

BRIEFLY

China to increase N-safety ties: China will increase nuclear safety cooperation with foreign countries to ensure the growth of its nuclear industry, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Wednesday. AFP says from Hong Kong.

Indian cyclone death toll now 86: The death toll from a cyclone that hit southeast India this week rose to at least 86 on Wednesday as rising waters flooded villages in the state of Andhra Pradesh, Reuters reports from Hyderabad.

NASA launches 5th flight: It's a green year for NASA: The space agency Thursday launches the fifth shuttle flight of 1994 devoted to studying the state of the Earth. AP reports from Cape Canaveral.

US woman jailed in Vietnam: A Vietnamese court has sentenced a California resident to 18 years in jail for smuggling clothing and gold into Vietnam, a court official said on Thursday. AP reports from Hanoi.

Marijuana field discovered: Brazilian police discovered the biggest marijuana field in the country, the local press reported on Wednesday. Xinhua says from Rio De Janeiro.

Finnish PM operated upon: Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho had an operation for appendicitis on Wednesday, the news agency (STT) reported, Reuters says from Helsinki.

Japan's Autumn Awards announced: The Japanese government yesterday named 30 foreigner and 4,489 Japanese recipients of its annual Autumn Awards for distinguished contributions to the country. AFP reports from Tokyo.

2 killed in SA road mishap: Twenty-five people were killed in a head-on collision between a packed bus and a truck near the South African administrative capital Pretoria yesterday, police said, Reuters reports from Pretoria.

US sub in Russian territory: A US submarine was discovered in Russian territorial waters off the Arctic Kola peninsula and only left after being given several warnings, Interfax News agency said yesterday, Reuters reports from Moscow.

Tansu Ciller in Israel: Prime Minister Tansu Ciller yesterday became the first Turkish premier to visit Israel when she arrived at the head of a 200-strong delegation of ministers and business leaders. AFP reports from Tel Aviv.

Storm claims 6 in Java: A severe storm which hit Gresik and Lamongan, in east Java province has killed six people and injured seven others, as well as destroying more than 100 houses, a press report said in Jakarta Thursday, reports AFP.

Russian PM's plea: Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who last week narrowly survived a vote of no-confidence in parliament, said yesterday government should radically improve cooperation with the legislature. Reuters reports from Moscow.

250 films to be screened at Calcutta festival

Lankan opposition denies PA allegations

Shapour Bakhtiar killing: Trial begins in France

Madonna disappoints fans

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Bandaranaike may become Lanka's second woman president

36 villagers killed in Rwanda

Pakistan seeks French backing in Kashmir dispute with India

PARIS, Nov 3: Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Wednesday called for French backing in its dispute with India over Kashmir, reports AFP.

Benazir, addressing the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, also repeated Pakistan's stance that it is prepared to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), provided India does the same simultaneously.

Earlier she posed for pictures after a meeting with former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, president of the committee, and when her veil slipped, she joked "I am looking for a French designer who would make one that never falls off."

The Pakistani prime minister, on the first day of a four-

day official visit to France, told the committee "I urge France to try to convince India to accept the offer of the Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali of the United Nations to facilitate the search for a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue."

She said Kashmir was the "core issue" dividing Pakistan and India and linked it with the nuclear non-proliferation question, while denouncing human rights violations by India in Kashmir.

"I stand ready on behalf of Pakistan to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty with Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao of India signing with me. Is he ready to make the same commitment?" Benazir said.

"But negotiations and treaties require two partners. We do not lack the will to im-



A large spiral galaxy of stars hidden from direct view behind the Milky Way, recently discovered by astronomers who have named it "Dwingeloo 1" after the Isaac Newton Telescope used to find it. — AFP photo

Astronomers find new galaxy

NEW YORK, Nov 3: Astronomers in Britain have discovered a galaxy virtually in our own back yard, hidden behind the fuzzy streak the ancient Greeks dubbed the Milky Way, reports AP.

The galaxy is about 10 million light-years away in the direction of the constellation Cassiopeia, said researcher Ofer Lahav of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge University in England. A light-year is the distance light travels in one year, about 5.9 trillion miles (9.44 trillion kilometers).

With astronomers spending so much effort looking at the far reaches of the universe, "It's kind of remarkable that still there is a big galaxy like this one hidden just behind our own Milky Way," Lahav said.

Lahav and six colleagues report in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature that they detected the galaxy by its radio-wave emissions. Lahav said it contains about one-third the mass of the Milky Way galaxy.

