

Civilians hit in army-rebel shelling. (1995, September 17). *The Island*.

# Civilians hit in army-rebel shelling

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PLANTATION  
PRIVATISATION  
GETS UNDERWAY P-17

COLOMBO, Sept. 16— Civilians were scurrying for cover on Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna Peninsula on Saturday and at least two were killed when Tamil rebels engaged government troops in a heavy shelling duel, military sources and residents said.

Heavy shelling by the army from the strategic northern Palaly air base continued for the fourth day as troops tried to clear the area of rebel mortar posts, residents said.

Troops, moving ahead with their Operation Hand-

shake-2, fired shells at Puthur, Achchuveli, Ooralu and Urumpirai, residents said.

The Tigers retaliated with firing from the Puthur area.

Two civilians were killed and eight more injured in the crossfire in the operation involving more than 3,000 troops, residents said.

Human-rights groups,

concerned about the safety of the residents in the area. Over to page 3

## Funeral of Pilot Officer Martenstyn

Old Thomians wishing to join the funeral procession of Pilot Officer Jason Martenstyn, who was killed when the ill-fated air force plane on which he was aboard crashed into the high seas on the 13th, are requested to assemble at the Bullers Road, McCarthy Road junction today at 4.15 p.m.

## Civilians...

From page 1

Jaffna battle zone, have asked the government to advise it about measures to ensure the civilians' safety.

Defence spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munesinghe said the operation aimed at securing the Palaly base against mortar attacks was continuing on Saturday.

Rebel sources in the eastern Batticaloa administrative district said guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) blew up two power transformers, leaving most

parts of the 16th century port city without electricity.

The military denied the claim, but conceded the LTTE's claim it had blown

up the railway line linking Batticaloa with Colombo.

Defence analysts said the attacks appeared to be part of the Tigers' campaign to prevent the eastern garrisons from joining a huge army offensive on Jaffna expected before the monsoons arrive in October.