

7 cops, 3 LTTE men killed in fighting

Retreating Tigers step up attacks on army posts in east

COLOMBO, Apr 23: Tamil Tiger rebels were in retreat from the northern Jaffna Peninsula Tuesday...

east of the capital, Colombo. Earlier, the military reported that eight soldiers and five rebels were killed in fighting in the east on Sunday...

we control," said Dunuwille. The military claimed that the civilians remained behind, rather than fleeing with rebels...

already have, before taking on any more," said Dunuwille. A military statement, claimed hundreds of thousands of civilians had welcomed the troops...

BRIEFLY



Displaced children from south Lebanon play wargames in Beirut on Monday. Israel stepped up air and artillery attacks in the 12th day of its war on Hezbollah...

China, Nepal issue communique

China and Nepal have issued a joint communique calling for stability and development in South Asia and more international attention to the needs of developing countries...

US envoy arrives in Monrovia

A US delegation has arrived in the Liberian capital to add its weight to efforts to bring a lasting peace after two weeks of fighting...

Yeltsin to visit China

President Boris Yeltsin set out yesterday for a visit to China by travelling to Russia's far eastern city of Khabarovsk...

Memoirs of Mitterrand published

Less than four months after Francois Mitterrand's death, the publication of his memoirs offers a new view of the former French president's controversial political evolution...

Alessandra Mussolini reelected

Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of Italy's fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, was re-elected to parliament...

US aid for Chernobyl victims

In observance of the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion, the Clinton administration is sending 1,500 tons of medical assistance to the victims...

1st group of German police in Zagreb

The first group of German policemen on their way to Bosnia to join the international peacekeeping operation arrived for a brief training period in the Croatian capital on Monday...

Irish novelist Molly Keane dies

Irish novelist Molly Keane, author of 10 novels that were a legacy of the country's settlement by Britain's land-owning classes, has died aged 91...

Fire ruins Mexican slum

A raging fire swept through a shanty town in southwest Mexico City early Monday, killing a 5-year-old girl and destroying the cardboard homes of 300 poverty-stricken families...

Tudjman plans to rebury fascists as sign of 'reconciliation'

ZAGREB, Croatia, Apr 23: Fifty years after Croatian Nazis wiped out the country's Jews and half a million Serbs, President Franjo Tudjman said he would go ahead with plans to rebury the fascists with their victims as a sign of 'reconciliation'...

The move announced Monday is certain to spark criticism at home and abroad. Tudjman has been reluctant to acknowledge much Croatian responsibility for the atrocities committed by the Nazi puppet state that ruled Croatia during World War II...



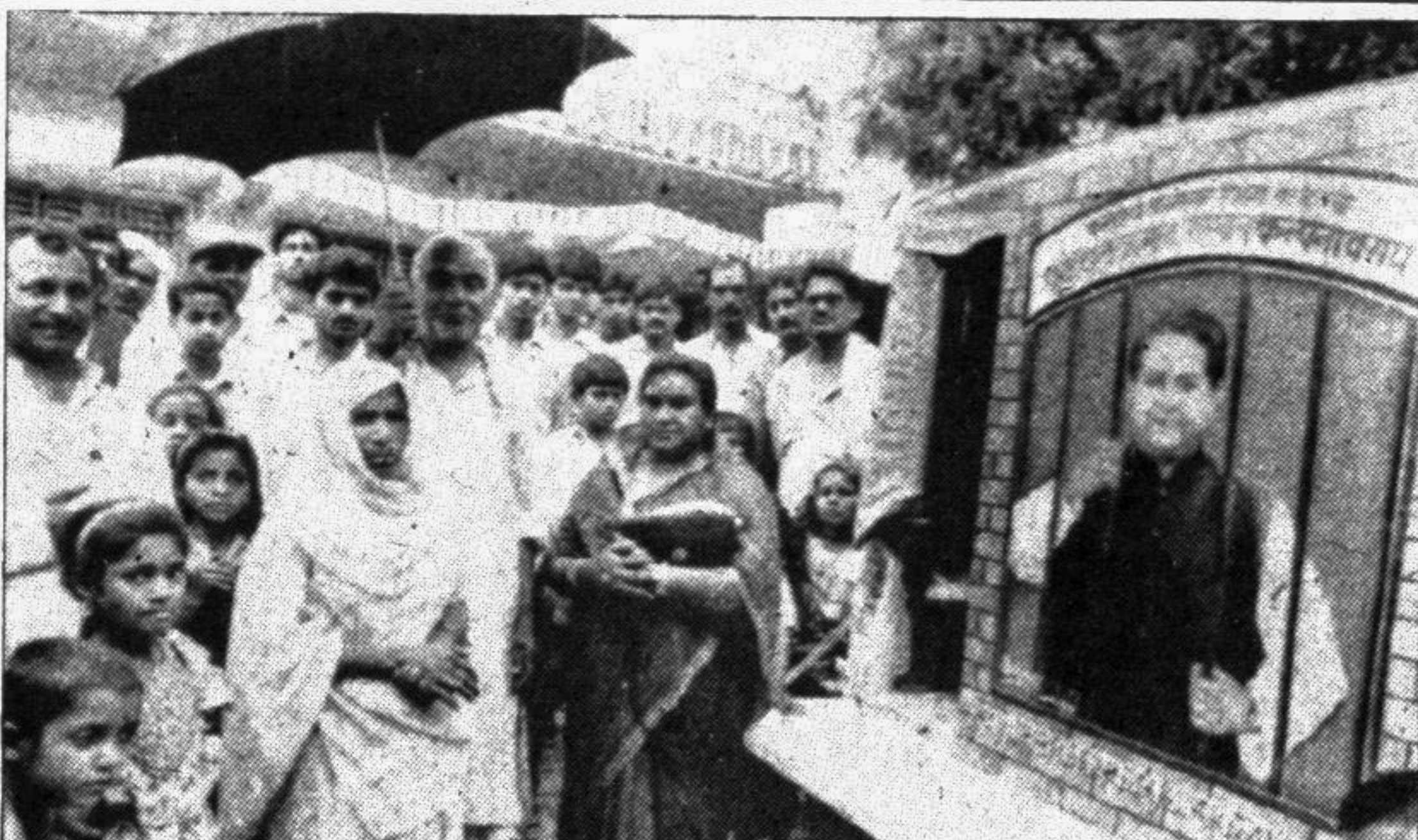
French President Jacques Chirac (R) and his wife Bernadette (L) pose with King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia and Queen Monique, at the Elysee Palace on Monday...

