

• Terrorists sack villages after mass attack on camps • Forces lash back

Welioya death toll rising

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- 54 now

The death toll in Sunday's terrorist attack on the army camps has risen to 54 – 27 soldiers, 17 civilians and 10 terrorists. Eighteen soldiers are also reported missing and 29 are wounded.

Military sources claimed that the death toll among the Tigers could be even higher, but added "We have to wait for confirmation through the LTTE radio intelligence".

The attack on Janakapura army camp came barely

24 hours after LTTE gunmen had killed 10 policemen in the northern region of the Wilpattu jungle.

Official sources said the Welioya attack (on the army camp) had been carried out by over 200 Tigers who later went on a rampage, attacking nearby villages and killing 17 civilians.

The terrorists had also attacked two other army camps, at Kokkutuduwai and Kovil Point in Welioya, to prevent security reinforcements being rushed to Janakapura.

Official reports said security ground troops counter-attacked with artillery fire and air support, inflic-

ting probably heavy casualties among the Tigers and destroying three of their vehicles.

Reports said that around 85 soldiers of the Janakapura army camp were out on ambush duty when the terrorists raided the camp, which they had set on fire after removing some military equipment, which included two tractors, a medium range mortar and a machine gun.

Official sources said newspapers had reported that three army camps were attacked by the terrorists. "These were in fact cadjan structures, housing the Forward Defence Lines which invariably shifted as troops advanced into new territory".

Among the soldiers killed were an army lieutenant and a cook attached to the Janakapura camp.

Meanwhile Lankapuvath reported the death toll as 41 soldiers and civilians and 10 terrorists, and said the LTTE had announced in a radio transmission that they had recovered 17 bodies, accounting for 17 of the 18 missing servicemen.

"The LTTE radio also said three persons had been captured. According to military sources they are believed to be civilians who were reported missing", the report said.

The report said the LTTE also confirmed that 10 of

Contd on p 16