

THE ISLAND 29.11.93 (Continued on page 4)

Prabhakaran vows to continue war

COLOMBO, Nov. 28 — The leader of Tamil guerrillas fighting for independence in Sri Lanka's north and east has vowed in a rebel radio broadcast that they would continue their fight, residents from the north said today.

The residents quoted Tamil Tiger chieftain Velupillai Prabhakaran as saying that more than 6,000 rebels had died in action during the past 10 years.

The rebels overran a military outpost in the north two weeks ago killing or capturing over 600 servicemen for the loss of 400 of their own fighters, in the military's worst defeat of the 10-year-old war.

The residents quoted Prabhakaran as saying no

regional or international force could crush the guerrillas' separatist struggle.

Other leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had said last month that they were ready to consider a federal alternative to a separate state.

Prabhakaran's remarks were made in a broadcast in the Jaffna to mark his 39th birthday on Friday, said the residents after reaching Vavuniya, the northern-most town under government control.

The speech marked the culmination of a week-long series of events by the rebels to honour their dead.

Sri Lankan forces went on full alert during the week to prevent rebel attacks.

Senior rebel leaders did not appear at the public celebrations in Jaffna for fear of air strikes, residents said.

Two rebels were killed and two soldiers wounded in a clash near the main military airbase in the Jaffna peninsula on Saturday, military sources said on Sunday.

Two more guerrillas were killed in a firefight with police commandos in the eastern Ampara district on Saturday night, military sources and residents said.

One police officer was badly injured in the clash which occurred when the rebels ambushed a police patrol approaching their hideout, they said.

On Friday the rebels ex-

ploded a bomb at a police checkpoint in the eastern port town of Trincomalee but there were no casualties, they said. **Reuter**