

260 Lebanese in Israeli jail without charge

BEIRUT, Nov 4: Around 260 people, some of the teenagers, are being held without charge in an Israeli jail in South Lebanon...

Tigers kill soldier, kidnap 8 Sinhalese Sririma rejects talks with LTTE

COLOMBO, Nov 4: Ending her private mourning for her assassinated husband, Sri Lanka's opposition candidate for president took a hard line on Friday toward peace talks with Tamil rebels suspected in his murder...



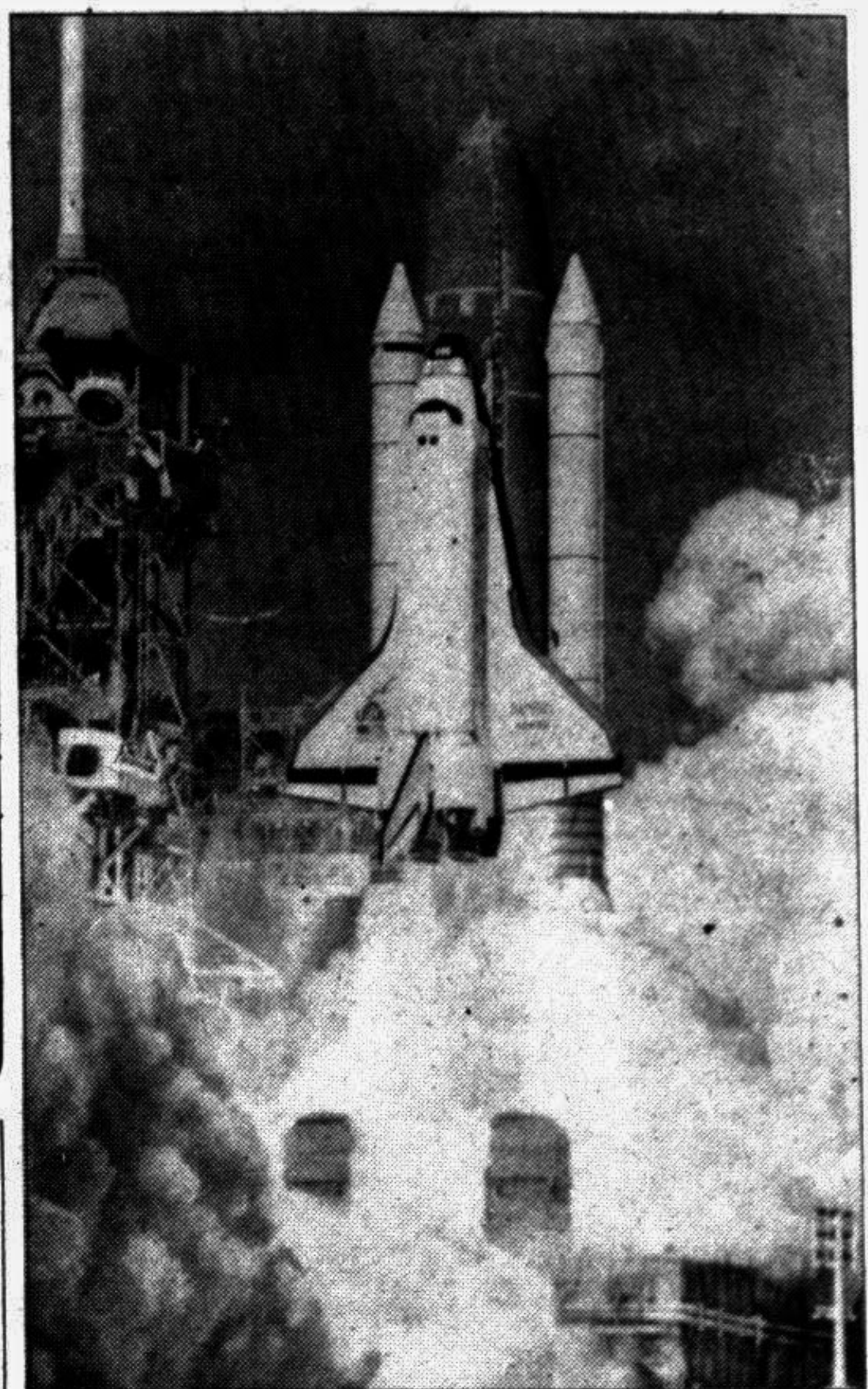
Sririma Dissanayake similar to that of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's...

president." Gandhi was killed in a suicide bomb in 1991. Mrs Dissanayake's criticism of the government's handling of the peace talks were along the same lines as her husband's opposition to the peace overtures.

Kumaratunga started. They are negotiating with terrorists. It was done without any planning, without a dialogue with the country," she said.