Jihad Movement to intensify attack against Israelis

GAZA, Nov 3: An Islamic militant movement vowed to step up attacks against Israelis after a Palestinian journalist associated with it was killed by a car bomb in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Hani Abed, 35, died in hospital of wounds. His legs and hands were blown off when his car exploded as he started it in Khan Yunis, Palestinian sources said.

Leaders of Palestinian movement opposed to the Israel-PLO peace deal accused Israel of killing him. Israeli officials declined comment.

Islamic Jihad Movement spokesman Abed Al-Shami said: "Israeli intelligence stood behind the assassination."

"We vow that the armed attacks will increase, both the

the Islamic Jihad and Hamas. Rabah Muhana of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said: "This incident is a stigma on the Arab leaders who went to Morocco (economic conference with Israel) and it reveals the real face of Israel." It is a criminal Jewish deed."

Rabin has vowed no mercy in the fight against anti-Israeli guerrillas. Before news of Abed's killing he said on Israeli radio: "With Hamas there is only one way, war without quarter."

Israel and the United States have pushed PLO head Yasser Arafat, who runs the fledgling Palestinian self-rule authority in most of Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, to crack down on militants who attack Israelis.

Probe into massacre of 26 Pakistanis begins

PESHAWAR, Nov 3: Pakistani officials said yesterday they were probing a report that 26 villagers, including 21 children, were massacred on the orders of a landowner in the country's remote northwest, reports Reuter.

Armed men of landowner Abdul Ahad, a local leader of the Islamic fundamentalist Jamaat-Islami Party, attacked peasants belonging to the Gujjar tribe with rockets and automatic weapons on the night of October 25, a government official said.

The men also burned about 90 houses, making 100 to 200 people homeless, the official said.

A team of officials has been sent to the village to verify the casualties. Dir district's deputy commissioner, Khizar Hayat, told Reuters by telephone.

250 films to be screened at Calcutta festival

CALCUTTA, Nov 3: More than 250 films from nearly 35 countries would be screened at the 9th Calcutta International Film Festival to be held in the city from November 10 to 30, reports PTI.

Announcing this here today Aloke Chandra, the secretary of the Cine Central, Calcutta, organisers of the festival, said that apart from world cinema section, there would be special sections on the films of Greece, Mexico, New Zealand, Argentina, Colombia, Chinese and French cinema.

Lankan opposition denies PA allegations

COLOMBO, Nov 3: Sri Lanka's main opposition today denied ruling party allegations it planned to bribe voters at next week's presidential elections by offering 1,000 rupees (about 20 dollars) each at polling booths islandwide, reports AFP.

The opposition United National Party (UNP) said a statement by DM Jayaratne, General Secretary of the ruling People's Alliance (PA), that the UNP was planning to bribe 50 PA supporters at each polling booth was totally false.

Shapour Bakhtiar killing: Trial begins in France

PARIS, Nov 3: The alleged killers of exiled Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar went on trial on Wednesday amid massive security at the Palais de Justice (law courts) in central Paris, reports Reuter.

The trial opened at 1.40 pm (12.40 GMT) with three Iranians in the dock. Six others are being tried in absentia for the August 1991 killing of the late Shah's last premier in the Paris suburb of Suresnes.

The most important feature of this year's festival would be the holding of a complete retrospective of famous Swiss film maker, Alain Tanner.

The inaugural film of the festival would be Goutam Ghosh directed, 'Patang' and the closing one 'Charachar' of Sudhadhe Dasgupta, he said.

The 21 day festival, which would be held at two halls at Nandan, Ashutosh Hall and Chaplin, would comprise a package of 13 classics

It is not true. We totally reject these allegations. It is simply a fantasy in the mind of Jayaratne," UNP spokesman Sarath Amunugama told reporters here.

However, the slain opposition candidate, Gamini Dissanayake, had pledged to bring large numbers of PA supporters into the UNP camp "in a democratic way" before the November 9 election. Amunugama said.

"We are not giving 1,000

In the dock were Ali Vakili Rad, accused of being one of the three killers, Zeynalsarhad, a great-nephew of Iranian president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani accused of organising their escape, and Massoud Hendi, suspected of giving logistical assistance to the assassins.

The trial, expected to last four weeks, is being translated by interpreters into Farsi, since two of the accused speak no French.

