

# Tamil **TIMES**



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Above: Police officers S Karunasena and R Ratnayake being led to prison after being sentenced to death in the Bindunuweva rehabilitation camp massacre:  
Below: Landmine clearing in Talaimannar, northern Sri Lanka



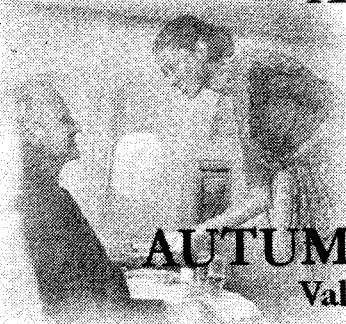




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**"I do not agree with a word  
of what you say, but I'll  
defend to the death your  
right to say it."**

**-Voltaire**

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## Two Decades of Conflict

It is twenty years since Sri Lanka was rocked by an outburst of unprecedented violence and the island's Tamil community went through its most tragic and traumatic experience. It would be wrong to describe the massacre, pillage and arson directed at the Tamil people of Sri Lanka in July 1983 as a "race-riot". It was not a case of the Sinhala majority and the Tamil minority fighting it out with each other, with the government and state law enforcement agencies playing an independent role in an effort to restore law and order and protect the victims. Instead what happened "was a series of deliberate acts, executed with a concerted plan, conceived and organised well in advance". (Report of the International Commission of Jurists, March 1984, p.76) It was violence of pogromatic proportions in which sections of the ruling party including some cabinet ministers, the army and the police encouraged, aided, abetted, and in many instances actively participated.

In the orgy of violence that engulfed the Tamils, the most gruesome act of criminality was enacted within the walls of the high security Welikade prison in Colombo when 52 Tamil political prisoners held under the infamous Prevention of Terrorism Act were hacked and clubbed to death within their cells on 25 and 27 July 1983.

Many commentators drew attention to the fact that the government failed to appoint an impartial commission to inquire into the July 1983 violence and the prison massacres with a view to identifying and punishing those who conspired, masterminded and carried them out. The horrors of July 1983 and the government's demonstrable lack of concern for the affected people made even those in the Tamil community who had previously been sceptical about the idea of a separate state to think and act more seriously about its prospects.

The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, once regarded as a purely domestic problem, soon became a regional and an international issue after the violent events of July 1983 with tens of thousands of Tamils landing in foreign lands seeking refuge and security. The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and the suffering inflicted upon the people by the government with its continuing military operations became topics for discussion and criticism of the Sri Lankan government in foreign capitals, parliaments and international fora. Year after year, at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and other international conferences, there were denunciations of Sri Lanka's record of gross human rights violations.

With the enactment of the sixth amendment to the constitution that required Members of Parliament to fore swear the advocacy of a separate state, the TULF MPs who refused to take the required oath were literally ousted from parliament. Progressively the TULF became sidelined as the Tamil militant groups grew in strength and numbers after July 1983 with large numbers of youth flocking to join them. With bases, offices and training facilities provided in India, and the government there adopting a supportive attitude towards the Tamil cause, the Tamil militant groups began to determine the course of Tamil politics and the plight of the people. With the passage of time, among the militant groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) emerged militarily dominant claiming to be the 'sole representative' of the entire Tamil people thus denying any role for any other group or party.

Even before the Tamil people had recovered from fate that befell them in July 1983, the Sri Lankan government began a sustained campaign of military operations in the northeast. In the period between 1984 and 1986, thousands of Tamil youth were rounded up, transported to detention camps in the south of the island where many of them were subjected to torture and inhuman treatment. In sustained military operations in the north and east, thousands of properties and sometimes whole villages were destroyed.

The peace moves initiated by India failed one after another as the conflict continued. Beginning with the "Annexure C" proposals authored by G.Parthasarathy in late 1983, the All Party Conference which commenced in January 1984 and ended ingloriously in October 1984, the failed negotiations at Thimpu in Bhutan in the middle of 1985 to the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of July 1987, the Indian government had been making continuing efforts to bring about a resolution of the conflict without success.

Many hoped that the Indo Sri Lanka Agreement of August 1987 providing for devolution of power to a merged Northeast Provincial Council would have offered

(continued on next page)

an opportunity for settling the conflict. The presence of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) also gave the people of the Northeast, who had suffered enormously at the hands of the Sri Lankan security forces, a sense of security and reassurance. However, expectations of peace and feeling of reassurance were soon to be shattered with the outbreak of military confrontation between the IPKF and the Tamil Tigers in October 1987.

Expectations were raised again among the people when the LTTE commenced negotiations with President Premadasa in April 1989. After fourteen months of negotiation, and the LTTE having obtained virtual territorial control of the Northeast, and within three months of the departure of the IPKF, fighting broke out in June 1990 between government forces and the LTTE that developed into a total war engulfing the entirety of the northeast. This war, described as "Eelam War II", continued until January 1995 when the Government of day under President Chandrika Kumaratunga and the Tamil Tigers entered into a ceasefire agreement. The cessation of hostilities and negotiations that followed turned out to be short-lived, as fighting resumed on 18 June 1995. This round of fighting, described as "Eelam War III" continued until 22 De-

ember 2001 when the new Government under Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe signed a Ceasefire Agreement and commenced negotiations with the LTTE.

Presently, though the ceasefire is by and large holding, negotiations remain suspended with the LTTE demanding the setting up of an interim 'politico-administrative structure' for the Northeast. In response to which the Government has submitted to the LTTE's consideration a 'discussion document' containing proposals for the establishment of 'Provisional Administrative Council'. The response of the LTTE to the Government's proposals is awaited.

While remembering and recalling the horrors of what happened in July 1983, one should not underestimate the enormity of loss of life, property, displacement and suffering that the several rounds of fighting since then has inflicted upon the people during the last two decades. The history of several past attempts at peacemaking has been a history of missed opportunities. With a firm commitment of support from the international community, a historic opportunity has presented itself to bring about an end to two decades of violence and war and usher in an era of peace. One hopes that the parties have the will, courage and sense of responsibility to grasp it.

## LTTE response awaited on 'Interim Council'

The Government's set of proposals to establish a "provisional administrative structure" was personally handed over to S P Tamilselvan, the political head of the LTTE, on 17 July by Jon Westborg, the Norwegian special envoy dealing with the peace process. Before returning to Colombo Westborg is reported to have had a brief discussion with Tamilselvan.

In Colombo, describing the proposals as "discussion document", Government's chief negotiator G L Peiris said, "We do not expect a quick response from the LTTE," noting that the Tigers would require time to consult with their constitutional and political experts before replying. But he believed the new proposals could form the basis for a reopening of direct talks and an end to the deadlock in the peace process which has remained stalled since 21 April this year when the Tigers announced that suspending their participation in the talks.

The LTTE has so far not officially reacted to the proposals except to confirm their receipt. Recalling recent experience with the Tigers when the government submitted proposals several times to break the deadlock, a government spokesman said, "There is no immediate outright rejection (of the proposal) as in the previous occasions."

Indicating a positive sign, other reports said that they have begun an 'internal discussion' on the proposals. Obviously there will be intense preliminary consultation between the LTTE's London-based chief negotiator Anton Balasingham and the Tiger leadership.

The LTTE is to set up a committee of legal experts drawn from various parts of the world to help them with instant advice at the peace talks with the Government, when they are resumed, according to the pro-LTTE publication, Sudar Oli. The Committee is expected to advise the LTTE peace delegation on the legal and constitutional implications of the Interim administration and future agreements. Among those being considered are two lecturers in law, one from Colombo and the other from Singapore, the report said.

The LTTE has been asking for a fully empowered, "politico-administrative" structure outside limits placed by the present constitution. However the Government is under a legal duty to keep its proposals within the ambit of the existing constitution, and that is why G L Peiris, who is also the island's Minister of Constitutional Affairs, told the press that its proposals were in complete conformity with provisions of the Constitution. But informed sources are of the view that the Tigers are unlikely

to summarily reject the proposals, which have been described by the government itself as a "discussion document", but use them as the 'starting point' seeking 'clarifications', making 'suggestions' and proposing 'amendments'.

From the muted response except to let it be known that they are engaged in an 'internal discussions', some commentators have tended to observe that the Tigers will not be rushed and take their own time and keep everyone guessing.

### Details of proposals

The preamble to the proposal describe it as a "framework for establishing a provisional administrative arrangement which will enable the LTTE to participate significantly in decision making and delivery related to administration, and rebuilding of the war damage infrastructure and economy in the Northern and Eastern Provinces." It states that, being an integral part of the process towards a negotiated settlement of the ethnic conflict, the establishment and continued operation of this interim arrangement will depend on a continued dialogue between the parties both in the context of this administrative structure as well in the negotiations towards a final solution of the conflict.

As a response to the heightened agitation among the Muslim community alleging that their interests are being ignored in the peace process, the proposal states that a "Muslim delegation must participate in the discussions

the establishment of the above mentioned structure."

The proposal provides for the setting up of a Provisional Administrative Council (PAC) which is to be invested with administrative and financial powers. It will be composed of members nominated by the Government, "which will include nominees" by the Opposition Peoples Alliance. The two other categories of members are those nominated by the LTTE and the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress. The numbers would "be determined to ensure" two factors - a "majority for the LTTE" and "weighted representation" for the Muslims and the Sinhalese in the council.

The powers and functions of the Council will extend to adequate "arrangements to enable the Council to participate effectively in the exercise and performance of such powers and functions as are at present being exercised and performed by the Government in respect of regional administration - except the area of police and security, land and revenue - but including rehabilitation, reconstruction, and resettlement," and shall "include policy making, implementation and monitoring."

The proposal provides two alternatives scenarios for the post of Chairperson(s) of the Council. The first is to have two Chairpersons, one representing the LTTE and the other representing the Government, elected "by and from amongst the members of the Council". Each Chairperson would have "the right to veto any proposal". The alternative proposal is to have one Chairperson, elected from the Council, but in this case, "any decision of the Council that affects" either the Muslim or Sinhala community would have to pass a double majority - both at the Council and by the representatives of that particular community.

A "Special Commissioner" is to be appointed "with the authority to utilize the State machinery for the implementation of the decisions of the Council". The Special Commissioner will be appointed by the Government with the consent of the majority of the Council. He will be a non-voting member of the Council, and accountable to this body. The Council may designate another person or an organization to co-ordinate rehabilitation or development work implemented by non-State agencies and organisations.

In regard to finance, the Council

will determine the use of funds placed at its disposal, and will further identify such utilization by State agencies, NGOs, international agencies, private sector agencies for administration, rehabilitation reconstruction and development in the North-East region. The funds made available to the work of the Council will include - but not necessarily be limited to - such funds as: (a) received from Donors to the North East Reconstruction Fund (NERF); (b) allocated by the Government to NERF, and (c) such resources as are received for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Northern and Eastern Provinces other than through NERF.

A "Special Fund" is to be instituted as an information, accounting and monitoring device for resources from donors or the Government that is not channelled through NERRF. The purpose of this mechanism is to enable the Council to be aware, and become responsible for effective utilization or resources to the north and east including loans and other finances that cannot be channelled through NERRF.

Provision is also made for the appointment of District Committees and District Sub-Committees, covering the northern and eastern provinces, and their functions are to be implementation of the decisions of the Council, co-ordination of all development activities and formulation of proposal for consideration by the Council.

#### PA reaction

Whether the PA will play ball with the Government and agree to take a role by accepting a membership of the PAC is a doubtful question. Prior to Government sending the proposal to the LTTE, the PA had urged that it should be discussed both in Cabinet and the Parliament, a request that was not been granted. If it was discussed in Cabinet, then the President who normally presides over it would have had knowledge of the details of the proposal. A PA spokesman was quoted saying, "It is even ridiculous to consider PA representatives in the proposed administration because the UNP-led government did not even bother to discuss the latest proposals with President Kumaratunga."

Now, Opposition Leader Mahinda Rajapakse has sought a two-day Parliamentary debate on the proposals. "I requested the government to table its proposals in Parliament and then grant us a two-day debate on a priority ba-

sis," he told the press.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga has also named a group of senior PA MPs comprising former Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, Opposition Leader Mahinda Rajapakse, and former Minister Sarath Amunugama and Nimal Sripala de Silva, to undertake a special study the proposals. have been included in this group.

The Prime Minister is reported to have intimated to President Chandrika Kumaratunga the necessity for the Government and the People's Alliance to hold informal discussions on the Interim Administration proposal for the North and East and related matters. It is reliably learnt that this expression of the need for cordial relations between the two main parties, was made by the Premier through a confidential letter delivered recently. Speaking at a public rally on 20 July, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said that the Government would not taking a final decision on the Interim Administrative Council system without consulting other political parties. "We will take a firm decision on this important issue after considering the proposals made by all parties including the main opposition People's Alliance." Wickremesinghe also said that the Government has also requested a British expert Dr. Forsythe to make a complete study on the proposals made by the LTTE regarding Interim Administrative Council.

The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), which has all along opposed Government's negotiations with the LTTE and the Norwegian facilitated peace process, is expected to mount a vigorous campaign against the proposed Interim Council arrangement characterising the action of the Government as an act of betrayal. The JVP said that creation of an LTTE-run administration would automatically legitimise its so called-Thamileelam police, fighting formations and the existing administrative set-up by the LTTE in areas under its control. The JVP said that it was unfortunate that the government had forgotten that almost the entire Jaffna administrative district, Jaffna islands and the main civilians centres in the north-east except Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu were currently under its control. But once the proposed PAC came into being, the LTTE would be able to swiftly bring the entire north-east under its control, the JVP added.

## Muslim reaction

The reaction to the Government's from those representing the Muslim community has not been that favourable.

The Parliamentary North Eastern Muslim Members Front has appointed a six-member committee to draw up a parallel proposal on the Interim Administration structure for the north and east, for the presentation to the group, and subsequently to the government, once approved. The committee comprising Sri Lanka Muslim Congress member and Ports and Shipping Minister Rauf Hakeem, and SLMC MP Anwer Ismail, National Unity Alliance MPs, M.H.M Hisbullah and Segu Isadeen, Athaulla Faction MP, Noordeen Mashoor and Dr. M Hafrath are expected to finalise the report by August 4. The committee is also expected to look at measures through which the interests of the Muslims could be protected in the north-eastern region.

The SLMC factions are divided on the Government's latest proposals on the setting up an LTTE dominated North-East Provisional Administrative Council (PAC).

Hakeem declared his support for an LTTE-run north-east interim administration if the government and the Tigers give the Muslims substantial powers to administer predominantly Muslim areas in the region.

The Ashraff Muslim Congress (Athaulla faction) leader A.L.M Athaulla during a debate on the Intellectual Property Rights Bill in Parliament the House called for the immediate de-merger of the northeastern province. He suggested a separate administrative structure for the north and another for the east.

"There's a Muslim majority in the east and a Tamil majority in the north. In reality the region comprises two separate provinces. The eastern region does not belong to the Tamils exclusively and it is foolish to merge it with the north," he said. He said that a referendum should be held in the region to identify the real aspirations of the inhabitants and the interim administration should be brought about after consulting all three communities.

In the ultimate analysis, it is the LTTE's reaction that will materially determine whether the Government's interim arrangement will result in the resumption of peace talks leading to a permanent solution.

# Interim Council: Govt's Proposals

**July 20 - The following is the full text of 'A Discussion Document' containing the Government's latest proposals to the LTTE to set up a provincial administrative structure:**

## Introduction

Based on a request from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) has developed the below framework for establishing a provisional administrative arrangement which will enable the LTTE to participate significantly in decision making and delivery related to administration, and rebuilding of the war damage infrastructure and economy, in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

The objective of establishing such an arrangement is to ensure rapid improvement in the life of the population in the eight districts in the north and east, while LTTE and GOSL at the same time are actively engaged in a dialog to arrive at a negotiated settlement based on the agreement reached during the third session of the negotiations in Oslo in December 2002.

Therefore - being an integral part of the process towards a negotiated settlement of the ethnic conflict - the establishment and continued operation of this interim administrative arrangement will depend on a continued dialogue between the parties both in the context of this administrative structure as well in the negotiations towards a final solution of the conflict.

Given the importance attached to a continued dialogue at all levels the proposal for an administrative arrangement is presented as framework - not a final document - which in itself must be subject for dialogue between the parties.

Given the understanding between the Parties during plenary sessions of negotiations that a Muslim delegation should be accommodated when issues of concern to the Muslim population is being deliberated, it is the view of GOSL that:

- A Muslim delegation must participate in the discussions relating to establishment of a provisional administrative structure for the Northern and Eastern Provinces; and

- That it should be open to the SLMC to submit separate proposal pertaining to the establishment of the above mentioned structure.

Provisional Administrative Structure for the Northern and Eastern Province - Proposal for Discussion Provisional Administrative Council

It is proposed that a body called the Provisional Administrative Council for the Northern and Eastern Provinces (Council) will be set up for the administration of this region.

1) The Council shall consist of such number of members as many be determined by the parties.

2) The composition of the Council shall consist of the following:

a. Members nominated by GOSL, which will include the nominees of the Peoples Alliance.

b. Members nominated by the LTTE.

c. Members nominated by Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC)

3) The number of members will be determined to ensure:

a. A majority of the LTTE in the Council

b. Subject to (a) above, the Muslim and Sinhala Communities will have weighted representation.

## 4) Chairperson

Two alternatives are presented concerning chairpersons for the Council:

Alt. 1 There shall be two chairpersons, one representing the LTTE and the other the GOSL elected by, and from amongst the members of the Council. Each chairperson shall have the right to veto any proposal brought before the Council.

Alt. 2 There shall be one Chairperson elected from amongst the members of the Council. If alternative 2 is selected the following para shall be included concerning decisions of the Council. Any decision of the Council, which affects either the Muslim, or the Sinhala

Community, can only be made valid if the decision is supported by:

- a. A majority of the Members of the Council, and
- b. A majority of the representatives of the Muslim or the Sinhala communities as the case may be.

#### **Powers and Functions of the Provisional Administrative Council**

1) It is proposed that the powers and functions of the Council will extend to: Adequate arrangements to enable the Council to participate effectively in the exercise and performance of such powers and functions as are at present being exercised and performed by the Government in respect of regional administration - except the area of police and security; land; and revenue - but including rehabilitation, reconstruction, and resettlement.

2) The participation mentioned above shall include policy making, implementation and monitoring.

3) The detailed modalities required to give effect to the above 1) and 2) shall be subject for discussion between the parties.

The Special Commissioner

It is further proposed that:

- 1) A "Special Commissioner" is appointed with the authority to utilize the State machinery for the implementation of the decisions of the Council;
- 2) The Special Commissioner will be appointed by the GOSL with the consent of the majority of the Council;
- 3) The Special commissioner will be a non-voting member of the Council, and accountable to this body;
- 4) The Council may designate another person or an organization to co-ordinate rehabilitation or development work implemented by non-State agencies and organisations.

#### **Finances**

1) The Council will - giving due consideration to an equitable distribution - determine the use of funds placed at its disposal. The Council will further identify such utilization by State agencies, NGOs, international agencies, private sector agencies for administration, rehabilitation reconstruction and development in the North-East region. The funds made available to the work of the Council will include - but not necessarily be limited to - such funds as:

- a. received from Donors to the North East Reconstruction Fund (NERF)
- b. allocated by GOSL to NERF; and
- c. such resources as are received for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the

Northern and Eastern Provinces other than through NERF.

#### **2) North East Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Fund (NERRF)**

It is recognised that NERF was established to cater for meeting the immediate needs of the population in the north and east. In order to enlarge the scope of this fund it is suggested that the funds should be modified to deal with both rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as cover medium term requirements. It is therefore suggested that the NERF is renamed NERRF.

It is further proposed that the GOSL and the LTTE shall actively encourage contributions to NERRF. The Government will provide funding through NERRF wherever practical. Utilization of resources from NERRF will as mentioned above be directly determined and supervised by the Council.

#### **3) The Special Fund**

A "Special Fund" is proposed instituted as an information, accounting and monitoring devise for resources from donors or the Government that is not channelled through NERRF. The purpose of this mechanism is to enable the Council to be aware, and become responsible for effective utilization of resources to the north and east including loans and other finances that cannot be channelled through NERRF.

#### **The District Committees**

It is also proposed to institute a District Committee for each of the eight Districts in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

1) Chairperson, Composition and Relationship to the Council

a. The Chairperson of the District Committee will be appointed by and from amongst the members of the Council in order to serve as a link between the Council and the District Committee.

b. The other members will also be appointed by the Council. In appointing such members, due consideration will be given to ensure adequate representation of the ethnic composition of the District in question.

c. The District Committee will function directly under the Council and will be charged with carrying out the decisions of the Council.

d. The District Secretary will be the Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer of the District Committee.

e. All activities within the District relating to the powers and functions of the Council will be co-ordinated through the Secretary to the District Committee.

2) Functions of the District Committee  
It is proposed that the functions of the District Committee will consist of:

- a. Implementation of the decisions of the Council;
- b. Co-ordination of all development activities within the district; and
- c. Formulation of proposal for consideration by the Council.

3) Powers of the District Committee

a. Each District Committee will function as a delegate of the Council and ensure the effective implementation of the decisions of Council.

b. For all purposes a district Committee will be responsible for the district for which it is established and will function as an administrative mechanism at district level.

c. A District Committee may - with the concurrence of the Council, obtain the assistance of individual or body of persons for the effective discharge of its functions.

#### **District Sub-Committee**

It is proposed that each District Committee may establish such number of District Sub-Committees as may be necessary for such sub-divisions in the district in order to ensure effective implementation of the decisions of the Council and the District Committees at local level. The members of the District Sub-Committee will be nominated by the District Committee with the concurrence of the Council.

Committees of the Provisional Administrative Council

1) It is further viewed as advantageous for the Council to establish the following special committees to strengthen its work:

- a. An Economic Affairs Committee
- b. An Infrastructure Committee
- c. An Essential Services Committee

2) Each Committee should consist of not more than four members of the Council, and such persons - including experts and officers - as may be determined by the parties.

3) The Chairman of the Committee should be a member of the Council.

4) Each committee will function under the direction of the council.

#### **Period of Operation**

It is proposed that the contemplated arrangement will be in operation for a limited period as agreed upon by the parties, however, subject to the arrangement being reviewed by the parties every six months. □

## ● Pongu Thamil rally

June 27 – A rally held in Jaffna on 27 June attended by tens of thousands of people called for “an interim state structure possessing full powers” which “must be entrusted to the Thamilis’ sole representatives, the Liberation Tigers of Thamil Eelam. The international community must recognize this interim state structure.”

According to a report in the TamilNet, around hundred and fifty thousand people crammed the Jaffna Medical College grounds and its environs for the Pongu Thamil (Tamil Upsurge) rally on 26 June. The rally called for the immediate return of the homes and lands occupied by the Sri Lankan armed forces in the northern peninsula.

The Pongu Thamil declaration released at the end of the celebration said the interim administration with full powers for the northeast province should be handed over to the Liberation Tigers of Thamil Eelam and it should be recognized by the international community. The declaration said:

“It’s more than sixteen months since the signing of the memorandum of understanding. But normalcy has not been restored yet. The negotiations have been suspended. The clouds of war have once again appeared on the horizon, for no fault of ours. We wish to change this situation. With this objective in view Thamilis have gathered here from all parts of the Peninsula, from all its nooks and corners, to freely participate in this Pongu Thamil celebration.

