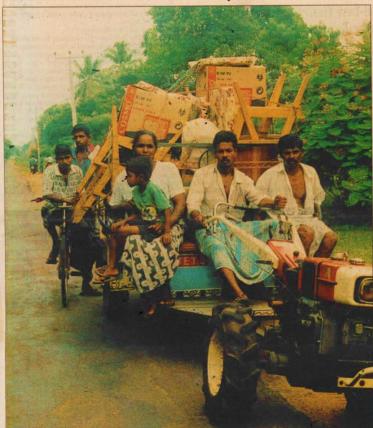
Mass exodus from Wanni



A family from the war zone village of Welloya fleeing their village and home following reports that the village had come 'red' batch and attached to other training came within the reach of LTTE fire-power.Pic by Gemunu Wellage

Civil administration collapses, looters move in

Chris Kamalendran in Vavuniya and Padaviya report

own yesterday after almost thorities. he entirety of its population rom all sides of the ethnic rom the separatist LTTE.

nd moved out to safer areas. Kalmunai.

come what may attitude and of them reported to have fled

have chosen to ride their luck as well: as the guns of war loom The northern town of to go since they possess no 37 doctors only four re- lery fire. Vavuniya became a ghost exit passes issued by the aumained to look after emer-

While a majority of the Mannar ollapsed with the closure of eral hill stations and the capi- Sans Frontiers, together with with their goods. chools, banks, hospitals and tal Colombo, the Sinhalese local Red Cross and other oftate institutions while trad- and Muslims fled to areas in ficials. ers who were not taking any Anuradhapura,

his jittery town are mainly the presence of state officials move the goods to safer ar- Rs. 2000 for the 15-mile jouramils who have adopted a was rarely visible, with most eas in the south.

nearby. Among them are the heart of Vavuniya town the Tigers, put out a bulletin refugees displaced in earlier had already emptied all its hinting that it would strike the fighting. They have no place patients, and from a total of town with long-range artilgency cases.

The patients were earlier plight of those fleeing. Tamil population sought ref- transferred to Chettikulam

hances have put up shutters Medawachiya, Puttalam and were yesterday sending their Vavuniya to Medawachiya, Those opting to remain in As the exodus continued, assist the local agents to re-stances would not cost even

The mass exodus began on

The government hospital in tine LTTE radio , 'Voice of

But there were others to gain from this miserable

In nearby Medawachiya, livide fled following threats uge in safe areas such as with the assistance of the unscrupulous vehicle owners Madhu, French Nobel prize winning were charging huge fees to Civil administration has Trincomalee, Batticaloa, sev- volunteer group, Medicin transport those fleeing along

Many eager to flee the area were charged something like Leading private companies Rs. 10,000 for the ride from executives to Vavuniya to which under normal circum-

No time even to pass out

y our Minneriya correspondent

A batch of 64 army recruits with (censored) the military camp in Minneriya piled into two ucks heading for the battlefront,

They were an eager lot of village lads and were roud to serve their motherland in the various miliry units, ranging from infantry, ordnance and sigals, assigned to them. They were scheduled to ass out at a ceremonial parade on November 19. However, on Thursday morning, they were ven just enough time to write to their families nd friends, who had been invited by them to see em pass out, saying that the parade was canlled and that they were heading for Vavuniya. ney were informed that the ceremonial parade ad been postponed indefinitely and they took at news in good spirit. According to some of recruits, their training was intense. (censored). The other recruits who joined the army (cenive also been sent to the front from Monday.

