how much pocket money Blair thought parents should give their children. "As much as their parents think is proper.

My eldest gets £ 3, my next son, £ 2.50 and my daughter £ 2. Not very generous am I?" she laughed.

Leaders' wives avoid protests on Fife day trip

She also said that although her children did not have their own e-mail addresses, they often used hers, which tended to cost her a lot of money.

One of the missing leaders' partners was then in the city centre praising the work of Diana, Princess of Wales, in pushing for a global ban on landmines.

Graca Machel, Nelson Mandela's partner, joined forces with Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd at a CHOGM fringe meeting. She said: "May I say I was particularly impressed with the work done by Princess Diana on landmines.

The children of Africa will not forget that. Her efforts were a very strong boost to the campaign."

A treaty banning landmines is due to be signed in Ottawa in December. The problem, as Lloyd put it, is that more mines are being laid today than are being blown up. And he said it would take 1,000 years to rid the world of them if a ban was enforced now.

Earlier, more than 1,000 supporters of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka marched through the centre of Edinburgh to demand a separate homeland.

The group marched near Waverley Station before marching part way along Princes Street for a rally at the Meadows.

One protester carried a placard saying 'Scotland - You Won Your Wars. Ours Still Face Us.'

Demonstrator Ken Kangeyan, who had travelled from London, said: "At least you have got devolution. We have got nothing."

Yesterday Sri Lankan troops rounded up more than 1,000 people in and around the capital Colombo following a bomb blast last week which killed 18 people.

The **Tamil Tigers** are thought to have been responsible for the killings, although they have not admitted they planted the bomb.

Sri Lankan president Chandrika Kumaratunga is to meet South African president Nelson Mandela in St Andrews to urge him to clamp down on Tamil Tiger training camps in South Africa.

The terror group is fighting for self-government in north-eastern Sri Lanka.

Load-Date: December 17, 1997

COLOMBO EXPO TAKES WAR FROM THE FORE

THE AUSTRALIAN

November 25, 1997, Tuesday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FINANCE; Pg. 29

Length: 671 words

Byline: Joe Parkes

Body

IT is not that the tragic internal war between Sri Lanka's government forces and the rebel Tamil Tigers has ended - far from it.

It is just that Sri Lankan business and its international customers have grown tired of the intrusion of violent politics into daily commercial life and have decided to do something about it.

While fighters on both sides continued to die, Sri Lanka earlier this month welcomed the business world back to Colombo to attend a carefully planned Expo '97. The effort was worth it.

MATP

Nearly 6000 foreign visitors mostly businesspeople from the United States, Britain, Japan, Russia, Germany, Italy, France, Korea, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh attended the Expo and the contracts written have sent a signal to the world that things are looking up.

The organisers said Expo '97 generated \$6.5 million of export orders with another \$13 million of export sales under negotiation.

The biggest sales winner was the garments industry.

Alas, there was no record of Australian buyers attending the Colombo Expo -which is not to say Australians are unknown in this part of the world.

A couple of young Australians with clear faith in Sri Lanka's future are James Whight and his companion Gabrielle, who have combined a passion for cricket with a love of food to open Sri Lanka's first "Cricket Club Caf  ". It is a charming little clubhouse on Colombo's Queens Road (tel +94 1 501384) surrounded by spacious grounds and an authentic beer garden with a signpost indicating the distance to such cricketing shrines as the MCG and Lord's.

Inside, the main refreshment area is named The Bradman Bar in deference to Australia's greatest cricketer. There is even a takeaway. You could be back on Bondi Beach. First over at 9am and stumps at 11pm.

Hotels have their own taxi services or ranks where private taxis are available at fixed rates for specific journeys. You can hire a self-drive car but negotiating Sri Lanka's roads, with their deregulated buses and hordes of car and truck drivers playing at being Ben Hur, means you are better off hiring a car with a chauffeur.

TOWN

COLOMBO EXPO TAKES WAR FROM THE FORE

Anyone visiting Sri Lanka should at least make a side trip to the ancient capital of Kandy. There is now a first class observation car on the Colombo-Kandy intercity express which takes about three hours for the spectacular journey.

The old city is more relaxed and a great deal more charming than Colombo.

Australian passport holders can enter Sri Lanka for 30 days without a visa.

PORTENTS

Foreign Affairs and Trade warns that Australians travelling in Sri Lanka should exercise particular care in Colombo where the possibility of random terrorist attacks cannot be ruled out. Travel in the northern and eastern provinces should be avoided.

Japanese B encephalitis is on the increase in Sri Lanka. Visitors should consider vaccinations before leaving home. Colombo remains a marvellous place to go bargain shopping, especially for designer garments. A lot of boutiques and shops have factory seconds and overruns from label manufacturers such as Esprit, London Fog, Eddie Bauer and Victoria's Secret. Women's label jackets can be had for as little as \$7.

Be ready for Sri Lanka's tax surcharges. On top of the universal 10 per cent service charge there is another 10 per cent business turnover tax on restaurant food.

Best fare available in the ticket shops is a combined Qantas/British Airways and Air Lanka routing from Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne or Sydney to Colombo with a connection in either Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur or Hong Kong; return economy at \$1561.

Colombo is well supplied with fine hotels, including the Ceylon InterContinental on Janadhipathi Mawatha, (tel +94 1 21221 fax 447326), the genteel if slightly faded Galle Face hotel on Kollupitiya Road, (tel +94 1 541010 fax 541072) and the Hilton Colombo at Echelon Square on Lotus Road, (tel +94 1 544644 fax 544657). In Kandy, choose The Suisse, a 95-room colonial redoubt built in 1909 and renovated in 1982.

It overlooks Kandy Lake. (tel +94 8 32083 fax 32083).

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

BRIEFLY

The Ottawa Citizen

November 26, 1995, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; BRIEFLY; Pg. A3

Length: 728 words

Byline: CITIZEN NEWS SERVICES

Body

Nigeria

Body Shop helped activist escape to Britain, says report

LONDON -- Owens Wiwa, brother of executed Nigerian tribal rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, has fled to Britain where he is in hiding, the Sunday Times newspaper reported. It said Wiwa escaped Nigeria with the help of cosmetic retailer Body Shop International, which campaigned on behalf of Saro-Wiwa. Nigeria's military government executed Saro-Wiwa, a prominent novelist and playwright, and eight other activists this month in spite of international protests.

Sri Lanka

Government renews offer

of settlement to Tamil Tigers

NEW DELHI -- With its troops close to capturing the rebel city of Jaffna after a six-week-old offensive that has seen the bloodiest fighting in 12 years of civil war, the Sri Lankan government has renewed its offer of a political settlement with the Tamil Tiger separatists. In an interview published in a Sri Lankan magazine, President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said the government was ready for negotiations, but only if the rebels agreed to surrender at least some of their weapons to show they intended to negotiate seriously.

United States

Family offers reward for clues

to fate of missing millionaire

VICKSBURG, Mississippi -- Dogs searched a wooded area Saturday for the body of a millionaire missing for a week from her bloodied home. And the family of missing Jacqueline Levitz offered a \$ 10,000 reward for information leading to any arrests in what is being treated as a homicide. Levitz, 62, was last seen alive on Nov. 18, buying wallpaper for the house she had bought after moving from Palm Beach, Florida, last month. On Monday, a relative found the door to her house open. There was blood on a bedroom carpet and police found her mattress soaked with blood.

BRIEFLY

Earthquake after earthquake shakes Yellowstone park

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyoming -- More than 1,200 earthquakes have rumbled Yellowstone National Park this year, up from 800 last year and 179 the year before. While this park is world famous for its skyrocketing geysers, simmering hot pools and bubbling mudpots, what is less well known, because it is invisible, is the underground volcano that created these geothermal attractions. This volcano, known as a caldera, is believed to be causing the strings of earthquakes, known as swarms.

Britain

One grouse on the head,
worth fistful of pheasants

HELMINGHAM HALL ESTATE -- Two months after being beamed by a bird, the Queen scored a fowl -- in fact, a flock of them. The Queen was seen smiling and clutching a brace of pheasants on Saturday, following a bird shoot at her property south of London. In September, the Queen suffered a bruised shoulder during a shoot in Scotland, when a shot grouse fell out of the sky.

Queen to reign 20 more years,
insurance actuaries predict

LONDON -- The Queen will probably live and reign for another 20 years, becoming the longest-surviving monarch in British history, insurance actuaries predict. Three experts on life expectancy told the Independent on Sunday, Prince Charles will probably only reign for 13 years -- compared with Elizabeth's expected 60 years on the throne.

Poland

President-elect quits party,
pledges equality to all Poles

WARSAW -- In a conciliatory move intended to heal deep political and emotional rifts after Poland's elections, president-elect Aleksander Kwasniewski resigned Saturday from the political organization he created six years ago on the ashes of the Communist Party. As he handed in his membership card, No.13, he told applauding supporters of the Social Democracy Party that he wanted there to be no doubt about his ability to treat all Poles in an "equal way."

France

Tens of thousands march
to defend women's rights

PARIS -- Thousands of people marched through the streets of Paris on Saturday to support abortion rights and other women's issues. The broad boulevards of the city centre were a rowdy sea of singing, dancing demonstrators and banners. Police said 20,000 people marched from the Place de la Bastille to the Opera, but demonstration organizers claimed twice that many participants. With the rise in anti-abortion groups and May's election of a conservative government, many French people now fear such long-acquired rights such as abortion may not last.

Citizen news services

Load-Date: November 27, 1995

BRIEFLY

End of Document

Contains items from South Korea, Japan and Indonesia. Some of these stories also moved earlier today as separates.

Associated Press International

May 10, 2000; Wednesday

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Section: Financial pages

Length: 2504 words

Dateline: SEOUL, South Korea

Body

General Motors Corp. has no plan to close down any Daewoo Motor Co. operations in case of a takeover, GM Chairman John F. Smith Jr. said Wednesday.

"We're here to grow Daewoo. We feel very comfortable we can do that," Smith said, commenting on local concerns about a foreign takeover of the ailing South Korean carmaker.

Smith came to Seoul Monday for a three-day visit which included a review of GM's plan to take over Daewoo and a visit to an international motor show under way in Seoul to promote the sale of imported cars in South Korea, a major car market.

Smith said GM would run Daewoo Motor "as a Korean company, with its own brand."

By taking over Daewoo, GM can strengthen its presence in Asia, which is expected to become the fastest growing auto market in the world.

Daewoo workers have staged strikes to protest a possible takeover of Daewoo by a foreign carmaker, fearing that it would lead to mass layoffs.

GM and Ford Motor Co. are front-runners in international bidding for Daewoo. Also taking part in the bidding are DaimlerChrysler AG, Fiat SpA of Italy and Hyundai Motor Co. of South Korea.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

Prosecutors said Wednesday they were looking for a Korean-American lobbyist suspected of bribing South Korean officials to help a French firm win a multibillion-dollar bullet-train project.

Choi Man-sok, 59, who worked as a lobbyist for the project for France's GEC-Alsthom in the early 1990s, was banned from leaving the country pending investigation, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said Choi received \$11 million from GEC-Alsthom through his Hong Kong bank account shortly after the French firm won South Korea's largest public project in 1994.

Contains items from South Korea , Japan and Indonesia . Some of these stories also moved earlier today as separates.

About dlr\$ 3.86 million of the sum was later transferred to another lobbyist Ho Ki-choon, 51, who allegedly introduced Choi to influential government officials and politicians, they said.

Prosecutors arrested Ho on bribery charges Tuesday. But she said through her lawyer that she herself did not bribe any government officials.

"Right now we are focusing on apprehending Choi Man-sok," senior prosecutor Park Sang-kil said at a briefing.

Park said the two were believed to have engaged in covert, illegal lobbying, because they had never officially declared themselves to be lobbyists and never operated an office for that purpose.

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TOKYO (AP)

Japan's Toshiba Corp. and a major U.S. supplier of flash data storage products will invest dlr\$ 700 million in a manufacturing plant and create 600 jobs in the United States, the Japanese company said Wednesday.

Toshiba and SanDisk Corp. recently agreed to build a new semiconductor company to produce advanced flash memory chips by using fabrication space at Dominion Semiconductor in Manassas, Virginia, Toshiba said in a release.

Toshiba and SanDisk will each take 50 percent of Dominion's flash memory production and separately market them, the Japanese company said.

Flash memory chips produced at the new plant will be mainly used to make flash memory cards for use in digital cameras, digital music players and next-generation cellular phones, the company said.

Production at the joint venture plant, called Flash Vision LLC, is to start in the second half of next year, with its annual sales projected at more than dlr\$ 1 billion by 2002.

With annual sales of over dlr\$ 50 billion, Toshiba now employs 198,000 people worldwide. SanDisk, based in Sunnyvale, California, also makes digital imaging and audio storage products.

—

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

Operations at the world's largest copper and gold mine will be suspended if the government determines it polluted an area around it during a recent flood, an official said Wednesday.

The comment by Indonesian Environment Minister Sonny Keraf came as a government fact-finding team was about to return to Jakarta from a visit to Grasberg, where the U.S.-based Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Inc. mine is located in West Papua province.

The company, which is headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana, operates the mine in a remote area of Indonesia about 4,000 kilometers (2,500 miles) east of the capital.

Last Thursday, four subcontracted Freeport workers were swept away in a flood after a rock-waste containment facility collapsed, causing the overflow of an adjoining water basin. The basin holds potentially toxic materials such as refuse containing copper ore. The bodies of the four workers could not be found.

"We have reported this incident to the president, and if there is enough evidence I will ask the police to investigate," Keraf told reporters before a Cabinet meeting.