We wish to proclaim to the world:

That we are no longer going to tolerate being pulled about hither and thither or any further dilly-dallying. We wish to get back to our own homes; therefore the occupying forces must get back to their own homes to enable us to live in our own homes. We wish to build up our normal lives again. To enable us to do that, an interim state structure possessing full powers must be entrusted to the Thamilis’ sole representatives, the Liberation Tigers of Thamil Eelam. The international community must recognize this interim state structure. The North and East are the traditional homelands of the Thamilis. The Sri Lankan Armed Forces must move out of the Thamilis’ homeland and get back to their own homes.

The Thamil people are not in a frame of mind to think about peace while being subjected to military oppression and living in an atmosphere of fear. A situation must be created whereby the Thamil people can, in an atmosphere free of fear and insecurity, participate freely and fully to bring about peace. In such a conducive atmosphere, the ethnic conflict can be resolved in the basis of the following fundamental aspirations of the Thamilis

- Recognition of the Thamilis as a distinct nation;
- Recognition of the traditional homeland of the Thamilis;
- Recognition of the Thamilis’ right to self-determination.

It’s only on the basis of the acceptance of the fundamental aspirations of the Thamilis that a just, honourable and final solution can be arrived at through negotiations and permanent peace prevails.”

## ● Death sentence for massacre

July 1 - Five people, including two police officers, were sentenced to death for their involvement in the massacre of 27 Tamil inmates at a rehabilitation centre in the hill district of Bandarawela in central Sri Lanka.

The Colombo High Court sentenced the two police officers and three villagers from Bindunuwewa where some civilians with alleged collusion by some police officers went on the rampage and attacked the inmates of the Rehabilitation Centre in October 2000.

Chairman of the three-judge bench, Sarath Ambepitiya, in a 94-page judgement, launched a scathing attack on the conduct of the

# NEWS REVIEW

police in dealing with what began as a minor clash, but degenerated into a full scale massacre.

“If not for the complicity of police officers, this would have been avoided,”

the judge said. “When the victims went running to policemen seeking protection, they were fired at by the police.”

The death sentence has not been carried out in Sri Lanka since 1976 and it is automatically commuted into a life term in jail. The five condemned men have the right to appeal to two higher courts.

The authorities initially indicted 41 people for the massacre, but 23 were freed due to lack of evidence.

Out the 18 people who faced the full trial, another 13 were discharged, again for a lack of evidence.

Those held in the Centre were mostly teenagers suspected to be involved with the Liberation Tigers of Thamil Eelam (LTTE).

The Police officers sentenced to death were the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Bandarawela Police station Inspector of Police (IP) Senaka Karunasena and Sub Inspector of the Diyatalawa Police station, Roger Ratnayake. When the sentence was read out, OIC Karunasena berated the Sri Lankan legal system for finding him guilty.

In the early hours of 24 October 2000 a gang of persons entered the Rehabilitation Camp armed with knives, axes and clubs and attacked the inmates of the Bindunuwewa Rehabilitation Camp while most of them were asleep. The gruesome manner in which the young prisoners were murdered shocked most people across the political spectrum in Sri Lanka. According to a witness who gave evidence in the case, a boy who was attacked with machetes by Policemen and civilians associated with a Sinhala nationalist group extricated himself from his attackers and fell at the feet of a senior Police officer who had come to the scene, begging that his life be spared. Nevertheless, the boy, according to the witness, was hacked to death while he was pleading with the Police officer to save his life. The Police officer had looked on while the boy was done to death, the witness said. Another witness said that he saw a Policeman standing by the body of a victim that had been set on fire at the camp’s main entrance when he went there on the day of the massacre. According to witnesses, four boys were burnt alive while one’s neck was severed with an electric hacksaw. Two of the victims were boys under seventeen. The majority of the victims were between 18-25 years.

Human Rights groups have welcomed the expeditious manner in which the Colombo High Court handled judicial proceedings of the massacre at the Bindunuwewa rehabilitation camp in Bandarawela and urged similar expeditious action on other such cases pending before the courts.

## ● Japanese grant through UNICEF

July 3 - The Japanese Government has made a further contribution of US\$ 750,000 (approximately Rs. 72 million) to the UNHCR for its Country Programme and US\$ 1.25 million (approximately Rs. 121 million) for Supplementary Programme specifically earmarked for Sri Lanka.

Thereby Japan honours its pledges made through Yasushi Akashi, Representative of the Government of Japan on Peace-Building, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in Sri Lanka at the Oslo meeting in November, 2002 and the Tokyo Conference in June, 2003 to support the ongoing Sri Lankan peace process.

In his opening statement at the Oslo meeting Mr. Akashi had explicitly pledged that Japan would provide an emergency grant of US\$ 2.86 million through UNHCR to help the internally displaced



people in Sri Lanka. The latest contribution is a second phase of this emergency grant aid, the first being a sum of US\$ 1.62 million which was granted to the UNHCR in December last year.

Furthermore in keeping with Japan's endeavour to promote the process of peace-building in conflict affected areas of the region and provide humanitarian assistance for those affected by such conflicts, Japan has also made a contribution of US\$ 2.4 million (approximately Rs. 230 million) to the UNHCR to be utilised flexibly for its activities in the South Asian Sub-region which includes Sri Lanka as well.

UNHCR's major mandate is to provide protection assistance to people who are displaced as a result of the conflict. In addition UNHCR endeavours to identify durable solutions for both the refugees and internally displaced people either in form of returning home or relocation. Over the years, UNHCR's planned operational programme in cooperation with humanitarian agencies and NGOs has maintained a conspicuous presence in relief operations to the internally displaced people in the North and East areas of Sri Lanka. It has been constantly seeking durable solutions to facilitate the return and reintegration of the displaced people into safe areas.

The Government of Japan applauds these noble objectives and achievements of UNHCR and pledges its continued assistance for such humanitarian projects while supporting the Government of Sri Lanka's plan for their successful programme of Relief, Rehabilitation and Development, states Japanese Embassy press release.

### ● International pressure must be maintained

July 5 - The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute says that international pressure must be maintained in order to keep the momentum going in the Sri Lankan peace process. Dr. Christer Ahlstrom and Sharon Wiharta of the Institute say that since there are other conflict situations in the world that demand attention, if the international community backs off now and if it diverts its attention, it would not be there at the time the LTTE really wanted it.

Wiharta said, "First and foremost the big plus is the ceasefire has lasted so long. At the same time there has been some concrete improvement in the freedom of movement. The Kandy-Jaffna road is open. The big shortcoming that we see is that we have not seen any tangible steps taken to move towards the actual political settlement. We know that the Tigers are willing to consider a federal system within a unified Sri Lanka. That is a very big plus - the fact that they have come this far because earlier they always wanted their own state and government. The peace process hasn't been able to address what role the LTTE should play in the new government. This is hindering the process."

Suggesting improvements, the International Peace Institute says that though in the latest declaration in Tokyo, the donors have linked reconstruction and peace building to tangible progress in the peace process it would be good to outline what this tangible progress is. Wiharta added, "There is an enormous amount of pressure that has been put on both parties and beyond that I don't see how the external actors can try to push the process. But if both parties are really determined what the international community could do is to say that within a time period, let's say the next six months, you should work together and come out with a draft proposal." However she pointed out that it would take time before they come to the table.

According to the international institute the current peace process has the most tangible prospect for achieving a sustainable and a concrete resolution because of internal factors, such as war weariness and no financial incentives to continue with the war and external factors such as the support for the peace process, primarily mediated by Norway with the support from the US, EU and now with Japan.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute established in 1966 to commemorate Sweden's 150 years of unbroken peace is an independent institution financed mainly by the Swedish parliament. Its main objective is to provide information on issues related to peace and conflict.

### ● Compensation urged for 1983 riot victims

July 7 - The Presidential Truth Commission, due to be wound up shortly, in its report has recommended that the government pay compensation to the victims of the 1983 riots or their dependents in view of the trauma and suffering they were subjected to.

The commission noted that this would also serve as a warning to the perpetrators that economic destruction would be fully compensated and said in addition, they "strongly recommended that the government included legal interest on the determined compensation as from 1983 till payment in full."

To reduce the ethnic clashes it believed that the President and Prime Minister needed to spearhead a "new era of ethnic reconciliation and national unity." This, the commission pointed out should be carried out with the support and participation of the people of the country. In this regard, the enactment of a legal framework for "sustaining the process of ethnic reconciliation and to provide for the elimination of all forms of racism and ethnic related discriminations."

The Truth Commission also noted that the media contributed to the sustenance of ethnic misgivings and as such recommended that the media be made to create national unity through it as well.

The commission has also recommended that an Investigation Division of officers with police powers functioning entirely under the direction of the Human Rights Commission be established "to apprehend and prosecute persons holding public office acting in violation of fundamental rights." This Investigation Division should also be empowered to carry out investigations into cases unsatisfactorily carried out by the police, which relates to ethnic violations or issues.

The government must on the occurrence of any ethnic violence in the future forthwith appoint a high level National Committee reflecting as far as possible, an equivalent number of persons of all ethnic groups and comprising the Attorney-General, IGP, Service Commanders, Secretaries to the relevant Ministries, Retired Judges of the Appellate and High Courts, Chairman of Human Rights Commission and others.

### ● Britain to finger print visa applicants

July 9 - Britain is to start fingerprinting Sri Lankans applying for visas from later this month as part of a plan aimed at cracking down on immigration and asylum abuse, diplomats said today.

Only children below the age of five, diplomatic passport holders and officials and United Nations staff travelling on official business will be exempt from the new requirement.

"Fingerprint data will be held electronically to help identify the significant number of Sri Lankans who, on or after arrival in the UK, make fraudulent asylum or immigration applications with a false identity," said a British home office statement.

"It would also help to return failed asylum seekers from Sri Lanka who destroy their documents by helping to establish their true nationality." Diplomats here said the scheme would be tested here for about six months before deciding whether to extending it to other countries.

The scan of the left and right index fingers will be taken electronically when the applicant pays the visa fee at the British High Commission (embassy). "No ink will be used," an official said.

British Home Office Minister Beverley Hughes defended the fingerprinting and said Sri Lanka had been chosen as a test case

because of the high number of asylum seekers from this former British colony. Tens of thousands of Sri Lankans have applied for asylum in Britain as well as other Western nations and Australia since the escalation of a Tamil separatist conflict in July 1983.

"Sri Lanka has been selected for this pilot (project) as Sri Lankan nationals continue to make significant numbers of unfounded asylum applications - and to use false identities in the process," Huges said. "The Sri Lankan government is co-operating with us fully in this visa operation," she added.

"This is not about creating a 'fortress Britain'. It is about bearing down on those who would abuse our immigration and asylum system. Using cutting edge technology to help secure our borders will ease travel by legitimate passengers but allow us to stop and deter those who have no right to be here," she said.

### ● Citizenship for 168,000 stateless

July 11 - Sri Lanka is to grant citizenship to some 168,141 Tamils who opted, but failed, to return to their native India under a bilateral agreement in the past two decades, according to official sources in Colombo.

The government decided to absorb some 84,141 people who had obtained Indian passports to return home but could not travel because of the escalation of fighting between government troops and Tamil rebels in 1983, officials said. Another 84,000 people of Indian origin born in Sri Lanka after 1964 will also qualify for Sri Lankan citizenship, officials said.

The two countries had agreed to send hundreds of thousands of people of Indian origin back to India, but the Tamil separatist conflict had stopped a ferry that took back batches of Indians. More than 100,000 Sri Lankan Tamils are still living as refugees in India after fleeing violence in the island's north in the past two decades.

The Indian Tamils had been brought to Sri Lanka at the end of the 19th century as indentured labour by British colonial rulers. Most of them were employed in tea and coffee plantations in the island's central region.

Sri Lanka today has a distinct ethnic community known as the 'Tamils of recent Indian Origin.' They maintain an identity independent of Sri Lanka's indigenous Tamils who predominantly live in the northeast of the island. However, because of the intense fighting between government forces and the Tamil Tigers during the last two decades, over 400,000 Sri Lankan Tamils from the northeast have moved to the south of the island.

Tamils of Indian origin form about 5.5 percent of the 18.6 million population while Sri Lankan Tamils constitute about 12.5 percent.

### ● Objection to Minister's Israel visit

July 12 - The Vanni district parliamentarian from the Tamil Nationalist Alliance, Mr.Selvam Adaikalanathan, said that the visit by Sri Lanka's Defence minister, Mr.Tilak Marapane, and Sri Lanka Navy Commander, Daya Sandagiri, to Israel to purchase arms, had shattered the confidence the Tamil people had in the United National Front government that it was sincere in its peace initiatives.

Mr. Adailakalanathan, who is also the leader of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, issued a statement in response to press reports that Sri Lanka's Defence Minister and Navy commander were in Israel, negotiating the purchase of arms and other war materials to strengthen the SLN.

"No agreement has been reached in the dispute between the Sri Lanka Navy and the LTTE regarding sea transport. The SLN is engaged in operations at sea with the intention of derailing the peace process. At this juncture, the visit of the Defence Minister and Commander of the SLN to one of its biggest arms suppliers, Israel, has created suspicion in the minds of the Tamil people that the UNF government, like the former governments, is preparing for another war while talking peace," said Mr Adaikalanathan.

"We consider the steps taken by the UNF government ministers to strengthen the Sri Lanka Army and Sri Lanka Navy as a provocative act. We condemn such types of actions by the UNF government while talking of peace," said Mr. Adaikalanathan.

The TNA parliamentarian pointed out in his statement that "already a senior minister who is directly involved in the peace process with the LTTE" had gone to America and finalized the purchase of a modern war ship to strengthen the Sri Lanka Navy. "Now the Defence Minister with his SLN commander has gone to Israel to finalize purchase of war materials to the SLN."

### ● Two with JVP links indicted in Vijaya Vijaya murder case

July 13 - The Attorney General K.C. Kamalasekera, has indicted Weeraratne Mudiyansele Dhanapala alias Pala and Thuresamy Sri Kanthan alias Thambi of Kirillapona with conspiracy to commit the murder of the late husband of President Kumaratunga, the then leader of the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party and film idol Vijaya Kumaratunga.

The two accused are charged with conspiracy to commit murder of Vijaya Kumaratunga alongwith Lionel Ranasinghe alias Gamini and Tarzan Weerasinghe alias Herath and aiding and abetting Lionel Ranasinghe and Tarzan Weerasinghe to commit the murder of Vijaya Kumaratunga punishable under Section 296 read with 102 of the Penal Code.

The offence had been committed between February 1, 1988 and February 18, 1988. Weeraratne Mudiyansele Dhanapala alias Pala and Thuresamy Sri Kanthan are also charged on a separate count for committing the disappearance of the motorcycle and the weapon used in the murder of Vijaya Kumaratunga, punishable under Section 198 of the Penal Code. As the principal offenders, Lionel Ranasinghe and Tarzan Weerasinghe were presumed dead, as at the date of indictment, there is no substantive charge of murder against them.

According to the investigations the murder of Vijaya Kumaratunga had been committed by two persons, namely Tarzan Weerasinghe and Lionel Ranasinghe. Further there was evidence that Weeraratne Mudiyansele Dhanapala alias Pala was involved with the two persons, Tarzan Weeraratne and Lionel Ranasinghe prior to and after the assassination of Vijaya Kumaratunga. Dhanapala's involvement was providing safe houses to conceal the motorcycle and the weapon used in the assassination.

Further there was evidence that Dhanapala alongwith Thuresamy

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Sri Kanthan did cause the disappearance of the weapon and the motorcycle which were used in the assassination.

As at the date of commencement of the non-summary inquiry both Tarzan Weerasinghe and Lionel Ranasinghe were not found and presumed dead.

Dhanapala and another suspect identified as Thuraiamy Shrikanthan told Maradana police in 1998 that some JVP members, who were introduced to them by a friend, had asked them to keep a gun and a motorcycle with them.

The suspects said they made arrangements for the motor cycle, a red Honda, to be parked at the residence of a friend, Anto, and the gun which had initially been kept under the bed of Dhanapala had thereafter been transferred to the house of another friend Samantha. The suspects had stated they were unaware as to the purpose of keeping the motorcycle or gun until they heard it on the news that Vijaya had been killed. The killers had subsequently come and left the motorcycle and the gun with the friends of the accused, Anto and Samantha.

The two accused had been under great pressure from Anto and Samantha who were keeping the items, to dispose of them. This they had done by abandoning the motor cycle near the Kalubowila hospital, after removing the number plates, but kept the side mirrors with Dhanapala and palming the gun off to a man known to Shrikanthan. He was identified as Koombikele Dharme.

Dhanapala had also stated that nearly a year prior to the killing he had undergone training by the JVP in a camp in the outskirts of Matugama where he was taught to handle a weapon and to shoot.

The non-summary hearings were adjourned for October 6 by Colombo High Court Judge Kuma Ekaratne. The first suspect Virantha Mudiyansele Dhanapala alias Pala who was indicted was released on Rs. 500,000 cash bail with two sureties.

### ● EPDP leader wants India to intervene

July 13 - Eelam Peoples Democratic Party (EPDP) Leader and Jaffna District Member of Parliament, Douglas Devananda has requested India's immediate intervention into what he describes as "LTTE's atrocities" against his party men. Devananda who led a three-member delegation held wide ranging discussions during his visit with many leading personalities, including various political party leaders and senior parliamentarians.

Devananda who returned to the island after a week long Indian visit said it became necessary to inform India of the LTTE's ways of abducting, assaulting and the continued killing of his party supporters including some of the senior members.

Devananda said he was compelled to seek India's assistance and intervention as he had lost 'faith' in the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) and the present government. "I made several complaints regarding the abduction and killing of my people to both the government and the SLMM, but to no avail. And I had no other alternative other than to visit India to appraise the Indian government of our plight in the north," he said.

"We have no defence. Prior to the signing of the MOU we carried arms. And at that time we were sure of our own personal security. But after the MOU was signed we handed over our arms and we now stand exposed. We could be annihilated at any time by the armed Tigers," Devananda said.

"Whenever we spoke of the LTTE's atrocities, the only answer the SLMM could give was: 'there is no evidence.' Now we cannot

tolerate this any more. This is why we wanted India to intervene and inform the international community about our feelings towards the LTTE and the SLMM," he added.

### ● Support for Tamils at no cost to Muslims

July 15 - We would never stand in the way of the Tamil community achieving their aspirations but at the same time it cannot be at the cost of the Muslim community's aspirations", Secretary General of the SLMC, M. T. Hassen Ali told journalists.

He said that past experiences as well as today's especially in the North Eastern provinces have been bitter. Our community has been discriminated against and have genuine fears and grievances. We urge all concerned, the international community, the government and the LTTE to devise structures where all interests of the Muslim community in the North-East would be only under the leadership of SLMC.

"In doing so we will not stand in the way of other communities - Sinhala and Tamil - aspirations but not at the cost of Muslim aspirations. We believe it was high time the LTTE recognised the SLMC leadership as representatives of the Muslim community at the next round of talks at a time when the government has recognised us as equal stakeholders representing the Muslim community," Mr Hassen said.

At a time when the government is devising the structure for an interim administration in the North-East as demanded by the LTTE, all concerned should consider it in a way that the single council should include representatives from the Muslim community to run their own affairs as the community and not have to live under subjugation by another minority community especially an organisation like the LTTE. If that were to happen, the lives of the Muslim community would be violated by the LTTE police, courts, taxation, banking etc., under the guise of administration of the interim council, he said.

"In the North-East the Tamils and Muslims are the two major stakeholders and the Muslim community would not accept subjugation by the LTTE. Everyone accepts that there is an ethnic problem in the country and all steps should be taken to find a permanent solution until we resolve that problem. The Muslim community wants to run their own affairs in the North-East in an interim administration as equals. We demand that the SLMC be accepted as a separate delegation representing the Muslim community at the peace talks under the leadership of the SLMC leader," he said.

### ● WB pledges a billion dollars for four years

July 16 - Pledging a billion US dollars for Sri Lanka for four years, the World Bank urged the government and the LTTE to speedily resume the stalled peace talks saying nearly a third of this sum was to help restore the war-ravaged North and East.

"We therefore await the Government's new proposal for an Interim Administration for the North East and the resumption of peace talks around such a proposal with considerable anticipation," said Peter Harrold, the Bank's country director after launching its country assistance strategy for 2003-2006.

Mr Harrold said the World Bank has upped its \$ 800 million June pledge by 200 million and nearly half the sum pledged (\$ 460 million) is to be in the form of grants while the rest is repayable interest-free over a 40-year period starting 2013. "We are strongly optimistic that the circumstances will be in place to commit all these resources," said Mr Harrold referring to the North East interim ad-

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ministration demand by the LTTE and the government's willingness to grant it.

The Bank pledged \$ 800 million dollars last month at the Tokyo donor conference for Sri Lanka where a total of 4.5 billion US dollars was offered over a period of four years on the condition that there need be progress in the peace process.

"The key role for the Bank in this (peace) process is to support reconstruction, capacity building and restoration of services in the North East," said Mr Harrold adding that economic growth and equity were the other two areas the bank was focusing on to reduce poverty in Sri Lanka. "For Sri Lanka, we have identified three areas that we would propose to support which we believe will produce results on the ground towards the reduction of poverty: peace, growth and equity," said Mr Harrold.

Satisfied with the government's Regaining Sri Lanka policy document announced at Tokyo, and strict financial discipline and economic reforms, Mr. Harrold said the World Bank hoped to offer "budgetary support" ahead of the government unveiling its third Budget in November. He said the Bank will support key areas like education, health and water supplies in general and specifically in the poverty-stricken deep-south and central plantations.

Mr Harrold who praised the government and the LTTE for sticking to the truce despite violations of the Norwegian facilitated ceasefire agreement, said the Bank was "not ignoring" human rights violations observing that such rights were "an integral part of the peace process".

### ● Tigers threaten suicide

July 17 - In an apparent show of impatience, nearly one hundred LTTE cadres threatened to commit suicide by swallowing cyanide capsules on 16 July, when the security forces and the SLMM pro-

tested against the hoisting of Tamil Eelam flags in the government-controlled area of Vavuniya.

The move to hoist these flags by the cadres was as a mark of mourning for the 11 LTTE cadres, who died during the sea incident in Mullaitivu last month. Weeks after the Tiger ship was sunk off Mullaitivu on June 14, the LTTE released the names recently of its Sea Tiger crew killed in the attack by the Sri Lanka Navy.

SLMM Deputy Chief Hagrup Haukland said that a large number of LTTE cadres gathered in Vavuniya and attempted to hoist Eelam flags to mourn their dead cadres. It was at this stage that the Vavuniya-based SLMM officials went to the scene and requested them to stop hoisting the flags, ruling such action a violation of the agreement. However, the LTTE members threatened to commit suicide by swallowing cyanide capsules at this point, Haukland explained.

"It was clearly a violation of the Ceasefire Agreement signed between the Government and the LTTE", he said. He noted that despite previous requests by the army and the Police to the LTTE area leaders to avoid such activities in government-controlled areas, they have persisted in not following them and the latest attempt at flag-hoisting is another such incident.

### ● Intelligence Officer, a victim of 'double agent'

At about 10.00 in the morning of June 23, Dehiwala police Intelligence Unit Chief, Inspector Sunil Thabrew, aged 40, was shot dead as he was sleeping in the police quarters after completing the night duty. His assailant was later identified as one Selvathurai Kiribakaran (26) alias Madan who had previously befriended the Inspector and gained his confidence to such a point that the Inspector thought that Madan was working for him as a police informant.