Off the Record

Mitterrand's daughter born out of wedlock?

PARIS: The weekly magazine Paris-Match on Thursday published photographs of a young woman it identified as a daughter born out of wedlock to French President Francois Mitterrand, reports AFP.

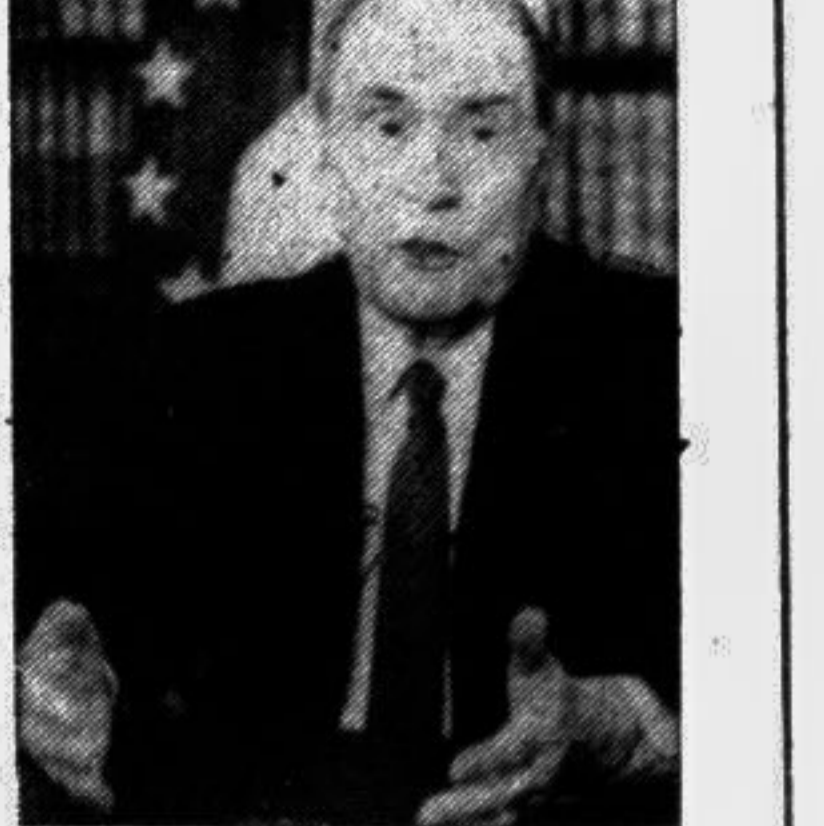
The magazine, breaking with French journalistic practice to avoid the private lives of politicians, cited a new book by journalist Philippe Alexander.

Alexandre, as have other French writers, made reference to a woman in her 20s he said was the president's daughter.

Mitterrand and his wife Danielle have two sons, Jean-Christophe and Gilbert, who are now in their 40s.

In an interview with Paris-Match, which the magazine accompanied by a photograph of Mitterrand and a young woman leaving a Paris restaurant, Alexandre argued that "the secret, which we other journalists have respected until now, no longer needs to be."

He said that in his book on Mitterrand he had mentioned "an aspect of the private life (of the president) that is virtually public."



Indecent affidavit!

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas: Paula Jones, who has sued President Bill Clinton for sexual harassment, asked a federal judge on Wednesday to allow her to submit an affidavit describing the president's genitals, reports Reuter.

Jones' motion, filed in US district court at Little Rock, asks that her affidavit be kept under seal, meaning that its existence as potential evidence would be noted by the court but its contents kept confidential pending further action in the case.

Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, sued Clinton and an Arkansas state trooper May 6, alleging that then-governor Clinton asked her to perform a sex act after the trooper summoned her to Clinton's Little Rock hotel room.

Jones' original complaint claimed there were "distinguishing characteristics in Clinton's genital area that were obvious to her."

In a news release Wednesday night, Jones's attorneys said the affidavit, which they said Jones signed under oath, specifies the "physical characteristics" referred to.

"Jones is asking that the affidavit be kept under seal because she does not want to live that this information should be made public now," said Joseph Cammarata of Fairfax, Virginia, one of Jones' attorneys.

"She is filing it for her own protection, not to embarrass Bill Clinton or anyone else," Cammarata said.

The motion asked the court to return the affidavit to Jones "if the suit is settled prior to trial."



Instructor commits suicide in front of marines

PARRIS ISLAND: Dozens of Marines sought counseling Wednesday, trying to understand why one of their drill instructors shot himself to death in front of dozens of recruits, reports AP.