NAM calls for UNGA meet to discuss attack on Lebanon

Christopher meets Peres with hope to forge ceasefire deal

JERUSALEM, Apr 23: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher met Prime Minister Shimon Peres today, hoping to forge a US brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon...

raids across south Lebanon on Tuesday, destroying a water tank that feeds 20 villages, as US diplomats struggled to end nearly two weeks of fighting...



Former Indian Union Minister Kalpana Rai is depicted in a campaign illustration behind bars on Friday in this northern Uttar Pradesh State. Rai is being detained under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA)...

China pledges military aid to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Apr 23: China has offered Cambodia's squabbling, cash-strapped armed forces a grant of 10 million in non-lethal aid...

ROK president's ex-aide admits taking bribes

SEOUL, Apr 23: A former close aide of South Korean President Kim Young-sam today admitted in court that he had accepted bribes...

Pre-election violence claims 5 in Bihar

PATNA, India, Apr 23: In an attack linked to national elections, gunmen sprayed bullets into a crowd watching a movie in a dusty village square...

SA unveils new constitution

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Apr 23: Negotiators on Monday unveiled a new constitution designed to make the final break with South Africa's apartheid past...

China rejects Moscow summit call to abandon all forms of N-testing

BEIJING, Apr 23: China rejected today calls from a recent eight-nation summit for it to abandon all forms of nuclear testing, saying some explosions were conducive to promoting the sector's peaceful development...

Opposition group attacks Sudanese forces: 15 killed

CAIRO, Egypt, Apr 23: A Sudanese opposition group on Monday claimed its first attack on government forces and said 15 pro-government militiamen had died in the assault...

Off the Record

Queen of hearts watches heart operation

LONDON: As TV cameras rolled, would-be 'queen of hearts' Princess Diana watched surgeons perform a four-hour heart operation on a young African boy Monday — and ran into criticism, reports AP.

Diana, who is pushing for a high-profile caring role after her impending divorce from Prince Charles, explained she wanted to underline her support for Queen of Hearts, a charity that helps sick children from developing countries...

In a BBC TV interview last year, the estranged wife of the heir to the throne said she would like to be an ambassador for Britain, helping to comfort suffering or being a 'queen of hearts,' as she put it.

An unusual gift for his teacher

CHICHESTER, England: For impact, it sure beat an apple. A nine-year-old boy caused consternation Monday when he brought a live World War II mortar shell to school as a present for his teacher, reports AP.

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China rejects Moscow summit call to abandon all forms of N-testing

Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang made comments at a regular news briefing when asked for China's reaction to last week's summit in Moscow between the Group of Seven most industrialised nations in the world and Russia on nuclear safety.

US satisfied on missile talks with DPRK

WASHINGTON, Apr 23: The State Department expressed satisfaction Monday with weekend talks with North Korea on its missile programme and said it is prepared for discussions with that country on MIA-POW issues, reports AP.