

International

Tigers kill 6 more cops LTTE blamed for attack on commuter train

COLOMBO, July 25: A week after they overran a major military base, Tamil rebels are being blamed for a bomb attack on a commuter train outside the capital that killed 63 people and wounded more than 350, reports AP.

"Two bombs — one in the fifth car, the other in the eighth — ripped through the train Wednesday as it pulled out of the station at Dehiwala, a middle-class suburb 10 kilometers (six miles) south of Colombo. The train was packed with commuters returning home from work in the capital."

"I was walking to the exit when I heard to two explosions behind me. When I turned around, the whole station was filled with smoke. People were screaming and running," said Lakshman Sooriyawadene, 23, an office worker who had just gotten off the train.

"There was no claim of responsibility, but the attack bore the hallmarks of Tamil Tiger rebels, who marked the 13th anniversary this week of the beginning of their campaign for an independent homeland for the Tamil minority in this predominantly Sinhalese nation."

This is obviously the work of the Tamil Tigers," said DM Tennakoon, one of the first policemen to reach the scene. The bombs "are similar to others they have exploded."

Police quoted eyewitnesses as saying two people had disembarked at a earlier station. They believed the explosions were caused by parcel bombs. Another bomb hidden in a briefcase was defused by soldiers later, police said.

AFP adds: Tamil Tiger guerrillas today stormed an isolated police post on the edge of their planned homeland and shot dead six policemen, the police said. Reports.

There was no claim of re-

EU poised to scrap Mostar mission 2 more mass graves found near Srebrenica

NOVA KASABA, Bosnia-Herzegovina, July 25: UN war crimes investigators Wednesday exposed two more mass graves at this site near Srebrenica, in eastern Bosnia, believed to contain the bodies of hundreds of slain Muslim, reports AFP.

William Haglund, the leader of the team linked to the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY), said they had uncovered a total of four graves at the grassy site, a few kilometers (miles) west of the former UN safe haven.

"We have two locations in two separate sites. There are some remains in each of these sites, how many I do not know," he said.

Seven bodies have so far been removed from one grave, and another so far been shown to contain at least a dozen bodies.

The bodies lie in a mangled

heap in the grave, some on their backs and others on their front. Most are well preserved, with some flesh and hair still visible.

The actual number of bodies is not totalled until we get the surface bodies off, which will happen tomorrow."

Each of these graves has different logistical potential. The problems is having to be here in the first place.

Reuter adds: The European Union is poised to scrap its peace mission in Mostar at a moment's notice over a Croat refusal to accept results of election to reunify the city, the international peace coordinator in Bosnia says.

Carl Bildt overseeing reconstruction efforts in post-war Bosnia, Sotke after EU officials said they mandate was handing by a thread in the face of a Croat boycott of a new joint city council in which Muslims won a majority.

"Lebed has no objections to NATO expansion"

LONDON, July 25: Alexander Lebed, Russia's security chief, was quoted on Thursday as saying he had no objections to NATO's planned eastward expansion, reports Reuter.

Lebed, who came third in last month's presidential ballot on an assertive nationalist ticket, told the Financial Times NATO enlargement would be expensive and unnecessary but it did not pose a security threat to Russia.

The newspaper, which ran the interview with a front-page banner headline, said the remarks by the retired paratrooper general were a strong sign that Kremlin's hostility to the plan may be fading.

Asked about the prospect of NATO's eastward expansion, Lebed said: "Personally I am calm about this issue... may be others want to be more propagandistic, but I think that Russia simply cannot be aggressive any more."

"We have exhausted our appetite for wars. We do not want to fight any more."

Lebed added: "Russia is not planning to fight anyone, truly this is so. And so this mighty NATO fist is being developed to do battle in the air."

8 states including China did not enforce ban on Libya: US, UK

UNITED NATIONS, July 25: The United States, Britain and France on Wednesday named eight countries, including China which they said had not enforced some of the UN sanctions imposed on Libya in connection with the 1988 Lockerbie air disaster, reports Reuter.

The sanctions including an air embargo, a ban on arms sales and the downgrading of diplomatic relations were enacted in 1992, because of Libya's failure to extradite two men, accused of planting a bomb aboard Pan Am flight 103 which exploded over the Scottish village, killing 270 people including 11 on the ground.

In a letter to the Security Council's Libya sanctions committee the three western powers said although all countries were regarded to reduce the staff of Libyan diplomatic missions abroad, the number of Libyan diplomats had actually increased since 1993 in Bamako, Mali; Bangui, Central African Republic; Beijing, Beirut, Ndjamena (Chad) and Sanaa (Yemen).

Although all states were required to prevent the operation of Libyan Arab airlines, they remained open to certain cities, including Amman and Cairo.

ASEAN rejects plan for UN contact group on Myanmar

JAKARTA, July 25: ASEAN has shot down a proposal for a United Nations contact group on Myanmar with analysts saying the proposal reflected differences between East and West on how to deal with the military junta, reports AP.

They will support from their friends, but not from ASEAN... I think they are barking up the wrong tree," Ahmad Kamal Jaafar, secretary general of the Malaysian Foreign Ministry, said of the Canadian proposal.

Canada's Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy on Tuesday proposed a UN-sponsored contact group which would open a multilateral dialogue with Yangon's generals.

Mistakes of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) were upset at Canada for failing to consult them before announcing the proposal to the press, a senior ASEAN diplomat said.

The official suggested the idea was a "new initiative on Myanmar (Burma) designed to get headlines in Canada" rather than to get results.

China denies sending missile components to Syria

BELIJING, July 25: China dismissed today a report that Beijing may have sent ballistic missile components to Syria, saying the charge was groundless, reports Reuter.

The report of sales of M-11 missiles... is entirely groundless and irresponsible," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

China's denial came a day after Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen volunteered a similar rejection at a meeting with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the fringes of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) conference in Jakarta.

The Chinese volunteered a rejection of an article in the Washington Times yesterday having to do with some kind of Chinese transaction... in the missile area — with Syria," a US official said in Jakarta.

The Chinese foreign minister said that was unfounded and dismissed that article," said the official.

The newspaper reported on Tuesday that the Chinese manufacturer of M-11 missiles sent a shipment of military cargo to Syria last month that the Central Intelligence Agency believed may have contained missile-related components.

"Earlier report says, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher holding his first talks with India's new foreign minister today, will urge New Delhi not to block a global nuclear test ban treaty."

Earlier report says, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher holding his first talks with India's new foreign minister today, will urge New Delhi not to block a global nuclear test ban treaty.

Christopher told reporters after a 40-minute meeting between Christopher and new Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral.

Negotiators from 61 countries are to reconvene in Geneva on July 29 to decide the treaty's fate. The United States and Russia, two major nuclear powers are urging nations to accept a compromise text. So that the treaty could be ready to sign in September at the UN General Assembly session.

It will be a get to know you

Christopher fails to win India's commitment on CTBT

JAKARTA, July 25: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher today failed to win a commitment from India not to block a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) that Washington and other advocates are rushing to complete by September, reports Reuter.

But senior US officials said the two sides would hold more talks in an effort to find a way to keep the landmark pact moving forward. "I'm not going to try to predict the outcome, play it in neutral," a senior US official told reporters after a 40-minute meeting between Christopher and new Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral.

US officials told Reuters they did not expect a definitive answer on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to emerge from the meeting. Because of the issue's sensitivity, there will be no new conference with the ministers.

India faced mounting pressure this week from ASEAN members and Western countries to accept the compromise text opposed last month by Jaap Ramaker, Dutch chairman of the conference on disarmament's CTBT negotiations committee.

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