Muslims face harassment in Australia

SYDNEY, Nov 4: Many of Australia's 150,000 Muslims have experienced harassment and bigotry serious enough to make them wonder about the wisdom of staying here...



The space shuttle Atlantis lifts off from launch pad 39-B at the Kennedy Space Centre, Florida on Thursday after a short delay due to adverse weather.

BRIEFLY

Li Peng concludes ROK visit: China's Prime Minister Li Peng left South Korea yesterday after wrapping up a ground-breaking five-day visit with a promise to help implement last month's nuclear accord between the United States and North Korea...

Chirac to run for presidency: Conservative Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac declared his candidacy for president on Friday, a newspaper reported, in a move that intensifies a struggle on the right in the race...

Pak woman held with 42 kg gold: Pakistani customs authorities said on Thursday they had arrested a woman who arrived from Dubai with 42 kg (92 lbs) of illegal gold in her baggage...

2 killed in Guwahati: A police constable and an ULFA extremist were killed in two different incidents in the state of Guwahati on Wednesday, the police said yesterday...

18 Nepalis die of poisoning: Eighteen people died of food poisoning after a wedding feast in a western Nepali village, a local newspaper reported yesterday...

Jong praises father's policy: Kim Jong Il, North Korea's apparent new leader, issued a statement Friday praising the policies of his late father and promising that communism will ultimately triumph...

Russian PM plans ME tour: Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin plans a Middle East tour November 17-24 in order to attract Arab investment into the Russian economy...

Bomb explodes in Amman: A bomb exploded outside a liquor store in central Amman shortly after midnight, but it was not immediately clear whether anyone was injured...

Stolen gold seized in Russia: Authorities confiscated 4.1 kilograms (9 pounds) of stolen gold and arrested four people on Friday for illegal gold dealing...

Afghans fight to free Pak caravan: Afghan religious students are fighting guerrillas blocking a Pakistani trade caravan to the southern Afghan province of Kandahar...

Indonesian flood claims 12: A flood triggered by heavy rains has swept through a village on Indonesia's popular tourist island of Lombok, killing 12 people and leaving 19 missing...



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (L) talks through an interpreter (C) with French President Francois Mitterrand (R) on Thursday at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

Benazir regrets clashes in NWFP

PARIS, Nov 4: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said on Thursday she regretted clashes which had occurred in Pakistan's volatile North West Frontier Province but added such problems would be overcome as Pakistan became a modern state...

Pakistan rushes troops to quell unrest in Mingora

PESHAWAR, Nov 4: Pakistan has rushed troops into a troubled northern district where armed tribesmen demanding enforcement of Koranic laws have seized an airport and taken senior government functionaries hostage...

Suu Kyi's talks with junta worry opposition

BANGKOK, Nov 4: The opposition National Coalition Government of the Union of Myanmar (NCGUM) expressed concern yesterday over the widely praised talks between leading dissident Aung San Suu Kyi and the ruling military junta...

US move for pre-positioned military equipment in Asia

WASHINGTON, Nov 4: Turned down by Thailand, the United States is approaching other Asian countries to accept pre-positioned US military equipment, Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord said on Thursday...

Gaddafi ready to soften stands on Israel, terrorism

JERUSALEM, Nov 4: Libyan leader Moammer Gaddafi has told the Israeli government he is ready to soften his positions on Israel and the issue of terrorism, the Foreign Ministry disclosed here on Thursday...

Off the Record

Secret papers on Edward VIII's abdication to be made public

LONDON: Secret papers on the constitutional crisis over the abdication of Edward VIII in 1936 are to be made public on the Queen Mother's death, the Guardian reported on Friday...

Jealous husband goes on shooting spree

COLOMBO: A Sri Lankan army commando home on leave shot and killed eight people on Friday in a fit of jealous rage, police said, reports Reuter.

Queen usurps Di's position

LONDON: Princess Diana has slipped from her long unrivalled position as the most popular member of Britain's scandal-struck royal family, a magazine poll showed yesterday...



India accused of fomenting arms race in S Asia

PARIS, Nov 4: Visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Thursday accused India of fomenting an arms race in South Asia and repeated Islamabad's offer to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) simultaneously with New Delhi...

35 ancient graves at Pak archaeological site destroyed

KARACHI, Nov 4: At least 35 ancient graves dating back an estimated 400 years were reportedly destroyed at an archaeological site in violation of Pakistan's antiquities law, archaeologists said, AFP reports.

Indonesia cracks down on dissenters: AI

LONDON, Nov 4: Amnesty International said on Thursday that Indonesian authorities have arrested and in some cases mistreated dissenters as part of a campaign to clean up the capital city, reports AP.