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SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

Compaq Computer Corp. of the United States said Wednesday it will invest dlrs 100 million in South Korean Internet companies this year.

The global computer maker said the money will be spent on forming strategic alliances with Korean Internet service providers, strengthening its service and consulting in the Internet area through mergers or partnerships.

It also said it will enhance e-commerce and electronic banking activities in the country.

(ss-buros)

Asia ranks close behind Africa in the use of child soldiers by government forces and rebel groups alike, according to a report released Wednesday.

The survey by the non-governmental Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers says the use of children in armed conflicts is particularly widespread in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Afghanistan.

"Although not all have been deployed to the front line, many have fought and died for causes about which they may have had little or no understanding," said the report.

"Others have joined armed groups because of their own traumatic experience of abuse at the hands of state authorities or lack of economic alternatives."

Most rebel movements in the region use and recruit child soldiers, including Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers and the Philippines' Abu Sayyaf Islamic separatist group, which is currently holding hostage Western tourists, coalition spokesman Rory Mungoven said at a news conference.

The coalition, which includes Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and World Vision International, issued the survey ahead of a conference on the topic to be held next week in Katmandu, Nepal.

The four-day conference will be attended by the representatives of 15 governments and more than 100 non-governmental organizations, along with United Nations experts, said Mungoven. Similar conferences have already been held in Africa, Latin America and Europe.

"Asia ranks close behind Africa in the appalling use of tens of thousands of children who are being used literally as canon fodder in almost every conflict in the region," said Mungoven.

Mungoven said the coalition's goal "is to put the use of children as soldiers, the use of children as weapons of war, on the same moral and legal footing as land mines, as chemical weapons, as biological weapons, as something that is simply beyond the pale in conflict situations."

The survey says that Myanmar also called Burma "has one of the highest numbers of child soldiers in the world, both within governmental armed forces and non-governmental armed groups."

"Some children, often under 15 years of age, are attracted by the prestige and power of the military, but many others have been forced to join. Orphans and street children are particularly vulnerable," the survey said.

There was no immediate response from Myanmar officials to the allegations. The report notes their previous claim that the country's military code prohibits the enlistment of men under the age of 18.

In Sri Lanka, said Mungoven, "thousands of teenagers, male and female forcibly and routinely recruited by the liberation tigers of Tamil Eelam."

In Cambodia, the challenge now is "the demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of former child soldiers," the report says.

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Mungoven said that many of the children serving in Myanmar's army are not combat soldiers, but rather support personnel, such as porters.

Responding to the charges, a Myanmar government spokesman said his country's armed forces are "a voluntary army and underage (recruits) are not welcome."

The well-publicized case of 12-year-old twin boys who commanded a small band of Karen ethnic rebels made it "very obvious that the armed terrorist groups are systematically conscripting children to be soldiers," said the spokesman on customary condition of anonymity.

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Load-Date: May 10, 2000

BC-Cdn-News-Digest

Broadcast News (BN)

August 24, 1996 Saturday

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Section: GENERAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

Length: 676 words

Body

Canadian News Digest

Sunday, Aug. 24, 1996

By The Canadian Press

Town mourns loss of heroic woman and mother

PRINCETON, B.C. (CP) - Hay bales stacked beside the pulpit held the boots and saddle of Cindy Parolin as 600 mourners paid respects Saturday to a heroic woman who died saving her son from a cougar.

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She used a stick to beat it away from her child, but the cat turned on her.

The diversion allowed two of her other children to carry Steven away and get help.

The attack occurred as the mother, brother David, 13, and sister Melissa, 11, were on a horseback trip to a wilderness cabin in the province's southern Interior. They were to join the father and another 10-year-old son. ---

Mourners pay homage to native-rights activist

MONTREAL (CP) - About 200 mourners gathered at an old church on the Kahnawake Mohawk reserve to bid farewell to a native-rights activist whose campaign to change a discriminatory law altered the lives of many aboriginal women.

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The Mohawk woman had been lobbying since 1968 to strike a section of the Indian Act that robbed aboriginal women of their native status when they married non-native men. The same provision didn't apply to native men.

When the Conservative government amended the Indian Act in July 1985, she became the first aboriginal woman in the country to win back her native status. ---

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"Let's not try to fool ourselves," he said. "You can't have your cake and eat it too."

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One pilot killed in Labrador crash

GOOSE BAY, Nfld. (CP) - One pilot was killed and three others injured after two German jet fighters crashed during low-level training exercises over Labrador on Saturday.

The Tornado jets, with two crewmembers aboard each, went down about 130 kilometres west of Goose Bay.

Three crewmembers were picked up shortly after the crash and were airlifted to hospital at Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay, where they were in stable condition.

Their injuries were not life threatening, said Capt. Vicki Fraser of CFB Goose Bay.

The fourth pilot was found dead some time after the crash.

The pilots were part of a visiting German naval squadron conducting routine flying training. Their names were being withheld until the families were notified. ---

In Short:

New refugee hearing for Sri Lankan orphan

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What's Ahead:

OTTAWA - Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police opens 91st annual conference.

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Load-Date: October 16, 2002

BC-Cdn-News-Digest

The Canadian Press (CP)

August 24, 1996 Saturday

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Load-Date: October 11, 2002

BC-Cdn-News-Digest, Rpt ; REPEATING to fix date

Broadcast News (BN)

August 25, 1996 Sunday

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Section: GENERAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

Length: 676 words

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"We're very very pleased that the party came out in favor of a tax cut with numbers in front of it," said youth president Tasha Kheiriddin, 24, a Montreal lawyer. ---

One pilot killed in Labrador crash

GOOSE BAY, Nfld. (CP) - One pilot was killed and three others injured after two German jet fighters crashed during low-level training exercises over Labrador on Saturday.

The Tornado jets, with two crewmembers aboard each, went down about 130 kilometres west of Goose Bay.

Three crewmembers were picked up shortly after the crash and were airlifted to hospital at Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay, where they were in stable condition.

Their injuries were not life threatening, said Capt. Vicki Fraser of CFB Goose Bay.

The fourth pilot was found dead some time after the crash.

The pilots were part of a visiting German naval squadron conducting routine flying training. Their names were being withheld until the families were notified. ---

In Short:

New refugee hearing for Sri Lankan orphan

TORONTO (CP) - The Federal Court has given a second chance to a nine-year-old Sri Lankan boy facing conscription by the **Tamil Tigers** terrorist group if he's deported. The court ordered a new refugee hearing for the orphaned child after an Immigration and Refugee Board refused him status in 1994. ---

N.S. doctor becomes CMA president

HALIFAX (CP) - For Dr. Judith Kazimirski, the fight to improve Canada's health-care system is as wide as the nation and as close as the Nova Scotia town she calls home. The 54-year-old family physician from Windsor took over the presidency of the Canadian Medical Association this week. ---

What's Ahead:

OTTAWA - Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police opens 91st annual conference.

WINNIPEG - Federal Progressive Conservative national policy conference concludes.

Load-Date: October 16, 2002

Sri Lanka rebels kill 42 civilians

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

May 27, 1995, Saturday, City Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; THE WORLD IN BRIEF; Pg. 17A; DIGEST

Length: 682 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka; SUBIC BAY, Philippines; ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland; GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip; NAIROBI, Kenya; MINSK, Belarus

Body

In a change of strategy toward civilian targets, separatist rebels killed 42 people in an attack on a Sri Lankan fishing village Friday, the military said. Eighteen of the dead were women and children.

As many as 200 rebels from the Tamil Tigers opened fire on Kallarawa, an eastern village of about 65 ethnic Sinhalese families living in huts. It was the first major attack on civilians in three years.

Compiled from Times WiresSRILANKA-VIO

Attacks on civilian Muslims and Sinhalese, who are mostly Buddhist, started in earnest with a renewal of war in 1990.

Tamil rebels have been fighting 12 years for a homeland in the north and east for the nation's Hindu Tamil minority, which accuses the majority Sinhalese of discrimination. About 34,000 people have been killed, mostly in the north.

U.S. frigate sails to Philippine base

SUBIC BAY, Philippines - A U.S. Navy frigate sailed into Subic Bay on Friday in the first visit by an American naval vessel since the Philippines evicted American forces in 1992.

"This is a historic but routine visit," said Richard Gordon, head of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority that manages the base.

It is historic in that it marks the return of U.S. sailors for whom Subic was long a second home, he said. But it is a routine commercial visit to replenish supplies and has no military significance.

The USS Curts arrived at Subic from Thailand. It sails Monday for Japan.

Subic is now a special economic zone.

Cod school sighted off Newfoundland

Sri Lanka rebels kill 42 civilians

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland - Researchers have found a school of 10,000 to 20,000 metric tons of cod, the first signs of revival in Canada's devastated North Atlantic fishing grounds.

The discovery of large numbers of cod at the spawning age raised hopes that stocks in what was once one of the world's richest fishing grounds are not facing extinction.

"This is the largest aggregation of spawning cod that we've seen in northeast Newfoundland since 1992," said William Doubleday, director-general of Fisheries and Ocean Science.

Newfoundland's fishermen were put out of business in 1992 by a moratorium designed to protect dwindling cod stocks.

Gaza officer kills suspect in accident

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - A Palestinian police officer accidentally killed a Palestinian suspect during an interrogation here, a prosecutor said Friday.

Khaled al-Qidra, prosecutor general of the Palestinian Authority, said 21-year-old Yousef al-Shaarawi was killed Tuesday when an interrogator's submachine gun fell and went off, shooting him in the head.

"It was one hundred percent an accident," Qidra said, adding that the officer would be put on trial for the killing.

Rwanda prisoners suffocate in jails

NAIROBI, Kenya - Rwanda's jails are so jammed with people suspected of involvement in last year's genocide that prisoners are dying of suffocation, Rwanda state radio reported.

It quoted the country's interior minister as saying Thursday that inmates were dying in large numbers and that authorities would make arrests only in "obvious cases."

Some 35,000 people, most of them Hutus suspected in last year's massacres, have been rounded up and stuffed into squalid jails.

There is no civilian police force in Rwanda. Western donors are providing money to establish courts, but Rwanda complains support has been late in coming.

Ex-Soviet states seek closer ties

MINSK, Belarus - Voicing nostalgia for the former Soviet Union, leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States voted Friday for closer economic and military ties.

"I'm convinced there will be a union built on a normal, civilized framework, normal economic principles and market relationship," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said. "That wouldn't constrain anyone."

At the summit, leaders of former Soviet republics that form the 12-member commonwealth decided to establish a committee to help resolve currency exchange issues and foster economic ties.

Russia and Belarus also signed a separate agreement to set up a customs union, which effectively would eliminate the border between the two countries.

Sri Lanka rebels kill 42 civilians

End of Document

Conflicts await the Pope on tour of Asia

The Independent (London)
January 11, 1995, Wednesday

Copyright 1995 Independent Print Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL; Page 15

Length: 646 words

Byline: ANDREW GUMBEL

Body

Undeterred by old age, illness and insistent reports of his imminent demise, Pope John Paul sets out on an ambitious 11-day tour of Asia and Australia today, hoping his charisma and deep well-springs of energy can help overcome a plethora of political and religious controversies along his route.

The 21,000-mile tour of the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Australia and Sri Lanka will bring the Pope into direct conflict with birth-control campaigners, women-priest advocates, militant Tamils, dissident Catholics, hostile Protestants and angry Buddhists.

It is the kind of challenge on which the 74-year-old pontiff has thrived in the past. He will clearly be hoping for a little of the pastoral magic that has sustained him through his 62 previous foreign trips.

But this is no longer the same Karol Wojtyla who championed Solidarity in Poland and campaigned successfully for the overthrow of Communism in Eastern Europe in the 1980s. Recovering from a number of illnesses, including a hip replacement that still causes him pain, he is now visibly older and slower. He uses a cane and has had to give up the energetic regimen of hill-walking, canoeing and skiing that once exhausted his entourage.

But the Pope will take comfort from the fact that the Asian trip is going ahead at all. Last September he could not stoop to kiss the earth on arrival in Zagreb, and a month later was forced to cancel a planned trip to the United States.

Obviously feeling stronger, John Paul joked with Polish bishops at the weekend that he was not 'doing all that badly'. His aides are nevertheless worried about the demands of the time-changes and tropical heat in Asia, and have allowed for plenty of breaks in the Pope's schedule.

The first and most important stop is the Philippines, Asia's only majority Christian country, where the Pope plans to lead hundreds of thousands of people in a ceremony on Sunday to mark World Youth Day.

He will be walking into the middle of a controversy over President Fidel Ramos's campaign for population control through the artificial contraceptives the Pope has consistently condemned. A few hundred Protestants demonstrated in Manila against the Pope yesterday, urging their Catholic fellow countrymen to 'glorify God, not the Pope'.

The Manila government has taken steps to appease the pontiff, however, offering to put diplomatic pressure on China and Vietnam to ease their restrictive treatment of Catholics. A delegation of Chinese Catholics may meet the Pope if time permits.

Conflicts await the Pope on tour of Asia

The main focus of the rest of the trip is a series of beatifications, although church and temporal politics are bound to intervene as well. In Australia, John Paul is likely to defend his stand against women priests to a group of Catholics who have explicitly advocated a change in policy.

In Sri Lanka, which the Pope has never before visited, his security could be threatened by Tamil Tigers fighting for independence in the north and east of the country.

He will also be confronted by Buddhist leaders demanding an apology for his recent description of their religion as negative. They have threatened to boycott his trip, and the atmosphere is tense. Yesterday the altar of a Catholic church north of Colombowas set on fire by unknown attackers.