A few months earlier Inspector Thabrew had first met Madan near the Dehiwala Zoological Gardens, Dehiwela. Madan who was from the Wannai had told the Inspector that he had left the Wannai and came to Colombo because he was dissatisfied with the way the LTTE operated. Madan had told the Inspector that he was in a position to reveal top secrets regarding the LTTE and that he was prepared to act as a police informant. Mr. Thabrew had agreed with Madan's suggestion and recruited him as one of his informants and also got Madan a job in a fish-exporting firm.

Madan regularly went to the Dehiwala police station to meet Inspector Thabrew and even spent hours in his company discussing various matters connected with the LTTE. Madan even supplied some information about the LTTE to the Inspector's superiors. Madan who is from Wannai had been providing information to Mr. Thabrew for about seven to eight months but the police did not suspect that he had maintained links with the LTTE.

On the day of the murder, Madan had visited the Dehiwala Police station at about 7.30 am and had talked to Mr. Thabrew for about half an hour and had gone away when the Inspector had apparently told him that he needed to sleep after being out on night duty. However the killer had returned to the police quarters once again at after about two hours and waited for Mr. Thabrew at the police station for sometime and had later gone to where the Inspector was sleeping.

Though some policemen had noticed Madan going towards the police quarters, they did not harbour any suspicion as they had seen him in regular contact with the police officer. Police said that Madan, was a regular visitor at the police station and they were used to seeing him often in the company of the slain Inspector. They said that even three days before the killing Madan had come to the police quarters with three others.

After shooting him at point blank range twice on the head killing the Inspector instantly, Madan escaped from the police quarters using the gate that lead out of the quarters directly on to the

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main road.

In his escape bid Madan ran down the road a distance of about 75 metres and then having stopped a three-wheeler which was going towards the Dehiwala Zoo had got into the vehicle and directed the driver to go through Waidya Road up towards the Galle Road. It was later revealed that Madan had beaten the three-wheel driver and had even threatened him with the 9-mm gun that was allegedly used to kill the Inspector. Madan had later thrown the weapon into some shrubs on Waidya Road which was later recovered by the police.

Meanwhile three police officers of the Dehiwala police, who were alerted by a matron that a person was seen escaping in a three-wheeler had given chase in another three-wheeler. However the police at that time had no knowledge that Inspector Thabrew had been shot dead. Madan was arrested when the three-wheeler he was travelling in was stopped at the army checkpoint, opposite the Commercial Bank, Dehiwala. At the time of the arrest the Madan had tried to bite into a cyanide capsule he had with him, but the policemen and soldiers who surrounded Madan thwarted the attempt at suicide. After the arrest, the killer had pretended to be unconscious and he was thereafter admitted to the Kalubowila teaching hospital for treatment and later discharged into police custody when he was found to be unharmed.

According to police sources, while Madan was pretending to be acting as a police informant, he was in fact a member of the LTTE pistol gang and was regularly in touch with Mr. Thooyawan the Wannu LTTE Intelligence Unit Chief who had reportedly assigned Madan with task of killing personnel of the Government intelligence units. They also claimed that that Madan had been initially assigned by the LTTE to assassinate EPDP leader Devananda and police officers involved in terrorist investigations. In his statement to Mount Lavinia police Madan had said that he was released from the Kalutara prisons after the signing of the peace agreement and on a visit to Vauniya had met LTTE leader Thooyawan.

#### ● Chances of off-shore oil and gas high

July 17 - Prospects of discovering oil and gas offshore along the Western coastal belt of Sri Lanka are very high according to recent surveys done by TGS-NOPEC a Norwegian geophysical company and Petrosca a Swedish company which conducted gravity surveys using satellite pictures, the Power and Energy Ministry said.

Through the surveys it had been revealed that the Cauvery Basin has the basic geological structures that are required to contain oil and gas at the estimated potential size of 10-15 million barrels. Studies had also revealed that the Gulf of Mannar basin is also oil and natural gas prone and might have a reservoir of 100 million barrels, the Power and energy Ministry said.

According to the ministry renewed efforts in exploring petroleum began in 2001 with a technical assistance grant from the Asian Development Bank by a team of consultants from New South Global Private Limited affiliated to the University of New South Wales, Australia. The consultants had concluded that existing geological data were not adequate to assess the country's geological potential of discovering oil and gas. They had recommended conducting seismic surveys offshore along the Western coast focusing on two main sedimentary basins in the Gulf of Mannar and Cauvery basin.

Thereafter the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) had entered into an agreement with the Norwegian geophysical company TGS-NOPEC to acquire ship-borne 2D seismic data on a non-exclusive and cost recovery basis. During phase one of the project they had acquired 1000 kilometres of seismics which show greater potential for finding hydrocarbon offshore along the Western

Coastal Belt.

The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation had also entered into collaboration with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to conduct satellite gravity surveys to gather data for assessing the prospects for oil and gas discoveries. SIDA and the CPC had agreed with a Swedish company named Petrosca which conducted gravity surveys using satellite pictures that are commercially available in order to find and locate hydrocarbon reserves in and around Sri Lanka on the basis of recovering their cost by licensing data.

Last week a Petroleum Resources Bill was enacted by parliament which provides for the government to reach agreements with private companies for the exploration of oil. The new laws also state that all petroleum resources found in the country will be owned by the state.

The ministry states that oil exploration is a costly endeavour with a test well costing between 5-10 million Dollars. The probability of finding oil is one in ten wells.

Although previous attempts by Sri Lanka to explore oil had failed, India had discovered offshore oil in the Cauvery basin in close proximity to the territorial waters of Sri Lanka.

#### ● SLMC urges power-sharing in interim council

July 18 - The SLMC's support for setting up an LTTE-run north-east interim administration (IA) would solely depend on the willingness of the government and the Tigers to give Muslims' substantial powers to administer predominantly Muslim areas in the region.

"We will not accept an LTTE dominated north-east administration. We can't expect justice under such an administration," SLMC leader Rauff Hakeem said while participating in live political TV debate on 17 July.

He was convinced the Muslims have no option but to press on with their campaign to obtain the required safeguards that would guarantee substantial autonomy in predominantly Muslim areas in the north-east. Citing reasons for their campaign, Hakeem said they have discussed the entire gamut of issues with Premier Ranil Wickremesinghe. "We have proposed certain measures. We held several rounds of talks in the past few weeks and are in the process of reaching a consensus," he said, pointing out that whatever the differences between the SLMC factions, they were united in securing substantial powers for the community in return for their backing of the ongoing efforts to set up an LTTE-run north-east administration.

He identified M. L. A. M. Hisbullah, a close confidant of NUA leader Mrs. Ferial Ashraff as a prime player in the ongoing deliberations. Responding to questions, the SLMC leader said that he was convinced that their proposals would be included in the latest government proposals to break the stand-off.

Answering questions from JVP, SLFP and Sihala Urumaya representatives at the discussion, Hakeem said the Premier had endorsed the SLMC's stance that there should be a separate Muslim representation at the negotiating table. The Premier had also accepted our just proposals on the north-east interim administration, he said.

He was of the view that it wouldn't be possible to reverse the peace process now. "We have come a long way," he said, emphasising that their support would be conditional underscoring their readiness to take appropriate action if the government failed to honour its pledges. Citing the attacks on the Muslims in Valaichenai and Muttur, Hakeem said that the Muslims suffered the most after the government reached a cease-fire agreement with the LTTE in February last year.

## REMEMBERING 1983

# Sri Lanka's last riot

Nimanthi Perera-Rajasingham

This July marks 20 years since the 1983 riots. It is a moment in our history that marks the beginnings of melancholia. For those of my generation and after, 1983 marks a shift in our lives, a shift in the way history is written, our lives were to be lived, the importance of violence in our society, and a deep sense of depression regarding the nation-state. While the years before 1983 were not peaceful by any accounts, often narrations of the pre-1983 period read Sri Lankan history as peaceful, and temperate.

Perhaps because what has happened to Sri Lanka after 1983 marks such a radical shift from the kinds of political and social upheavals before that time.

It was for me the first moment in my life when schools closed, and we all thought it was wonderful as this meant unexpected holidays. The days of riots themselves are not etched in my memory as days of horror, but what came after was a gradual state of depression.

I would say that 1983 marked not only the polarization of Sinhalese and Tamils from one another, but also the way in which Tamils who opted to live in the south had to alter their lives. It became preferable not to use a Tamil last name, not to wear a pottu, not to wear even something simple like a pair of anklets. For it marked the person's identity as being the hated Tamil. My mother who is a Perera, and had always worn pottu and anklets stopped doing so after. It just meant she would be safer without them. She also started using her maiden name as a means of reducing harassment at checkpoints.

### Complex narratives

What makes 1983 so special? It may seem an absurd question to ask, but one that is important nonetheless. It is indeed a moment when citizens of the State who considered themselves to be Tamils, speakers of the Tamil language,

sharers of a certain culture, saw their lives brutally altered, and many to such an extent that they either lost their lives, moved back North to what is considered the 'Tamil heartland' or had to choose the only other viable alternative: of leaving Sri Lanka and migrating to another country.

What is quite unusual about the incident, besides the devastations committed against Tamils, is the complexity of that moment in our history. 1983 is confusion. For Tamils and separatists, it was the moment in which the Sri Lankan State committed one of its worst atrocities against the Tamil people. It marked not only the rise of the LTTE, but also the moment of realization in the Tamil consciousness that the Sri Lankan State would not allow Tamils equal status in the country. Hopes of Tamils and Sinhalese living in one State became for many an impossibility. After 1983 all the moments prior to '83 were seen as conscious state acts against Tamils. History is rewritten and altered to suggest this.

Some would read 1983 as a moment when the State wanted to 'teach Tamils a lesson' about their rightful place in society. Tamils should know better than to demand equality, or so the dominant ideology of the time said. Others would claim that the State did not do the necessary minimum to stop the riots, but that it did not actively condone such actions. Perhaps the State had become so chauvinistic at this point that it became impossible to stop the army, police and ministers partaking in the violence.

Yet, others would claim that it was violence, not organized but a spontaneous outburst of ethnic hatred against what the Sinhala society had considered its other "the Tamil." Then again it seems that not all Tamils were randomly attacked, but that certain Tamils were sought out more, while the Sinhala community protected others. It has been

stated elsewhere that Tamils who had lived in enmity among their neighbours were attacked while those who had interacted intimately with their Sinhala neighbours were not harmed. There were 'ape demalu' who were protected. At the same time, it may have been a moment in which looting, and plunder took full force as the state of 'normalcy' had been suspended for a while.

It is thus a moment in our history which is impossible to narrate with simplicity and coherence.

### Important moments

It is important to remember 1983 with deep regret and sadness. While the official narrative claims that the riots started because 13 soldiers were killed, it is also important to keep in mind the acts of atrocity committed against Tamils even before 1983 riots officially started. Tamil students in Peradeniya University were attacked in May that year as were Tamil students at the Colombo medical faculty. The Jaffna library was burnt in 1981, Tamils were being persecuted in the North somewhat systematically since 1981. Even the 13 soldiers were killed as retaliation against Tamils who had been murdered just a few days before. When the 13 soldiers were killed, the Army opened fire on Tamil bystanders to vent its anger against Tamils.

Indeed, remembering 1983 is to remember history with deep horror. It seems that the State since that moment had lost its ability to meet the demands of its citizens, and ensure them equality. One experience that I wish to conclude with is a poem by Basil Fernando called "Yet another incident in July 1983" where rioters apprehend a Tamil couple and their two children in a car. The rioters take the children out of the car and set the car and the parents aflame. "Then suddenly the man inside breaking open the door, was out, his shirt already on fire and hair too. Then bending, took his two children. Not even looking around as if executing a calculated decision, he resolutely re-entered the car.

1983 is also known as Sri Lanka's last race riot to date. The question remains then on how to ensure that such violence never occurs again in Sri Lanka!

# Issues at the center of the peace process

Dr. Jehan Perera

## I. Interim Administration

Norway's special envoy to Sri Lanka Jon Westborg's recent visit to the Wannai to meet with LTTE leaders follows several other forays into the Wannai by representatives of the international community. In the past few days the conciliatory gestures made by the LTTE in meeting with members of the international community, and reiterating their commitment to a negotiated settlement, have diminished the apprehensions of a breakdown of the peace process.

The likelihood of an escalating cycle of crises arose with the sinking of the second LTTE ship suspected of arms smuggling by the Sri Lankan Navy. This was followed by preparations for the Pongu Tamil revivalist demonstration in Jaffna that climaxed with the mock storming of an imitation army camp by the demonstrators.

During the two and a half months that have followed the LTTE's suspension of peace talks with the government, there has been the possibility of violence filling in the vacuum. LTTE cadres on the ground would not be used to such long periods of hibernation especially in a situation where the peace talks have stalled. In this sense, Pongu Tamil was a safety valve. It combined raw nationalism with demands that implied the need for a further speed up of the peace process, such as the withdrawal of the army from high security zones to enable the resettlement of displaced people. While people vented the frustrations they had with the slow pace of normalisation in the north east, the organisers of the Pongu Tamil demonstration ensured that it was conducted peaceably.

It is also noteworthy that within a fortnight of the Tokyo donor conference the LTTE resumed their dialogue with the Norwegian facilitators, and also with diplomats belonging to other countries. By doing so, they have minimised the possible negative fallout of their boycott of the Tokyo donor conference. The

international community has also been gracious in its response. For instance, instead of acting petulantly for being snubbed by the LTTE, the Japanese government has agreed to build a modern hospital in Kilinochchi which is the LTTE's political capital. Such demonstrations of goodwill should be a relief to all Sri Lankans as it means that the country as a whole will lose little as a result of the LTTE's boycott of the Tokyo donor conference.

Due to the international community's faith in the Sri Lankan people's determination to put the ethnic conflict behind them and, possibly, geo-political imperatives, the country received as much aid at the Tokyo donor conference as could possibly have been imagined. The LTTE's boycott did not deter the international community from pledging USD 4.5 billion worth of assistance. The most substantial condition placed on the disbursement of their funds by the international community was that the government and LTTE should cooperate with one another in the peace process. The LTTE's cooperative attitude after the Tokyo donor conference offers hope that the money pledged at that conference will begin to flow in to the devastated areas of the north-east and have their multiplier effects elsewhere on the national economy.

## Change of mind

There are two likely reasons for the LTTE to change its mind on re-engaging with the government in the peace process. The first is that the LTTE has begun to feel the pressure of remaining outside of the peace process. Not only did they lose another of their re-supply ships during this period, they could also witness army relocations taking place in the Jaffna peninsula over their protests, but with little or no active opposition of the people. The LTTE cannot take the risk of losing ground with the people who want the benefits of peace and not be starved of them by a pro-

longed deadlock in the peace process. Further, they have had their own internal differences about the best course of action.

The common perception of the LTTE is that it is highly monolithic, with a military style decision making imposed from the top by its supreme leader Velupillai Pirapaharan. But in fact, like any large organisation, which the LTTE is, there are differences of opinion within it. A recent interview to the Tamil press given by the LTTE's chief negotiator Anton Balasingham contained a veiled reference on his part to opt out of the LTTE's negotiating team if a continued hard line on resuming peace talks continued.

It now appears that the LTTE chief negotiator Mr Balasingham's more accommodative views on taking the peace process forward have prevailed. It must be remembered that it was Mr Balasingham's pronouncements at early rounds of peace talks that the LTTE was not seeking a separate state and was willing to settle for a federal solution that brought brightness to the entire peace process. The reports that he might be replaced as the LTTE's chief negotiator with a more hard line LTTE representative have been quashed by no less than the person rumoured to replace him, namely the LTTE's Wannai-based political wing leader S P Tamilchelvan.

As the LTTE's chief political negotiator it is apparently the case that Dr Balasingham has a sphere of relative autonomy to help or hinder the peace process. On this occasion, as on several others, he has chosen to help. However, accompanying this softening of the LTTE's stance, Dr Balasingham has also called for a redefinition of the agenda for peace talks. He has proposed addressing crucial issues relating to the harsh existential realities of the ground situation instead of pursuing guidelines, milestones and roadmaps for what he described as an imaginary solution.

The public statements made by Dr Balasingham on behalf of the LTTE after their suspension of peace talks have a common thread running through them. This is the call for a radically new and innovative approach to the peace process. His initial usage of this phrase was with regard to the LTTE's demand for an Interim Administration in the North-

East. His most recent usage of the term has been with reference to the ground situation in that part of the country.

Dr. Balasingham's demand for a radically new and innovative approach indicates uneasiness within the ranks of the LTTE regarding the manner in which the peace process has progressed up to now. The LTTE's demand for a radically new and innovative structure for the North-East together with its demand for a focus on the ground situation stems from the concern that it has yet to gain powers of governance throughout the North-East. When it signed the ceasefire agreement with the Government in February 2002, the LTTE may have anticipated a rapid progress to a situation where it dominated life in the North-East, either by means of an Interim Administration or through the joint committees that were established at the peace talks. But this has not happened, with the central government continuing to be the mainstay of legal governance in that region.

There is no question that the ground situation in the North-East and improv-

ing the life of the people should take priority as the LTTE insists. But the ground situation that it is concerned about comprises both issues of normalcy in the economic life of the people as well as their security of life and other human rights. In this context the spate of assassinations that are taking place in the North-East, and also other parts of the country, represent an abnormal situation and are a harsh reminder of the brutality of the yet unresolved conflict.

#### Government's turn

The reopening of the window of opportunity for the peace process by the LTTE puts the ball back into the government's court. The issue at stake for the past two months has been that of establishing an appropriate interim administration for the north-east, which the LTTE has demanded as a pre-condition for restarting the peace process.

It might seem unfair that the government should be called upon to deliver an interim administration to the LTTE, the contents of which have not been specified by the LTTE. So far the

government has made three attempts, only to the badly rebuffed by the LTTE on all three occasions.

When the UNP in its election manifesto promised to set up an interim administration for the north east, no one and least of all the UNP drafters of that manifesto, would have been thinking of setting up a joint committee to be an interim administration. But this is precisely what the government did on all three occasions. It tried to offer a superior version of the Sub-Committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs (SIHRN) which is generally accepted to be an institution that did not properly make the grade ever since it was established. An unconstructive drama developed in which the government kept on offering more of one thing, while the LTTE kept on asking for something else.

#### Major concerns

As the more responsible and powerful party, that has to accept its share of responsibility in creating the ethnic conflict and in terms of local and inter-

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national legitimacy, it is incumbent on the government to make the greater effort to resolve the ethnic conflict. What the LTTE has specifically asked for in terms of an interim administration is a politico-administrative structure. By bringing in the word "politico" to illustrate the type of administration it wants, the LTTE sent a clear signal that it cannot be a committee that makes decisions that others are meant to implement. Political power in the Sri Lankan context means hands-on power to decide as well as to implement. It is on these lines that the government should be fashioning its interim solution.

Perhaps the government also missed a lead as to what the LTTE was looking for in terms of an interim administration. Even before the Tokyo donor conference, in a statement Mr Balasingham mentioned the interim administration that had been proposed in 1987 in the aftermath of the Indo Lanka Accord. That particular body was never set up, but it did provide for an LTTE majority, and envisaged the running of the North East Provincial Council. Dr Balasingham's reference to this abortive interim council might have been to point to the government the possibility of setting up an interim administrative structure for the north east without having to change the constitution. This is another instance of a helpful lead given by Dr Balasingham to resolve the deadlocks in the peace process. It is a lead worth following on. But for this to happen in an appropriate manner there are two major concerns for the government to deal with.

The first concern would be the government's doubts regarding the LTTE's ultimate intentions. There is a considerable body of influential opinion both within the country and abroad, particularly in neighbouring India that holds the view that the LTTE is merely playing for time. The LTTE's continuation of its practices of political assassinations of its opponents in the north east, and governmental intelligence operatives even in Colombo, lends credence to these doubts.

The second concern of the government is the willingness of the Sinhalese people to accept an interim administration dominated by the LTTE at a time when the opposition is conducting a

major political campaign critical of it. With an opposition alliance in the offing, and an anticipation of a Presidential dissolution of Parliament at any moment thereafter, the government may feel it impolitic to offer too much to the LTTE at this time.

In order for the government to feel itself empowered to tackle the issue of an interim administration for the north-east, it is necessary for it to either come to a bipartisan agreement with the moderate opposition or persuade the LTTE to moderate its actions and demands. So far the government's approach has been to try and satisfy the LTTE while bypassing the President and opposition. The better course of action would be to include them in the search for a viable interim administration.

The South African model in which all parties were brought into the negotiating process is an ideal towards which Sri Lanka should strive.

For its part, as an organisation that seeks to be legally recognised as the dominant politico-administrative power in the North-East, the LTTE needs to demonstrate it can be entrusted with the powers of governance.

This will be seen in the manner that it respects human rights and basic democratic freedoms, such as the rights to life and respect to ethnic and political pluralism. These are the guidelines, milestones and rules that not only the international community, but also the people of Sri Lanka would seek of their leaders of government.

Taking the peace process forward is not simply a matter of peace talks between the Government and LTTE aimed at sharing powers of governance. It is not only a matter of ensuring that the armed forces of the Government and LTTE do not resort to war again.

It is also about a new discourse in which the use of coercion and violence at various levels of society is abandoned and outlawed.

## II. LTTE's reciprocal commitment

The inability of the anti-Anandasangaree faction within the TULF, which still remains the main Tamil political party, to oust their outspoken president from his position reflects the growing confidence of Tamil society with the peace process. There is also an

increased willingness to challenge the anti-democratic actions of the LTTE. The media has widely reported that the LTTE wishes to see Mr Anandasangaree step down from his position of leadership of the TULF. Mr Anandasangaree has been an exception within the Tamil polity in his willingness to publicly contest the LTTE's claim to be the sole representative of the Tamil people.

The growing Tamil confidence to speak up is also visible in the seminars and other semi-public discussions held in the north-east. One of the foreign participants at a recent seminar held in Jaffna expressed surprise at the openness in which Tamil participants stressed the distinction between the Tamil people and the LTTE and also their desire to live within a united Sri Lanka and in harmony with their Sinhalese neighbours. However, this willingness to speak up is still limited to the more elite sections of Tamil society. People on the streets are more careful in expressing their thoughts in front of outsiders.

The LTTE claim to be the sole representative of the Tamil people is untenable when viewed in the context of the multi-party Tamil representation within Parliament. There is also little reason to doubt that the Tamil people dislike some of the LTTE's actions as much as reasonable and fair-minded outsiders do. The continuing assassination of its political opponents, forcible underage youth recruitment and extortionate taxation would be right on top of this list, although not necessarily in that order. People generally dislike most what affects them personally, and the impact of the LTTE's taxation has the widest impact.

But neither Mr Anandasangaree's triumph at the last executive committee meeting of the TULF nor the sentiments expressed at seminars should mislead anyone about the dominant role of the LTTE in Tamil society. Until a final solution to the ethnic conflict is found, this is likely to be the case. The LTTE will be a permanent feature of the political landscape of Sri Lanka, and particularly the north-east, for a long time to come.

Those who believe that the LTTE can be marginalised or will find it being sidelined by the Tamil people are making

the same mistake that the former government made when it tried to win the hearts and minds of the Tamil people in opposition to the LTTE. On the other hand, for the peace process to be a success it is also essential that the LTTE should cooperate with the government because the government cannot make the peace process a success on its own.