"The single biggest question is why — why did it happen and why did he have to do it in front of us?" said Marine Chaplain Charles Quarles, who consoled the recruits, many of them teenagers, at Parris Island Marine Corps Training Depot.

On Monday, Sgt. Richard E. Stumpf Jr., an M-16 combat rifle in hand, climbed a 5-foot (1.5 meter) diving platform at a base pool. As stunned spectators shouted for him to get down, he put the gun to his chin and pulled the trigger.

About 200 people were at the pool for water survival instruction when Stumpf killed himself. About 30 said they saw the suicide, but twice that many requested counseling.

"He was ... a very good drill instructor — well thought of by recruits, well thought of by his peers and extremely well liked," Quarles said.

The 24-year-old Marine, who taught water skills at the base, had joined the military out of high school and served in the Persian Gulf War. His 25-year-old wife, Carla, is expecting their first child this week.

"He wanted to be the poster Marine, and I was all for it because that's what I thought was making him happy," she told Florida's Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

Two years ago, at age 22, Stumpf led a squad into Kuwait, his sister, Susan Barse, said Wednesday.

Madonna disappoints fans

MALAGA, Spain: US pop star Madonna disappointed thousands of her Spanish fans on Wednesday by insisting her latest video — which includes shots of a bull fight — must be filmed behind closed doors, reports Reuter.

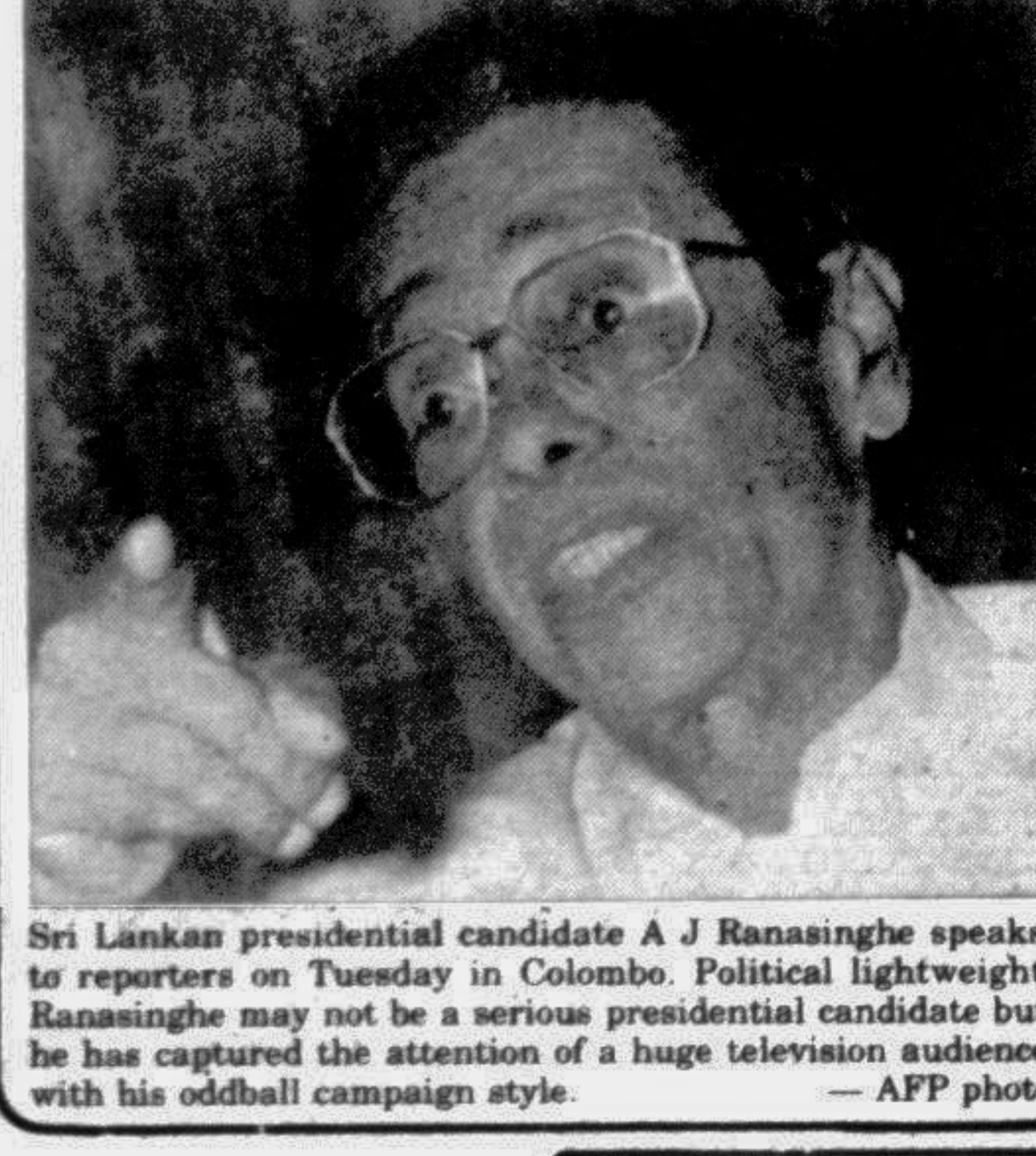
Part of the video of her latest record, 'Take A Bow', was to have been shot before 7,000 eager fans in the Integuera bull ring near Malaga, where one of Spain's top matadors Emilio Munoz will take on three bulls.