If the Pope gets his way, the Asian trip will be anything but a last hurrah. He has already talked about seeing in the third millennium. Last weekend, on a visit to street cleaners in Rome, he also made it clear he is already thinking about his next foreign trip.

'This crib,' he said, pointing to a Christmas display, 'represents a land in which I hope to make a pilgrimage. The date is drawing closer.' John Paul would be the first modern pontiff to visit Israel, a country with which the Vatican established diplomatic ties only last year.

His aides have suggested he might make a trip to Israel as early as the spring.

Load-Date: January 14, 1995

End of Document

BRIEFLY

The Ottawa Citizen

April 29, 1994, Friday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; BRIEFLY; Pg. A6

Length: 679 words

Byline: CITIZEN NEWS SERVICES

Body

A conviction for breaking into Joan Miller's car would have been Donald Rae Brown's "third strike, sending him to prison for a minimum term of 25 years to life. But Joan Miller, 71, was not about to send a man away for life for stealing her car radio. Risking jail herself, she refused to testify against Brown, negating San Francisco prosecutors' first "three strikes, and you're out case. Assistant District Attorney Richard Hechler said the harsh penalty in the "three-strikes law for third-time felons was likely to keep victims and witnesses from testifying.

Britain accuses Iran of assisting IRA

LONDON -- Iran is helping the IRA in its violent campaign against British control of Northern Ireland, Britain said Thursday. And Foreign Minister Douglas Hogg summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires, Gholamreza Ansari, to the Foreign Office to demand the contacts "be immediately and conclusively severed. But Ansari denied Iran has helped the Irish Republican Army. The Foreign Office spokesman would not specify the aid Iran is accused of providing.

Refugees pose big crisis, says aid agencies' chief

GENEVA -- The most serious humanitarian issue facing the world during the next few years will be the fate of refugees and other displaced persons, says George Weber, a Canadian and secretary general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Weber, speaking on the organization's 75th anniversary, said more than 40 million people worldwide are displaced from their homes.

Vietnam War shell kills seven on public bus

HANOI -- A 105-mm American artillery shell scavenged from a Vietnam War battlefield exploded near a crowded passenger bus, killing seven people and wounding 16, a Vietnamese official said Thursday. A metal trader had placed three shells on the bus in unmarked sacks and was travelling in a separate vehicle, the official said.

Fighting, slaughter continues in Rwanda

NAIROBI -- The fighting and ethnic slaughter in Rwanda continued Thursday, and UN troops found dozens more corpses in the streets of the capital Kigali. Shells screamed over the roof of the UN headquarters in Kigali as officials in flak jackets sought ways to move relief supplies into the tiny Central African country. More than 100,000 people are believed to have been killed since April 7, a day after the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi died in a mysterious plane crash in Kigali. An estimated 1.3 million more have fled their homes.

BRIEFLY

CIA spy pleads guilty, gets life in prison

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia -- Aldrich Ames, the highest-paid Russian spy ever caught inside the CIA, was sentenced to life in prison without parole Thursday. Ames, 52, pleaded guilty without a trial and admitted being paid \$ 2.5 million U.S. by the Soviet Union and then Russia since April 1985 for U.S. secrets. Ames's wife, Rosario, 41, also pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit espionage and evade income taxes. U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton deferred her sentencing until Aug. 26.

House of Horror wife charged in more deaths

GLOUCESTER, England -- The wife of a builder who has been accused of murdering 10 women in Britain's House of Horror case was charged Thursday with two more of the grisly killings. Rosemary West, 40, has already been charged with her husband for the murder of seamstress Linda Gough, whose remains were found buried in their house in the western English city of Gloucester. Police said they now have charged her jointly with 52-year-old Frederick West for the murders of Carol Cooper, last seen in November, 1973 at age 15, and university student Lucy Partington, 21, who vanished in December the same year.

Citizen news services

TV TIPS

9 p.m., A&E

Investigative Reports: A look at the guerrilla group the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka.

10 p.m., Global, ABC

20/20: (Scheduled) A report on Mexican-style rodeos in which tripping and injuring the horses is part of the sport.

11 p.m., PBS

Talking With David Frost: Highlights from a series of 1977 interviews with former President Richard Nixon.

Load-Date: April 30, 1994

**50 KILLED BY BOMB IN SRI LANKA AN OPPOSITION CANDIDATE FOR
PRESIDENT WAS AMONG THE VICTIMS AT AN ELECTION RALLY. HE HAD
OPPOSED TALKS WITH TAMIL REBELS.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

October 24, 1994 Monday FINAL EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 653 words

Byline: Niresh Eliatamby, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

A suicide assassin detonated a bomb at an election rally outside Colombo yesterday, killing the opposition candidate for president and about 50 other people, including top leaders of his party.

The assassination of Gamini Dissanayake came less than three weeks before the election and just before peace talks were to resume with Tamil Tiger guerrillas. More than 34,000 people have been killed in Sri Lanka's 11-year-old civil war.

Dissanayake was an outspoken critic of talks with the Tamil Tigers, and the government had warned him three weeks ago that the Tigers would try to kill him.

The talks scheduled today were called off, government delegate Navin Gunaratne said. No new date was set.

The bomb ripped through the rally on the outskirts of Colombo shortly before midnight. Dissanayake had just finished speaking and was stepping off the stage to greet supporters at his last stop of the day.

"Police believe this was the work of a suicide bomber," said Gemunu Kulatunga, a military spokesman.

Police suspect that the assassin was a female because the head of woman, whom the police say had the bomb strapped to her body, was found on the roof of a single-story house near the site of the blast.

Metal pellets peppered the stage and surrounding area at the rally site. One police officer said Dissanayake's waiting car was in shreds.

"The bomb was apparently at the front of the stage," said Weerasooriya Wickrema, campaign manager of Dissanayake's United National Party. "It was a very powerful bomb."

50 KILLED BY BOMB IN SRI LANKA AN OPPOSITION CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT WAS AMONG THE VICTIMS AT AN ELECTION RALLY. HE HAD OPPOSED TALKS WITH TAMIL REBELS.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, and police said it was too early to say who might have set the blast. But the Tigers have a history of assassinations and suicide bombs.

The same kind of explosive was used by a suicide bomber last year to kill President Ranasinghe Premadasa. The Tigers were blamed, but have denied responsibility. The rebels also were blamed for the May 1991 assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

A hospital official said about 50 bodies had been brought to General Hospital in Colombo after yesterday's blast, but they were in such bad condition that an exact count was impossible. The Defense Ministry spokesman said more than 200 people were wounded, but he could not confirm the hospital's death toll.

Among the others killed were the United National Party's general secretary, two former cabinet ministers, and a Parliament member, Wickrema said.

Thousands of people gathered outside the hospital, about four miles from the rally, waiting for information. Police threw up a cordon to keep the crowd under control.

An emergency meeting of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga's cabinet decided to postpone the Nov. 9 election, in which she was to stand as a candidate for the ruling alliance.

The armed forces also were put on alert to prevent rioting, and President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga declared an indefinite curfew nationwide.

After 17 years in power, the United National Party lost control of the government to Kumaratunga in August's parliamentary election.

Kumaratunga, whose People's Alliance pledged to end the war, immediately offered to hold unconditional talks. The United National Party had refused to negotiate until the rebels laid down their arms.

The Tigers have been fighting since 1983 for an independent homeland for the Tamil minority in the north and east of Sri Lanka, where they say they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese majority. The Tamils constitute about 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 17 million people.

The new peace talks, to be held in the guerrilla stronghold of Jaffna, were to focus on a cease-fire and the opening of a land route for supplies to the rebel-held Jaffna Peninsula, said one of the guerrilla negotiators. The first round of talks was held Oct. 12 to 14 in Jaffna, 185 miles north of Colombo. Those discussions centered on economic issues and the repair of roads, canals, schools and hospitals ravaged by the war.

Graphic

MAP;

MAP (1)

1. Colombo, Sri Lanka (Philadelphia Inquirer)

Load-Date: October 21, 2002

TV - TONIGHT ROGERS' CARD-WISE GOOD OL' SLEUTH IS FUN TO WATCH

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

April 29, 1994, Friday

Copyright 1994 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P9B

Length: 627 words

Byline: John Martin

Body

I don't think you'll find too many people - even his fans - who think Kenny Rogers is one of the great actors to grace the small screen.

But he is otherwise well-liked and especially well-suited for the tailor-made role he plays in NBC's "MacShayne: The Final Roll of the Dice" at 9.

The second of the "MacShayne" series is an improvement over the premise-setting outing of earlier this year.

MacShayne, a former con man, now in charge of security for a Las Vegas casino, finds himself the only one believing in the innocence of an explosive pop singer (Maria Conchita Alonso) accused of killing her estranged husband.

MacShayne's attempt to find the real culprit leads to a pair of assassins (Scott Paulin, James Stephens) who appear to be after a casino guest (Daniel Hugh Kelly), a prominent judge about to announce his candidacy for the U.S. Senate.

Rogers is fun to watch. His card-wise good ol' boy persona is about the only thing that holds the rest of this by-the-book whodunit together.

TV - TONIGHT ROGERS' CARD-WISE GOOD OL' SLEUTH IS FUN TO WATCH

You don't have to be Columbo to figure out that not all is as it seems. Hint: The judge's wife is a politician's nightmare. Alonso's hot-tempered diva is a stereotype of Hispanic women that borders on bad taste. Her talents could have been better used

Highlights

"On Trial," NBC at 8: Lawyer F. Lee Bailey narrates a dramatization of the intriguing 1990 trial of a Wisconsin grocery clerk (Don Bloomfield) charged with raping an Asian-American woman in her 20s (Elaine Bilstad) who claimed to have multiple personalities . The bizarre twist is that the man was accused of having sex with one of the woman's child alter egos.

"Family Matters," ABC at 8: The sillier this comedy gets, the funnier it can be. After being rejected by Urkel (Jaleel White), Myra (Michelle Thomas) joins a nunnery.

Picture the antics of Urkel, Eddie (Darius McCrary) and Waldo (Shawn Harrison) as they sneak into the convent, dressed in habits, to talk Myra into changing her mind.

"The X Files," FOX at 9: In another chiller, Mulder and Skully (David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson) investigate the deaths of two Buffalo police officers. Their suspect is an 8-year-old girl believed to be the reincarnation of a crooked cop killed by his partners nine years earlier.

"Step By Step," ABC at 9: How many times have we seen this one? When Cody (Sasha Mitchell) concocts a '40s-style hard-nosed detective story, it's brought to life in a costume fantasy featuring various cast members. You'll be changing channels faster than you can say, "Play it again, Cody."

"2020," ABC at 10: Animal lovers will have trouble watching a scheduled report that exposes the abuse of horses in Mexican-style rodeos.

TV - TONIGHT ROGERS' CARD-WISE GOOD OL' SLEUTH IS FUN TO WATCH

Parents' pick

"The Incredible Journey" (1963), DIS at 7:30: In what remains one of the best animal adventures ever made, three lost critters _ two dogs and a cat _ travel 250 miles across Canada. This version is far superior to "Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey," the 1993 Disney remake, which airs at 6.

Cable calls

"Investigative Reports," A&E at 9 and 1 a.m.: You'll be shocked by this profile of the **Tamil Tigers** of Sri Lanka, considered the most ruthless guerrilla fighters in the world.

They are fighting for an independent homeland in a war that has claimed 25,000 lives. Indian police believe it was a Tiger who killed Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

Talk time

"Tonight," NBC at 11:35: Actor-director Dennis Hopper, music group Cheap Trick and Jaleel White ("Family Matters").

"Late Show with David Letterman," CBS at 11:35: Actor Joe Pesci and country singer-actor Randy Travis.

"Arsenio Hall," FOX at midnight: Actress Cicely Tyson.

"Late Night with Conan O'Brien," NBC at 12:35 a.m.: Katey Sagal ("Married|eWith Children"), actor Kevin Dillon and Hall-of-fame-bowler-turned-inventor Carmen Salvino.

Martin is a syndicated columnist.

Load-Date: January 31, 1995

Political widows risk death to run

The Independent (London)

November 8, 1994, Tuesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 13

Length: 664 words

Byline: TIM MCGIRK in Colombo

Body

It seems as though only the widows of slain political leaders dare to run for office in Sri Lanka. In campaigning for tomorrow's presidential elections, two widows - the current Prime Minister, Chandrika Kumaratunga, and the opposition candidate, Srima Dissanayake - are putting themselves in the firing line of ethnic Tamil separatists suspected of having assassinated one president, one Indian ex- prime minister, a defence minister, two generals, two admirals, two leaders of political parties and scores of Sri Lankans bystanders.

This is a dangerous shadow play in which the widows are risking their lives. They want to dismantle the near-dictatorial powers of the presidency and possibly even abolish the job. Mrs Kumaratunga, whose husband, Victor, an actor-politician, was murdered six years ago, is expected to win. Some opinion polls last weekend gave the Prime Minister's Popular Alliance over 60 per cent of the vote.

Mrs Kumaratunga has only been Prime Minister for three months, but many Sri Lankans are satisfied with her attempts to end government corruption - she auctioned off a fleet of limousines bought by the last conservative government - and open peace talks to end the 11-year civil war with the Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

It also helps that her rival, Mrs Dissanayake, is a political novice. She was chosen out of sympathy, to stand in for her husband, Gamini, the original presidential candidate of the United National Party, who was killed in a 24 October bomb blast along with 56 others, including a woman suicide- bomber who had the explosives strapped to her belly.