### No alternative

Despite its major flaws, it is likely that the great majority of Tamil people continue to see no alternative to the LTTE. Nor would they wish the LTTE to be marginalised or weakened in any way. This is because the LTTE is potentially the best guarantor that the Tamil people will eventually obtain a fair share of rights and political power in Sri Lanka, alongside the Sinhalese and other communities. Through their military power, and preparedness to use it, the LTTE has closed the previously enormous gap between the bargaining strengths of the Tamil minority and Sinhalese majority.

The inability of the government to deliver a peace dividend to the people of the north east even after nearly a year and a half of ceasefire would show the Tamil people that their well-being is not a priority concern of the government in Colombo. Further, that what is rightfully theirs has to be wrested from an unwilling or uncaring government. The track record of successive governments has been that none of them has been prepared to give voluntarily, one reason being the nature of opposition politics that sets up Sinhalese fears against the Tamils. This means that everything has to be bargained for or forcibly extracted. Due to their lack of an alternative way of obtaining their due rights in the country, it is reasonable to believe that the Tamil people will be reluctant to do anything that might endanger the LTTE's bargaining power in relation to the government.

Therefore a major reason for their silence in the face of the LTTE's ex-

cesses and abusive behaviour towards the people is their wish to ensure that the LTTE retains its strength until a just solution is entrenched in the country. Others might see the factor of fear as the main reason for the relative silence of the Tamil people. But fear is not the only reason.

The government must address this desire of the Tamil people for a just solution to the ethnic conflict in every one of its actions that is directed towards the north east and to the LTTE.

At present the biggest challenge the government is facing is to come up with an interim administration that would meet with the LTTE's approval. The government is currently making its fourth attempt by which it hopes to persuade the LTTE back to the negotiating table. But this does not mean that the government should only look at the LTTE's interests when it designs such a structure. The government should also look at the best interests of the Tamil people and the rest of the country.

### Outlawing abuses

It can be taken for granted that a final or interim solution in which political opponents are annihilated, children are forcibly taken from their parents and extortionate taxes are levied cannot be considered to be a just solution. The structure of an interim administration must therefore contain measures that effectively outlaw such abuses. The LTTE must give its assurances backed by firm commitments that an interim administration in which it is given the dominant place will be one that upholds human rights. There are some who have sought to trivialise the LTTE's killing of its political opponents as being an inevitable outcome of a twenty year long armed struggle. There is a settling of scores and the killings are akin to gang warfare. But this is an unacceptable argument. The LTTE cannot be described as a gang. On the contrary it is a regional government-in-the-making.

If the LTTE wishes to enjoy the powers of regional governance it must abide by the responsibilities of such governance. The first of these is to protect the human rights of those it seeks to govern.

This past weekend the government launched a search for those without identity cards in Colombo and its environs in the course of which a large number of Tamil youth, numbering 70 have been arrested. This has evoked a protest from the LTTE that its members are being harassed. But this crackdown follows the assassination of intelligence and police personnel in Colombo itself allegedly by the LTTE.

The recent arrests follow the apprehension of one assassin who had been an LTTE member in the past and then turned informer and double agent. The government has a duty to protect the lives of people in all parts of the country.

Another justification offered for taking a benign view of the LTTE's killings is that the number of deaths due to political assassinations are very much fewer than the numbers who died on a daily basis during the course of the war. But a time of ceasefire cannot be legitimately compared to one of war.

Those little children who were by the sides of their fathers when they were gunned down in cold blood would find the ceasefire to be worse than the time of war, when their fathers were alive. The same would be true of the wife of the police intelligence officer whose wife bore her first child a week after her husband was assassinated.

In one of the world's most celebrated novels, the Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoyevski, the hero says, "If I was asked to build the happiness of the world upon the tears of the littlest child, I would refuse to do so." This is the supreme value which all who work for peace in Sri Lanka should urge upon the government, LTTE and Norwegian facilitators as they take the next steps in the peace process towards an interim administration for the north east.



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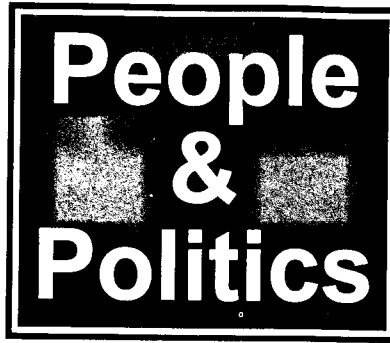
## ● Allegations against TNA MPs denied

Tamil National Alliance (TNA) parliamentary group leader Mr.R.Sampathan wrote to the Speaker of the Sri Lanka Parliament seeking a parliamentary debate on allegations against Tamil Nationalist Alliance MPs by some opposition parliamentarians. Sampathan challenged those who made statements casting "serious aspersions on the members of parliament of the Tamil National Alliance, and accuse the members of parliament of the Tamil National Alliance of criminal conduct" to prove them.

Sampathan's protest came following allegations from some opposition MPs that some MPs belonging to the TNA had been forced to employ LTTE cadres as their personal assistants, bodyguards and drivers. Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) leader Dinesh Gunawardena had informed the Speaker that some Opposition Tamil Members of Parliament were prevented from coming to Parliament due to the security threat faced by them.

Wimal Weerawansa of the JVP had alleged that certain Tamil Members of Parliament who were today supporting the LTTE for their own survival, had LTTE members working as body guards, drivers and personal secretaries. Weerawansa even alleged that there were even intelligence cadres of the LTTE among the staff of certain TNA MPs.

Mr. Sampathan in submitting to the Speaker 'as a matter of public importance' to be taken before Parliament stated that certain "statements made inside and outside Parliament had cast very serious imputations on Members of Parliament of the Tamil National Alliance, of giving shelter to and permitting the use of weapons supplied by government for purposes of personal security, to provide training to members of the LTTE. It has also been alleged that drivers or other staff of MPs of the Tamil National Alliance were likely to carry out attacks on MPs of the Peoples Alliance around parliamentary complex or along the road leading to parliament. This latter statement has been made in the context of a warning issued to Peoples Alliance Parliamentarians of a threat on the lives of key Peoples' Alliance members of parliament by the



LTTE."

Mr Sampathan further said, "These statements cast serious aspersions on the members of parliament of the Tamil National Alliance, and accuse the members of parliament of the Tamil National Alliance of criminal conduct. Having consulted all the Members of Parliament of the Tamil National Alliance, I wish to lodge and record our contemptuous rejection of these palpably false and malicious statements. It is well known that the policies of the Tamil National Alliance, both inside and outside parliament are completely in accord with the mandate received from the Tamil people resident in the North East at the last general elections held in December, 2001. The vast majority of Tamil Members of Parliament from the North East are from the Tamil National Alliance."

"It is preposterous to suggest that members of Parliament of the Tamil National Alliance, comprising of four registered democratic political parties, are seeking to make a contribution to the widely known military prowess of the LTTE. The Tamil National Alliance on the other hand is publicly working with the LTTE to further the peace process. I wish to categorically state that there is nothing clandestine in the relationship between the Tamil National Alliance and the LTTE. The statements I have referred to above are attributable to either a misguided determination to thwart the peace process or prevent the present government from succeeding in the peace process. Attempts to tarnish the members of parliament of the Tamil National Alliance is yet another shortsighted step, to disrupt the peace process. If there is any credible information against any member of parliament of the Tamil National Alliance, we would welcome his identity being revealed, and whatever action deemed necessary being taken." (July 11)

## ● CBK rejects JVP demand

The much publicized attempt to forge an alliance between the SLFP and the JVP is yet to materialize. In the meantime, it is learnt that the talks between the parties have become deadlocked on the stance to be adopted on the issue of the ethnic conflict and the ongoing peace process.

A Colombo newspaper, *The Sunday Times*, recently reported that President Chandrika Kumaratunga has shot down demands by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna for the immediate abrogation of the government-LTTE ceasefire agreement, cancellation of Norwegian facilitation in the peace process and the expulsion of Scandinavian truce monitors.

The JVP had wanted to place these demands as part of provisions to be incorporated in the proposed joint agreement forming a political alliance. While rejecting the JVP demands as unacceptable, President Kumaratunga, as leader of the PA, is learnt to have agreed to jointly review with the JVP the contents of the ceasefire agreement, the role of Norwegian facilitation and the future of the SLMM. The finalisation of the joint agreement now awaits a formal ratification by the JVP of an offer for its nominee to serve as national organizer in the proposed coalition.

The President had offered the JVP the position of national organizer in the proposed coalition between the two sides in a bid to salvage the ongoing negotiations which was hit by conflicts. The offer was made at a meeting between President Kumaratunga and a JVP delegation. The President had said the post of national organizer would have wide powers, including the organizing of the coalition's activities at national level. The JVP delegation led by General Secretary Tilvyn Silva had not declined the offer but told the president that they would consider the offer and respond to it.

The offer had been made to settle the crisis that had emerged over the positions in the coalition after the SLFP insisted that it should hold the key positions of president and general secretary of the alliance.

Initially the post of national organizer was created to accommodate the President herself while appointing a JVP

member as the president of the coalition and an SLFP member as the General Secretary. But SLFP seniors later insisted that the main opposition party should have both top posts.

At a recent meeting, the JVP also wanted the President to make clear her stand on the government's move to offer an interim North-East administration to the LTTE. Presidential spokesman Harim Peiris, when asked how the President responded to that question, said it was premature to make clear comments on such issues and reiterated the President's position that a wider political agreement should be reached first.

Commenting on the new alliance, Mr. Peiris said there should be no doubt that the President would be the leader and would play an active role.

### ● Body-search for MPs

Inspector General of Police (IGP), T.E. Anandarajah, has instructed all Police officers on duty in Parliament to carry out strict body searches of all Parliamentarians without fear or favour. The IGP's order came in the wake of a request made by Speaker Joseph Michael Perera to the IGP to find ways and means of ensuring more and better security in and out of parliament.

Speaker Perera said on 12 July that he had instructed the IGP to hand over to him a detailed report regarding security in Parliament after opposition parliamentarians sneaked in a mini coffin to the Chamber of Parliament recently. The Speaker was equally concerned after opposition members brought into the Chamber a wreath to be placed before Interior Minister John Amaratunga. The Speaker said the policemen on duty in Parliament are confused over the material a Member of Parliament is permitted or not permitted to bring into the Chamber. The Speaker requested the IGP to look into this aspect as well.

Following the Speaker's request the IGP provided to him a set of suggestions prepared by him and a copy of the letter sent to the Attorney General for his consideration and advice. The IGP's suggestions to the Speaker included future security to Parliament in general and parliamentarians in particular.

Anandarajah says police officers need not fear or worry about politicians using their influence to transfer them or take other related actions against them

because such determination regarding police transfers now depends on the Independent Police Commission.

"I have told them to act with a sense of responsibility and independence. Police officers certainly cannot cause embarrassment to the members of parliament. But of course they have to carry out their duty while checking," the IGP said.

The IGP says according to the Standing Order of the Parliament, a member cannot carry weapons or other material that could be used to harm others. He says that the parliamentarians have already been advised of this. "But when they bring flowers what can the police officers do? The Standing Order does not indicate that a parliamentarian is prevented from bringing flowers. This is the problem we have," he explained.

### ● The taxing A-9 route

Reports indicate that people traveling between the northern Jaffna peninsula and southern parts of Sri Lanka are being compelled to pay an enormous amount of 'tax' just to travel.

Following the signing of the Cease-fire Agreement, the LTTE had imposed a tax of Rs. 350 from luxury bus passengers and Rs. 150 from normal bus passengers at their checkpoints areas under its control located on the A-9 road, the primary road-link between the north and the south. This area is located between Omanthai and Muhamalai, north of Vavuniya. These are the final checkpoints under government controlled areas on the A-9 road in the Vanni and Jaffna.

Currently two 50-seater luxury buses are operating unofficially from Wellawatte in Colombo to Jaffna for a payment of Rs. 1200 from a passenger. Of that Rs. 350 should be paid to the LTTE at their checkpoint, after passing Omanthai in Vavuniya, the first checkpoint which comes under government control till they reach Muhamalai, the last checkpoint under government control, which leads to Jaffna.

Normal bus passengers should pay Rs. 150 to the Tiger Transport Service (TTS) which operates between Omanthai and Muhamalai under LTTE control. This is supervised by head of the TTS.

From Muhamalai to Jaffna bus passengers had to pay only Rs. 20 as bus

fares for government transportation to reach a distance of around 15km to reach Jaffna town under government control.

Besides this there are vehicles operating in a private capacity from Colombo to Jaffna. These vehicles mainly operate from Wellawatte to the north via travelling agencies run by Tamil businessmen to north.

A passenger should pay Rs. 1000 each. Of that all Tamil passengers should pay Rs. 350 to LTTE as tax. This could either be paid to the relevant travel agencies in Colombo or directly to LTTE after they reach the LTTE controlled areas. All passengers travelling from Omanthai to Muhamalai in LTTE-controlled areas are not allowed to get down till they reach Muhamalai.

### ● Abuse of power

The United National Front(UNF), of which the United National Party(UNP) is the principal unit, came to power promising to eliminate abuse of power and corruption. But its performance and that of its Ministers and MPs since they assumed office in December 2001 would appear to suggest otherwise.

Drawing attention to the decision of the UNPs Executive Committee meeting held recent to maintain strict discipline within the party, *The Sunday Times*(13 July) reported that its investigations had revealed that offences committed by some of the ruling party MPs during the past year still remain to be investigated by the police, and the party's disciplinary committee has failed taken effective action in this regard.

The reported noted that public saw the governing party's decision to expel four local councilors, accused of murder and corruption, as an attempt to cover up the unruly behaviour of some politicians against whom complaints have been recorded at police stations. It accused the UNP's disciplinary committee, headed by Minister Karu Jayasuriya, of having done little in reality to discipline Ministers and MPs though repeatedly stating that due disciplinary action would be taken against the wrong-doers.

Citing examples, the report added that more than 15 incidents where Ministers or MPs have allegedly breached the law and escaped punishment have been recorded so far this year.



When talking of Ministers accused of bad conduct and misdeeds, it named Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Minister Mahinda Wijesekara of grabbing the spotlight for allegedly misbehaving or acting illegally on four different occasions. He has been accused of chopping down the 300-year-old Mara tree, of enormous archaeological value, at the historic Matara Fort, the alleged breaching of the Nilwala River bund and allegedly threatening journalist Lucien Rajakarunanayake with death. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe had asked the Minister for a report on the cutting down of the Mara tree and the police too had submitted a report to the Attorney General but to date no action has been taken against the Minister involved. In the latest incident Minister Wijesekara was widely criticised over chiding his Ministry Secretary and abusing him in bad language claiming the secretary objected to a decision made by Mr. Wijesekera to appoint a person rejected by the selection panel, as director of a Coast Conservation Department project.

The report alleged that Minister of Housing and Plantation Infrastructure Arunmugam Thondaman was another among those accused of bad conduct. Apart from the incident where the Minister is said to have stormed into the Borella police station and had sat in OIC's chair, he is also alleged to have assaulted the staff of a well-known hotel in Nuwara Eliya, in the presence of a senior police officer who appeared to approve the Minister's action. The Minister apparently had been angered when the staff mistakenly offered him the wrong menu.

Mr. Olitha Premathiratne representing the Gampaha District has been named in the report as another parliamentarian accused of abuse of power and bad conduct. On May 31 this year Mr. Premathiratne had walked into the Seeduwa police station and forcibly released one of his supporters who had been arrested over a motor accident. So far the government had been unable to pursue any disciplinary action against Mr. Premathiratne for the alleged devilry at Seeduwa police station although a report on the incident had been submitted to the Attorney General. At present he is at the centre of another

controversy where he had allegedly encouraged his supporters to encroach on a vast tract of land (300 acres) in the Muthurajawela Nature Reserve and distributing it among his supporters. Another resident in the area, Paul Perera too has complained that Premathiratne and supporters have encroached into his 99-acre private property in Seeduwa on May 30. Premathiratne had thereafter brought in 200 families, who are now living in plastic huts into this land. Apart from taking over the land Premathiratne has also destroyed pineapple plants worth Rs. 100, 000, 2000 banana trees as well as 2000 coconut trees.

Perera has written to Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe requesting him to look into his complaint.

After this incident Perera filed a case in the Negombo Magistrate's court on June 29. However Perera complains that with the next hearing coming up on July 8 he has been receiving several death threats telling him not to show up in court. Perera has already made complaints to the Peliyagoda police and police headquarters. "If I am killed there is only one man to suspect for my murder," Perera stated.

Perera runs an international school in Negombo with 4000 children and another private school with a total of 5000 students. Perera has been planning to build a university in the 99-acre plot in Seeduwa.

The proposed university has obtained the approval of the BOI.

The Government had also ignored the unruly behaviour of Colombo MP Lilantha Perera and Hambanthota MP Dilip Vedaarachchi who have also come under fire from the public for their actions. Lilantha Perera had allegedly assaulted two police officers at a motor race track in Nuwara Eliya on April 20 and the two officers had to be hospitalised having sustained serious injuries. In this instance the Party did take disciplinary action against him, though the police had not pursued the case. On May 25, MP Vedaarachchi created havoc at a wedding reception held at the Hilton hotel causing the ceremony to be disrupted and even embarrassing the wedding couple. He is alleged to have assaulted some of the hotel staff and smashed plates and other tableware belonging to the hotel. Later on being es-

corted out of the hotel by his security staff he is alleged to have fired in the air.

Often the police have been at the receiving end of bad conduct by Ministers and MPs. At least on three occasions this year MPs representing the Government had stormed into police stations causing a disturbance and assaulting the police. In another incident parliamentarian A. A. Wijetunga from the Ratnapura district has been accused of rushing into the Kalawana police station and demanding the transfer of a traffic policeman who had faulted some of his supporters.

### ● Intelligence infiltration?

All reconstruction work in Mullaithivu has been cancelled after the interior intelligence division of the Tamil Tigers following accusations that many Sri Lankan intelligence operatives had infiltrated the district under the guise of being government contractors.

A report in a Colombo Tamil daily, quoting Tiger sources, said that the LTTE's intelligence division was investigating Sri Lankan government contractors engaged in reconstruction work in the Mullaithivu district consequent to the uncovering of alleged espionage activities in which these firms and their employees were allegedly involved.

Reconstruction and rehabilitation work in Mullaithivu started this year after 15 years of neglect. Contractors had to be hired from outside the north-east for the work, as there aren't construction companies in the region with the necessary capacity to undertake medium and large projects funded by international financial institutions and Sri Lanka's Ministry of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. (July 13)

According to the report, the LTTE has charged that persons fronting for Sri Lankan intelligence organizations had applied and obtained contracts when tenders were called for reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in Mullaithivu. The LTTE's counter intelligence unit has launched operations to monitor the activities of these contractors. Several workers employed by the contract companies have also been questioned in connection with the activities of the Sri Lankan intelligence agencies in Mullaithivu, the report said.

## International community and Sri Lanka

Adrian Wijemanne, Cambridge, UK.

The tri-partite Ceasefire Agreement requires the active and full-hearted cooperation of all three sides to deliver even more than it has done so far. Now, however, one side to the Agreement, the GOSL, is paralysed by internal dissension within the Sinhala polity.

The President and the fastest growing Sinhala political party, the JVP, oppose any further progress under the Ceasefire Agreement tooth and nail. If recent promises made to the international community are to be fulfilled the present constitution has to be changed radically or abandoned altogether and replaced by a new one which reflects the realities of our present condition. As you are no doubt perfectly aware neither of these is a practical possibility given the present composition and alignments of the Sinhala political class.

The international community will soon realise that the Gordian Knot has to be cut and it is only their intervention with the needed force that will do it.

The hackneyed term "the international community" which had a vague connotation for years has assumed a new and far sharper definition after the Tokyo Conference of June 9th and 10th 2003.

The unanimous Declaration of that conference was signed by the representatives of 51 states of Europe, Asia and North America and of 22 international organisations. Taking the leading role in that gathering were Norway, Japan, The United States and The European Union's Presidency and Commission. Many of these states have already acted in concert to bring about peaceful resolution in recent conflicts in Europe - in Bosnia, in Kosovo and in Macedonia. They have the tacit agreement of the United Nations.

The conflict in Sri Lanka presents the international community with a far more intractable problem than any of the European conflicts mentioned above.

The divide between the two contending parties is deeper and wider than in any of the European cases. An ethno-territorial separation compounded by

linguo-cultural dichotomy, different systems of personal law and religious difference all combine at the same time to produce a chasm which the wit of man has so far failed to bridge. A peacemaking effort by India in 1987 failed spectacularly with the peacemakers themselves being embroiled in war with the LTTE and falling from grace with the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL). Direct peace talks inter se in 1989/90 and again in 1994/95 broke down acrimoniously followed by a return to war.

The recognition that neither side is able to bring the war to a successful conclusion and that the two parties together are unable to make peace by negotiations inter se has led, at the urging of the international community, to the invitation by both sides to The Royal Norwegian Government to act as a facilitator to bring the two sides together and to engender in them the will to peace which is indispensable for a peaceful settlement.

The first fruit of the facilitatory effort was the conclusion of a tri-partite Ceasefire Agreement which has survived for 15 months despite many infringements by both sides. Unhappily these infringements are escalating in seriousness as time passes and the limits of the facilitator's effectiveness without any armed force to enforce their findings and recommendations becomes ever more evident. In both Bosnia and Kosovo the international community has backed up its intervention with well armed military forces to enforce its decisions in the interests of maintaining peace.

The international community's peacemaking strategy in Sri Lanka is less intrusive than in either Bosnia or Kosovo. It is based upon the hope that the two contending parties will be able, in direct negotiations with each other with the help of the facilitator, to develop an acceptable solution - acceptable, that is, not only to the Sinhala and Tamil peoples but also to the international community in respect of its human rights concerns.

The record so far of nine months of dealings between the two sides, however,

offers little hope for optimism. On the contrary, with every passing day it becomes clear that such a rapprochement is entirely beyond their capability.

The separate national constituencies that each party represents are too far apart for any rational hope for an agreement inter se. In short, the situation is Bosnian or Kosovan in an even more exacerbated form than in either of those countries.

The Declaration of the Tokyo Conference, however, calls on the two parties to reach an agreement first on a provisional administration for the North and East in which the majority of the Tamil people live and then go on to devising a federal form of government to replace the existing unitary state. The aid pledged at the Conference is conditional on the successful achievement of these objectives. This requires either a radical change of the present constitution of Sri Lanka or, more likely, its replacement by an entirely new constitution.

Neither of these is a practical possibility due to the rooted opposition to either by the incumbent President, her party the People's Alliance and the third, (and fastest growing) Sinhala extremist party, the JVP. This conditionality demonstrates vividly the international community's failure to grasp the magnitude of the abyss that separates the two sides and the political paralysis that afflicts the Sinhala side.

If the international community is serious about a peaceful resolution of the Sri Lankan conflict it needs to adopt a far more interventionist approach. It needs to devise, in consultation with the two parties, a federal form of government for Sri Lanka, compel the acceptance of that form by the two sides and enforce its implementation on the ground by the presence of its own military forces under an High Representative of the international community who will be resident in Sri Lanka and will be answerable to the international community. This is the Bosnian model and it has worked for the last 8 years from 1995 to the present.

It could be said that this will be the end of Sri Lanka's independence. This is just a sterile legalistic objection.

Sri Lanka's "independence" is a myth that can no longer be allowed to stand in the way of a new chapter of life for the peoples of the island in accordance with the norms and values of international life in this century.

# TALKING POINT

## ● Who is in command?

The incident in which the LTTE ship was sunk in the northern seas off the Mullaitivu coast on 14 June would appear to have brought into the open the fact that to put it mildly, there is a lack of trust between Sri Lanka's Defence Minister, Mr Tilak Marapone, and the top brass of the Sri Lankan Navy.

