

International

Sri Lankans slayed

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — At least 15 people have been killed this week by police enforcing a curfew in a southern district, authorities said today.

Officers at the military command said five people were killed Monday in the town of Gandara, in the Matara district, when Sinhalese demonstrators attacked a police station during a strike to protest the government's attempts to win over Tamil rebels.

An indefinite curfew was imposed in the Sinhalese-dominated district after the incident,

and police were ordered to shoot violators.

At least 10 people, including two women, were killed and 36 others injured when police fired at demonstrators defying the orders, said the officers, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

Monday's strike was called by the People's Liberation Front, a radical Sinhalese group, which has opposed the July 1987 peace accord aimed at ending the 5-year-old war by Tamil militants.

The separatist war has claimed at least 8,500 lives.

The accord was sponsored by India, which got involved in the ethnic problems of its southern neighbor because of

the sympathies of its own 60 million Tamils to the rebel cause.

Ciao Gucci

FLORENCE, Italy (AP) — Aldo went to jail. Maurizio became a fugitive. Paolo claimed his relatives beat him.

The Guccis, creators of some of fashion's best-known status symbols, have known constant trouble as a result of family feuds.

Now, there are signs that peace is returning to the luxury goods company. But as a result of the turmoil, the company held tightly by generations of male Guccis now is half-owned by Arabs, run by a team of MBAs and headed by a woman.

The woman is Maria Martellini, a 48-year-old former professor of economics at Milan's Bocconi school, one of Italy's leading business institutions.

"Of the Guccis, only ashes remain," laments Giorgio Gucci, the firm's honorary president.

Gucci was one of the pioneers of the international Italian fashion boom, combining centuries-old Florentine artisanship with modern snob appeal.

Save the Amazon

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — President Jose Sarney on Wednesday unveiled a plan aimed mainly at stopping massive, uncontrolled burning in the Amazon jungle by farmers and ranchers which has aggravated the worldwide "greenhouse effect."

The program, called "Our Nature," calls for a temporary end to government tax and financing benefits for large-scale cattle ranching in the northern Amazon and a ban on exports of unprocessed tropical timber.

Environmentalists have charged that the clearing of vast Amazon tracts by the primitive slash-and-burn method has released hundreds of tons of noxious gases into the atmosphere.

They say this causes the greenhouse effect, the gradual warming of the Earth's atmosphere by a concentration of pollutants that act like a blanket, trapping the sun's warmth.

Brazil's government-run Space Research Institute said about 77,000 square miles of land were cleared by the slash-and-burn method in 1987 and forecast a similar amount for this year.

"We must create nationwide consciousness that we are all passengers in the adventure of Man on Earth," Sarney said in a ceremony announcing the

program. "The era of unlimited natural resources is over."

The "Our Nature" program also contains a recommendation to Brazil's Congress to cut mercury imports. Free-lance gold prospectors throughout the Amazon use the highly toxic element to separate gold from river silt and then throw the waste into the water.

National
Get-out-the-vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leaders of black organizations announced a get-out-the-vote campaign Wednesday aimed at urging blacks to "slam the door" on Reagan administration policies that they believe have hurt minorities.

The campaign is expected to center on at least 15 states and 44 cities, said Walter Fauntroy, Democrat, the non-voting delegate to the House from the District of Columbia.

"We need to vote now as never before," Fauntroy told a news conference.

Although many of the black leaders' activities will be non-partisan, the group has received \$50,000 from the Democratic National Committee and includes members from former Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson's National Rainbow Coalition, Fauntroy said.

If black voters cannot get excited about voting for Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis, "let's get angry about what policies have been implemented" by the Reagan administration in the past eight years, Fauntroy said.

Blacks must vote "if for no other reason than to slam the door on eight years of Reagan-Bush policies that would be continued by a Bush-Quayle-Reagan administration," Fauntroy said.

Martin Luther King III said church leaders would be involved in local efforts to back up the black leaders' tour, which is expected to begin Friday in Baltimore and end Nov. 7 in San Diego, Calif.

Possible health pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union, adding a new dimension to their more cooperative relationship, plan to sign an agreement on Thursday specifying areas in which medical experts from the two countries will undertake joint research.

Valentin Pokrovsky, president of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences, said at a

news conference Wednesday night the agreement will formalize cooperation in combating acquired immune deficiency syndrome, the aftereffects of nuclear radiation exposure, drug abuse, alcoholism and polio.

The agreement will be signed between the academy he heads and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, he said.

Speaking through a translator, Pokrovsky said, "Certainly the last summit and the general political atmosphere have contributed to closer cooperation." He wore a lapel pin displaying the Soviet and American flags.

He said AIDS and nuclear radiation were two logical areas for cooperative research efforts between the two countries.

Because of the existence of nuclear power plants in the United States, Pokrovsky said American experts are particularly interested in learning about the Soviet experience following the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in April 1986. Dozens of persons are reported to have died in that accident.

Russians send team

BALTIMORE (AP) — The first baseball team from the Soviet Union to visit the United States may not have defensive whizzes or offensive sluggers. But there's no question about its eagerness.

The team interrupted its first sight-seeing tour of the nation's capital to watch the major-league playoffs.

"They didn't want to be rude, but the older players wanted to watch the game (Game 4 between the Oakland Athletics and the Boston Red Sox)," said Rick Spooner, an American who serves as the coach of the Soviet team.

The opportunities this week to watch the playoffs has been a big part of the trip for a team playing a game that is only 1 1/2 years old in the Soviet Union.

"Constantly we're trying to watch," said Andrei Borodin, the team's coach and first baseman. "If there's any possibility, we stay in front of the game all the time."

The Soviet team, which hails from the Mendeleev Institute of Chemical Technology, played the first U.S.-Soviet baseball game in the United States on Wednesday against a Johns Hopkins University squad.

The Soviets lost, 16-0. They committed 11 errors. They had no hits.

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