A quiet, retiring woman, Mrs Dissanayake, 51, is still battered from the shock of her husband's assassination. "It's not easy doing this. But it was a unanimous decision taken by everybody - my party, my family. I had to do this. I had a duty," said Mrs Dissanayake, who observes the island's mourning tradition of wearing a white sari, no make-up or jewellery. With only 10 days before the campaign ended, her party had no time to replace her dead husband's posters. Gamini's handsome face is on all the hoardings. His speeches are still on the radio; it is as though his ghost is running for president, not his widow.

Fear of assassination has also caused Mrs Kumaratunga to cancel appearances at several rallies, even after crowds waited five hours for her to decide whether to risk coming. Security is tight for all politicians. At rallies, a 30-foot fence screens off the politicians and the crowd hangs as far back as possible; nobody wants a seat in the front rows, next to a possible suicide-bomber.

Before this campaign, the two women were friends, united in the grief over husbands lost to Sri Lanka's bloody politics. Now they hate each other. Using the state-run television and radio to her advantage, Mrs Kumaratunga's

Political widows risk death to run

has muzzled her rival, cutting short her televised speech. The Prime Minister also had Mrs Dissanayake's house raided on Friday by 20 detectives in search of "defamatory" literature. The "conservative party" strategy, apparently unsuccessful, has been to persuade Sri Lankans that a vote for Mrs Kumaratunga is a vote for the **Tamil Tigers**.

"She's been quite insensitive," said Mrs Dissanayake of the Prime Minister. "Ours was a house in mourning, yet she sent the police on a raid. They even went into my bedroom. When Chandrika's husband died, it was my husband who handled the funeral arrangements. She forgets that."

If Mrs Kumaratunga does win the presidency, she will step up from being Prime Minister but remain there for only seven months, advisers said. During that time she is expected to hold both a referendum and a constitutional-assembly vote for reducing the office to a ceremonial one or abolishing it entirely. During the conservatives' 17-year rule, parliament was stripped of many powers by the president, and now Mrs Kumaratunga wants to hand them back. Once she accomplishes this, she says she will return to her Prime Minister's job.

Load-Date: November 8, 1994

End of Document

SRI LANKA: BOMB KILLS OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

IPS-Inter Press Service

October 24, 1994, Monday

Copyright 1994 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 728 words

Byline: By Rita Sebastian

Dateline: COLOMBO, Oct. 24

Body

The government declared a state of emergency across Sri Lanka today after a bomb blast killed opposition presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake and several top leaders of his United National Party (UNP).

At least 50 people died and another 200 were injured in the blast which occurred just after Dissanayake had addressed a late night election rally. Officials said it may have been another suicide bomb attack.

The blood-splattered site in suburban Tottalanka was strewn with slippers, umbrellas and pieces of human flesh. A police officer at the site said the head of a woman, believed to be the assassin, was found on top of a nearby roof.

Analysts said the attack appeared similar to the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by a **female** suicide bomber belonging to the Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger rebels at an election meeting in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu in May 1991.

President D.B. Wijetunga imposed the state of emergency as a "precautionary measure" and appealed to the people to remain calm. The Sri Lankan army cancelled all leave and ordered all troops to report to their barracks for duty.

Along with Dissanayake, other UNP leaders killed were the party's General Secretary Gamini Wijesekera and former UNP Ministers G.M. Premachandra and Weerasinghe Mallimarachi.

Dissanayake, 52, recently issued a statement saying he had been alerted by state intelligence services that the Tigers, who have been waging an 11-year old war for a separate homeland in the island's north and east, were plotting his assassination.

The Tigers have always seen Dissanayake as the chief architect of the controversial 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka accord that brought in an Indian peace keeping force to enforce an agreement granting provincial autonomy to the Tamils.

In the run up to the Aug. 16 parliamentary polls, Dissanayake made it known that if the UNP was returned to power, he would be willing to seek Indian assistance to resolve the ongoing conflict in the northeast. The Sri Lankan election commission has said the UNP can nominate an alternate candidate for the Nov. 9 presidential poll where Dissanayake was opposing Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga.

The government announced a state funeral with full honors would be held Oct. 29 for the slain opposition leader at Colombo's Independence Square after his body had lay in state for citizens to pay their last respects.

SRI LANKA : BOMB KILLS OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Premier Kumaratunga condemned the killing as a "barbaric act" and said, "It is most regrettable that at a time when our government is committed to wiping out all forms of political violence from our country and introducing democracy and decency to Sri Lankan politics, the same despicable violence should strike once again."

In a statement, the Prime Minister said the government would take "rapid action to ascertain the truth behind the incident" and bring the offenders to justice.

Premier Kumaratunga had initiated a series of conciliatory moves with the Tamil Tigers immediately after assuming power. The moves had culminated in peace talks, the much-publicized first round of which was completed only on Oct. 14 in the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna.

The next round of talks, slated to begin today, were put on hold because of the assassination.

Dissanayake, a lawyer by profession, first entered parliament in 1970. In 1977, he was assigned the Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli development Project in the government of former President Junius Jayewardene.

Dissanayake's fortunes nose-dived when Ranasinghe Premadasa took over as president from Jayewardene. He was dropped from the cabinet and in 1991, along with his colleague Lalith Athulamudali, launched an impeachment motion against Premadasa.

They formed a separate party after both were expelled from the UNP. But Dissanayake returned to the UNP fold when both Athulamudali and Premadasa were assassinated in quick succession.

His return divided party loyalties and the UNP lost the August elections. Dissanayake then stepped in as leader of the opposition, a job which party stalwarts thought should have gone to former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

When President Wijetunga declined to run again, Dissanayake took on the role of the opposition presidential candidate.

Political observers said Dissanayake had been conducting a cohesive and well-organized campaign before the assassin caught up with him.

Load-Date: October 25, 1994

SRI LANKA: FRENCH NGO HELPS PEOPLE CAUGHT IN THE WAR

IPS-Inter Press Service

April 18, 1991, Thursday

Copyright 1991 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 672 words

Byline: by Rita Sebastian

Dateline: COLOMBO, Apr. 18

Body

For thousands of people caught in the bloody battle in Sri Lanka's northeast between Tamil rebels and security forces, "Doctors without Borders" is Florence Nightingale.

Despite all odds, the French non-governmental organization (NGO) has been ministering to people streaming into refugee camps and hospitals, wounded in war or laid low by illness.

Two-year-old Anjali, severely anemic, her little body wracked with malaria needed immediate blood transfusion. But says "Doctors without Borders" member Marie Rosaire, "she died as there was no facility for it in the refugee camp and no way of getting her to a hospital."

Working in the war zone without sufficient drugs, laboratories to conduct tests and unable to travel because of the fighting, "Doctors without Borders" volunteers say treating people has been "very hard."

Rosaire, who worked in refugee camps on the Cambodian border before shifting to Sri Lanka, describes her six months here as a "very difficult time." She adds that it was "especially difficult in the Madhu camp where you were always on call, where you didn't have a moment to yourself."

The camp around the Pilgrim Church in Madhu in northwestern Sri Lanka has the country's largest concentration of refugees.

Set up initially as a transit camp for Tamil people fleeing to India, there are at present roughly 27,000 people seeking shelter from the war. Last September, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) took over the management of the camp.

"Doctors without Borders" (DWB) administrator in Colombo, Christine Nevueu told IPS that there were 27 volunteers working in the country, eight of whom are specialists working here during their month-long vacation. The others are on assignment for six months.

The French team first arrived in 1986 at the invitation of the government. "There were no specialists in the Trincomalee base hospital. We were invited to fill the void," says Nevueu.

A few months later, more volunteers arrived to meet the needs of other hospitals in the troubled northeast province.

Specialist doctors and nursing staff took charge of hospitals in Batticaloa, Pt. Pedro and Mannar, within the embattled war zone and reported to be the strongholds of **Tamil Tigers**.

SRI LANKA : FRENCH NGO HELPS PEOPLE CAUGHT IN THE WAR

In the multi-ethnic eastern province, besides visiting refugee camps, the medical staff served at the important Muthur Hospital where only the maternity ward has escaped bombardment.

"Until recently, pregnant women would stay in the ward during the day and sleep in the doctors' rooms at night," says Nevueu.

Last year following communal clashes in Muthur between Tamils and Muslims, "DWB" volunteers even provided a much needed buffer between the two communities.

The "DWB" team was rushed to the base hospital in Pt. Pedro, at the northern tip of Sri Lanka, when the latest round of fighting broke out last June after Tamil rebels walked out of peace talks in Colombo and trained their guns on government forces.

As Sri Lankan security forces responded with aerial strafing, hundreds of people poured into the hospital often needing immediate surgery.

The French medical team also negotiated with both sides, rebels and government, to declare the hospital and the area around it a neutral zone.

"We ensured the safety of the hospital by deciding that no Tigers would come into the hospital in uniform or armed. And patients who were brought in from outside would be transferred into the hospital ambulance about 100 yards from the gate," explains Nevueu.

The Pt. Pedro hospital now only services the town's needs, as military operations have been called off and peace has returned.

This island nation torn by civil war in the northeast where Tamil rebels since 1983 have been battling for a separate homeland called "Eelam," is a "specific mission" for "DWB."

It is one of four countries where they provide surgical services, volunteers explain. "Doctors without Borders," which celebrates its twentieth birthday this year, works in roughly 40 countries all over the world. Most "DWB" missions only provide medical services.

Load-Date: April 20, 1991

160 killed in Sri Lankan ethnic strife

The Guardian (London)

August 13, 1990

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Length: 662 words

Byline: By CHRIS MORRIS in Colombo

Body

AT LEAST 164 people died in ethnic violence in Sri Lanka at the weekend, sparked by the slaughter of Muslim villagers by alleged Tamil Tiger separatists.

Some 127 Muslim men, women and children were shot, hacked to death, or killed with knives smeared with cyanide in an attack on three small villages in Eravur district, near Batticaloa, on Saturday. Muslim extremists yesterday retaliated by killing 37 Tamil civilians near the village of Sammanthurai, about 25 miles south of Eravur.

Eravur residents say 46 men, 56 women and 25 children were murdered by a group of about 40 armed men. The villagers say the attackers were identified as Tamil Tigers. Despite this, the Tigers have denied responsibility.

After yesterday's Muslim reprisal, one Tamil political party, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation, accused Muslim Home Guards set up to defend Muslim villages from the Tigers of running riot in Tamil areas. Several thousand people from all communities are thought to have fled from the eastern coastal strip in the past few days to escape the violence.

At the scene of the Eravur attack, the body of a week-old baby, wrapped in blood-stained rags and with a bullet hole in his stomach, lay alongside other corpses brought to a local mosque yesterday.

'About 15 people with guns broke into our house and told us to come outside. Then they started shooting,' said Ali Mohamed, aged 15. 'I fell among the bodies and waited until they had gone. There was blood everywhere.' All six members of his family died, including a five-month-old sister. A weeping young boy, Ashroff, aged 13, said that his family of 16 had been killed.

About 30 people were killed in Saddam Hussein village, named some years ago after the Iraqi leader. It has 100 houses, a mosque and a community centre, donated by him. Outside many houses, blood-stained bodies lay covered in old rags, awaiting washing for burial.

'They came from all sides, we could not escape,' said a school teacher. 'If a door was closed, they broke it open. They even killed a mother who was feeding her infant.' Residents said they had no weapons and were helpless.

The villagers begged Muslim politicians who visited the scene to protect them. 'Don't leave us,' they pleaded with troops escorting the leaders.

Brigadier A. M. U. Seneviratne, commander of the eastern region, said the nearest army camp was less than two miles away. 'But we didn't get the message until morning. People were too scared to go out since the Tigers were around.'

160 killed in Sri Lankan ethnic strife

The government says the Tigers are trying to drive Muslims and Sinhalese out of the east, in order to strengthen their claim that the area is part of the traditional Tamil homeland. Tamils are the largest ethnic group in the east but do not form the majority. Muslims in the area are Tamil-speaking, but most prefer to be regarded as a distinct ethnic group.

Denying responsibility for the Eravur massacre, the Tigers' spokesman in Paris, Lawrence Thilakar, accused the Sri Lankan army of killing Muslims to promote clashes between Muslims and Tamils.

The government has been powerless to prevent the violence from spreading. Measures to improve security, promised last week after several other massacres, have proved insufficient, and armed gangs continue to strike at will. The security forces are already over-stretched in their efforts to contain the Tigers.

Tamil and Muslim villages are intermingled throughout the eastern province, so that temporarily isolating one region from another would provide no solution.

The main Muslim political party, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, yesterday said the government had proved its inability to protect its citizens, and called for Muslim civilians to be issued with arms to defend themselves.

There is a growing fear that communal unrest will spread to other parts of the country. Tension has been high in the capital, Colombo, for the past few days, and security forces in the city are said to be on the highest state of alert.

Load-Date: June 8, 2000

End of Document

Tamil Attacks On Two Mosques Kill At Least 112, Officials Say

The Associated Press

August 4, 1990, Saturday, PM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 701 words

Byline: By DEXTER CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: KATTANKUDI, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil militants rampaged through two mosques in eastern Sri Lanka with machine guns and hand grenades, killing more than 110 people as they knelt in prayer, witnesses and officials said today.

Town coroner Mohammed Noordeen said he examined the bodies of 112 people from the massacre on Friday evening. Police and other sources gave casualty figures that reached as high as 131. Military officials earlier said 150 people had been killed. All the victims were men.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but officials blamed the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the massacre.

The Tigers broke a 13-month cease-fire on June 11 to resume their war for independence in the Tamil-dominated north and east of this Indian Ocean island. More than 3,000 combatants have been killed in the latest fighting.

