

Massive smoke and hot air aid rain in the Sri Lankan capital on Friday. (1995, October 21) *Ceylon Daily news*.

> Weather Report from Colombo
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> Source: Ceylon Daily News, 10/21/95 (Saturday)
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> Massive smoke and hot air aid rain in the Sri Lankan capital on Friday
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> Rains develop in Colombo aided by the massive smoke and hot air rising
> from the burning Kolonnawa and Orugodawatte oil tanks, say
> meteorologists.
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> It began to rain in Colombo on Friday and the Colombo weather office
> attributed the cause to intermonsoonal conditions aided by the massive
> smoke and hot air that rose from the burning Kolonnawa and
> Orugodawatte oil tanks.
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> "Smoke and hot air help cloud formation and the precipitation of
> water vapour", the duty forecaster at the Met office said.
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> He forecast rains on Saturday too.
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> The rain is bound to wash down the residue of the burning oil, he
> said.
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> Mrs. R. Ellepola, Director, Environment Protection, Central
> Environment Authority, saw no environmental danger from the rain. The
> kerosene and diesel which were burnt would produce carbon dioxide,
> water vapour and a small quantity of carbon monoxide, she said.
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> Carbon monoxide will be in small quantity and would be diluted to such
> an extent that it would not be very harmful. Burning diesel emits
> sulphur dioxide which may cause acidity in the rain water but its
> concentration will be very small.
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> Mr. Jagath Gunawardene of the Environment Foundation differs with Mrs.
> Ellepola. He says the products of the burning oil vapours will cause
> harmful pollution. A portion of the kerosene that vaporises will come
> down with the rain water he said and claimed that the rain that fell
> in Nugegoda and environs smelt of kerosene. A Kotikawatte resident
> has reported "oily rainfall".
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> The nitrogen gases and sulphur dioxide will get dissolved in rain
> water and cause it to be acidic, Mr. Gunawardene said. State
> television and radio warned the public not to drink unboiled water as
> wells and waterways could be contaminated with by-products of burning
> fuel.
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> Up-to-date information on yesterday's blast is now available >
> <http://www.lanka.net/lakehouse>