

International

Lanka urges India to bring Tigers to negotiating table

Colombo stung by Delhi's withdrawal offer

NEW DELHI, May 24 - Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has expressed disappointment at India's refusal to give military assistance to Colombo and said New Delhi should help bring the Tamil Tiger rebels to the negotiating table.

months. We can't suddenly drop Norway and pick up somebody else. But we are looking at the Indian offer in the background of Norway being our chief facilitator."

Hindu she was disappointed by India's reticence to give her government military assistance but said she did not feel betrayed.

In Sri Lanka even if the LTTE guerrillas overrun Jaffna, the former Tamil stronghold in the north of the island.



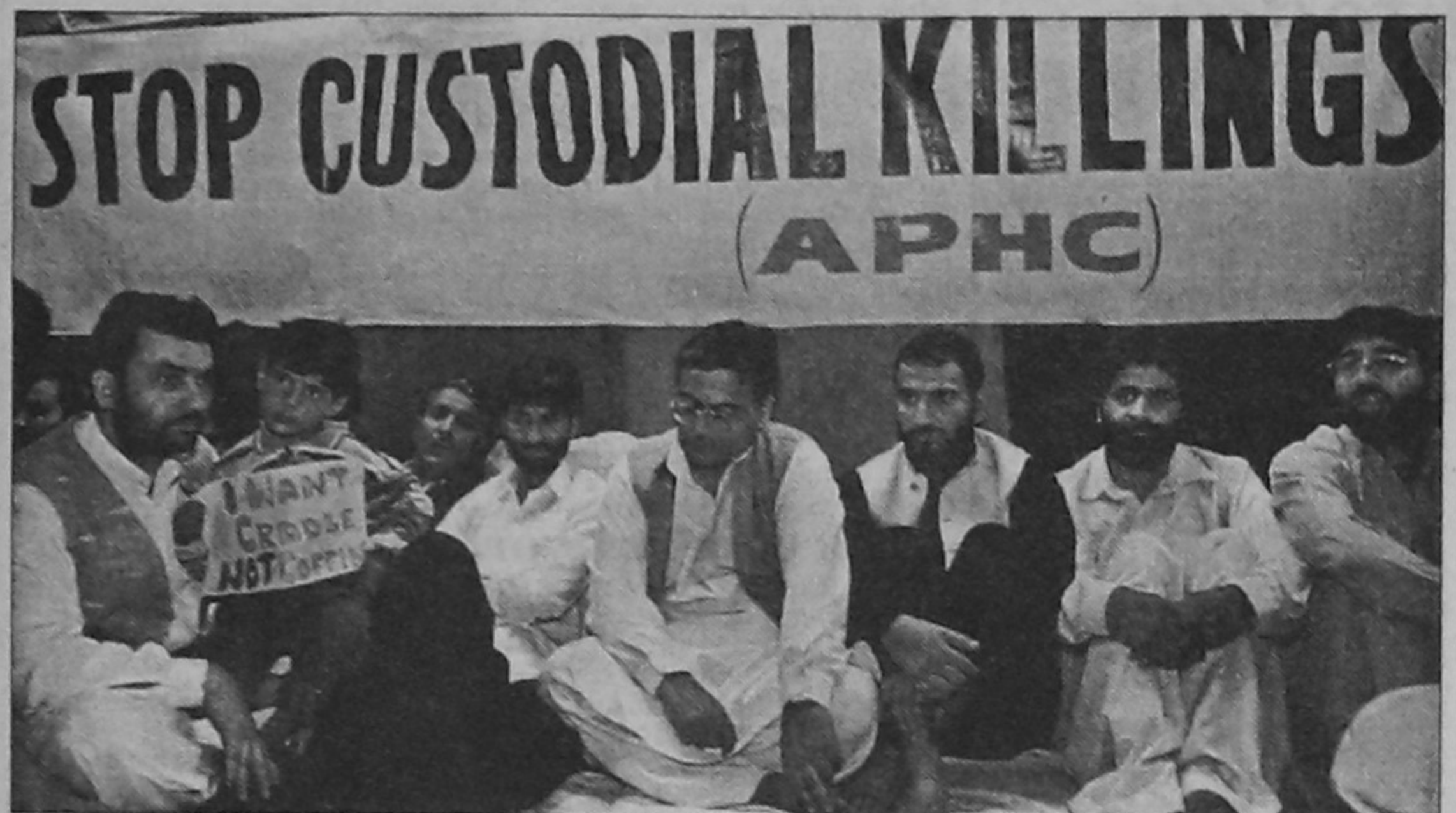
Picture taken on May 24 shows mummies recently found in one of the seven newly uncovered tombs in the Bahriya oasis, in Egypt's western desert.

Lanka promises to lift media censorship

NEW DELHI, May 24 - Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has promised a lifting of media censorship as soon as the situation stabilises in the Jaffna conflict.

Kumaratunga told The Hindu in an interview that censorship would be lifted "as soon as we can, when the military situation in Jaffna becomes a little stable."

"This is not a normal democratic situation. At the time of war, we expect every citizen to be responsible, and it is the duty of the government to stop anybody who is deemed irresponsible," she said.