Some 100 giant posters had been produced, inviting locals to see the fights free of charge.

But the platinum blonde, who has scored big hits on both sides of the Atlantic over the last decade, has now decreed that "Only a few" will be able to take part in the video and has limited entry to a mere 200 extras.

Producers Warner Brothers gave no reason for the change of heart but confirmed the bullfight would differ from those followed avidly by fans across Spain each week.

They said the three bulls will not be killed.



Sri Lankan presidential candidate A J Ranasinghe speaks to reporters on Tuesday in Colombo. Political lightweight Ranasinghe may not be a serious presidential candidate but he has captured the attention of a huge television audience with his oddball campaign style. — AFP photo

Egyptian storm death toll rises to 430

ASSIUT, Nov 3: Over 430 people have been killed in southern Egypt in a thunderstorm in which lightning set fire to a large fuel depot on the edge of a densely populated farming village, reports Reuter.

Some 10,000 people have now abandoned the stricken village of Dronka, where a river of blazing fuel on Wednesday morning sliced through 200 houses.

Bandaranaike may become Lanka's second woman president

COLOMBO, Nov 3: Sri Lanka's Sirima Bandaranaike, who made history in 1960 as the world's first woman prime minister, may be in line to become the country's second woman president, political analysts said today, reports Reuter.

The plan is to make her the ceremonial president once the executive presidency is scrapped and said political analyst and university lecturer Palkisothy Saravanamuttu, Prime Minister Chandrika

Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, who is Bandaranaike's daughter, has pledged to abolish the powerful presidential system of government by July, 1995, if she is elected president in the election next week.

Kumaratunga is expected to win the November 9 presidential poll and is expected to set out afterwards to change the constitution to a parliamentary system.

Political analysts said Kumaratunga would appoint her mother, who has repeatedly said she would like to be president, to the post once it becomes only ceremonial.

"But this will depend largely on her health. Her health is not good and she may find it difficult to concentrate even on her duties as ceremonial president," said Dr Jayadeva Uyangoda, a social scientist at Colombo University.

Bandaranaike, 78, is the leader of the People's Alliance (PA), which won the August Parliamentary election after 17 years in opposition. She heads

the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the main alliance partner.

She served two terms as prime minister in the 1960s and 1970s and has led the SLFP, which was formed by her assassinated husband, Solomon, since 1980.

When the PA took power in August, Bandaranaike was made a minister without portfolio and senior adviser to the cabinet. She was given a large office opposite prime minister's house in central Colombo.

"She may be an adviser, but I don't know if anyone listens to her advice," Saravanamuttu said. Added Uyangoda: "She doesn't have much influence in the party now. They keep her there as an ornament."

Political analysts have said Bandaranaike has been largely sidelined as her daughter chooses younger and more dynamic advisers.

Some newspaper columnists have said Bandaranaike was angry and upset at the way she has been pushed aside to

36 villagers killed in Rwanda

KIGALI, Nov 3: Twenty six children were among 36 villagers killed by attackers who crossed from Zaire into northwestern Rwanda, a UN military spokesman said on Wednesday, confirming a Rwandan state radio report, says Reuter.

Captain Stephane Grenier said UN headquarters were notified of Sunday night's attack on the village of Rutagara, north of the town of Gisenyi, by military observers in the area.