Brigadier A.M.U. Seneviratne, army commander of the Batticaloa district, said 30 Tamil rebels crossed a lagoon near this Moslem town, 140 miles east of Colombo, divided into two groups and attacked the mosques during Friday evening prayers.

The rebels sprayed machine gunfire from three sides into the Meera Juma mosque, where about 200 worshipers had gathered, and also lobbed grenades. Amid screams and smoke, they fled before soldiers could arrive from a camp about two miles away. Another group attacked the smaller Thaik mosque with had about 30 worshipers inside.

"I was kneeling down and praying when the rebels started shooting," said Mohammed Ibrahim, a 40-year-old businessman. "The firing went on for 15 minutes. I escaped without being hit and found myself among bodies all over the place."

Another witness, Mohammed Arif, a 17-year-old student said: "Before I escaped from a side door and scaled a wall, I saw a Tiger rebel put a gun into the mouth of a small Moslem boy and pull the trigger."

Seneviratne said most of the victims were shot in the back or side.

Evidence of the carnage was apparent today when the government flew reporters to the area. The floor of the mosque was splattered with blood and the walls pockmarked with bullet holes.

Tamil Attacks On Two Mosques Kill At Least 112, Officials Say

Bodies were lined up in neat rows, wrapped in the traditional Moslem white burial clothes. Small cardboard placards gave the name of the victim and the number of the corpse.

Groups of sobbing Moslem women flocked to the two mosques.

Vehicles carrying bodies, with Moslem clergymen chanting verses, rolled past armed soldiers patrolling the town. Shops, homes and businesses were closed.

In a cemetery at the Meera Jumma mosque, mourners had dug a long common grave for a row of coffins.

In Colombo, a Moslem member of Parliament and opposition leader said the government failed to protect Moslems or give them arms to protect themselves.

"This is a brutal massacre of innocent civilians by the Tiger terrorists who do not hesitate to enter mosques and kill civilians," said Mohammad Ashroff, of the Sri Lanka Moslem Congress party.

"We are compelled to conclude the government is a silent, sadistic observer of the conspiracy against the Moslems, if not a passive participant in it," he told reporters.

The Tamil Tigers did not immediately respond.

This was the second attack blamed on Tiger rebels on a mosque in the area in one week. In a similar attack Sunday, the militants killed 10 worshippers in Samanthurai, 25 miles east of Batticaloa.

On July 24, Tamil rebels killed four Moslems at another mosque in Batticaloa district.

Moslems, who make up about 7 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, often have been victims of the 7-year-old war between Tamil rebels and the Sinhalese-dominated government.

The rebels want an independent homeland in the northern and eastern districts for Tamils, who are mostly Hindus. Tamils make up 18 percent of the population and the predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese account for 75 percent.

Military officials say the rebels are killing Moslems and burning their homes and shops because the Tigers suspect them of supporting the government.

Moslem leaders, however, say Moslems are being killed because they are neutral.

The separatists say the Sinhalese discriminate against Tamils in jobs, education and the use of the Sinhala language. The Sinhalese dominate the government, military and police.

Bicycle Brigade Versus Baby Brigade in Sri Lanka's Deadly War

The Associated Press

July 26, 1990, Thursday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 661 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: TIRUKOVIL, Sri Lanka

Body

Police on bicycles zigzag through jungle tracks, dodging land mines in a deadly game with teen-age Tamil rebels.

It is the "bicycle brigade" against the "baby brigade," as police call the young militants of the Tamil Tiger militia. Some are as young as 12, and their most successful weapons are homemade mines that have blown the legs off dozens of commandos since fighting resumed last month.

As a result, officers of the Special Task Force, police trained to fight the Tamils, formed the "bicycle brigade."

"The bicycle tire has more chances of avoiding the buried explosive than a boot. The damage causes less injuries as the blast is cushioned by the bicycle," said senior commando Upali Sahabandu of the Special Task Force.

The mines, which consist of high explosives packed into wooden boxes with two small AA batteries, have been dubbed Johnnies, Dice or Batta by the Sri Lankan troops. They are hidden in culverts under the jungle roads of Tirukovil, which was once a Tamil stronghold.

The government claims its troops now control a 33-mile stretch of the eastern coast between Lahugala, south of Tirukovil, and Kalmunai to its north.

Special Task Force chief Lionel Karunasena said his unit of 125 men has mastered the art of anticipating rebel moves.

The rebels operate in groups of five to seven to minimize losses. "We do the same. We know their game, they know ours. So we are even," Karunasena told a group of visiting reporters.

"That is why they avoid tangling with our bicycle brigade or hit us with mines on these roads," he said.

His unit is part of the 2,500-member Special Task Force trained to help in the war against militant Tamils fighting for an independent homeland.

Commandos moved into the town and set up camp in its main hospital this month, forcing the once-dominant Tamils to slip into the jungles.

People in the town, 135 miles east of Colombo, say that although the troops control the area during the day, the rebels return from the jungles to prowl at night.

Bicycle Brigade Versus Baby Brigade in Sri Lanka 's Deadly War

"A dog's bark in the dark is a sure sign the Tiger rebels are around. Nobody else moves out at night," said the Rev. Thaya Seelan, a Tamil Methodist priest.

The commandos say their taking of Tirukovil, which has ample jungle cover to the west and the Indian Ocean to the right, dealt a severe blow to guerrilla operations.

"Tirukovil is vitally located for jungle based hit-and-run attacks. Without Tirukovil as a base ... it will be difficult for the terrorists to launch any campaign to clear government forces in the eastern coast," said Sahabandu, the veteran anti-guerrilla fighter.

Karunasena said he plans to "first secure our hold here," then move toward rebel strongholds in the eastern districts of Ampara and Batticaloa.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting since 1983 to set up a homeland in the north and the east, complaining of discrimination by the majority Sinhalese.

Tamils make up 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and the Sinhalese account for 75 percent.

More than 2,850 combatants and an unknown but large number of civilians have died in the latest round of fighting, which began June 11 after a 13-month cease-fire.

"When will this end? When will the killings stop? When will the gods intervene?" moaned Murugesu Tirunavakarasu, a chili planter whose only son, Raju, disappeared three years ago.

"We don't want anything else but to be left in peace. You people from outside don't know the hell we have gone through," the 68-year-old farmer said.

Schools, banks and government offices have been shut for several months. There are no vehicles or buses on streets except commando jeeps and armored troop carriers.

But there are scenes of normalcy.

Acres of paddy sway in the breeze, waiting to be harvested. Buyers haggle in the market. Fishermen throw their nets into a murky lagoon, watched by **women** carrying reed baskets.

A short distance away, five commandos tighten their bullet bandoleers around their chests, climb on their bicycles and push away into the bush.

Graphic

LaserPhoto

Bicycle Brigade Versus Baby Brigade in Sri Lanka's Deadly War

The Associated Press

July 27, 1990, Friday, PM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 661 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: TIRUKOVIL, Sri Lanka

Body

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SRI LANKA: TOP-LEVEL TALKS IN TRINCOMALEE, 14 SINHALESE KILLED

IPS-Inter Press Service

March 22, 1988, Tuesday

Copyright 1988 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 703 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, March 22

Body

Top Indian and Sri Lankan officials flew to the strife-torn eastern Sri Lankan district of Trincomalee today for on-the-spot discussions about improving the security situation.

Official sources here said that the talks would center on providing security for members of Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community in the district, 125 miles east from here.

Nearly 100 Sinhalese civilians have been killed in attacks believed to be the work of Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the Eastern Province this month.

The delegation that left for Trincomalee this morning included top Sri Lankan military officials and representatives of Sri Lanka's Rehabilitation Ministry.

Even as the talks aimed at bringing some degree of stabilization to the east began, reports reaching here indicated that another 14 Sinhalese villagers had been killed, some 24 hours ago, apparently by the Tigers, in two separate attacks in Sri Lanka's Northern Province.

The dawn raids on the outskirts of the town of Vavuniya, 125 miles north of here, followed the pattern of Tiger killings in the east. The attackers entered homes, shooting or hacking men, women and children to death.

Vavuniya is the only district in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority Northern Province which has a significant Sinhalese-Tamil population mix.

Relations between the two communities in Vavuniya have stayed relatively free from the tensions that arose in racially-mixed Trincomalee District during four years of fighting between Tamil militants and Sri Lanka's mainly Sinhalese Army.

Citizens of Vavuniya said today that the attacks took place within a radius of 1,600 feet from an Indian military camp, and accused Indian troops of "indifference" to the fate of the villagers.

The Indian force was sent to Sri Lanka last July, under the terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, to help supervise a weapons surrender by the Tigers, followed by local elections to devolve power to Tamils.

After a token hand over of arms last August, however, the Tigers refused to surrender and were soon locked in bitter combat with the Indian soldiers.

However, the Indian troops are widely seen among hardline Sinhalese as an army sent to Sri Lanka not merely to protect Tamil rights, but to balk the Sinhalese of their claim to dominate the entire island.

SRI LANKA : TOP-LEVEL TALKS IN TRINCOMALEE , 14 SINHALESE KILLED

While Sri Lanka's 12 million Sinhalese are a majority in their own land, they feel racially threatened by the 50 million Tamils of the neighboring southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, only six miles away across the Palk Strait and the source of waves of Tamil migration to the island since the 3rd century.

For their part, the **Tamil Tigers** claim that north and east Sri Lanka are the traditional homeland of the island's 1.6 million-strong Tamil minority.

They say that the Sinhalese, who make up a third of Trincomalee's population, were settled there by successive Sinhalese-dominated governments determined to alter the natural ethnic balance around the key port of Trincomalee from which the district takes its name.

Thousands of Sinhalese have fled the Trincomalee District as a result of the Tiger attacks on their settlements and the Colombo government has been pressing for their resettlement and rehabilitation.

Pressure has been mounting here for the deployment of Sri Lankan troops to protect Trincomalee's Sinhalese. Under the terms of the peace accord, the Sri Lankan Army was confined to barracks, but following talks between senior Sri Lankan and Indian officials last week, rumors began circulating about the possibility of a joint effort against the Tamils involving the armies of both countries.

Before he left for the talks in Trincomalee, the deputy commander of the Indian force, Maj. Gen. A.S. Khalkat, told reporters in Colombo yesterday that the Sri Lankan police would cooperate with Indian troops in giving security to the Sinhalese.

The current moves to protect Sinhalese in Tamil areas are part of an attempt by the Colombo government to still the racial fears and shore up the process of restoring peace and devolving power to the Tamils, observers say.

"Until the Indian troops are seen to be protecting the Sinhalese against the Tigers, they will be seen as basically inimical to Sinhalese interests," said one political analyst here.

REBELS ALLEGE MILITARY KILLED TAMIL CIVILIANS

COURIER-MAIL

December 20, 1995 Wednesday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 407 words

Byline: ELIATAMBY N

Body

KEYWORD-HIT Rebels allege military killed Tamil civilians By NIRESH ELIATAMBY in Colombo TAMIL Tiger rebels accused the military yesterday of murdering thousands of Tamil civilians and using forced labour in eastern Sri Lanka during the 12-year-old ethnic war. "It is estimated that 9000 Tamil youths of both sexes have been massacred in the eastern province prior to 1994," the rebels said in a statement. "Their actual fate is not known . . . but they were arrested by the armed forces." It was unclear where the bodies had been buried, said the statement from the guerrillas' London office. A military spokesman in Colombo denied the allegation. "If the army has massacred 9,000 civilians, the **LTTE** (rebels) must prove it by producing the bodies," said the spokesman, who cannot be identified under briefing rules. The rebels said 27 Tamils, including seven **women**, had disappeared this year after being arrested by the military in the eastern Trincomalee district. Their statement also claimed 62 Tamil prisoners were being used for forced labour in military bases in Trincomalee, 230km north-east of Colombo. Human rights groups have expressed concern over arbitrary arrests and disappearances of Tamils in military custody throughout the country. They also have criticised the rebels for attacking Sinhalese and Muslim civilians in the north and east, in a form of "ethnic cleansing" of areas they claim as a Tamil homeland. The state-appointed Human Rights Task Force warned this week that many soldiers and policemen are ignoring government guidelines to ensure the safety of rebel suspects.

QNPThe military previously admitted that soldiers were responsible for the massacre of 50 Tamil civilians in June 1991 at Kokkadicholai village in eastern Batticaloa district. In September, Sri Lankan warplanes bombed a school in the northern Jaffna peninsula, killing 71 people, including 42 children. In October, the rebels attacked six Sinhalese villages in the north-east, shooting and hacking to death 108 people, including children. The rebels earlier this week regrouped to the south of the Jaffna lagoon, 400km north of Colombo, where an estimated 200,000 Jaffna residents have sought refuge. They are fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils alleging widespread discrimination by the majority Sinhalese who control the Government and military. More than 39,000 people have been killed in the fighting since 1983. Associated Press

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

1ST LEAD: Over 60 civilians massacred by rebels in eastern Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 18, 1999, Saturday, BC Cycle 05:29 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 365 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

More than 60 civilians including women and children were shot or hacked to death by suspected Tamil rebels in attacks on three remote villages in eastern Sri Lanka, police said Saturday.

The massacre took place in the eastern Ampara district, some 300 kilometres from the capital, in a pre-dawn raid Saturday, police and a member of parliament from the area, Y. Bakmeewewa, said.

The MP said according to initial reports Tamil rebels had entered the village, scared off paramilitary guards and then gone on a rampage.

He said the villages which came under attack are areas where the majority Sinhala community lives and most victims are believed to be Sinhalese.

Police and army have moved into the area looking for more bodies and any survivors. Five injured persons have been removed to the hospital.

The military in the area blamed the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who are fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east of the country.