Leaders and supporters of All Parties Hurriyat Freedom Conference (APHC) sit under a banner which reads 'stop custodial killings' during a hunger strike in Srinagar yesterday.

Islamic groups threaten Musharraf's reform

ISLAMABAD, May 24 - After forcing Pakistan's military regime to subordinate human rights to religion, headline Islamic groups are rallying the people behind their campaign to take the nation back in time, reports IPS.

A coalition of religious parties that called the May 19 public protest claimed this had shown that Pakistanis disapproved the bid by the "NGO (non-governmental organisation) mafia in the government to rob the country of its Islamic identity."

Musharraf backed off from a decision last month to modify the controversial and blasphemy law. They said the military ruler had given a handle to Islamic parties who also seemed to be winning over the moderate political formations in their anti-government campaign.

This would have required a probe by a senior district administration officials before a criminal charge could be registered. Rights groups have long complained that the present rule empowering a junior police official to register cases had been heavily abused to harass religious minorities, specially Christians. Christian leaders want the law, that was introduced by former army ruler Zia Ul Haq two decade ago, to be abolished.

Religious riots claim 150 in Nigeria

LAGOS, May 24 - More than 150 people were killed in clashes between Muslims and Christians in the northern Nigerian city of Kaduna at the start of this week, local newspapers reported today, says AFP.

The toll rose past 150 with dozens of bodies observed in hospital morgues and on the streets in the two main riot-affected areas in the south of the city, reports in various Nigerian newspapers said.

Lockerbie trial resumes after 13-day break

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands, May 24 - The trial of two Libyans accused of bombing a Boeing 747 over Lockerbie in 1988, killing 270 people, resumed today after a 13-day break and technical problems the day before, reports AFP.

Fiji's chiefs, president attempt to thrash out solution

C'wealth secy gen meets with Fiji PM & coup leader

SUVA, May 24 - Fiji's president and traditional chiefs met today to find a resolution to the country's coup crisis as rebel soldiers held Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry and his ministers for a sixth day, reports AFP.

he was seriously injured during a beating Saturday and is in urgent need of medical attention. President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who has condemned the coup attempt while expressing sympathy with the plotters' concerns, met Wednesday with McKinnon and de Mello, the UN's chief in East Timor.

coup and unanimously supported Mara, saying Chaudhry and his ministers should be released. Meanwhile, Commonwealth secretary-general Don McKinnon Wednesday said he had met with Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry and coup leader George Speight in the besieged parliament and that the premier appeared to be in good health.

'Ethiopia lost 37,000 troops' Eritrean army shoots down fourth Ethiopian jet

NAIROBI, May 24 - Eritrea said today that Ethiopia lost 37,000 troops in the six days following the resumption of the Horn of Africa neighbours' border conflict.

end of the border, which is some 1,000 km long. After this resulted in the "tactical retreat" of Eritrean forces and the occupation of parts of southwestern Eritrea by Ethiopian forces, fighting moved east to a plateau around the town of Zala Anbesa.

Japan moves to lift ban on India & Pakistan

TOKYO, May 24 - Japan's ruling party plans to call on the government to lift two-year-old sanctions on India and Pakistan imposed after their nuclear tests, an official said today, reports AFP.

on Foreign Affairs said. "It is up to him whether we will officially urge the government to lift the sanctions," he said. Japan imposed sanctions, including a freeze on new non-humanitarian grants and loans, after India and Pakistan carried out a series of nuclear tests in May 1998.

Top US official tours Pakistan, India, Lanka to discuss security

WASHINGTON, May 24 - US Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering has departed for South Asia on a seven-day tour of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka focusing on security issues, the State Department announced Tuesday, reports AFP.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Day, and Exam Details. Title: বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়. Exam: বিএড পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি জুন, ২০০০.

Negotiators to seek partial release of hostages

MANILA, May 24 - Philippine negotiators are to push for the release of some of the 21 hostages held by Muslim extremist gunmen, instead of the whole group, when the two sides begin formal talks, a government spokesman said today, reports AFP.

Chilean court strips Pinochet of immunity

SANTIAGO, May 24 - A Chilean appeals court ruled Tuesday to strip Augusto Pinochet of his immunity from prosecution for crimes during his dictatorship, according to a judicial source, although there was no official confirmation.

Iran frees 460 more Iraqi POWs

Iran released late Tuesday another 460 Iraqi prisoners captured during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, state radio reported yesterday, AFP reports from Tehran.

US nuclear inspectors in N Korea

The 12-member team of inspectors was expected to arrive at the Kunchang-ri site on Friday, spokesman Phil Reeker said at a briefing. The purpose of the visit is to confirm previous findings that Pyongyang is not violating a 1994 accord that froze its nuclear programme in return for 85 billion in nuclear power plants and other energy supplies.

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dict on the issue but would not reveal its decision for up to two weeks. President Ricardo Lagos refused to comment on reports of the ruling leaked to the media.

BRIEFLY

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Office of the Project Director. Project Implementation Unit. Dhaka Urban Transport Project. Dhaka City Corporation. Tender Notice. Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No-2911 from the enlisted contractor of Dhaka City Corporation for the following work.