Referring to the incident, the Minister told the media that "the version given by the Sri Lanka navy contradicts what the LTTE is saying." "We have to verify which version is true before taking the next course of action. We have given the responsibility of ascertaining this to the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM). The report from the SLMM is expected in about a week's time. The monitors are now in Trincomalee questioning those involved in the incident. Until we get a report I am not planning to initiate any investigation on our own," Minister said.

Referring to the report that neither the Defence Minister nor the Navy Chief of Staff had been informed in advance of the encounter in the seas between the LTTE vessel and the Navy, Mr Marapone told media, "I was informed of the incident only around 7 a.m. However the incident took place at about 5 a.m. But the Navy could have informed me when they first sighted the LTTE vessel at 3.15 a.m."

It would seem that the Navy's top brass had been direct contact with President Chandrika Kumaratunga whose directions were followed in adopting the course of action the Navy took in respect of the LTTE ship.

Incidentally, it was also reported in the Colombo media that it was the Indian intelligence that initially alerted Colombo about the approaching LTTE vessel that was alleged to be engaged in smuggling weapons.

## ● India Says No to Westborg

India has rejected the nomination of former Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Jon Westborg as Norway's new Ambassador to New Delhi. Highly reliable sources in Oslo have been quoted as saying that India's opposition to Westborg was mainly due to his past record of involvement in 'internal po-

litical affairs' of the country where he was posted. This appeared to be a reference to the high profile role he had been playing within Sri Lanka in regard to the government's dealings with the LTTE and the peace process. It is also suggested that New Delhi was particularly unhappy about the role of the Norwegian Embassy in Colombo under Jon Westborg which organised the import in its name a powerful broadcasting electronic outfit for use by the LTTE.

However to avoid any embarrassment to either side, New Delhi would appear to have consented to a request from Oslo not to make a public announcement of its rejection of Jon Westborg. But under the impression that the formal agreement for his nomination as Ambassador to India was a forgone conclusion, Mr Westborg let it be known to media circles in Colombo that he was the next Oslo's man in New Delhi.

While other officials did not want to comment on the affair, State Secretary Vidar Helgesen when asked has been quoted as saying, "I have seen that there have been some rumors and press reports about him going to India as Ambassador. But, there has been no contact at all with Indian authorities about that."

Jon Westborg is now in Colombo journey between Colombo and Kilinochchi in a bid to revive the peace talks between the government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers which remain stalled for the last four months. ( July 17)

## ● Balasingham's role

Rumours have been circulating that a hardline faction of the Tiger leadership has succeeded in sidelining LTTE's chief negotiator Anton Balasingham who has until now played a pivotal role in the peace process. Besides heading the LTTE delegation for the talks, Bala has over the years been the spokesman for the LTTE addressing conferences and fronting media interviews. It is also said that he has been the primary author of most of the LTTE's written communications.

But the speculation of him being sidelined has been promptly scotched by none other than the person who is said

to have been chosen to replace Bala, political head of the LTTE, S P Tamilselvan. In this connection, a columnist of the 'Sunday Leader' in Colombo who is known to be in close contact with Bala writes that, 'contrary to media reports of Balasingham being sidelined in favour of LTTE's Political Wing Chief Tamilselvan, it is the Tiger Chief Negotiator himself who has requested the leadership in Wanni to relieve him of the onerous task of heading the organisation's negotiating team due to his poor health, a fact he has also brought to the notice of the British as well as the Norwegians.' He further observes that "Balasingham has for some time now been urging LTTE Leader Velupillai Pirapaharan to relieve him of his duties due to poor health but the Tiger Supremo had time and again said retirement in the LTTE comes only with death.

However since of late, with Balasingham's health deteriorating, and the doctors advising against long distance travel, the LTTE has had to reconsider its dependency on Balasingham particularly in view of his inability to go to Wanni for regular consultations with the leadership."

Balasingham himself, it is said, has impressed upon Pirapaharan the need to prepare for his inevitable retirement in view of the possibility of a sudden decline in his health condition and the importance of seeking an alternate arrangement. The LTTE leader though not happy with this situation is now forced to deal with reality and is contemplating moving Tamilselvan to the forefront but is waiting for a final medical report on Balasingham's condition before taking a final decision on the matter."

## ● A question of TULF leadership

It was the meeting at which Mr V Anandasangaree was expected to be deposed as the President of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF). The much publicised meeting of the Central Committee of the TULF, reportedly attended by 35 members including seven TULF parliamentarians the meeting, was held in Colombo on July 6 presided over by the party's President Mr. Anandasangaree, whose position and future in the party had become an important issue for his supporters and also for those who wanted him ousted. Newspapers had previously reported that the LTTE leadership had wanted his re-

removal as President of the TULF as Mr Anandasangaree was not prepared to accept the LTTE as the 'sole representative' of the Tamil people. And that two of his parliamentary colleagues had tried unsuccessfully to persuade him to voluntarily resign from his to avoid a show-down that might lead to serious consequences. The meeting came to a close after a seven-hour marathon session with Mr Anandasangaree continuing to hold his position as President.

It would seem that he had the support of the majority of the members of the Central Committee, and his opponents for whatever reason had backed off from raising the issue of his leadership of the party. One reason might have been that the TULF leader had a majority to support him. It is also rumoured that one reason could be that the High Commission of a neighbouring country had summoned some of his parliamentary colleagues whose families have been for years residing in that country had summoned them and read the riot act warning them of potential they were creating for themselves and their families.

Seeking to force the issue, a mem-

ber from Jaffna district proposed a motion that declared that the Central Committee expressed its full confidence in the President Mr. Anandasangaree and it was seconded by another member from the Batticaloa district.

When as the person chairing the meeting, Mr. Anandasangaree wanted the confidence motion to be put to vote, some 'senior members' intervened to say that such a motion was unnecessary as no one in the Central Committee had raised the issue of confidence in the President, and the proposer and the second were persuaded not to pursue with their motion.

However Mr. Anandasangaree is reported to have announced that he would like the confidence motion to be brought again at the next meeting of the Central Committee.

#### ● The American connection

What is an American doing at meetings of senior defence and intelligence officers? The Sunday Times recently reported that defence circles were highly perturbed over the presence of an American at recent meetings of the Sri Lankan intelligence community chaired

by retired DIG Merril Gunaratne, now Defence Advisor to the Ministry of Defence and the person tasked to oversee all intelligence matters.

The report said, "This is the first time a foreign national has appeared at a regular meeting of all local intelligence agency heads, one that is held to review the week's intelligence. Such meetings are regarded as highly sensitive since all intelligence information received by the respective agencies is collated, discussed and analysed."

Quoting sources in the Directorate of Internal Intelligence (DII), the country's premier intelligence agency, the report added that "this is the first time in the history of Sri Lanka that a foreign national has been allowed to sit with heads of all government intelligence agencies and hear their intelligence inputs. This not only poses threats to their own sources of intelligence but raises very serious questions over national security and the wellbeing of the state."

According to the report, Mr. Gunaratne, who has been placed in charge of the overall working of all the state intelligence agencies sought answers from



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those present at conferences on behalf of the American.

Some are learnt to have expressed reluctance to answer questions raised. The American himself had been asking direct questions from some of the heads of intelligence agencies too. The questions have ranged from LTTE suicide bombers to current LTTE military preparations to attack targets. "In any other country, whoever permitted such a person to sit at a high-level conference of national intelligence agencies could be liable for high treason," the report said quoting the source.

Efforts by the newspaper to ascertain as to who granted permission for this American to be present at meetings of state intelligence agencies proved futile. A high-ranking Defence Ministry source had said "we are completely in the dark."

#### ● **Motherly concern**

President Chandrika Kumaratunga appears to have reacted with hurt and anger at recent reports in the local press commenting that her son Vimukthi and daughter Yasodara have expressed opposition to any alliance between the opposition Peoples Alliance and the JVP, the reason being the latter's involvement in the assassination of their father in 1988.

Cabinet Minister A.H.M. Azwer also wondered what would be the feelings of Yash-odha and Vimukthi, the beloved children of late Vijaya Kumaratunga, if their mother would establish a pact with the JVP, since she had accused the JVPers of brutally murdering their father. He recalled that Vijaya Kumaratunga was brutally gunned down in the presence of his wife Chandrika Kumaratunga and the two children in front of their residence at Polhengoda Road in the suburbs of Colombo. "I am certain that the scars of that gruesome incident would not have been erased from the minds of Yashodha and Vimukthi. In the interest of their future safety and education, Mrs. Kumaratunga vowed at the funeral of Vijaya at Torrington Square, that she would take them abroad. Thank God the children have now received a sound education in England and God has been merciful to their mother who became the Head of State. When the JVP which can never come to power on its own, woos the PA for a new sandhanaya, the entire nation is prompted to ask Vijaya's beloved children whether they would give consent to their mother entering in to a havula (partnership) with the JVP," the

Minister is reported to have said at a public meeting.

Not wanting her children being drawn into public controversy, the President wrote to the Minister of Mass Communication protesting against the use of children's names in the media for political gain. "It is extremely unfortunate that the State owned 'Sunday Observer' has chosen to use my children's names, in a front page political story in its issue of 13th July. While the news item itself is a complete falsehood, you would appreciate, it is accepted ethics that the names of children of politicians are not dragged in for political gain. On an earlier occasion too, I requested two private media organisations to refrain from using the names of my children in their news programmes. They have to this day abstained from that practice.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the Editor and would thank you to please advise the newspaper concerned to abide by accepted norms."

#### ● **A constitutional aberration**

As at present, there is one person Sri Lanka who will not lose his job even in death. Election Commissioner, Dayananda Dissanayake, is chained to his post by this island's constitution. He has no right to retire, even though he has long passed his retirement age of 60, and has had five heart attacks.

The Supreme Court to which he had appealed with a Fundamental Rights petition, refused his request recently saying that it could not give relief "against the existing law of the land". Dissanayake has been quoted as saying that, "This is a unique situation. There is no known parallel in the world,"

A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Sarath N Silva had ruled that Dissanayake's prayer could not be granted because of a "constitutional aberration", which the judiciary was not empowered to rectify.

The recently brought about 17th amendment to the Constitution enabled the establishment of an Independent Election Commission (IEC) to replace the present one. But the amendment had made no provision for the retirement or even the death of the incumbent Election Commissioner in the interim period.

The IEC is yet to be established and there is also no sign of its coming into being. But in the meanwhile, the incumbent EC, Dissanayake, has reached retirement age, is weak, and is desperate to go. But he finds that he cannot go.

Both President Chandrika Kumaratunga and the Ranil Wickremesinghe government were to be blamed for his plight. There was an all round lack of interest in getting the IEC established, Dissanayake said.

The present Government came to power promising to set up an 'Independent Electoral Commission' to ensure a free and fair electoral process. The necessary law has been enacted and the question is as to why the IEC has not been appointed yet.

The lamentations of the poor and feeble Dissanayake apart, the inference is that the politicians do not seem to be interested in making any changes in the present electoral system which is open to manipulation and malpractice.

#### ● **Journalist in trouble**

A journalist has lost his job when the state-owned ANCL Group of Newspapers (Lake House) summarily dismissed him recently over a dispute that has arisen over the suppression by the management of a news report. It is understood that the 'Dinamina' staff correspondent, Chula Bandara Kulasekera, submitted an article relating to the recent opening of the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Ward Complex, Anuradhapura. However, it has been alleged that the article in question was replaced with some other reading material in the process of being printed in a deliberate attempt to suppress from the reading public the journalist's story about the event.

President Kumaratunga, who is having a running battle with the government led by Premier Ranil Wickramasinghe, having come to know about this incident reportedly sent a letter to the Mass Communication Minister Imthiaz Bakeer Markar requesting him "to inquire into and report on this matter."

What followed was that the journalist in question was "summoned, reprimanded and interdicted quite arbitrarily, even before responding to the President's letter". Adding insult to injury the ANCL Chairman is alleged to have told the correspondent, "go and get your job from Chandrika or Berty".

Now the President has written to the Prime Minister, reminding him that his party before it came to power promised to protect the freedom of the press and safeguard the interests of media personnel, to inquire into the shabby treatment meted out to the journalist concerned.



**Northeast art exhibition:** June 22 - More than five hundred pieces of art work by artistes from the eight districts in the Northeast province were displayed at a two day art exhibition held in Trincomalee St. Joseph's College auditorium on 21 and 22 June. The exhibition was declared open by the provincial education ministry secretary Mr. R. Thiagalingam. To mark the occasion Provincial Education Ministry Secretary Mr. Thiagalingam released the first issue of magazine "Thoorihai" (Brush). Students undergoing four-year course in Art and Design in the Jaffna University were present and exhibited their works.

**Ex-EPRLF member shot dead:** June 24 - Mr. Kumarasamy Kumaraathan (36), a father of two children and a former member of the Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF Varathar wing) was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on June 23 evening around 6.45 pm at Veeramunai village in the Sammanthurai area in Amparai district, police said. This incident took place close to the home of the deceased.

TamilNet reported that the assassins came in a three-wheeler and intercepted the deceased who was returning home in a motorbike and fired at him. Kumarathan left the EPRLF (Varathar wing) several months ago and was working as a mason in the area. He was a native of Vinayagapuram village Sammanthurai and when in the EPRLF (V) his nom de guerre was Kannan, The EPRLF has accused the LTTE of carrying out the murder.

**Demining group at work:** June 24 - During the past seven months, the international mine-action group known as Halo Trust has removed, manually as well as using machinery, about 4657 explosives buried in ten zones in the Jaffna district, said the group's administrative head in Jaffna, Mr. Sankar Jeyakumar.

Mr. Jeyakumar said that machinery was used to remove explosives buried in an area of 7565 square meters. Four thousand, one hundred and eighty-three (4183) anti-personnel mines and six (6) anti-tank mines were removed during the seven month period, he added. Parts of Irupalai, Kaithadi, the Open University premises in Jaffna and Muhamalai areas were cleared of mines and unexploded ordnances.

According to Mr. Jeyakumar, Navanthurai, Ariyalai and some parts of Irupalai in the Jaffna district are currently being demined.

**AG withdraws PTA cases:** June 25 - The Eastern High Court Judge, Mr. S. Paramarajah, discharged two accused in two separate cases indicted under the Prevention of terrorism Act when the prosecution informed court that it withdrew the indictments against them on the advice of the Attorney General.

In one case, Nadarajaguru Ganesh, of Palaiyootru in Trincomalee, was indicted for obtaining arms training from the LTTE between 1.1.1985 and 31.12.1985 in Kinniya. In the other case, the accused, Marcus Antony Sivakumar, of Udappu in the Puttalam district, was indicted for providing sea transport to LTTE cadres from the areas of Salapai Aru in the Trincomalee district and Karadianaru in the Batticaloa district during the period lasting from 10.1.1997 to 30.06.1997.

On 25 June the Court in two other cases discharged two Tamils also indicted under the PTA when the prosecution withdrew the charges on the advice of the Attorney General.

In the first case a woman Ms Anthony Sahayamary alias Jayathevy of Trincomalee was accused of obtaining arms training from LTTE in Manaluru between 1.9.1991 and 31.12.1991. In the second case Seenithamby Premanathan alias Kivusihan of Thampalakamam was arrested for obtaining arms training from LTTE at Thiriyai, north of Trincomalee.

When these cases taken up on 23 and 25 June, the State Counsel made applications to withdraw indictments on the advice of the Attorney General.

**Computer-training centre opened:** June 25 - The first computer-training centre in the Trincomalee district, established under the Asian Development Bank funded scheme by the Ministry of Education to promote computer literacy among students, was declared open ceremonially by parliamentarian Mr. R. Sampanthan at the Trincomalee Sri Shanmuga Hindu Girls College.

The Hindu Ladies College (Trincomalee education zone) is one of the four schools in the Trincomalee district selected for the establish-

# NEWS TRACK

ment of four computer training centres. Twenty computers have been provided to each centre to train students.

The other three centres will be opened

in due course at Muttur Central College (Muttur education zone), Kantalai Sri Agrabodhi Maha Vidiyalayam (Kantalai education zone) and Trincomalee Rajkeeya Vidyaloka Maha Vidyalaya (Trincomalee education zone), provincial education ministry sources said.

**JVP campaign against talks:** June 25 - The Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) held another massive demonstration and rally today in Colombo denouncing peace talks between Colombo and the Liberation Tigers. More than five thousand party activists and members marched through a busy part of the city shouting slogans against the LTTE and Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Mr. Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's government.

The JVP, which has emerged in recent years as a very powerful third force in Sri Lankan politics, is engaged in an aggressive campaign against the peace talks to resolve the island's ethnic conflict.

**Govt protest against killings:** June 26 - The government's chief peace negotiator, G. L. Peiris, said today that the government had protested to the LTTE through Norwegian peace brokers about the spate of killings. "It is a negative development for the peace process and we have protested in the strongest possible way," Peiris said adding that those responsible will be dealt under the criminal law of the country.

The peace process has been deadlocked since April when the LTTE suspended their participation in talks citing a government failure to deliver on promises.

**Lanka seeks British expertise:** June 26 - Sri Lanka has sought legal expertise from Britain for constitutional reforms aimed at politically ending the island's drawn-out ethnic conflict, a senior minister said today.

Constitutional Affairs Minister G.L. Peiris said he held talks with Britain's new secretary of state for constitutional affairs, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, earlier in the week in London. "We discussed legal issues of setting up an interim administrative mechanism and indeed the final political settlement," Peiris said, adding that he was also joined by Sri Lanka's Attorney General K.C. Kamalabasaban.

Peiris said the government was also getting help from academics at Oxford and Cambridge universities in the preparation of constitutional reforms.

**Police arrests in Wellawatte:** June 27 - Police and Sri Lanka Army (SLA) conducted cordon and search operation in Wellawatte, a predominantly Tamil suburb in Colombo and arrested thirteen Tamil youths, security sources said. This joint operation took place as part of the new security measures now being carried out in the capital of the country since the gunning down of a police intelligence unit head in Dehiwala, police said.

The police and army soldiers first took in more than one hundred Tamil young men and women for questioning during a house-to-house search operation. Thirteen of them were later arrested and detained at the Wellawatte Police station and were being subjected to further interrogation, police sources said.

The Police and Sri Lanka Army have commenced regular cordon and search operations in several parts of the country, especially in the eastern province, following a spate of killings of persons allegedly belonging to or having belonged to non-LTTE Tamil groups which have blamed the LTTE for the killings.

**Protest picket in London:** June 27 - Some 30 to 40 living in the UK held a picketing campaign on June 27 in front of the Norwegian Embassy in London to condemn political assassinations allegedly carried out by LTTE against its rival parties. The picketing had lasted from 3.00 to 5.00 p.m.

The picketing had demanded that the Norwegian mediators take immediate and firm action against the ceasefire violation and politically-motivated killings and human rights violations by the LTTE during the peace process.

In a press communique released yesterday the Campaign for Peace and Democracy had stated that 'the cessation of hostilities and the peace process have in their wake brought about a fresh cycle of violence where the LTTE has begun to target and murder those it considers to be its political opponents'. They emphasised that 'Peace cannot be achieved

without making effective monitoring and timely censuring of ceasefire violations and political killings'.

**Ex-EPDP member shot dead:** June 28 - Nadesan Sutharsan (24) and ex-member of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) was shot dead by unknown gunmen at 11am on 27 June in Akkaraipattu, Batticaloa district, according to security sources.

The TamilNet reported that Sutharsan from Akkaraipattu 1st division returned from Colombo to visit his family and was on his way home after getting provisions from a nearby shop when he was gunned down in front of Ramakrishna Mission School Road. Witnesses said that two youths were following Sutharsan who was riding in bicycle and escaped after shooting him at point blank range. His body was taken to Akkaraipattu hospital and has been given to his relatives after postmortem examinations.

Alaiyadi Vembu Pradeshiya sabha member and Amparai district organizer for EPDP, Reveendran Kamalan said that Sutharsan had worked in the political section of the EPDP, that Sutharsan worked hard for his party during the election periods, and that Liberation Tigers were responsible for Sutharsan's death.

**Monitors clear navy:** June 28 - Scandinavian monitors cleared the Sri Lankan navy of violating a truce when it sunk a Tamil Tiger merchant vessel, leaving 12 crewmen missing.

The Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM) comprising Scandinavians observing a truce between government forces and the LTTE said the Navy had acted within the law in the June 14 incident. The SLMM also rejected LTTE allegations that the Sri Lankan navy had arrested the 12 Tiger crewmen aboard the vessel, which the Navy said was sunk within Sri Lankan waters. The monitors did not say what happened to them.

"The Sri Lankan Navy (SLN) had the right to inspect the LTTE tanker. Hence, the SLMM does not consider that SLN violated the ceasefire agreement by intercepting the LTTE tanker.

"The SLMM concludes that LTTE violated the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of December 10, 1982, by not flying an appropriate flag and official, visible identification," the SLMM said in a four-page statement. It, however, blamed both parties for not informing the SLMM on time to prevent an escalation of the incident, which came as peace talks between the government and the LTTE remained deadlocked.

**Six PTA detainees freed:** June 30 - Six accused indicted under the Prevention of Terrorism Act were discharged today by the Eastern High Court Judge, Mr.S.Paramarajah, who presides over the Trincomalee sessions.

The High Court Judge allowed the application made by the State Counsel, Mr.S.M.Halimdeen, to withdraw the indictments against these accused on the instructions by the Attorney General, legal sources said.

Of the six, Gunasekaram Sathiyaseelan of Peraru, in Kantalai, was charged with possession of explosives. Chandran alias Pakir alias Nalin of Muttur was charged in two cases for possessing weapons and obtaining arms training in Sampoor. Kathiravelupillai Sivakumar of Pankulam was charged for obtaining arms training and Nagappan Suntharalingam alias Kumar of Kantalai with possession of hand grenades. Swakin Antony Suthahar alias Vaman was charged with the possession of a T 56 pistol and 30 bullets and Subramaniam Sivanewaran was charged for obtaining arms training from LTTE at Palaiyootru. All the six accused were discharged following the withdrawal of indictments against them.

**LTTE and International Standards:** The Hague, June 30 - Ms Van Ardenne-van der Hoeven, Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation stated in an interview with a Colombo journalist that funds provided by the donor community must be administered by organizations which adhere to international standards such as on human rights, governance and pluralism. The international community had experienced that the LTTE does not adhere to those standards seriously in spite of the fact they are aware of it. She called upon the LTTE to take the international standards on human rights seriously, she said.

When questioned if her government would put pressure on the LTTE to resume negotiations, the Dutch Minister said, "I think from our side it is not a matter of putting pressure. We are willing to support the post-conflict period, the quick impact programmes after the peace agreement will be signed and will be established. Unless there be a peace agreement first of all, we will not provide anything at all. That is not the attitude only of the Dutch government but all the donor countries have the same attitude. So it is better for the government and the

LTTE to continue with the peace process. We would always keep and relate to the international criteria such as governance, democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights and I think that message is very clear to the LTTE."

**LTTE asked to evacuate camp:** June 30 - The SLMM today asked the LTTE to immediately evacuate a camp it had set up in the government-controlled area in Kinniya in eastern Sri Lanka in violation of the ceasefire agreement. SLMM spokesperson Agnes Bragadottir told media that the decision was taken following a detailed report submitted by SLMM officials in Trincomalee. SLMM officials also reportedly met LTTE Trincomalee political wing leader Tilak on the issue.