The massacre came three days after 22 minority Tamil civilians were killed when a marketplace in the northeast of the country was hit by a Sri Lankan Air force bomber.

The Lankan military denied the attack saying they did not target civilians and hit two rebel camps in the area, but the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) confirmed that civilians were killed in the attack at Mullaitivu.

Amnesty International also had condemned the attack on the market.

Reports from the Ampara district said that in one of the villages known as Punchi-Sigiriya 47 civilians including 17 women and seven children were massacred. Most of them had been hacked to death.

Commandos of the elite Special Task Force (STF) were moved into the area early Saturday while additional troops were also being moved into the area, a military spokesman said.

The attack on the civilians were the biggest in two years. Rebels have refrained from attacking civilians in recent years mainly due to international condemnations.

1ST LEAD: Over 60 civilians massacred by rebels in eastern Lanka

Political analysts said they believe the rebels may try to justify the attack by saying it was a retaliation for the Air Force bombing in Mullaitivu. dpa ad vc

Load-Date: September 18, 1999

End of Document

GO ZONE: SRI LANKA: THE SMILING ISLE!;
TEMPLES, ELEPHANTS AND EXOTIC CHARMS...

Wales on Sunday

June 23, 2002, Sunday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 34,35

Length: 1501 words

Byline: Peter Gill

Body

TEA, ***Tamil Tigers*** and it used to be called Ceylon: that's all I knew about Sri Lanka. Now, after a one short visit, I'm an expert.

Well, not quite but I do now go on about the place as if I was. There is something about this wonderful island that once you start extolling its virtues it's difficult to stop.

It has so much going for it. It is, as the Sri Lanka Tourist Board says, a land like no other. Sri Lanka, the Pearl of the Indian Ocean, is the tear-drop island off the south east coast of India.

For an the island not much bigger than Wales - 65,000 sq km compared to 20,000 sq km - there is a great amount to see and do - from ancient sites to elephants and deserted beaches to bustling cities.

Sri Lanka is happy island - a land of smiling people. Try saying "Ayubowan" when you meet someone - it means 'may you live long' and is said placing the palms of your hands together in front of you as if in prayer - and you'll see just how big those smiles can be. It is a traditional greeting that is part of a culture which goes back more than 2,500 years.

Sri Lanka became a Buddhist country about 250 years BC and over the centuries a doctrine of peace and tolerance has left its mark on the land and its people.

There is a colourful mixture of religions and races and although predominantly Sinhalese, Sri Lanka has other ethnic groups - Tamils, Moors, Malays and descendants of the Dutch, Portuguese and British, as well as a small aboriginal community of Veddahs.

It is not uncommon to find Buddhist temples, Hindu kovils, mosques and Methodist or Mormon churches along side one another in a main street. And the streets always seem busy with people whether in the city and the countryside. A good way to get around and experience the place is a motorised rickshaw, which can be hired for just a few rupees. But take a tip - do not drive yourself. It's best to hire a mini-coach or take a taxi. If you thought the Italians were crazy drivers, think again. The Sri Lankans are something else.

One of the attractions of the island as a tourist destination is its compactness which offers different types of holidays without having to travel too far. Whatever your fancy, whether it is tea and tradition, forests and fauna, sun

GO ZONE: SRI LANKA : THE SMILING ISLE!; TEMPLES, ELEPHANTS AND EXOTIC CHARMS...

and surfing, heritage and hotels, beaches or bats (the flying kind: huge and called fruit bats) nothing is ever far away.

And, of course, there are the elephants. Wherever you go the elephant looms large over everyday life. There are 2,500 to 3,000 of them and the islanders regard them as the true emperors of the forests.

From ancient times, the Sri Lankan Elephant (*Elephas maximus maximus*) has a reputation for being bigger, braver, more fierce and more intelligent and easier to be tamed and trained than their other Asian counterparts.

To get to see elephants up close there's no better place than the elephant orphanage at Pinnawela. The first of its kind in the world, the orphanage provides a place where abandoned and disabled elephants get a lot of care and protection, enjoy a social life and freedom. If you time your visit right you can watch 60 or so of them take their twice daily bath in the river. And, as the orphanage is also a breeding centre, you can get to see baby elephants and watch them being fed.

I was able to get close to the big guys, reach out and touch one of the magnificent animals. They're so huge and strong, yet so stately and gentle. I was just left in awe at their size and the majesty of these mega herbivores.

Later, I cooled off with an iced drink and continued watching the herd from the shade of the riverside restaurant. I saw a group of local women and children bathing and washing their clothes in the traditional manner. This, I mused, was to be an idyllic memory of my trip.

Then, one of the elephants defecated in the river and, as it dissipated in the swirling waters sweeping towards the village women, I was reminded of just how basic life is in this paradise isle. Nevertheless, the visit to the elephant orphanage remains one of the highlights of my trip.

In the middle of the island is a sort of cultural triangle, which includes five of Sri Lanka's seven World Heritage sites. One of these is the Sigiriya Rock Fortress, which was built by King Kashyapa, who reigned from 477 to 495 AD. It was the innermost stronghold of a 70-hectare fortified city that existed then.

Rising out of the scrub jungle, Sigiriya - or Lion Mountain - is one of Asia's most important archaeological sites and dates from prehistoric times. Sigiriya was a fifth century city complex with ramparts, moats, gateways, pavilions, a palace and pleasure gardens surrounding the 200-metre rock. It took seven years to build and, with everything having to be carried by hand, would have needed thousands of workers to complete. No one knows how many people inhabited the area at the time, although it is known that there were 10,000 monks living in the region.

Historians say the king, a ruthless ruler, got his servants to carry him to the top in a sort of royal litter, and the small foot places carved into the rock face for those with this unenviable task can still be seen. (If I'd been king I wouldn't have trusted people I subjugated to carry me up such a steep slope: the temptation for a revengeful accident must have been great!) Apparently, the king was later murdered by his son who plastered him into a wall - alive.

Today, visitors can retrace those same steep steps but it's not a trip for the faint-hearted or those with heart problems. The walk/climb to the top is safe enough but it is a bit scary as you traverse the cliff face.

If you need help going up - or down, for that matter - there are plenty of locals around - at a price. These unofficial guides are only ever a few feet away and even follow you up, waiting for you to tire or stumble so they can offer assistance, advice or commentary in return for a few rupees. If you don't want their help a firm 'No thanks' usually does the trick.

But I found the souvenir sellers not so easily deterred. I couldn't shake off one persistent seller, so I said I didn't want to carry it all the way up and back and would see him later, thinking I'd got the better of him. But no, three hours later, he spotted me out of the hundreds of tourists and started his sales pitch again! I decided to buy his carved ebony offering and we began to haggle over the price, eventually settling at a third of his original asking price of 4,500 rupees.

GO ZONE: SRI LANKA : THE SMILING ISLE!; TEMPLES, ELEPHANTS AND EXOTIC CHARMS...

By now we'd formed a bond so I asked him how he came to have only one leg. It transpired that had survived an elephant rampaging through his village which killed several adults and children. Now, instead of farming, he makes the journey to Sigiriya twice a day on crutches selling souvenirs for an income... how could I even think of not buying!

My guide told me there were many such hard-luck stories and in Colombo, the commercial capital, I often came across beggars. But somehow in a big city, it's easy to walk on by.

Like many developing countries, Sri Lanka is fast changing, particularly now that there is peace in the land. The years of civil strife in the north between the government and the **Tamil Tigers** independence fighters are over and everyone is at pains to tell you that the peace is permanent. Certainly, the country's economy is dependent on it and everyone realises just how important it is to business and tourism.

Tea, of course, is still the Sri Lanka's main industry, providing 20 per cent of its export earnings. The tea industry took off during the British colonial rule after the island's main export, coffee, was ravaged by disease. It was pioneered by a Scottish plantation manager, one James Taylor in 1875 and the whole Ceylon tea story continues to fascinate. No visit can be complete without a visit to the highlands of the country which provides the world's best tea.

Here the estates, as the tea plantations are called - still have very British sounding names like Somerset, Edinburgh, Logie and Hethersett.

TAKE OFF(Sri Lanka Tourism head office is at 80 Galle Road, PO box 1504, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka (tel: + 94 1 437056).

Website is www.srilankatourism.org/ Sri Lanka Airlines - www.srilankan.lk (Sri Lanka Tourism office in UK: 26-27 Clareville House, Oxendon Street, London, SW1Y 4EL. Tel 0120 7930 2627(The seven world heritage sites of Sri Lanka listed by UNESCO are: The sacred City of Anuradhapura, the medieval capital of Polonnaruwa, the cave temples of Dambulla, the Sigiriya Rock Fortress, the Royal City of Kandy , the Dutch Fortifications at Galle and the Sinharaja Forest Reserve.

Top hotels include: The Colombo Hilton;Kandalama Hotel, Kandalma; Earl's Regency Hotel, Kandy; Tea Factory Hotel, Nuwara-Eliya; Triton Hotel, Ahungalla; Mount Lavinia Hotel, Mt Lavinia; Galle face Hotel, Colombo; T aj Samundra Hotel; and the Hotel Lanka Oberoi, Colombo.

(Peter Gill's trip was arranged through Aitken Spence Travels Ltd, whose email is travel@aitkenspence.lk The website is www.aitkenspence

Graphic

CITY HEIGHTS: Sigiriya Rock For tress; INSET: (From top); wall paintings, huge elephants, joyous smiles and the Colombo Hilton

Load-Date: June 28, 2002

Colombo shuts down for Tiger hunt

THE AUSTRALIAN

October 27, 1997, Monday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 6

Length: 376 words

Body

THE Sri Lankan capital was sealed off for nearly eight hours yesterday in an unprecedented move as troops mounted a huge house-to-house search and detained 1000 suspects.

Official sources said 150 women were among those detained for not possessing proper identity papers or being unable to explain their presence in Colombo, which was believed to be infiltrated by two dozen suicide bombers from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The latest government action came 10 days after 20 people were killed and 105 wounded when Tamil guerillas detonated a truck bomb in the financial centre in the city.

AFP

Police have warned there could be more suicide bombings, a trademark of the LTTE, and sought public assistance to track down rebel infiltrators in the capital and its suburbs.

Entry points to the city were closed and security forces assisted by police checked identity papers and searched homes in the operation on Saturday, the defence ministry said.

"The operation was a success,"

Colombo's police chief, Deputy-Inspector General T. B. Dissanayake, said. "We have rounded up several people for questioning and the interrogations are now in progress."

In the first statement broadcast repeatedly over State radio, the defence ministry said no vehicles would be allowed to enter or leave Colombo during the search.

Residents were asked to stay indoors and co-operate with security forces. Later, the ministry said it regretted the inconvenience caused to individuals.

"The defence ministry is confident that the public will bear this degree of inconvenience in the interest of national security," the statement said. However, no curfew was declared.

During the city-wide search, people going to hospitals and the international airport were told they could proceed after establishing their identities although no other vehicles would be allowed to leave or enter Colombo, the ministry statement said.

Even as the search began, the Tamil Tiger guerillas staged a predawn attack against an army bunker line in the north of the country, killing six soldiers for the loss of three of their own men, officials said.

Colombo shuts down for Tiger hunt

They said seven soldiers were also wounded in the pre-dawn attack against the army's defences at Chettikulam, 260km north of Colombo.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

THE FORGOTTEN WARS: Casualties mount as West's sympathy and aid wane

The Ottawa Citizen

January 2, 1994, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A3

Length: 1614 words

Byline: HELLA PICK; THE GUARDIAN

Dateline: LONDON

Body

Most of the western world has become war-weary. Where the bloody civil wars in the former Yugoslavia are concerned, there is, at least, widespread awareness of conflict and crisis. The same cannot be said about several wars around the globe that have made little mark on public consciousness in the West.

SUDAN: There is seemingly no end to the suffering of southern Sudan, caused by years of strife between the country's Muslim fundamentalist central government, led by Gen. Omar Bashir, and the rebel movement, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, in the country's mainly Christian southern areas.

Lack of food and the influx of refugees from neighboring Ethiopia and Somalia have added to southern Sudan's tribulations. This year, Khartoum unleashed a new offensive against the South, including air raids, which are said to have killed numerous civilians, and have created a mass of panic-stricken refugees heading for Uganda, Kenya and Zaire.

During a decade of civil war, at least two million people have been driven from their homes, and tens of thousands have been killed. Many are huddled in remote refugee camps that are inadequately supplied with food and medicine, and are run by a few exceptionally devoted aid workers from abroad.

The people's army is demanding a secular Sudan, in which the South would share power equally with the Arab Muslim North.

Sudan's civil war worries the country's neighbors but no longer arouses much interest elsewhere. Neglect has been compounded by the fact that, since last August, Sudan has become a virtual outcast, officially listed by Washington as a "state sponsoring terrorism on a par with Libya, Iraq and Iran.

This followed allegations by the FBI that Sudan's extremist Muslim leadership was implicated in an alleged plot to blow up the UN headquarters building in New York, and other strategic buildings in the city.

SOMALIA: A year ago, images of starving **women** and children in Somalia were still dominating television screens. U.S. President George Bush made a Christmas Eve visit to Mogadishu to cheer on U.S. troops sent to Somalia to restore food-supply lines, and halt the dying of the innocent.

THE FORGOTTEN WARS: Casualties mount as West's sympathy and aid wane

In Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was convening a conference of Somalia's warring factions, where even Gen. Mohamed Farrah Aidid was persuaded to sign a framework for peace. A UN peacekeeping force, comprising French, Italian, Belgian, German and Pakistani troops, was being assembled to replace some of the U.S. forces.

