

MYSTERY OVER TIGER AIR RAID

Air Force says LTTE plane was tracked from Mannar to Colombo Daily Mirror
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By JAMILA NAJMUDDIN AND SENAKA DE SILVA

Theories and more theories emerged yesterday as to how the LTTE aircraft which bombed Mannar and then the Kelanitissa power plant, managed to evade being shot down by the Air Force despite flying such a distance.

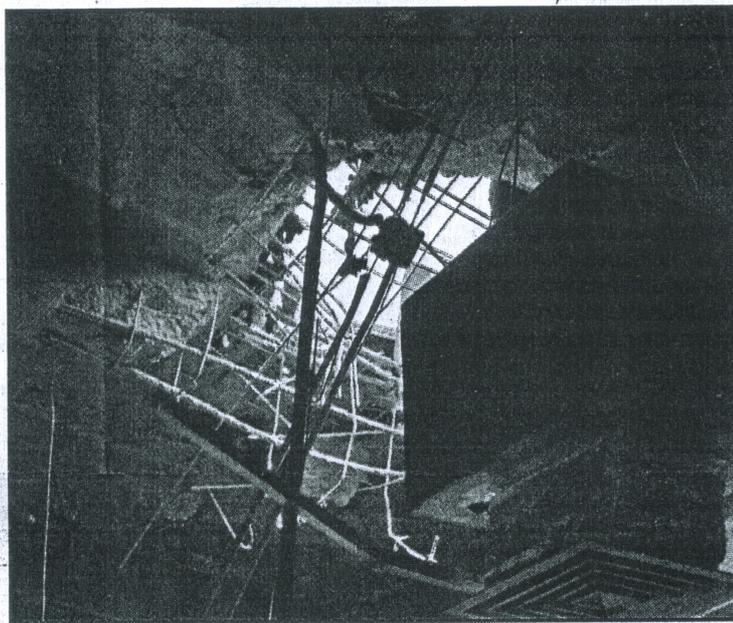
However the Air Force, while admitting the Tiger aircraft had managed to escape, ruled out at least one assumption that the Tiger aircraft involved in the raid in Mannar went undetected until it reached Colombo to take out its target.

Defence sources said that two aircraft had taken off from Iranamadu and headed towards Mannar and Colombo. The Army's 57th Division which operates along the front lines had detected the two aircraft on its radars and informed Colombo.

The Air Force had then deployed F-7, MI-24 and PT6 aircrafts to bring down the Tiger plane.

According to Air Force spokesman Wing Commander Janaka Nanayakkara a light

Damage caused to the roof of a section of the Kelanitissa power plant, by the bombs dropped by a Tiger aircraft at the power station on Tuesday night. (Pic by Kithsiri De Mel)

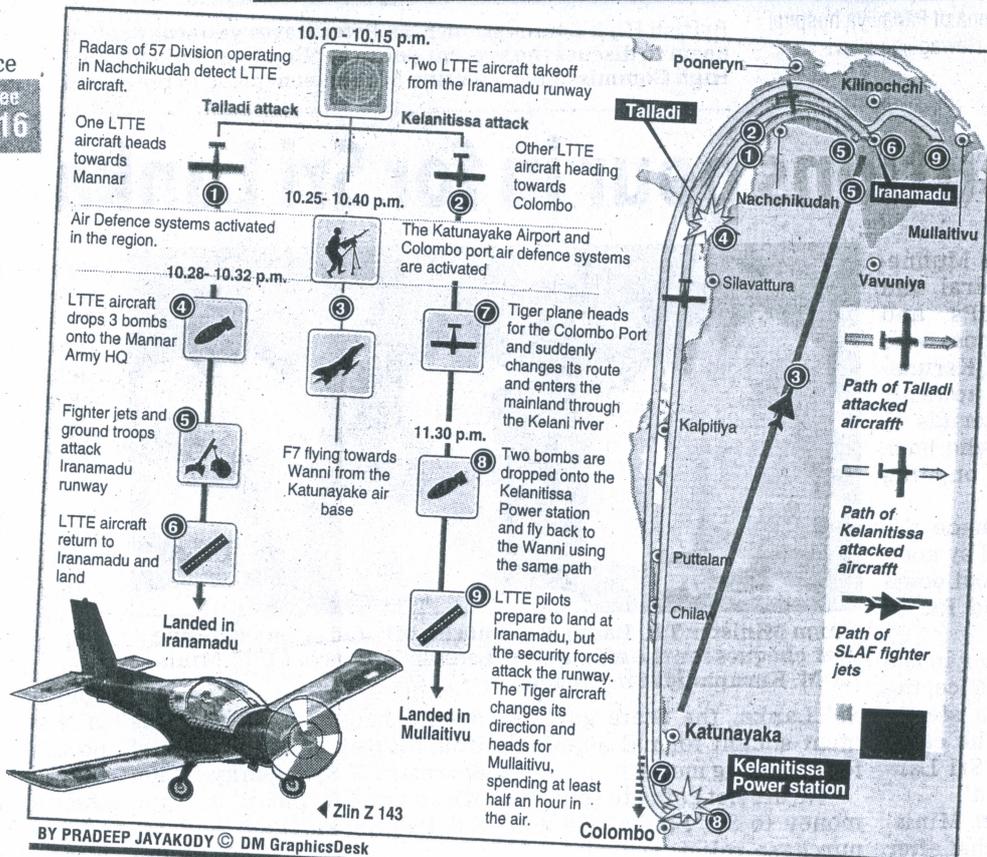


"Turbines will be repaired": Min.

By YOHAN PERERA

Two turbines of the Kelanitissa power station were damaged in the LTTE air attack on Wednesday night, Power and Energy Minister John Seneviratne said yesterday adding that it would take at least six months to restore them. The Minister told journalists yesterday that the LTTE attempt to cut the power supply to Colombo city had failed.

"It is obvious that they targeted the Kelanitissa Station as it is the main establishment from where power is supplied to Colombo,



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