Meanwhile, army sources in Trincomalee said about fifty LTTE cadres were still occupying the camp in Manirashkulam area. The LTTE who set up a military camp at Manirasakulam had insisted that the area came under its control as they had lived there for more than ten years while the Army claimed the area came within government control.

**Japanese urge LTTE to resume talks:** June 30 - A high-level Japanese delegation today met LTTE's political wing head S P Thamilselvan to brief him about the outcome of the recently concluded Tokyo multi-lateral donor conference and urged the Tigers to immediately resume peace talks with the Government.

Ambassador Siichiro Otsuka, who led the four-member team, officially conveyed the outcome of the Tokyo conference to the LTTE leadership "in compliance with the Tokyo declaration issued at the end of the conference on June 10", which the LTTE leadership summarily rejected saying that it was not binding on the organisation since it was prepared and passed without consulting it.

"Ambassador Otsuka urged the LTTE to resume peace talks with the Government of Sri Lanka as expeditiously as possible," a statement from the Japanese embassy in Colombo said, adding that the meeting took place in the LTTE-controlled Killinochchi district in a cordial and constructive atmosphere.

Mr. M. Yasuda, Mr. K. Yagi, Mr. K. Miyata, all second secretaries at the Japanese Embassy in Colombo, accompanied the Ambassador. Mr. Pulithevan, the head of the LTTE's peace secretariat, Mr.Tholkapiyan from the LTTE's political division and Mr. George were associated with Mr. Thamilselvan at the meeting.

**Standoff over disputed camp:** July 1 - In the wake of the ruling by the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission on 30 June that the controversial Kurankupanchan area in the Trincomalee district comes under Sri Lankan government control, the Tamil Tigers today warned of grave consequences if the Sri Lanka Army advanced into Kurankupanchan, a TamilNet report said.

The SLMM's ruling followed a complaint made by the LTTE that the Sri Lanka Army had attempted to enter Kurankupanchan, which the LTTE said came under their control. Meanwhile, SLMM monitors in Trincomalee rushed to Kurankupanchan in the Kinniya division to avoid any potential clash between the Tigers and the army. The SLMM had earlier said that the construction of a new camp by the LTTE in Kurankupanchan was a violation of the Ceasefire Agreement. Between the Government and the LTTE.

**Attack on PLOTE office:** July 1 - Unidentified men lobbed a grenade in the premises of the office of the Peoples Liberation Of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) located along the Power House Road in the heart of Trincomalee town at about 8 pm today, according to a TamilNet report. Glass panes of the PLOTE office were damaged but no one in the office was injured in the grenade attack, the report added quoting Trincomalee Police sources.

**Abducted soldier:** July 1 - Kalmunai police and the army have commenced investigations into the incident of a soldier allegedly abducted by the LTTE escaping from the LTTE and reporting to Kalmunai police. This soldier had been identified as Wanniarachilage Dharmasena serving in the Kiran army camp. This soldier had gone home on leave and had been returning in a bus to the army camp when the LTTE had allegedly abducted him on June 23. He had been questioned on and off and later had been on the way to another LTTE camp in a van when he escaped. This incident had been reported to the SLMM.

**NECORD assists students:** July 2 - The North East Community Restoration and Development Project (NECORD) on 1 July declared open a new two-storied building, constructed with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank at a cost of about 4.5 million rupees, at the Nilaveli Alhambara Maha Vidiyalayam, sixteen km to the north of Trincomalee town. Muslim religious leaders participating at the event said that at last students in the village who had been studying under tree shades

and dilapidated buildings had now got a new two-storied building due to the efforts taken by NECORD. Around a thousand students study in this school.

The Chief Secretary of the North East Provincial Council, Mr.S. Rangaraja, declared open the building by cutting the ribbon and the NECORD Project Director, Mr.T.Lankaneson, unveiled the plaque. The Principal of the school, Mr. M.Arif, Kuchchaveli Divisional Secretary, Mr.K.S.Jayachandra and the Zonal Director of Education of Trincomalee, Mr.K.Thilakaretnam also participated at the opening event.

Mr. Lankaneson said that the NECORD, with the funds provided by the ADB, has taken steps to rehabilitate and reconstruct the war torn province by providing new buildings to schools, improving health facilities by providing ambulances and other urgent facilities with a view to restoring normalcy in the lives of the displaced.

**Massive job agency scam:** July 2 - The Colombo Fraud Investigations Bureau (CFIB) yesterday uncovered a massive racket involving a job agency where a large number of government trained nurses had been duped.

According to investigations directed by Colombo DIG Bodhi Liyanage and conducted by CFIB Director Senior SP V. Kanthasamy, the suspect Seyd Mohamed Moulana of Mount Lavinia had collected several lakhs of rupees from a number of nurses promising them jobs in hospitals in the United States.

The suspect was remanded by Colombo Fort Magistrate and Additional District Judge Sarath C. Karunaratne till July 15 pending the completion of the ongoing investigations.

Thirty nurses attached to the Colombo National Hospital, Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital, Kalubowila Hospital and several other hospitals had complained to the CFIB that they had been tricked into parting with several lakhs of rupees by the suspect who promised them employment as nurses in hospitals in the US. Investigations revealed that the suspect had conducted a number of seminars for nurses at the Mahaweli Centre, Colombo. Each nurse had paid Rs.250 for an application form.

The suspect had collected Rs.5,000 each from nurses who attended the seminars. He had also collected Rs.35,000 each from the nurses as examination fees. After completing the seminars conducted in Sri Lanka they were promised jobs in hospitals in the US.

**Million houses for estate workers:** July 2 - A Plan has been drawn up to

build 1 million houses for plantation workers of the upcountry in the next 5 years. This was revealed at a ceremony held to mark the opening of the estate housing scheme comprising 95 houses constructed by the Kegalle Regional Office of the Plantation Human Resources Development Trust.

Under the new housing scheme launched by the Government, a-7 perch block of land is allotted per estate family. Loans will be granted to build houses. 95 houses in the scheme were vested in the people on the occasion. These houses have been provided with drinking water, electricity, sanitation and road facilities. Ministers Lakshman Kiriella, R. A. D. Sirisena, and Rukman Senanayake were also present on the occasion.

The housing complex built for workers of Chesterford Estate in Kegalle was vested in them recently. These houses too were built by the Plantation Human Resources Development Trust. The aim of the housing project is to raise the standard of living of plantation workers who were living in line rooms enjoying the minimum facilities.

**No peace talks, no aid- UK:** July 3 - British High Commissioner Stephen Evans expressed the prospect of the cancellation of the recently granted massive 4.5 billion dollar development aid if peace negotiations did not progress as expected by the donor countries.

Addressing Sri Lankan branch 2nd AGM of the Chartered Management Institute's (CMI) in Colombo, Mr. Evans said, "The British government has already expressed its concern on the development of Sri Lanka. To fulfil this we have planned to grant 43 million Sterling Pounds. This money is to be utilised to develop the North and East but if the peace negotiations fail and the development process stops, there is a high possibility of the donor countries stopping their aid. Nothing is automatic about this Tokyo declaration but it sets linkage between the peace and development."

**Attack on EPDP office:** July 3 - No one was injured and the building was slightly damaged when two unidentified youths riding a motorbike at around 6.30am today lobbed a grenade at the front entrance of Eelam Peoples' Democratic Party (EPDP) office located in Batticaloa town, according to security sources. Police officers on duty opened fire at the motorbike but the assailants escaped unharmed.

Kanagasabai Illanthirayan (34) and Kumarasooriyam Radhakrishnan (37) who were seen riding a motorbike towards the Sarvodayam building located close to the EPDP office when the grenade explosion occurred

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were arrested by the Police for investigations.

Police alleged that Ilanthirayan and Radhakrishnan were seen talking to the youth who threw the grenade, according to security sources.

Batticaloa district head of the EPDP, Pratheepan Paranitharan, accused the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the attack. He added that an attempt by LTTE cadres to attack the EPDP building through the Sarvodayam premises on 15 April was foiled because of the presence of security officers. "We have registered complaints with the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) and Sri Lanka police. Even though we have been given police protection, threat of attacks from the LTTE still remains," Paranitharan added.

**Canadian Envoy meets Thamilselvan:** July 3 - The Canadian High-Commissioner for Sri Lanka, Ms. Valerie Raymond, visited Kilinochchi today and held discussions with S.P.Thamilselvan, the head of the LTTE's political division, at the LTTE's peace secretariat, according to LTTE sources.

Speaking to the press after the meeting, the Canadian envoy said that the meeting, which lasted from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, was useful and constructive.

Sources said that the meeting focused on the current status of peace talks and the political situation in the country, and the Canadian High Commissioner told Mr. Thamilselvan of the importance of taking forward the peace process.

Mr. Thamilselvan indicated to the envoy that the LTTE's leadership continues to believe firmly that a solution to the ethnic conflict can be found only through talks. The LTTE is ready to restart the talks if the Sri Lankan government provides the draft for an interim administrative structure with adequate powers for rehabilitation and development of the North-East, the Vanni sources said.

Mr. James Shultz, an Officer of the Canadian High Commission, and Mr. James Williams, a senior officer of the Canadian International Development Agency, were associated with the Canadian High Commissioner at the meeting. Mr. Pulithevan, the head of the LTTE's peace secretariat, also attended the meeting with Mr. Thamilselvan.

**200,000 mines removed by HDU:** July 4 - Humanitarian Demining Unit (HDU), the land-mine removal arm of the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) operating in Vanni area, has removed and destroyed 182,944 landmines, a report issued by the HDU said.

HDU has constructed security fences around 8,713,415 square metres of area in 219 different regions out of the estimated 1,419,861,357 sqm (~1.5 billion square meters) of mine infested area in the Vanni region, the report further said. HDU has cleared landmines, facilitating resettlement and safe use of 41,225,228 sq.m of land area, the report said. During May and June months alone, HDU removed 5355 landmines. HDU's work is primarily concentrated in areas recovered from Sri Lanka Army (SLA) control, noted the report.

**LTTE political head released on bail:** July 4 - LTTE'S political head of the Puthur division in Batticaloa district, Mr.Satyraj (Subaraj Devanayagam), who had been on remand was allowed on cash and surety bail at the Trincomalee session of the High Court by Judge Mr.S.Paramarajah on 4 July.

Mr Satyaraj was arrested on June 6 in connection with a murder that had taken place on May 19. Counsel Mr.K.Sivapalan supporting the bail application submitted to court that the accused was never in the area on the day of incident, and that there was no reason to refuse the bail application.

State Counsel Mr.S.M.Halimdeen objected to the bail application. He said the accused was arrested on June 6, seventeen days after the murder incident. There was only one eyewitness to the murder and his evidence was to be led at the non-summary proceedings of the murder case at the lower court. Hence the release of the suspect on bail could cause interference with the witness, State Counsel argued. If the suspect was released on bail he would abscond. Hence the bail application be refused, said State Counsel.

The High Court Judge made order allowing the accused on cash and surety bail. He ordered that the suspect should furnish 10,000 rupees as cash bail and two sureties should sign a bond for a sum of fifty thousand rupees. He further ordered the accused not to interfere with the witnesses in this case and not to leave the island and should hand over all travel documents to the Batticaloa Magistrate Court in this regard.

**PLOTE cadre shot dead:** July 4 - Vairamuthu Mehanathan (32), alias Justin, a long time member of the Peoples Liberation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), was shot dead by two assailants who came in a motorbike at 6.15pm while he was riding his bicycle home from the PLOTE office in Vaidiyamalai Road in Puthur, Batticaloa district. Justin, who was a resi-

dent of Vavunathivu was a long term member of PLOTE.

The shooting took place in front of the milk processing centre in Thimilaithivu. The assailants used a hand-gun and shot Justin at close range.

Justin's body was taken to Batticaloa teaching hospital for post-mortem examinations. Batticaloa police who rushed to the scene of the incident, carried out a cordon and search operation in the area, and are conducting investigations into the killing, security sources said. A PLOTE spokesman accused the LTTE of the killing saying it was carried out by four armed LTTE hit-men instructed to eliminate their political opponents. "Our people have identified the four LTTE members involved in the attack and we have their names with us," he said.

As a mark of protest against what it described as 'inaction' on the part of the Norwegian headed Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) in respect of the spate of recent killings allegedly by the LTTE, parents and close relatives of a murdered PLOTE leader victim's body at the local office of the SLMM in an effort to embarrass foreign monitors. Sri Lankan police stepped up security for the Scandinavian truce monitors, and armed police were deployed outside the office of the SLMM in the eastern town of Batticaloa after relatives staged a peaceful protest by placing the coffin of Vairamuthu Mehanathan at the entrance to the building.

SLMM spokesperson Agnes Bragadottir yesterday evening confirmed it. "The body was brought to the SLMM compound by parents and relatives. They protested peacefully," she said.

**Skeleton find in Ariyalai:** July 4- Jaffna High Court Judge, R.T.Wignarajah, today visited the site in Ariyalai Nedunkulam junction, west of Jaffna-Kandy road, where human remains were found recently, and said that there was visible evidence of the existence of three more human graves in the same area, local reports from Jaffna said.

Members of Halo Trust who are clearing mines in Ariyalai area recently discovered human skeletons near Nedunkulam junction. Jaffna Police on notification of these findings informed the Jaffna High Court of the matter.

Director of Halo Trust who accompanied the Judge on the site visit informed the Judge that they will need approximately two weeks to clear the area of mines for the investigations on the additional graves to proceed. The Judge then directed the Jaffna Police to inform the Forensic expert from Galle General Hospital, Dr. Ruwanpura, the details of the schedule and to inform the Courts the date excavations can begin, according to local press reports.

**Safeguards for Muslims urged:** July 4 - The forum of Muslim organisations said that a sense of insecurity and betrayal by the government seems to be building among the community, and unless sufficient safeguards are found for all to live as equal citizens in the country, the peace process may fast be losing its relevance.

The forum, comprising several leading NGOs, welfare and religious organisations made the observations following a conference in Colombo on "The peace process and the Muslims".

The government while attempting to preserve the unity of the country should live up to the expectations that none of its citizen's rights are usurped or sacrificed under partisan or ideological pressures, the forum said. "Above all, indifference and inaction of the government armed forces, apparently under the orders of the government, to prevent flagrant violations of human rights and targeted armed attacks are repeated at regular intervals on Muslims after the Ceasefire Agreement came into effect, like recent incidents at Valachchenai, Muttur and Thoppur."

The forum also called upon the government and the LTTE, to ensure that such incidents should not occur in the future and the revision of the ceasefire agreement is necessary to guarantee the safety and security of the Muslims. The forum also demanded that an independent Muslim delegation representing a cross section of the community should be allowed to participate at all sessions of the peace talks as well as other connected meetings.

**55 Jaffna schools renovated:** July 5 - Fifty five renovated schools in Jaffna, which came about as a result of funding by the European Commission EC will be handed over at a ceremony organised on July 22, at the University of Jaffna. The project was completed by GTZ International Services Asia within six months. The EC Delegation to Sri Lanka will host the event. Prof. Jayalath Jayawardena, Minister of Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Refugees, will be the chief guest.

Meanwhile, a circular has been sent to all the Mayors of Municipal Councils, Chairmen of Urban Councils and Pradeshiya Sabhas requesting them to take steps to re-design all the street name-boards and other official sign boards exhibited within the authority in conformity

with the Official Languages Policy. "It has been found that in some instances our cities and villages still have name-boards either in one or two languages only. Some are misspelt or incorrectly worded and lack the uniformity where the letter size of each language is concerned," the Chairman of the Official Languages Commission D. E. W. Gunasekera said.

According to Gunasekera it will be favourable to re-design the name-boards exhibited inside and outside office premises in all three languages - Sinhalese, Tamil and English - as an added facility to the public.

**LTTE releases police officers:** July 6 - The LTTE released on 5 July the two police officers from Eravur, Constable A.G.N. Senadheera and Reserve Police Constable D.S. Nihal Somasiri, who were allegedly abducted by Tigers earlier. LTTE cadres took the police officers into custody on 10th June from Chenkalady apparently in retaliation to the earlier arrest and detention of Tiger Putur division leader Subaraj Devanayagam alias Satyaraj, for his alleged involvement in the killing of Tamil soldier Kadirgamthamby Navasooriyan at a barber shop in Putur on May 19.

The release of the police officers by the LTTE followed the granting of bail on the previous day to Satyaraj by the Trincomalee High Court. **Objection to draft law on defence:** July 6 - The Commanders of the Sri Lankan Army, Navy and the Air Force have opposed the United National Front (UNF) government's draft legislation to set up a supreme Defence Council (DC), on the ground that it would be unconstitutional, says defence expert, Iqbal Athas, in his Situation Report in The Sunday Times of July 6. "The creation of a defence Committee or Council, in our view, may require a constitutional amendment," said Army Chief, Lt Gen Lionel Balagalle, Navy Chief, Vice Admiral Daya Sandagiri, and Air Force Chief, Air Marshal Donald Perera, in their written submission to the government on the draft law entitled "Higher defence Control Act No:1 of 2003". The draft does not mention the President of Sri Lanka when it lists the members of the DC, even though the incumbent is a directly elected "Executive President" in a Presidential form of government, and is the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

**U.S drops plan for Jaffna office:** July 7 - Plans to open a political office in Temple Road, Jaffna by the United States Embassy in Sri Lanka have been shelved, according to press reports in Jaffna.

Colombo US embassy was planning the establishment of a political office in Jaffna to promote understanding and friendly relationship with the people Jaffna. A permanent employee was to be assigned to the Jaffna office to lead this effort according to the reports.

The US officials have reportedly decided that the current political climate in the island and the Northeast were not conducive to opening an office. Further, a plan to conduct a cultural event in Jaffna by the U.S Embassy was also dropped according to press reports.

**Monks want monitors out:** July 7 - Hundreds Buddhist monks today protested in Colomb, demanding that Scandinavian peace monitors in Sri Lanka should leave the island immediately. The monks accused the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) of operating in cahoots with the Liberation Tigers against interests of the country.

The march and demonstration against the SLMM was organised by the National Bikkhu Front, the largest congregation of Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka. Hundreds of saffron robed Buddhist monks began a march from the Bo Tree at Pettha in the heart of Colombo in the afternoon, shouting slogans against the SLMM.

"Get out of Sri Lanka", the marching clergy shouted, as their protest procession moved through the streets towards the offices of the SLMM in Kollupitiya, an affluent suburb of the Sri Lankan capital.

The monks charged that the Scandinavian truce monitors were in the island to help the Liberation Tigers achieve their goal of a separate state.

The National Bikkhu Front presented a memorandum to the SLMM head office charging that the monitors were blatantly siding with the Liberation Tigers with an insidious view to eventually dismembering Sri Lanka for establishing a separate state for the Tamils.

**Ex-GA charged with fraud:** July 7 - The Criminal Investigation Department of Police Monday filed a case in the Jaffna Magistrate's Court, charging that a former Government Agent, Mr.K.Shanmuganathan, defrauded about forty million rupees allocated by the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority for North (RRAN), according to local reports.

Inspector Pilapitya of the CID in Colombo filed the plaint before

the Jaffna Magistrate, Mr.R.T.Viknarajah. According to the police, the alleged offence had been committed during the period from 2000 to 2002. The RRAN allocated funds for about fourteen building projects, including the Kaithady Elders Home and markets at Chavakachcheri, Thirunelvely and Kokuvil.

On a complaint by Minister Dr.Jayalath Jayawardene on June 3 this year, the CID commenced the investigation and recorded the statement of the chief clerk who is responsible for the said building projects. The RRAN comes under Minister Jayawardene. Further proceedings in the case has been fixed for August 8 this year.

**Grenade attack on TELO office:** July 8 - Unidentified men lobbed a grenade last night into the premises of the office of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO), a constituent of the Tamil National Alliance, Trincomalee Police said.

The TELO is considered in Tamil political circles as a close ally of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. This is the first time in Trincomalee an office of a Tamil political party supporting the LTTE was attacked. The TELO office, which is located along the Customs Road in the heart of the Eastern port town, was damaged and no one in the office at that time was injured, police said.

The SLA soldiers and the Police rushed to the site and commenced investigation. A cordon and search operation was conducted immediately in the vicinity to apprehend the suspects, police said.

The TELO's Trincomalee leader and a former vice chairman of the Trincomalee Urban Council, Mr.V.Logeeswaran, told the Police who conducted inquiries into this incident that he suspected elements bent on derailing the peace process could have lobbed the grenade into the TELO office, a TamilNet report said.

**Cordon and search:** July 7 - A joint cordon and search operation by the Sri Lanka Army and the Police was conducted in the Vadamardchi area of the Jaffna district today, local sources said. Around four in the afternoon, SLA soldiers arrived in heavy armored vehicles such as Saladdin and Buffel. Roadblocks were set up at several strategic points, and the public was subjected to intrusive checks, sources said.

It was the first such operation in the Vadamardchi area since the signing of the ceasefire agreement by the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers.

The SLA soldiers and the police personnel surrounded the LTTE political office in the Vadamardchi area during the search operation and this created tension in the area. High officials of the SLA located in the division supervised the search operation, a TamilNet report said. **LTTE members remanded:** July 8 - Mr.Chandrasa Jayaweera Paiyas alias Kulatheparaj and Vadivelu Chandrakumar alias Prasanth, both from Vaharai, who are members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), were remanded today by the Batticaloa Magistrate on a charge under the Offensive Weapons Act of 1966 till July 22, a TamilNet report said.

The Sri Lanka Army arrested the LTTE members previous evening around six p.m. at Kayankerni, about 36 km north of Batticaloa town, when they were riding a motorbike. The police told court when producing the suspects before the Batticaloa Magistrate, Mr.A.Abdul Gafoor, that the SLA found a grenade in the pocket of the suspect Chandradasa Jayaweera.

Under the Offensive Weapons Act, a magistrate has no power to grant bail to the suspects. Only the Court of Appeal could grant bail to suspects who are charged under the Offensive Weapons Act.

**EPRLF activist injured:** July 8 - A group of pedestrians today admitted Mr.Selvin, a political activist of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (Varathar wing), to the Jaffna teaching hospital with several injuries sustained at Gurunagar near Jaffna town, a TamilNet report said quoting police sources.

Initial reports said some unidentified men had attacked him with swords. However, later it was said he sustained injuries when a grenade accidentally exploded when he picked it from the ground.

Mr. Selvin underwent emergency surgery at the Jaffna teaching Hospital and is now reported be out of danger.

A native of Batticaloa, Mr. Selvin is said to be a close ally of Subathiran alias Robert, the EPRLF (Varathar wing) deputy leader who was killed recently by a sniper in Jaffna. The EPRLF has accused the LTTE for the attack on Selvin and the killing of Subathiran.

**Westborg meets Tamilselvan:** July 8 - Former Norwegian ambassador to Sri Lanka, Mr.Jon Westborg, who is currently a special advisor to the Norwegian government on the peace process in Sri Lanka, today



held wide ranging discussions with the political head of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Mr.S.P.Thamilselvan, at the Kilinochchi political secretariat of the LTTE, a TamilNet report said.

The head of the LTTE's Peace Secretariat, Mr.Pulithevan, Mr. Thokkappian and Mr. George were associated in the discussion with Mr. Thamilselvan who said that no decision was taken on any issues at the discussion.

