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LTTE abused fleeing girls

(dailymirror.lk) A report by UN Secretary General Ban Ki moon, handed over to the UN Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict, notes in a section on Sri Lanka that the LTTE had forcibly cut the hair of girls trying to flee the conflict during the last stages of the war to mislead the military into thinking they were Tiger cadres. Meanwhile the annual report which had once listed the LTTE and the TMVP led by Karuna Amman and later Pillayan as outfits involved in child recruitment, now does not have their names listed with the end of the war but yet carries the name of Karuna supporter Iniya Barrathi as a child recruiter. "Some women and girls trying to flee the conflict areas had their hair forcibly cut by the LTTE as a deterrent to fleeing, knowing that women with short (Contd: on P6)

Soldier sentenced to death for Jaffna murders



(ft.lk) The Colombo High Court sentenced a soldier to death after he was found guilty of murdering eight people in 2000 in Mirusuvil in Jaffna. Four other suspects were acquitted in the case. Army Staff Sergeant Sunil Ratnayake who was found guilty of having killed eight people in Mirusuvil at Jaffna in 2000 was sentenced to death by the Colombo High Court – Pic by Lahiru Harshana

Lankan man in Italy critical after saving girl

(colombogazette.com) A Sri Lankan in Italy is in critical condition after saving a girl from drowning today, the Italian media reported. The Sri Lankan man had jumped into a river in Rivolta d'Adda to save the girl who was being swept away by strong currents. He and several others formed a human chain to pull the girl to safety. The girl was rescued but the man who was right in front of the human chain, lost his grip and was pulled away by the currents. Rescue workers later found the Sri Lankan man and airlifted him to hospital where he is in critical condition. (Colombo Gazette)

Sri Lanka's war widows pin hopes on new President

(Courtesy- NDTV) Shunned, destitute and pushed into prostitution in some cases, Sri Lanka's Tamil widows have returned to northern Jaffna since the end of the separatist war only to discover they are not welcome even in their homeland. Now, six years after the war ended, the women who fled the fighting on the peninsula in their thousands are pinning their hopes on the nation's new president for a better future for their families. "Widows are despised in our society," said Baskaran Jegathiswari, 50, fighting back tears at her home in Achchuveli village in Jaffna, heartland of Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil minority. "People look down on us. They think we bring bad luck," said Jegathiswari, who lost her husband to military shellfire just months before the war ended in 2009. The women, whose husbands were killed or are officially still listed as missing, are closely watching President Maithripala Sirisena who took office in January pledging reconciliation to "heal broken

hearts and minds". Official figures show 27,000 widows head households in Jaffna, where the conflict was centred, while local politicians put the figure much higher. "I can't think of rebuilding my life now," said widow Evin Selvy who struggles to feed her family, earning 500 rupees (\$3.80) a day as a farm labourer. "But I hope the new government will make it better for my three daughters." Having taken refuge elsewhere in the north, Selvy returned to Jaffna in 2009 to find her home and the rest of her village destroyed in the fighting. After grabbing just a handful of possessions, the 45-year-old had fled in 1990 with her husband, who was killed by military shelling in the war's final months. She and her daughters now live in a hut thrown up alongside their house, which has been partly rebuilt with funding from an Indian government project for war victims. But they cannot afford the remaining 200,000 rupees needed to finish it. (Contd: on P4)



In this photograph taken on June 9, 2015, Sri Lankan war widow Evin Selvy, 45, listens to a question from an AFP journalist during an interview in Jaffna, some 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of the capital Colombo. (Agence France-Presse)

CBK Turns Seventy

Born on June 29, 1945, she is the daughter of former Prime Minister of Ceylon late S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike and the first female Prime Minister of the world Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Educated in St. Bridget's Convent in Colombo and University of Paris, Kumaratunga was active in Sri Lanka Freedom Party from the 1970s. She married popular film star Vijaya Kumaratunga. Later she broke away from the SLFP with her husband and joined him in forming the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party. Following the assassination of her husband on February 16, 1988, Kumaratunga left the country, only to return a few years later to lead the newly formed center-left People's Alliance. Elected Chief Minister of Western Province in 1993, she led her party to victory in the Parliamentary Elections in

August 1994. She served as Prime Minister until her election as President in November 1994. She is the only female President of Sri Lanka to date. After coming to power in August 1994, she initiated a peace process with the rebel terrorist organization, the LTTE. The peace process collapsed in April 1995. The Presidential Election in 1999 was hotly contested. Kumaratunga escaped an attempt on her life by a suicide bomber, injuring one of her eyes. She won the election, defeating the UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe. Kumaratunga served as President until November 2005. She officially retired from politics soon afterwards, only to return late last year as a key member of the campaign of the common candidate Maithripala Sirisena. She is thought to be one of the key decision makers in the Sirisena government.

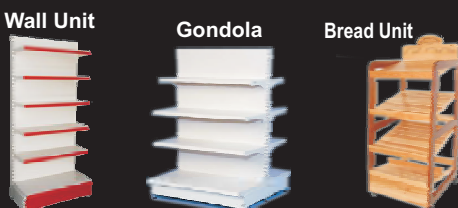


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