Now, after repeated fiascos, UN and U.S. forces are pulling out, Somalia's factions are no nearer reconciliation, and aid agencies warn that a shortage of food and lack of security to distribute aid again threaten Somalia with tragedy.

But Somalia has largely ceased to command the world's compassion and attention. The prevailing mood is to argue that "if those warlords can't settle their differences, there is no point in helping them.

ANGOLA: The civil war here has gone on for so long that accounts of its people's suffering have become repetitive, even monotonous. Reporting from Angola has been radically scaled down.

The UN-organized elections in 1992 brought only temporary respite to the fighting in Angola. Jonas Savimbi, leader of the rebel Unita movement, refused to accept that he had lost the election and the fighting resumed, even more ferociously than before.

The U.S. administration and the South African government insist that they have ended their support for Unita. But Savimbi's forces remain well armed, helped by clandestine networks in South Africa, and Zaire's Gen. Mobutu.

The United Nations estimates that at least 1,000 people are dying every day as a result of the war, and the country's infrastructure is largely destroyed. The UN is persisting with efforts to broker a ceasefire. But after a series of meetings between Unita and government representatives, it remains unclear whether Angola's agony is any closer to ending.

AFGHANISTAN: A "historic settlement to end the war in Afghanistan was brokered by the UN. In 1989, the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan. An interim government to replace the pro-Moscow Najibullah regime was installed in Kabul in 1992. Substantial numbers of refugees have returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran; but millions remain in both nations.

Yet Afghanistan remains at war. The nature of the fighting has changed. With external forces gone, the country is at the mercy of tribal feuds and strife between Muslim extremists and moderates.

Kabul, which survived the period of Soviet occupation with many of its buildings at least partly intact, has now been virtually reduced to rubble. The president, Burhanuddin Rabbani lacks power and influence and is unable to prevent the nominal prime minister, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, from continuous onslaught against the capital. No attempt has been made to restore an administrative structure, and the promise of general elections in 1994 cannot be fulfilled.

The UN is no longer a player in Afghanistan. Virtually all international aid agencies have pulled out of Kabul, and elsewhere in Afghanistan there are none. Foreign embassies remain closed; almost the only news that trickles out comes from Indian and Pakistani sources.

Only a handful of journalists have ventured into Afghanistan during the past year, and a conflict that once occupied centre stage as one of the possible triggers of a third world war now rumbles on out of sight of the international community.

KASHMIR: This increasingly bloody conflict is no nearer to a solution than at any time since this Muslim majority country became part of India after partition of the subcontinent in 1947.

During the last three years, between 8,000 people (according to official sources) and 20,000 people (according to the insurgents) have been killed in clashes between Indian army forces and Muslim militants demanding independence.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front is steadily increasing in strength, and is well supplied with arms. India has more than 150,000 troops deployed in the territory, which is under direct rule from New Delhi.

THE FORGOTTEN WARS: Casualties mount as West's sympathy and aid wane

Human-rights groups have documented hundreds of acts of brutality, including the killing of suspects, torture and rape.

India blames Pakistan for the impasse in Kashmir, and holds Islamabad responsible for helping the Kashmiri militants. The two countries have gone to war over Kashmir before. They could do so again -- and unlike the past, both countries have now developed nuclear weapons.

The United Nations has a presence in Kashmir. But India does not allow it to monitor the conflict, and the UN gave up any attempt to broker a political settlement long ago.

LIBERIA: The Organization of African Unity's forces have still not succeeded in restoring peace to this country, ravaged by civil war. A few aid workers have been able to return; but even the United States, which traditionally exercised influence in Liberia, takes no interest in Liberia now.

SRI LANKA: Year in, year out, the civil strife in Sri Lanka continues, claiming thousands of lives, making part of this island, the Jaffna peninsula, a virtual no-go area and subjecting the capital, Colombo, to frequent terrorist attack.

It is all part of the fight by militant **Tamil Tigers** for a separate state for Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils. The war has already claimed thousands of victims; not least Sri Lanka's president, Ranasinghe Premadasa, who was assassinated in May 1992.

His successor, D.P. Wijetunge, rejects the argument that Sri Lanka has an ethnic problem in need of a political solution. The government insists the **Tamil Tigers** are a terrorist movement, to be put down by force. Negotiations have been virtually ruled out now, and Sri Lanka's armed forces are being expanded.

Sri Lanka's once-flourishing tourist trade has shrunk to insignificant proportions; but the visitors who still come go to resorts that are untroubled by the war, and spend their holidays largely oblivious of the killings.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH: Ethnic Armenians, unofficially aided by volunteers, fuel and weapons from Armenia, have captured all of their Nagorno-Karabakh enclave and about one-fifth of the rest of Azerbaijan. The death toll during years of fighting has been heavy; the displaced are legion and the destruction is widespread. All attempts at mediation so far have foundered; although the Conference on Security and Co-operation is still trying to broker peace.

GEORGIA: For a brief few days last September, Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister, succeeded in focusing world attention on the multi-faceted civil war in his republic, Georgia. As president of Georgia he had joined his forces in the Black Sea port of Sukhumi, fighting a hand-to-hand battle against rebel Abkhaz forces that had virtually surrounded the city. Abkhazia is seeking independence from Georgia. Shevardnadze appealed -- in vain -- to the United Nations for help, and blamed the Russians for providing the rebel forces with much of their weaponry. The sides signed a peace deal under UN auspices, but the Abkhaz forces violated it by moving across the ceasefire lines after Georgian forces had vacated the capital, Sukhumi. Tens of thousands of Georgians fled from the area, taking to the inhospitable mountainside, out of reach of international aid agencies.

Although the situation has stabilized since then, there is still intermittent fighting, and the Abkhaz have not pulled back to the ceasefire lines. They now control the whole of Abkhazia, up to the official border with Georgia on the River Inguri.

Graphic

AP photo/ A Somali child gestures to UN troops in a Mogadishu street

AP/ (Map locating Sudan)

THE FORGOTTEN WARS: Casualties mount as West's sympathy and aid wane

AP/Carl Fox/ (Maps locating Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Pooneryn base, Jaffna Lagoon, Azerbaijan)

Load-Date: January 3, 1994

End of Document

2nd Lead: High turnout in Sri Lankan presidential election

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 21, 1999, Tuesday, BC Cycle 10:33 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 424 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Polling booths in Sri Lanka closed on Tuesday with more than 70 per cent of voters having turned out to cast their ballots in this island nation's presidential election.

Election officials and poll monitors said on Tuesday that there were minor incidents of violence and complaints of rigging and intimidation.

Polling which commenced at 7.00 a.m. ended at 4.00 p.m. local time. Elections officials had begun transporting the ballot boxes to the counting centers in the respective districts, a spokesman for the Election office in the capital Colombo said on Tuesday afternoon.

A national average turnout of more than 70 per cent was recorded, but in certain areas including the strife-torn northern Jaffna peninsula voting was as low as 30 per cent by Tuesday evening.

The military stepped up its security in the northern province ahead of the polls fearing that rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) would make attempts to disrupt the polls, but no major incidents were reported from the north and east.

Elsewhere in the northern and eastern provinces more than 60 per cent had cast their votes.

Voting in urban areas in the country had been high with **females** showing a keen interest in casting their votes, election officials said.

The incumbent President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who survived a Tamil rebel suicidal bomb attack on Sunday, and the leader of the main opposition Ranil Wickramasinghe are the main contenders in the election although there are 11 other candidates.

President Kumaratunga who was recovering from an eye injury did not cast her vote until the last 30 minutes of polling time, possibly on security advice, one of her party supporters said.

The elections was monitored by more than 60 foreign observers and over 8000 locals who were helping independent groups.

Election monitors said that they had received reports of two more deaths during the time of polling and a series of complaints about threats, intimidation, cases of impersonation, but no serious incidents which could disrupt the polls had been reported.

2nd Lead: High turnout in Sri Lankan presidential election

Details of the incidents and complaints were not available immediately.

Police said that it was likely that a late night curfew would be declared later Tuesday night as a precaution to prevent any post poll violence.

The results, on electoral basis were expected to start coming in after Tuesday midnight and the district results due by early Wednesday while the final result and the winning candidate is due to be declared by Wednesday evening.
dpa ad js

Eds: Updating throughout

Load-Date: December 22, 1999

End of Document

Rebels suffer heavy casualties in counter-attack in N.E. Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 28, 1995, Friday, BC Cycle 16:28 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 375 words

Body

Colombo, dpa - More than 200 suspected Tamil rebels were killed in a counter-offensive launched by government troops backed by naval and air support after repulsing a series of attacks by rebels in the northeastern part of the country, military officials said Friday.

The rebels, who launched simultaneous attacks at dawn Friday on four military detachment bases in the northeastern Mulaitivu district, were beaten back by security forces, who forced them to flee leaving behind at least 182 bodies.

Military officials quoting ground troops in the area said they believed that over 200 members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were killed in the counter-attack and a similar number wounded.

The military announced that only two soldiers had been killed in the attacks and five others wounded.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the casualty figures.

Heavily armed rebels including women cadres had taken part in the attacks on the military bases at Kokilai, Jayasinghapura, Kakkuthuduwai and Janakapura camps in the northeastern coastal areas.

Two women suicide bombers carrying explosives were shot dead outside the brigade headquarters of one of the camps, while in another instance rebels fired a missile at an air force helicopter but the pilot managed to avoid being hit.

The navy was reported to have engaged a large number of boats fleeing towards the north and four large boats were confirmed to have been completely destroyed. The air force had directly bombed two lorries carrying rebels in the area. Casualty figures in both incidents were not known.

The attack was the biggest since government troops launched a major offensive in the north and withdrew back to their bases early this month.

The rebels say they are fighting in the north and east for an independent homeland for the minority Tamils.

The abortive attacks by the rebels came as the government released a political programme aimed at solving the Tamil minority ethnic issue. The package foresees extensive devolution, but observers said there is no immediate possibility of implementing it since the rebels dominate a major part of the northern province and, to a lesser extent, the east of the country. dpa wo ct

Rebels suffer heavy casualties in counter-attack in N.E. Lanka

Load-Date: July 28, 1995

End of Document

Indian troops crack down on bloody rebel feud

United Press International
September 15, 1987, Tuesday, BC cycle

Copyright 1987 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 364 words

Byline: By IQBAL ATHAS

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Indian peace-keeping forces Tuesday arrested two suspected Tamil rebels in an apparent crackdown to end a bloody feud between rebel groups that the guerrillas say has left more than 100 dead since Sunday.

Nine rebels were killed and two others were captured in the fighting Tuesday, rebel and official sources said.

News of the arrests came after J.N. Dixit, India's high commissioner to Colombo, met President J.R. Jayewardene to brief him on how the Indian peace-keeping forces planned to deal with the violence.

A spokeswoman for the Indian high commission said a report on the situation had been sent to New Delhi and that Indian officials in northern Sri Lanka and New Delhi were reviewing the problems.

Military sources said the peace-keeping forces remained under orders to not open fire. Joint patrols by the police and the Indian troops have been intensified in the Batticaloa district.

The Indian forces arrested two members of the main Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the village of Kiran, 12 miles north of the city of Batticaloa, following reports that Tiger rebels armed with automatic weapons were searching houses for rival guerrillas.

The two rebels, the first arrested since the fighting broke out Sept. 5, were handed over to local police, authorities said.

Also Tuesday, 30 rebels from other Tamil groups surrendered to police and security forces. Authorities said more than 140 rebels had given themselves up in order to receive protection from their rivals and more surrenders were expected.

Since Sunday, fighting in the Batticaloa district left more than 100 dead, according to rebel sources. The latest police total was 52, but their access to the region was limited.

A military official said fighting continued Tuesday in the villages of Kalmunai and Mandoor.

Witnesses said bullet-riddled bodies of at least 50 people were strewn along local roads. Police said 23 other bodies, including four women and 12 children, had been handed over to relatives.

Indian troops crack down on bloody rebel feud

The **LTTE** killed seven Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front members at Mandoor Tuesday, official and rebel sources said. In Kalmunai, two more EPRLF members were killed, the sources said.

End of Document

Sri Lankan government, Tamil Tiger rebels make breakthrough in peace talks

Associated Press International

December 5, 2002 Thursday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 756 words

Byline: SHIMALI SENANAYAKE; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: OSLO, Norway

Body

Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tiger rebels agreed Thursday to develop a government that would give the rebels regional autonomy - a breakthrough decision after months of efforts to end the 19 years of fighting between them.

The ***Tamil Tigers*** have been fighting for independence since 1983 but gave up the demand just ahead of the third round of peace talks in Oslo. Now, both sides agreed to pursue a peace based on the principle of internal self-determination in Tamil-dominated areas of the north and east, according to a draft copy of the joint statement obtained by The Associated Press.

"The parties have decided to explore a political solution founded on internal self-determination based on a federal structure within a united Sri Lanka," the statement said. It also said political steps must be supported by measures to ensure continuation of an existing cease-fire and "that new concrete measures will be taken to facilitate further de-escalation."

Norway's Deputy Foreign Minister Vidar Helgesen said the three days of talks were conducted in a "frank, open and constructive manner."

The agreement was reached a week after the reclusive rebel leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran said for the first time that the Tigers were in favor of a solution that offered "substantial regional autonomy."

The statement said the rebels will let competing political parties stay in their regions as long as they are unarmed, and that the activities of their courts and police would not extend into government-held areas.

Chief rebel negotiator Anton Balasingham said "both parties made an unprecedented historic decision."

"Our struggle was based on the concept of self-determination," he said Thursday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam have fought a war demanding a separate homeland for the island's 3.2 million Tamil minority, claiming discrimination against them by the 14 million Sinhalese. The fighting has claimed nearly 65,000 lives and displaced another 1.6 million people.