**RONCO to continue de-mining:** July 8 - A group from the RONCO consulting corporation, a private US de-mining firm, sponsored by the UNDP, has agreed to continue its de-mining work in the Jaffna district in association with the Sri Lanka Army de-mining team. The RONCO group completed its de-mining mission in the Jaffna district on June 30. However, at a discussion held at the Jaffna district secretariat, the Government Agent made a request to the RONCO delegates, Mr. William Reid and Ms. Norbert Netland, to continue their de-mining work in the Jaffna district. The RONCO group then agreed to continue to work in association with the SLA de-mining team, thus adding to the skill of the SLA team in de-mining activities.

**LTTE links in killings - Minister:** July 7 - In a surprise move by the government Defence Minister Tilak Marapana yesterday condemned the killing of intelligence operatives and said that there was a clear link between majority of the killings and the LTTE.

Replying allegations made by the opposition during an adjournment debate in Parliament, Mr. Marapana said the government was aware that the people in the northeast were afraid to give evidence in cases involving killings carried out allegedly by the LTTE.

Mr. Marapana said most of the intelligence operatives killed were former LTTE members and the government had now made special security arrangements for the intelligence personnel

**SLMM asks Tigers to dismantle camp:** July 10 - Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tigers have failed to end a row over the establishment of a new camp built by the LTTE at Kattaiparichchan in the Trincomalee district in the island's east, Norwegian monitors said today.

The Norwegian-led Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were in violation of the truce by setting up a new camp in an area held by government forces in the island's north-east.

"Our stand is that the LTTE must dismantle the camp because we have already ruled that they are violating the ceasefire," said SLMM deputy head of mission, Hagrup Haukland.

LTTE local commanders and the military held talks arranged by the SLMM on the previous day but the issue was not resolved, officials said. The dispute started after the army complained that the Tigers were setting up a new base in the Trincomalee district in violation of the ceasefire agreement.

Haukland said they had, however, agreed that the disputed area should be surveyed within five days to make a final determination on the future of the LTTE's new camp.

**38,000 houses destroyed in Jaffna:** July 11 - The Jaffna Humanitarian Agencies Consortium said that about one hundred and sixty five thousand houses have been damaged or completely destroyed due to the war in the Jaffna peninsula,

The JHAC Chairman, Mr. S.Paramanathan, said that the data collected up to April this year revealed about 175,000 families have been resettled in the Jaffna district. However, 100,000 houses belonging to them had been damaged. Of these houses, about 38,000 houses have been completely destroyed, he said

When the Memorandum of Understanding was signed last year by the government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE, the Sri Lanka Army had occupied about 922 civilian houses outside the high security zones. Now that more than sixteen months have passed since the ceasefire agreement came into force, the SLA still occupies more than 650 civilian houses outside the high security zones, Mr.Paramanathan said. On the other hand, the SLA has opened new bases in Eluthumadduval, Nunavil and Mirusuvil areas, he said.

**LTTE builds a bunker:** July 11 - Military sources said that in addition to the LTTE defiantly building and occupying a military camp in the cleared areas of the Kinniya, the Tigers have now constructed a bunker in government-controlled Ethawetunuwewa in Welioya ahead of the Forward Defence Line.

Security forces in Welioya had lodged a complaint with the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) in Vavuniya, about the alleged latest LTTE violation and provocation. Meanwhile, an SLMM spokes-

man said that their office in Vavuniya received a complaint on the construction of a bunker in Ethawetunuwewa area and would launch an investigation into the matter, soon.

**Youth shot dead in Puthur:** July 11 - Velupillai Paraneetharan (18), a supporter of the LTTE was shot dead by unknown gunmen at 1.15pm on Batticaloa-Puthur Vipulanantha road, a TamilNet report said quoting security sources.

Paraneetharan was earlier arrested by the Razik group members together with LTTE's Puthur Head of Political Wing, Sathyaraj. Paraneetharan was later released by the High Court on bail.

He was travelling from his home towards Batticaloa town when he was shot. He died on the spot, according to security sources. Police sources said that they found four bullet wounds in his body. The body has been taken to Batticaloa Teaching Hospital for postmortem examinations. Police are investigating the incident.

Residents in Puthur speculated that this killing was carried out in revenge by ex-militants for the killing of Peoples Liberation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) member Justin in Puthur, the TamilNet report said.

**Bail granted to General Ratwatte:** July 11 - The Supreme Court today granted bail to all the fifteen accused in the Udathalawinne massacre case, including the former Deputy Defence Minister, General Anurudha Ratwatte, and his two sons Lohan and Chanuka, reports from Colombo said. The Supreme Court ordered the accused to furnish a bond of five hundred thousand rupees each.

The Chief Justice, Mr.Sarath N.Silva, delivered the order reversing the Trial at-Bar High Court's decision to refuse bail to the accused.

The fifteen accused have been indicted with the murder of ten Muslim youths at Udathalawinne in the Kandy district on the last general election day, December 10, 2001. All the accused have been on remand since January 23 this year when the Trial-at-Bar commenced inquiry into the case.

**Parliament must see IA proposals - PA:** July 11 - Sri Lanka's main opposition Peoples Alliance (PA) today demanded that the United National Front (UNF) government should present to the parliament and cabinet, UNF's proposals on the Interim Administrative (IA) structure for the northeast, before the proposal was submitted to the LTTE, reports from Colombo said.

The UNF government earlier said that the basic proposal for the interim administrative structure is ready to be sent to the LTTE leadership for their response through Norwegian facilitators.

Peoples Alliance spokesman and parliamentarian Dr. Sarath Amunugama addressing a press briefing in Colombo said that the President Ms Chandrika Kumaratunge had already informed the Prime Minister Mr.Ranil Wickremasinghe the urgent necessity of tabling the proposals on interim administrative structure in parliament and cabinet as a matter of national priority.

Meanwhile, Minister of Justice and the leader of the House Mr.W.J.M.Lokkubandara said in parliament that interim administrative structure proposals would be tabled in parliament once it is finalized.

**Tigers killed in Navy attack on ship:** July 12 - The LTTE today announced the names of 11 sea Tigers who were killed at mid sea when Sri Lanka Navy attacked their ship last month.

The LTTE's tanker MT Shoshin was attacked and sunk by SLN on the morning of 14.06.2003. The Tigers, in a complaint to the Sri Lanka monitoring Mission, said their merchant vessel was sailing 265 nautical miles off the island's East coast when it was surrounded and attacked by five SLN gunboats. The LTTE had claimed that all the men on its ship had been taken into custody by the Navy and demanded their release.

The Liberation Tigers, in the list of their sea dead released said that one of their followers, described as a patriot, was also killed when the ship was attacked and sunk by the SLN.

Following is the list of LTTE officers and the sailor who were killed in the SLN attack:

1. Lt. Col. Anpukumar (Vallipuram Sivakumar- Sreethar Road, Aathikolady, Valvettithurai),
2. Lt. Col. Senthamil (Veeramani) (Sinnarasah Sivaroopan- Vettilaikerni, Jaffna),
3. Lt. Col. Kathir (Selvaratnam Sasitharan - Meesalai South, Chavakachcheri),
4. Lt. Col. Gajendran (Nallaiah Krishnan Kapil Dinesh- No. 59 Jeyapuram, Kilinochchi),
5. Maj. Nirmalan (Ranarajah Ragnath - Nedyiyakaadu, Valvettithurai),
6. Maj. Kanniya Naadaan (Ponnabalam Kirupaharan - Peraalai, Pallai),
7. Maj. Valluvan (Thuraiatnam Saileswaran - Mayilankaady, Erlaalai, Jaffna),
8. Maj. Nimal (Thangarasa Selvakumar

- Paranthan), 9. Maj. Maniyarasan (Muthulingam Lavakumar - Vincent Road, Nedunkerni, Mullaithivu), 10. Maj. Veeranathan (Thiyagarajah Thayanihi - Mullai Road, Mankulam)

11. Capt. Cheliyan (Sokkalingam Jegan - Uthayanagar, Kilinochchi), 12. Mr. Mohan (Naranthanai, Kayts - displaced in Thevipuram Junction, Puthukkudiyiruppu, Mullaithivu).

**Compensation for Muttur victims:** July 12 - Minister of Port Development, Shipping and Eastern Regional Development Minister Mr. Rauff Hakim Saturday started payment of compensation to victims of Tamil-Muslim violence in April in Muttur area at an event held in Muttur Al Hilal Girls School. About 585 families affected by April violence were paid 32.5 million rupees as compensation as first installment.

According to Rehabilitation Authority that comes under the Ministry of Eastern regional Development Ministry, due to April violence in Muttur area, a total of 8985 families were displaced. Of this 7782 families were from Muslim community, about 1200 Tamil families and three Sinhalese families.

Minister Mr. Rauff Hakim said that he was against calling this event as a celebration as there was no joy in celebrating in payment of compensation to violence victims. "We should see no more violence victims being created among us and should eliminate the compensation culture from the society. This could be achieved forging unity among Muslims and Tamils in Muttur," said Mr. Hakim.

**Sri Lanka 99th in UN league table:** July 13 - Sri Lanka has been ranked 99th among 175 countries in the Human Development Index of a UN report, which measures achievements in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and income per person. This was revealed in the Human Development Report 2003, a UN publication, which gives an analysis of the progress made in achieving the millennium Development Goals.

Maldives was ranked 86th, ahead of Sri Lanka, while India, Bhutan, and Bangladesh were also ranked under Medium Human Development. Nepal and Pakistan, however, came under Low Human Development.

The report focuses on strengths and weaknesses of states in achiev-

ing the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015. Millennium Goals is a global campaign, which was decided at a UN-sponsored Millennium Summit in September 2000 where 147 world leaders agreed to meet eight goals by 2015.

Eighteen quantifiable targets combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women back each goal, with a specific commitment to reverse the spread of poverty and disease.

**Clash over video show at temple:** July 13 - The Navy and Tamil Tigers were involved in a skirmish yesterday night on land after the Navy attempted to prevent the LTTE from carrying out propaganda activities including the screening of a video film in the security forces controlled Nagadeepa area.

Reports said the LTTE during the Nagapushaniamman Hindu Kovil festival was screening videos showing some of its attacks on the security forces and had disobeyed the orders of the Navy to stop the film.

Three LTTE cadres had pulled out their cyanide capsules and threatened to commit suicide, if the Navy made any attempts to remove the video film. The devotees had intervened and appealed to both the Navy and the LTTE to avoid any confrontation. The Navy had eventually opened fire into the air and left the location while the LTTE continued screening the video film until the early hours yesterday.

**Search operations violate CFA:** July 13 - The LTTE today lodged a protest with the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) against the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) conducting cordon and search operation in civilian areas. "The SLA's action violates the Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) signed by the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE," said LTTE Trincomalee district political head Mr. S. Thilak in a protest note to the SLMM.

LTTE's protest was made to the Trincomalee SLMM acting Head Mr. Hurt Spur when the Sri Lanka Army launched a massive cordon and search operation in the areas of Pulluthoddam in Manaiyaveli in the Trincomalee town early morning on 13 July.

Soldiers deployed to conduct the cordon and search operation began stopping all traffic and people movement to and from Pulluthoddam area. Body checks were also conducted on civilian men and women.

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**More refugees return from India:** July 13 - Twenty-one more Sri Lankan Tamil refugees arrived early morning today in Nedunthivu islet in Jaffna district from South India by boats. They are natives of Jaffna district and fled to South India due to military operation by Sri Lankan security forces.

Earlier on 11 July thirteen Sri Lankan Tamil refugees returned to Nedunthivu in an Indian trawler. All of them were found to be residents of Mannar district and were sent to Mannar through A 9 highway by rehabilitation officials. They are expected to be resettled in their villages.

More Sri Lankan Tamil refugees staying in Tamilnadu welfare centres in South India are getting ready to return to Jaffna district in the coming days, some of the returnees said, according to humanitarian agencies in Jaffna. Several Tamil refugees have already informed their Indian camp officials their intention to return to Jaffna on their own if the authorities failed to send them back.

**Probe into disappearances:** July 13 - One man committee headed by a former civil servant Mr. Devanesan Nesiiah that was appointed by the Human Rights Commission (HRC) of Sri Lanka to probe into complaints of disappearance of persons after the arrest by security forces in Jaffna district said that it would submit its final report to the HRC next month.

The HRC committee concluded its sixth and final round of inquiry on 13 July into about 330 complaints it received from relatives of disappeared persons during the period between 1996 and 1997. HRC one-man committee held its final round sittings at Chunnakam, Chavakachcheri, Kodikamam, Chankanai and Jaffna lasting two days.

The HRC of Sri Lanka appointed this committee headed by Mr. Nesiiah to probe complaints of forceful disappearances after arrest in the Jaffna district following representations made by relatives of missing persons and other related humanitarian agencies.

**SLMM on LTTE bunker:** July 15 - The Deputy Head of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission blamed the LTTE saying that they are violating the ceasefire agreement by refusing free access to the no mans area in Welioya where the Army alleges that the LTTE has constructed a bunker.

Deputy Head of the SLMM Hagrup Haukland said that "following complaint from the security forces in Welioya, that the Tigers have constructed a bunker in government-controlled Ethawetunuwewa in Welioya ahead of the Forward Defence Line, the SLMM officials from Vavuniya visited the area early last week.

But the LTTE had refused the SLMM officials permission to enter the bunker three-times."

Mr. Haukland said that "such things are restricting our remit, and it's also a violation of the ceasefire agreement signed between the Government and the LTTE last year".

The SLMM Deputy Chief, Hagrup Haukland, said the presence of SLMM monitors is futile if the LTTE who is a partner in forming the SLMM to monitor the ceasefire, is going against them.

**Girl commits suicide:** July 14 - A sixteen-year-old girl, who had allegedly been forcibly detained for military training at a LTTE camp in Iruppuvettikulam, had committed suicide using her personal weapon, on 7 July.

A report from Colombo quoting military sources said the girl identified as S. Subhani of Ambuweli, a student of Kalaimagar Tamil School, had been abducted by a group of LTTE cadres in May. Sources also said that she had been given weapons training at a camp which is in charge of one Ambudan.

According to sources, the girl had asked permission from the camp leader to visit home but the leader had refused and forced her to undergo further training. She had then committed suicide using her weapon, given by the LTTE, inside the camp premises.

The LTTE later had reportedly informed the girl's parents about the incident, who wanted to bring the body to their village, but the LTTE had turned down the request and buried the body near the camp. Meanwhile, in a separate incident a father in Kilinochchi, having heard that his daughter had been abducted by the LTTE, had committed suicide.

**North-East de-merger campaign:** July 14 - The "Sinhala Sanvidhanaya", a Sinhala nationalist movement today launched a signature campaign in Trincomalee to urge the de-merging of the North and East. The first signatory of the memorandum was the president of

the organization, Venerable Dehiowitzte Piyatissa Thera, sources said. The signature campaign was launched at the clock tower junction, close to bus stand and general market in the heart of Trincomalee. A spokesperson of the movement said the temporary merger now in force since 1987 under the Indo-Sri Lanka accord should be cancelled and two provincial councils should be established, one for north and the other for east.

The spokesperson added that the signature campaign would be extended to other districts of the eastern province, Batticaloa and Ampara shortly aiming to collect one hundred thousand signatures from Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim people and to hand over the memorandum to President Ms Chandrika Kumaratunge, Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe and leaders of other political parties, spokesperson said.

**Army shifting defence line:** July 15 - Col. Theepan, LTTE Commander of Northern Region has complained to the Norwegian head of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, Major General (ret.) Triggve Teleffsen, that the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) has shifted their Forward Defence positions inside the no-man's zone in Muhamalai, Kilali and Nagar Kovil areas. Gen. Teleffsen met Theepan Monday afternoon in Palai and later Theepan accompanied Gen. Teleffsen to the disputed areas to survey the sites. The report said that Theepan expressed his strong protest on the activities of the SLA in shifting their defence positions.

**SLA calls off search operation:** July 15 - The Sri Lanka Army today called off its cordon and search operation conducted outside the political office of the LTTE in the Vadamradchi division in northern Jaffna, after the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission monitors in the Jaffna district intervened.

The SLMM intervention followed protests by the LTTE that such search operations would undermine the peace process, sources said. The Sri Lanka Army had deployed its soldiers in large numbers, accompanied by the police, at the Vathiri junction, where the Vadamradchi division LTTE political office is located.

**Eight LTTE members remanded:** July 15 - Batticaloa magistrate, Mr. Abdul Gafoor, today remanded until 18 July eight members of the LTTE who were arrested by the Sri Lanka Police in the eastern town. On the previous day, the Police had stopped and searched a LTTE vehicle at the Kallady Bridge in Batticaloa and arrested eight LTTE cadres including four women cadres in the vehicle as they were in possession of weapons, security sources said.

Police alleged that a parcel containing 102 rounds of ammunition and four grenades was found in the vehicle in which the Tigers were travelling when they were arrested by the Police.

However, lawyers appearing for the defence told the court that the four girls in the vehicle had got into it while it was on its way to Batticaloa from Thirukkivil, 76 kilometres south of Batticaloa, and that therefore they were not culpable. They argued that only the driver of the vehicle could have knowingly carried the parcel, which allegedly contained the grenades and ammo. Questioned by the magistrate, the girls said they were on leave and had stopped the vehicle at Thambattai, about six kilometers north of Thirukkivil, to get a lift to Batticaloa. They also stated that they were following a course on computer studies during their leave.

The Police told the Magistrate that that all persons in the vehicle were culpable under the offensive weapons act, for which only Sri Lanka's Court of Appeal can grant bail. The Police urged that the court to charge all the members of the LTTE who were in the vehicle to be charged under section 2 of the Offensive Weapons Act of 1966. After hearing the submissions, the Batticaloa magistrate put off his order until Friday, 18 July.

**Arms deal with Israel:** July 15 - A Sri Lankan delegation including Defence Minister Tilak Marapana was in Israel negotiating a major arms purchase estimated at 20 million dollars, the Haaretz newspaper reported.

Marapana and the senior Sri Lankan defence officials have been in Israel for several days to further a deal for weapons control systems to equip the Dabur missile-armed patrol boats it bought from Israel several years ago, the daily said.

A top-level Israeli delegation visited Sri Lanka around two weeks earlier. Israel is a key supplier of weapons to Sri Lankan security forces and the visit sparked protests from pro-rebel Tamil politicians, who accused the government of trying to strengthen the military while talking peace.

**Tigers choose 'Lion' beer:** July 15 - Tamil Tigers have prohibited the sale of beer in the island's eastern district of Batticaloa with the exception of the "Lion" brand, according to local reports.

The Three Coins brewery confirmed that the LTTE had told their retail outlets in the Batticaloa district not to sell any beer other than those made by the rival Lion Brewery. There was no immediate comment from the Tigers, but they are known to slap heavy taxes on goods and services in areas of the island's embattled northeast and impose restrictions on those who resist extortion.

**Second attack on PLOTE office:** July 16 - A grenade hurled inside the premises of the Trincomalee office of the Peoples' Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) and four persons were injured when it exploded. PLOTE Trincomalee district organizer Mr. Ashok said he heard a big noise when he was attending to a telephone call. The glass panes of windows were shattered. He said that the attackers who came in a motorbike lobbed the grenade. This is the second grenade attack on the Trincomalee PLOTE office within ten days, police said.

Among the wounded two are members of the PLOTE and other two are police constables who had been guarding the PLOTE office, which is located at Arasadi junction in the heart of Trincomalee town between St Joseph's College and the office of the Project management Unit of the North East Integrated Agricultural Project (NEIAP).

Wounded PLOTE members and police constables were admitted to the Trincomalee general hospital, medical sources said.

**Abduction bid fails:** July 17 - Another attempted LTTE abduction of a youth failed in Batticaloa yesterday afternoon when the would-be abductors were stopped at a police roadblock at Wawunathivu. The group of four LTTE cadres had reportedly transported the 18-year-old youth from Arasadi LTTE office in the cleared area to an uncleared area of Wawunathivu. HQI Batticaloa, Harishchandra Bandara said the van was ordered to stop at the last check-point at Wawunathivu but had not obeyed the orders. However the youth had shouted that he was being abducted by the LTTE and had forcibly jumped out of the moving vehicle. The LTTE cadres had proceeded without halting.

The abducted youth had told the police that he was asked by a friend to come to the LTTE office in Arasadi in the morning. He had stayed there till evening and was forcibly taken away in a van to Wawunathivu.

The youth is being kept at Batticaloa police and is to be handed over to his parents after being produced in courts. The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission was immediately informed of the incident and they had rushed to the Wawunathivu checkpoint. Separate inquiries by the SLMM and the Batticaloa police will be held.

**SLA Informant shot dead:** July 17 - Unidentified gunmen Thursday evening 6.30 p.m. shot dead Fowzie, said to be an informant to the Sri Lanka security forces, at third mile post in Uppuveli area, suburb of north of Trincomalee, police said. Fowzie escaped a previous attempt on his life, police said.

In the shoot out another person, Sekar, was seriously wounded. He is now warded in the Trincomalee general hospital, hospital sources said.

More police and army soldiers were deployed at the scene of incident who started checking civilians travelling to and from Uppuveli area, police said. A team of police officials rushed to the scene and started investigations into the killing, security sources said.

**HSZ affect schools:** July 17 - Concerned officials in Jaffna have complained that the progress of Hartley College and the Methodist Girls High School, leading educational institutions in the peninsula and located in Point Pedro in the Vadamardchi division, has been set back as these institutions come under a high security zone imposed by the Sri Lankan security forces.

Subsequent to the capture of the Jaffna district by the Sri Lankan security forces in 1995, the Sri Lanka Army established a camp in Point Pedro 1996 in an area that encompasses Hartley College and the Methodist Girls High School, located close to the harbour. The SLA occupied some of the buildings of these schools, but moved out of the buildings last year after the ceasefire came into operation. However, the security forces still have their presence close to the schools, which has hampered the development of these institutions.

International and national non-governmental groups are not showing any interest in assisting these schools as they come under the high security zone, officials said. Meanwhile, reports say that a campaign demanding the removal of checkpoints close to these schools and to open the access roads to these schools is to be launched.

**PTA cases withdrawn:** July 17 - In the first case Kalirajah Krishnarajah of Sivapuri, Trincomalee was charged under the P.T.A. for preparing sketch of Naval Dockyard and handing it over to L.T.T.E. cadre Selvarajah at Trincomalee between the period 30.12.97 and 28.2.98. The charge was based on his confession. Attorney-at-Law M. K. Sivrajah appeared for the accused.

In another case Devadas Rajendrakumar of Mullaithivu was charged under P.T.A. for possession of a T-56 Rifle, one magazine and 22 rounds at Trincomalee on 30.10.2000. The same accused was charged in another case for attempting to cause the death of Navy personnel at Trincomalee on or about 23.10.2000. R. N. Varathan, Attorney-at-Law appeared for the accused.

In the fourth case Paramsothipillai Parameswaran of Trincomalee was charged under P.T.A. for failure to give information of an L.T.T.E. cadre who was collecting data to attack Naval Dockyard between the period 24.11.2000 and 8.11.2001. Attorney-at-Law appeared for the accused.

When these cases were taken up for trial before the Judge Supramaniam Paramarajah, the State Counsel S. M. Haleemdeen moved to withdraw the cases as the charges against them were withdrawn by the Attorney-General. Thereafter, the judge discharged the accused. **Another informant killed:** July 17 - Another army informant was shot dead last night allegedly by two LTTE pistol gang members at Langanagar in Trincomalee, police said.

A senior police officer said that the victim, 38-year-old Abdul Baheer Fawzi of Uppuveli was returning home yesterday around 7.45 pm, when two suspected LTTE pistol gang members had arrived on a motorcycle and shot him.

