

International

Tigers break pledge, says UN official
Lanka calls for int'l coalition against child soldiers

COLOMBO, Nov 6: Sri Lanka today called for an international coalition against child soldiers as a top United Nations official said the island's Tamil rebels broke a pledge not to recruit child combatants, reports AFP.

said it could signal a stronger UN stance against the use of children as combatants. "We have been concerned that the UN system has not taken a stronger view on child soldier up to now. We are glad that Ottunnu has finally spoken," spokesman Ravinatha Ariyasinha said.

background of that commitment," he said. "I appeal here to the LTTE leadership to take concrete measures to stop the recruitment of children into their ranks in accordance with commitments in May."



Paula Jones, centre, and her husband Stephen Jones, left, talk as Jones' lawyer James Fisher looks on as they have dinner on January 17, 1998, at a restaurant in Washington. Jones' lawyers informed her they'll soon abandon her sexual harassment case against President Clinton. Adjusting their settlement demand to \$950,000, the lawyers made one photo — AP/UNB photo

Sexual harassment suit against Clinton
Paula Jones' lawyers lower settlement demands

WASHINGTON, Nov 6: Paula Jones' lawyers say they'll soon quit — but first they're inching her settlement demand down to \$950,000 in one more stab at concluding her sexual harassment lawsuit against President Bill Clinton, reports AP.

productive or appropriate to discuss in public these matters at this time. "Meanwhile, Mrs. Jones' own lawyers suggested they were tired of it all. The lawyers who have been litigating her lawsuit — from the Dallas-based firm of Rader, Campbell, Fisher and Pyke, and from The Rutherford Institute, which has been paying her expenses — wrote her on Tuesday that they would withdraw once a federal court rules on the appeal of her dismissed lawsuit.



Bishop Desmond Tutu, left, and fellow Nobel Laureate Bobby Muller listen, Thursday to a presentation by Jose Ramos Horta on "Democracy and Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Region" during the opening session of the Nobel Peace Laureates Conference at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. — AP/UNB photo

Sikh religious group invites Pak PM to India

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: A Sikh nationalist group has invited Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to India next year for the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Sikh religion, newspapers reported today, says AFP.

BJP leader quits party ahead of provincial polls

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: A Hindu nationalist leader has quit India's ruling party ahead of crucial provincial elections this month after being denied permission to contest the polls, newspapers reported today, says AFP.

Japan to launch spy sats in 2002

TOKYO, Nov 6: Japan will launch its first intelligence satellites in 2002 in response to North Korea's missile development, the government announced on Friday, reports AFP.

Annan for expanded HR presence in Kosovo

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 6: Secretary-General Kofi Annan called Thursday for an expanded international human rights presence in Kosovo, where conflict between Serb security forces and ethnic Albanians has left about 700 people dead, reports AP.

Robin Cook to visit Gulf states

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook is planning a tour of the Gulf states to lobby for international condemnation of Iraq's decision to stop cooperating with UN weapons inspectors, the Foreign Office said Friday, AP reports from London.

'Batman' creator Bob Kane dead

"Batman" creator Bob Kane, who watched the comic book character become an American icon, has died. He was 83, AP reports from Los Angeles.

Thai minister's son arrested

Police arrested a member of Parliament and son of a deputy interior minister after the car he was driving to escape authorities ran into two policemen, police officials said on Thursday, AP reports from Bangkok.

Sino-Albanian ties to expand

Paskal Milo, the second Albanian Foreign Minister to visit China since 1990, on Thursday expressed high hopes for the further expansion of Sino-Albanian relations, Xinhua reports from Beijing.

Dengue fever cases rising in S'pore

Cases of dengue fever are increasing rapidly in tropical Singapore, where the number this year already exceeds the total for 1997, a newspaper reported on Friday, AP says from Singapore.

Quake rocks Philippines

The earthquake, with an initial magnitude of 5.4, hit at 2:05 am (1805 GMT, Thursday) and was centered off the northern coast of central Samar island, about 440-km southeast of Manila, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

Protesters demand arrest of Suharto

JAKARTA, Nov 6: Thousands of students and others rallied on the campus of the University of Indonesia Friday and demanded that Indonesia's powerful military get out of politics, reports AP.

Impeachment proceedings

Hyde asks Clinton to confirm or deny allegations

WASHINGTON, Nov 6: The White House stayed mum on Thursday over House Judiciary Committee chairman Henry Hyde's scaled-back plans to carry out impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton, reports AP.

Heroin worth \$1m seized in Philippines

MANILA, Nov 6: Philippine officials have seized 40 million pesos (dls 1 million) worth of heroin in a parcel addressed to a Nigerian man earlier arrested on charges of drug trafficking, police said on Friday, reports AP.

Sex charges against Anwar initially dismissed as untrue in police report

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 6: Allegations of sexual misconduct against Malaysia's ousted deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim were initially dismissed as untrue in a key police report, a court was told today, reports AP.

Pinochet confident of going home

LONDON, Nov 6: A political ally says Gen Augusto Pinochet is confident that he'll be flying home to Chile soon. But an appeal by British and Spanish prosecutors asking Britain's highest court to uphold the former dictator's arrest is dragging on into next week, reports AP.

Mohamed Al Fayed settles damages claim

LONDON, Nov 6: Mohamed Al Fayed agreed Thursday to pay damages to the wife of a bitter business rival who sued after the Harrods boss allegedly broke into their safe-deposit box, reports AP.

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Perla Dormas, 21, holds her one-year-old child, Jose Dormas at a refugee camp in Cuidad Sandino, 13 kilometers northwest of Managua, Thursday. Dormas and 100 other families living along Lake Nicaragua were forced out of their homes by flooding caused by Hurricane Mitch. — AP/UNB photo

Off the Record

Get-rich-quick operations

ORLANDO, Florida: Infomercial pitchman William J McCorkle and his wife were ordered to forfeit 10 million dollars they accumulated from their get-rich-quick operations, reports AP.