Government negotiator Gamini Peiris said the commitment to peace is in place.

Sri Lankan government, Tamil Tiger rebels make breakthrough in peace talks

"There is not going to be a war. We are certain of that," he said. "The people of the country are yearning for peace."

Balasingham said the peace process would move forward in Sri Lanka, step by step.

"There is no need to resort to violence," he said.

Commitment to peace is key for international support to reconstruct the war-torn island.

The agreement came exactly a year after a parliamentary election in Sri Lanka that voted into power the government of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who campaigned on a pledge to make peace.

Ways of incorporating the rebels into the government will be examined in the next round of talks in Thailand in January and Japan in March.

"All these measures will have to be couched within an appropriate ... framework embodied in a new constitution," Balasingham said.

However, a new constitution or an amendment to the current one requires the support of Wickremesinghe's political rival, President Chandrika Kumaratunga, and her party's lawmakers. Many of Kumaratunga's party members have accused the government of providing too many concessions at the risk of the country's sovereignty.

Kumaratunga has the power to sack the government and call for new elections.

That has not created concern on the part the rebels.

Balasingham said if new elections were called, the support for the peace process would strengthen the government.

Balasingham also said a separate Muslim delegation would be included in the next round of talks. Sri Lanka's 1.3 million Muslims are fearful of being marginalized in any final settlement.

The Tigers - who admitted to recruiting child fighters, also agreed to work with the U.N. Children's Fund to develop a plan for bringing normality back to the children's lives.

Both sides also said a joint committee to examine women's issues will be established.

Human rights, public finance and law and order will also have to be taken up in talks scheduled for Thailand and Japan.

Since Norway brokered the cease-fire in February, both sides have dealt mostly with peripheral issues of confidence building. Two earlier rounds of talks in Thailand showed unexpected progress with the rebels expressing hope to enter mainstream politics.

The government will have to convince the Sri Lankan people to trust the rebels, who have been responsible for at least 160 suicide bombings on the island. Similarly, the Tigers will also have the difficult task of communicating to its cadres and supporters its pursuit of a political settlement after bloody years of war.

Load-Date: December 6, 2002

Palace in the sky

Sunday Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

May 5, 2002, Sunday

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Section: SUNDAY TRAVEL; Pg. V05

Length: 725 words

Byline: Maurice Perera

Body

A 5th-century rock fortress has been conquered by a puffing Maurice Perera

TOWERING defiantly 200m over a lush jungle canopy is a massive rock that is a favourite destination for tourists to Sri Lanka.

But it is not an ordinary monolith -- Sri Lanka claims it is the Eighth Wonder of the World.

Fifteen centuries ago it was the hideout for an infamous Sinhala king, Kasyapa, who painstakingly built his royal palace and pleasure gardens for his queen and many concubines on its summit.

History records that Kasyapa came into prominence during the reign of King Dhatusena I, his father, who ruled the ancient capital of Anuradhapura from 459-477AD.

But Kasyapa was a son by a commoner and the king annointed his half-brother, Moggalana, who was of royal birth, as the heir to the throne.

Angered, Kasyapa killed his father and seized the throne.

But fearful of revenge from Moggalana, Kasyapa fled Anuradhapura and combed the jungle for a hiding place.

He found the giant rock and had his palace built on its 1.5ha summit -- an incredible engineering feat for that age.

For security he built two deep moats filled with crocodiles, and kept his army on full battle alert with spears, catapults and huge boulders to be rolled on to attackers.

Called Sigiriya, or Lion Rock, entry is through the carved jaws of a giant crouching lion.

At age 65, the very thought of climbing the rock loomed as the biggest challenge of my life.

With my fear of heights -- it took me more than a year to drive over the West Gate Bridge -- I was in two minds.

But my guide urged me on.

Then I remembered the advice Everest conqueror Peter Hillary (son of Sir Edmund) gave me when I confided in him my problem with heights.

Palace in the sky

"Concentrate about 3m (10ft) at a time. Never look at the summit going up and the world below when coming down," he said.

I took the challenge, and huffed and puffed my way up the narrow stairway that wound up the rock with only a wind-blown railing to hold.

The railings were built when the island was a British colony from 1796 to 1948. Before that many people were said to have fallen to their death, using old handholds carved in the rock.

Before one reaches the summit, there is a sheltered pocket on the western face that houses world-famous paintings of bare-breasted women, known as the Sigiriya Maidens or Damsels. There is evidence of about 500 paintings, but only 19 have survived.

Some believe they could have been the playboy king's 500 concubines.

When we reached the summit, the guide told me that I had taken only 15 minutes more than a fit climber.

And, I had conquered my fear for heights.

The skeletal layout of the palace and the royal gardens, and a rock-cut pool are the only evidence of King Kasyapa's golden years. But you can almost picture them in the days of glory, 15 centuries ago.

At the foot of the rock Kasyapa built a vast park, believed to be one of the world's oldest landscaped gardens. Weathered limestone and brick outlines remain of the labyrinth of ponds, fountains and terraces. The fountains were fed by underwater conduits operated on the principle of gravity and pressure. Some still work in the rainy season.

Legend has it that Moggalana lived in exile in India for 18 years then led an army to fight the king. When Kasyapa's elephant retreated during the battle his army panicked and fled. Deserted, Kasyapa slit his throat with his sword. Moggalana did not move into the palace. Instead, Buddhist monks used it and destroyed many of the paintings of half-naked women, regarding them as obscene.

UNESCO is funding preservation of the ruins as a World Heritage site. There is presently a lull in the conflict between the Government and rebel Tamil Tigers. People are able to travel freely to most parts of the country. Peace talks are due this month.

snapshot

GETTING THERE:

Singapore Airlines has flights daily from Melbourne to Sri Lanka. Emirates also has daily flights to Singapore with connections to Sri Lanka on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. SriLankan Airlines has daily flights from Singapore to Colombo.

ENTRY FEE:

Sigiriya entry fee is \$32.

WHERE TO STAY:

Miridiya Hotel at Anuradhapura and the five-star, 162-room Kandalama Hotel in Dambulla.

INQUIRIES:

Ceylon Tourist Board, Email: tourinfo@sri.lanka.net

Palace in the sky

Load-Date: May 4, 2002

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Women: Just doing her job: Helen Carter on her friend Yvonne Ridley, who is being held captive by the Taliban

The Guardian (London)

October 4, 2001

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Section: Guardian Features Pages, Pg. 9

Length: 681 words

Byline: Helen Carter

Body

Yvonne Ridley was just doing her job when she was arrested last Friday by the Taliban in Afghanistan, but already the backlash against her has begun. As the single parent of a nine-year-old daughter, she has been accused of being reckless. Details of her three marriages have been picked over. One Sunday newspaper is reportedly carrying out an investigation into her background and Middle Eastern contacts. There have even been suggestions that she is some kind of Israeli agent, which is nonsense at best and downright dangerous at worst.

I have been a good friend of Yvonne for more than six years, since we first met at the News of the World. This negative reaction has the potential to compromise her and is deeply disturbing for her friends, family and employer. The implied criticisms of Yvonne have been subtle but insidious.

Should Yvonne not have put herself at risk because she was a woman and a mother? The BBC's world affairs editor, John Simpson, has been lauded for sneaking into Afghanistan with his 6ft 2in frame shrouded in a burqa. Ironically, it was Simpson's antics which led to pressure on other reporters to cross the border. I know Yvonne not as reckless, but as a tenacious and determined reporter.

Christina Lamb, of the Sunday Telegraph, who had been out for dinner with Yvonne shortly before her arrest, wrote about how the stakes are higher for her colleague because of her status as a single mother. So, how would it make it better if she had a partner at home?

Surely we have got beyond the point where **women** reporting from the front-line are considered an oddity. While there remain fewer **women** than men fronting coverage, Yvonne is in good company, working alongside some of the most distinguished **women** in the field - including Maggie O'Kane of this newspaper, Anne Leslie, Zubeida Malik and Jacky Rowland. Veteran war reporter Marie Colvin has been shortlisted for a Woman of the Year award next week for bravery while reporting on the **Tamil Tigers** in Sri Lanka, where she was blinded in one eye by a piece of shrapnel.

Do **women** report war differently? It's a moot point, and the present deployment proves that editors are seeing beyond gender. But consider the testosterone-laden presentation of Gary Jones, who appeared on the front page of the Mirror sporting a beard and Afghan clothing, writing with Boys' Own comic revelry about a shell landing 250 yards away, or Ross Benson, equally gung-ho and macho, pictured in similar style in the Daily Mail. One wonders whether their children and home lives would be dragged into the equation should anything happen to them.

Women: Just doing her job: Helen Carter on her friend Yvonne Ridley, who is being held captive by the Taliban

A letter to Tony Blair from Yvonne's daughter Daisy, who was nine yesterday, was shown on News at Ten. The haunting image of Daisy's worried face has stared out of several newspapers as she has pleaded for her mother's release. Publicity is important, of course, but it worries me that this subliminally reinforces the message that Yvonne has a child and shouldn't be in Afghanistan.

The editor of the Sunday Express, Martin Townsend, summed Yvonne up well when he described her as a decent, honest and truthful woman. "Her aim was to report, as an unbiased bystander, on the terrible problems Afghanistan faces and the need for understanding on all sides," he said.

I have spent a lot of time with Yvonne and her daughter Daisy. A couple of years ago, I was looking after Daisy for a day while Yvonne was covering a political protest in Trafalgar Square, London. From an early age, Daisy was interested in her mother's job and understood that it was a great adventure.

Yvonne has no time for superficial, shallow people. She is the sort of person who enjoys life and has a wide circle of friends. She is one of the most capable journalists I have ever met, with a strong sense of self-preservation. So what if she has been married three times? It doesn't make her reckless. Yvonne's only crime, it would seem, has been attempting to combine being a mother with a demanding and rewarding career. That is not news. Thousands of women do that every day without being publicly judged.

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Why negotiations often fail in Western Africa

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 07

Length: 778 words

Byline: By Lane Hartill Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST

Highlight: Two new rebel groups have emerged in Ivory Coast as French troops evacuate foreigners.

Body

As if reaching a negotiated settlement in Ivory Coast weren't already hard enough, it just got harder.

Within the past four days, two new rebel groups have emerged in addition to the one that has held the northern part of the country since a failed coup on Sept. 19. Over the weekend, French troops battled rebels in the west and evacuated scores of foreigners. And thousands of migrants who had come to Ivory Coast from war-ravaged Liberia are returning home, threatening a humanitarian crisis there.

The renewed fighting has effectively shattered negotiations in Lome, Togo, between leaders of the original rebel group - the Ivory Coast Patriotic Movement (MPCI) - and government negotiators. The MPCI, made up of Muslims from the country's north, has been seeking greater political representation.

Broken negotiations are familiar to West African conflicts. Everything from failure to include the right people in negotiations to the demonization of rebel groups can contribute to their collapse. And while each conflict has its own cultural and political context, negotiators from past crises point to the need for patience and greater inclusiveness to make the peace process work.

When rebels do rise up, negotiations that are most transformative are those that go beyond high-level government representatives and rebels and reach out to all segments of the population, says John Paul Lederach, a professor in the conflict transformation program at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisburg, Va. He says that negotiations have failed in countries such as Liberia, which has been in a civil war since the mid-1990s, when armed groups rise up and become de facto spokespersons for the society.

"What is needed is a much broader framework that includes armed groups but explicitly engages a wider range of participation," says Mr. Lederach. "Where that happens, the civil society is stronger and the manipulation of either government or armed groups is provided some accountability and control."

Emmanuel Habuka Bombande, the program director at the West African Network for Peacebuilding, agrees. He says that negotiations often fail to include people who are most affected, such as women. He adds that because of this, the peace accords that are reached tend to meet only the limited concerns of the rebel groups, not citizens as a whole.

Why negotiations often fail in Western Africa

Experts say that successful resolutions shouldn't be hurried. In Ghana, ethnic infighting that broke out in the mid-1990s was resolved peacefully through patience.

"In Ghana, mediation and peacebuilding took some time," says Mr. Bombande. "We must be prepared not to seek short-term solution in a rush. Attention should be paid to strengthening national structure that can support durable peace."

Bombande says that in Ghana, special emphasis has been given to the development of national institutions, such as respect for human rights, the rule of law, and the growth of a dynamic civil society. Strong national institutions and an active civil society are able to contain problems before they get out of control, he says.

"In countries such as Ivory Coast, this [strengthening of institutions] has been lacking," says Bombande. Patronage under former President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, he says, "did not allow the development or growth of national institutions nor objective, non-partisan civil-society groups."

Another overlooked dimension in West African conflicts is the demonization of rebel groups by governments and the population.

"Often, rebel groups are portrayed as brutal, disrespectful of law and order, or evil. These stereotypes block empathy and make it difficult to negotiate," says Michael Wessels, professor of psychology at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va., who is a specialist in psychological dynamics of international conflicts. "It is often the failure to empathize that leads government representatives to see rebel demands as highly inappropriate."

He says history has provided numerous cases, such as the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, in which rebels see themselves in a liberation struggle and view death as preferable to acceptance of government domination and oppression. "Empathy is crucial for getting beyond seeing the problem only in one's own terms."

One of the two new rebel groups, the Movement for Justice and Peace, from the Yacouba tribe, the same tribe as their leader former Robert Guei, say that they are out to avenge the death of Mr. Guei, who was killed at the hands of troops loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo.

Mr. Gbagbo will meet with the president of neighboring Burkina Faso tomorrow in Mali to continue to look for diplomatic resolutions.

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