He also said that a PLOTE member named, Prabhakaran, who was injured on Wednesday, in an attack on the Trincomalee PLOTE office, had earlier advised Fawzi to flee the country soon, as the LTTE was trying to kill him. Prabhakaran also lodged a complaint with the Uppuveli police a few days ago that, the LTTE had ordered him to kill

(continued on page 41)

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## IAN GOONETILLEKE

# ‘A dedicated collector of knowledge’

*Vote of condolence in honour of late Ian Goonetilleke proposed by Prof. K.N.O. Dharmadasa and passed at its June meeting by the Senate of the University of Peradeniya.*

At the first convocation of the University of Ceylon, in its destined home in Peradeniya, our first Vice-Chancellor Sir Ivor Jennings gave the Convocation Address which he titled “Our Benefactors”. There he spoke of the early benefactors to this institution which started in 1921 as The Ceylon University College.

These early benefactors in their desire to promote its growth into a great seat of learning had donated their wealth as well as many valuable collections of books and manuscripts. Now 49 years later, when we look back at the trials, tribulations as well as the triumphs of this first university in the island we can’t help taking note of some key figures whose dedication, vision and unrelenting labour helped transform that fledgling institution into one of the greatest seats of learning in this part of the world.

Ian Goonetilleke, whom we remember today, was one such benefactor, materially as well as spiritually in the development of this university. He served in the University Library for 27 long years from 1953. At the time of his premature retirement in 1979, he had served as the Chief Librarian for 8 years. During his career in the Library he had been a dedicated and tasteful collector of knowledge, a unique creator of knowledge, as well as a munificent distributor of knowledge.

Ian played a key role in making the Peradeniya Library one of the most outstanding repositories of knowledge in the country. He guided the library with utmost dedication during a time of tremendous expansion in tertiary education which happened to be a time of immense anxiety as well. This was due to a programme of University re-organization which threatened the integrity of our university more than any other. The Library was in imminent danger of dismemberment. Those who were in Peradeniya at the time will recall the tenacity with which Ian fought and succeeded in pre-

serving the Library as it was, thus saving it intact for future generations.

There are many unique academic achievements of Ian which brought fame to Peradeniya.

(1) He was the only Asian student to have won the John Duncan Cowley prize for the Postgraduate Diploma in librarianship in the University of London (1956) since its inauguration in 1919.

(2) He was the only Sri Lankan Librarian to be invited to serve on the Advisory Council of the Library and Archives of the Director General of UNESCO. That was in 1977-1978.

(3) He was the first Sri Lankan Librarian to obtain his Fellowship by thesis from the Library Association of UK and Ireland. That was in 1996 with distinction Grade as well.

(4) He was the only Sri Lankan Librarian to have been invited to be a supervisor and examiner of theses at the University of London by the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

Ian played many roles simultaneously and with equal felicity and dedication when he was at Peradeniya: As professional librarian (how many are aware that the Ceylon Room was his brainchild?), scholar (the 13 books and numerous research articles and reviews on diverse fields such as art, literature, history, biography, politics and current affairs bear testimony to the fact that he was no mere keeper of books), connoisseur of art (the magnificent collection of paintings, drawings, sculptures and other objects of art he had was well known in art circles), trade unionist (there was no important venture by the now extinct UTA without Ian’s involvement), forthright commentator on public issues and an outspoken critic of transgression and injustice (the many petitions, protestations in the UTA and outside it, where Ian played an active role are testimony to his willingness to stick his neck out). But above all his lasting contribution has been to the art and craft of bibliography, systematic, analytical and descriptive.

It is said that the discipline of bibliography is the most exacting of all disciplines and we know how H.A.I. Goonetilleke’s six volumes of A Bibliography of Ceylon (Sri Lanka): A System-

atic Guide to the Literature on the Land, People, History and Culture has been rated by world standards. I do not know of any other single work by a Sri Lankan scholar which has earned so many encomiums from critics from all parts of the world. The initial element of this classic in bibliography was the dissertation he submitted for the Fellowship of The Library Association of Great Britain and Ireland (1966) which was described as “a magnificent and monumental piece of work, which more than deserved the award that was made for it”.

The Bibliography of Ceylon will remain the most indispensable source for all scholars concerned with Sri Lanka studies. A few comments by critics on this monumental work are worth recalling.

Stanley Sutton, former Librarian of the India Office Library, says that “In comprehensiveness, layout and design, restrained annotation, classification and arrangement, and meticulous accuracy it leaves nothing to be desired”; Michael Ames calls Ian “the super sleuth of Ceylon Studies” adding that “no serious student of that country can afford to ignore the Bibliography of Ceylon”; B.H. Farmer says that “altogether it is difficult to fault the Bibliography on grounds of either content or presentation, and the mind boggles at the industry and patience of the compiler”. Calvin A Woodward acknowledges Ian’s competence to deal with the broad area of Sri Lankan studies in the following manner. “It is obvious that Gonnetileke has a rare knack of pruning to the essence of an authors contribution. One has also to admire his intellectual breadth.”

“This is particularly refreshing at a time when most scholars fear to essay a written opinion on matters outside the narrow confines of their inter-disciplinary specialization”. A. Sivanandan expresses his admiration with the following comments: “merely to locate the material dispersed by four and half centuries of colonial rule was itself a formidable undertaking. To record it thereafter in an organized, intelligible and coherent fashion with cross references and indexes, annotations and layout and, not the least, a subject classification predicated by the literature itself is an achievement that at-tests not only to the author’s bibliographical skill but to his knowledge and feel for his country. And it is these qualities of polymath and patriot that give this third volume the political edge the previous ones had only hinted at”.

According to K.M. de Silva, “We have now a monumental work which places all Sri Lankan scholars in

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### About People and Events

#### OBITUARIES



**Mrs. Annamary Michael**, formerly of Temple Road, Jaffna; beloved wife of late S. Anthonypillai Michael, well known as 'Inspector Michael' passed away peacefully at North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, England on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2003.

She is the mother of Theresa Thambynayagam; mother-in-law of late B. P. A Thambynayagam; grand mother of Joyce Ferdinand, Michael Thambynayagam and Regina Canaga-sabey; Great grand mother of Sharon Ferdinand, Marian Thambynayagam, Johathan Ferdinand, Chrisanthan Ferdinand, Anthony Thambynayagam, Marieta Canagasabay and Jason Canagasabay; and Grand mother-in-law of Hubert Ferdinand, Agnes Francis and Bala Canagasabay. Annamary was 95.

Funeral services took place at St Edmund's Church on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2003. The members of the family hereby express their sincere thanks to all relatives and friends who attended the funeral and sent messages of condolences.

#### A daughter's Tribute

*I lost a mother with a heart of gold.  
How much I miss her can never be told.*

*I miss you from your wheelchair  
Your loving smile and gentle air  
Your vacant place no one can fill  
I miss you Amma and I always will*

*I sat beside your bedside  
My heart was crushed and sore  
I did my duty to the end  
Till I could do no more*

*Deep in my heart you stay always  
Sadly missed by your loving daughter*

Theresa Thambynayagam

#### IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of **Mr. Justice Aiyadurai Sivanandan** on the second anniversary of his passing away on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2001.



Greatly missed and fondly remembered by his loving wife Pushpavathy; children Sivaraman, Sri Lakshmanan and Umayal; daughters-in-law Bahirathy and Kumuthiny; grandchildren Aarabhi, Krishna, Akhilesh, Abhilash and Kanna; sisters Pathmawathy Jayaseelan, Thilakavathy Wijayarath-

nam and Ankaiyatkanni Sivapiragasapillai.



In loving memory of **Mrs Mangay Sivasampu** on the thirteenth anniversary of her passing away on 2.8.1990. Sadly missed and fondly remembered by her two sons. - 15 Wolsey Road, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1XG.

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## FORTHCOMINGS EVENTS

**Aug 1** Sathurthi; Aadi Pooram  
**3** Shree Ganapathy Temple, Wimbledon Ther (Chariot Festival); Shashti  
**4** Thertham (Water cutting festival); Saint Sundaramoo-rthy Nayanar Guru Pooja  
**5** Vairavar Madai; Aadi Sevvai 3  
**6** Poongavanam; Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus Christ  
**8** Sukkla Eekathasi; Varalakshmi Pooja  
**9** Sani Pirathosam  
**10** Feast of St. Lawrence  
**11** Fullmoon; Feast of St. Clare  
**12** Aadi Sevvai 4  
**15** Sankadakra Sathurthi  
**17** Avvani Sunday 1  
**19** Karthigai  
**20** Sri Krishna Jeyanthi; Feast of St. Bernard  
**22** Feast of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary  
**23** Krishna Eekathasi  
**24** Avvani Sunday 2; Feast of St. Bartholomew  
**25** Pirathosam  
**27** Amavasai; Feast of St. Monica

**28** Feast of St. Augustine  
**29** Feast of Beheading of St. John the Baptist  
**30** Sathurthi  
**31** Avvani Sunday 3

**At Bhavan Centre, 4A Castletown Road, London W14 9HQ. Tel: 020 7381 3086 4608. Website: WWW.bhavan.net.**

**Aug 2** 4.30 p.m. Lecture on "Medical World Today" by Prof. B.M.Hedge. All welcome.

**Aug 3** 6 p.m. Bharatanatyam by Vasundhara Doraswamy from India

**Aug 8** 7 p.m. & **Aug 7** 5.30 p.m. Summer School Finales

**Aug 11 to Aug 30** Three week Sanskrit Study Course held at two levels. Teacher: Dr. H. V. S. Shastry, Academic Director.

**Aug 16** 1 p.m. Talk: Gita -The Key by Mr. Mumtaz Ali from India

**Aug 16/17** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Yoga Weekend conducted by John Shirbon & Ursula

**Aug 20** 7.30 p.m. Sri Krishna Janmashtami-Puja, Cultural, Programme and Prasad. All Welcome

## WEDDING BELLS

We congratulate the following couples on their recent wedding.

**Amy**, daughter of Dr. S.K. Maheswaran (formerly from Kanderamadam, Jaffna) and Sandra Maheswaran of Roseville, Minnesota, USA and **Gabriel Lopez** of Saginaw, Michigan, USA on June 1, 2003 at the Nazareth Hall Chapel, St. Paul, Minnesota. Reception was held at the Van Dusen Mansion in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Thevalojan**, son of Mr. & Mrs. Thevarajah, 48 Good Shed Road, Vavuniya, Sri Lanka and **Tharshini** daughter of Mr & Mrs Vijayarathnam 140 Sandhurst Road, Edmonton, Lon-

don N9 8BG on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at Orchard Wedding Hall, Galle Road, Colombo 6.

**Virupaakshen** son of Mr. & Mrs Maheswaran, 28E/8<sup>th</sup> Lane, Colombo3, Sri Lanka and **Jeyavani** daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jegadeesan, 5 Northolt Gardens, Greenford, Middx UB6 0LS on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at C & L County Club, Northolt, Middx.

**Janakan**, son of Dr. S. & Dr. (Mrs) S. Natkunarajah, 1 Orchard Close, Hadley Wood, Herts EN4 0ND and **Vasuky** daughter of Dr. T & Mrs S. Srikandarajah, 'Pergola', Carlton Road, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3AJ on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at Novotel Hotel, 1 Shortlands, Hammersmith, London W6 8DR.

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## Mr. K. Thanapalasingam

### A Tribute

Even though Thanapal lived the total of the Biblical lifespan of three scores and ten it is not how long he lived but how he lived that matters – a life well exemplified by the Kural, "Anpum aranam udaithayin ilvalvil panpum payanum athu"- Family life actuated by love and virtue endows it with character and happiness.

Thanapal, as he was popularly known was the only son of five children of Mr and Mrs Ahlesar Kandiah of Nunavil, Chavakachcheri. Mr. Kandiah was a highly respected head teacher of the local school who impressed everybody with his all inspiring personality with our culture embossed on him. While laying the moral and educational foundation of a large number of children of the area and with a wife with great qualities of affection, understanding and co-operation, it was not a problem to bring up his own children.

Thanapal after finishing his early education at Driebergs College, Chavakachcheri, had his secondary education at Royal college, Colombo and entered the University, where he obtained a good Honours degree in chemistry which opened a variety of avenues of employment to select from. His deep sense of family responsibility made him reject a civil service appointment and join the Inland Revenue Department. He was an efficient officer and gained quick promotions to the posts of Assessor, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner. During his four year period as the Commissioner of Inland Revenue Jaffna, he developed very good rapport with the local population. His fairness, understanding and discretionary qualities gave the business community great satisfaction and encouragement in their commercial enterprises. Mixing with a large cross section of the population was quite easy for him because of his pleasing personality and his varied interests, particularly in the fields of music and religion. As an active member of the Naval Restoration Committee he played a leading role in the installation of the Naval statue in the mandapam at Nallur.

He had a special aptitude for learning. He will always say that there is no particular time, place or age to learn. He used to go for his law lectures on Saturday mornings followed by classes in accountancy. Astrology was another subject that interested him and he found the time to learn all that this science provided to rationalise the fatalistic belief among people. The different fields of knowledge made him an enlightened and entertaining conversationalist and above all a patient listener fully valuing other person's opinion.

His academic pursuits did not curtail his interest in the affairs of our country and community. He was very close to thinkers and politicians and maintained a clear stand about the political aspirations of our people actively contributing his thoughts and time to the organisations working for it.

Even though his learning generally had a philosophical interest- knowledge for the sake of knowledge- it was never without a functional or an applied value attached to it. All his learning – law, accountancy, secretaries etc. gave him the confidence to feel at home in any situation. In his last years of his life he became computer friendly, an area which made many of his age almost "illiterate" overnight.

After an early retirement from the Inland Revenue Depart-

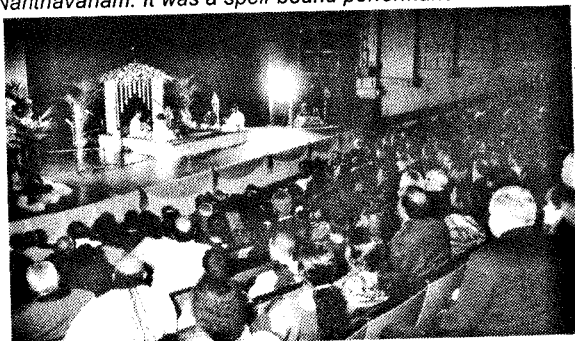
(continued on page 40)

## Flute Prodigy is born !



The 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2003 was a unique and sensational day in the classical world of Carnatic music. A nine-year old, lovely little boy, Hrishikesh Nimal-Raj had his arangetram at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Royal Festival Hall Complex in London. The venue was majestic and superb. This was the first time in the history of classical music that

an arangetram took place at this prestigious hall. The atmosphere was exciting. The electrifying foyer décor and the Nathesvaram Thavil at the entrance was grand. The stage depicted the writings of Lord Krishna and the Lord Krishna's Nanthavanam. It was a spell-bound performance.



The arangetram started with a welcome speech by Hrishikesh's maternal grandfather, Mr V. M. Vaikunthanathan who is a fine arts critique, fine art journalist, and leading businessman. Following him, was little Hrishikesh's paternal grandmother and Carnatic music legend, Mrs Ambika Thamoheram.

The arangetram started off with the pancharatra kriti Valachi in Navaragamaligai, Adi Tala. Hrishikesh's played calmly and perfectly. He captivated the audience from the be-

ginning. It was rendered to perfection.

In the welcome speech a special guest, Mr Wimal Sockanathan was invited on the stage to be honoured and to say a few words. Mr Wimal Sockanathan former Ceylon radio announcer and leading compere in the UK was the compere for Hrishikesh's father, Dr T. Nimal-Raj's flute arangetram in 1973. "Palimpsest of history unrolls, bequeathing its legacy."

Hrishi followed up with 'Vathapi Ganapathim' Ragam Hamsadvani Tala Adi. This is a piece suited for instruments. Hrishi played well with good Raga effect and wonderfully well executed Kalpana swaram. The audience was fully engrossed. Hrishi was playing with maturity, Laya rhythm precision and Sruti blend. It was a feature of classical flute in art form. Entharo Panchiaratna Krithi which followed was a master class. I had to lean forward to take more notes and details about this item from leading music exponents seated in front of me. To my left was Laya Miridanga specialist Karaikudi Krishnamoorthy. Hrishi performed assiduously and with intricate gamaka effects. I am sure his guru and preceptor must have been proud of this young talent. The renderings were well taught by the guru.

Samaja Vara, is a song all love to listen. Hrishi rendered Hindolam to soothe all his listeners. The pitch and the oscillations of two octaves made flute look easy. Following the song he performed Kalapana Swara in two Kathi which gave the percussionist a great variety. Before intermission Hrishi rendered the famous flute mali piece of Ninnuvina in Navarasa Kannada, Tala-Rupakam. The anchoring of two and half octaves and variety of Jathi effects made all of us feel as if we were listening to the little Mali of 1970s. The octave gamaga effects blended well with Sruthi.

Following the intermission Thelisirama in Poornachandrika Raga, Aathi Tala, warmed the audience. The nine year old prodigy took up Ragam, Thanam and Pallavi composed by Guru Raghavaranam in Ragam Sankaraparnam, Talam Athi. This item can be placed in ancient historical lexicons of Carnatic music. Hrishikesh blossomed and proved his pedigree hailing from a family of great musicians. This item and the following Talavadyam captivated the knowledgeable audience. It was a masterly, flawless, talented performance.

Then followed the song of Raguvamsasuda in Kadana-kudukalam. The speed and clarity of the item conveyed masterly maturity. Then followed Krishna song, "Alaiye Payuthe". Tillana in Brindavani with the sequence rhythm change, the purity of Dr.

## Centre for Tamil Refugee Training and Education in Redbridge

The Tamil Refugee Training and Education Centre which is at the forefront of promoting the provision of training in IT and linguistic skills of Tamils in the UK has established yet another branch, the fourth, in Redbridge, Essex on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2003 at Peechy House in Ilford. In the welcome address, Mr. Rajakier, Chairman of the Centre highlighted the achievements of the institution in the past decade and explained how it has become the launching pad for a successful IT career for many students.

The Chief Guest Rt. Hon. Mike Gapes, M. P. for Ilford South, ceremoniously declared open the branch. To mark the event, the Centre also launched two community-based projects. Mr. Marvala, the Councilor for Loxford unveiled these projects. The Chief Guest, Rt. Hon. Mike Gapes in his address praised the centre for providing the vital services to the members of the com-

munity to enable them to gain employment thus facilitating their development. He expressed the hope that the centre would stay in Redbridge for many more years to continue its vital services.

The Mayor of Redbridge, Ms. Vanessa Cole who could not be present at the event conveyed her warm wishes for the success of the centre through a video-recorded message. Councilors Mr. Marvala and Ms. Mann also addressed the gathering. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by the Vice-Chairman Mr. Moorthy and the serving of local dishes. The function was well attended by a large number of students, parents and well-wishers.

## The Srilanka Railway Past-Employees Welfare Association, UK

The Eighth Annual General Meeting of the above association was held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2003 at John Innes Youth Centre, Wimbledon and the following office-bearers

were elected for 2003-2004.

**Patron:** Mr. A. Manikkam, **President:** Mr. C. Kannuthurai, **Vice-President:** Mr. P. Gnananandan, **Hony. Secretary:** Mr. M. Selvanayagam, **Hony Asst. Secretary:** Mr. K. Ramasamy, **Hony. Treasurer:** Mr. P. Chellathurai, **Editor:** M. Balasundram, **Committee Members:** Mr. K.G. Alwis, Mr. N. Paratharajah, Mrs P. Arulambalam, Mrs. G. M. S. Mariadas and Mrs T. Thambyrajah.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Ther (Chariot) Festival in Paris

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Ther (Chariot) Festival of the Sri Manicka Vinayakar Temple, 72. rue Phillippe de Girard, 75018 Paris, France; Tel: 00331 4209 5045 will be held on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2003 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

All devotees are kindly invited to participate in the festival and receive the blessings of Lord Ganesh.

N. Ramani style, change of Aahara and Thuthukara style in this item were evidence of genius. This was followed by Thiruppugal in Madyamavathy. The Chief Guest summed it up by saying "This is a true performance of a genius. I am confident a prodigy is born here"

Chittoor T. Raghavaraman taught Hrishikesh the style and classy rendition, is one of the most accomplished leading flutists in South India and is currently residing in the UK. He is one of the leading disciples of Padmasiri, Dr. N. Ramani of Madras and is a lecturer at the Flute Academy, UK of which Hrishikesh's father, Professor T. Nimal-Raj is the Chairman.

Hrishikesh was rigorously trained and worked arduously under the guidance of Chittoor Raghavaraman and his grandmother Ambika Thamotheeram. He had excellent support and final contributions from violinist Chittoor Vijayarangavan and Miridangist Thiravatoor Saikrishnan.

Hrishikesh hails from the most gifted, talented family of mu-



Hrishikesh at the centre with his grandmother and her sisters

sicians and academicians. The heritage in music and academics is imbedded in the pedigree. His paternal grandaunts, leading personalities distinguished in the field of arts, culture and academics were all present. The Guests of Honour were Professor Gnana Kulendran, Professor in Tamil and Hindu Culture, Tanjoor

University, India; Professor Yoga Rasanayagam, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; Mrs Jeyam Kandiah, OAE, Director, Natyalaya, Sydney, Australia and Kalasoori Arunthathy Sri Renganathan, Director, Tamil SLBC, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Both grandparents Mr. and Mrs A. Thamotheeram and Mr. and Mrs. V. M. Vaikunthavasan blessed Hrishi and he in turn made the grand parents proud. Uncle Dr. P. Sivalingam from Edmonton, Canada was the chief usher.

The compering was one of the best presented. Hrishikesh's mami, Dr. Kanchana Sivalingam from Edmonton, Canada did

the honours. She is a physician and the Director of Shivalaya Bharathanatya School. Hrishi's uncle, the other comper was Mr. Sulthan Kandiah, Director of Finance in Hong Kong.



The Chief Guest was the Right Honourable Lord Torby Harris and Lady Harris. Lord Harris in a memorable speech said that he had been a connoisseur of classical fine arts for years and that this was the

first time he had ever listened to quality music performed at this tender age by any musician. "He is a true prodigy", he said. The Guest of Honour, Professor Gnana Kulendran said, "Hrishi's performance is in a class by itself and only a very few can achieve it at this tender age" The other guests included great musicians past, present and leading personalities in medicine and academics. It was an arangetram that went to perfection. Let us wish that the prodigy would be a maestro of flute.

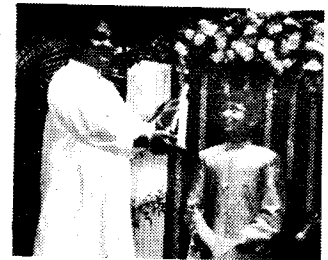
The British Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Tony Blair's had sent his good wishes to Hrishikesh which were conveyed by his father.

Great credit goes to Guru Sri Raghavaraman. The accompanying exponents were Violin - Chittoor Vijayaraghavan from Chennai, Miridangam - Thiravarur Saikrishnan of Chennai, Ganjira - Bangalore Pragash and Gattam - Muthu Sivarajah.

The entire organisation was par excellence and the rendition second to none. It was a cameo vintage performance.

**Professor Norman Morris Ph. D., FRCOG, FRCS.**

Those needing a CD of the arangetram, please contact in writing Professor T. Nimal-Raj, Bell Cottage, Barnet Road, Arkley, Herts EN5 3LE. Contact Number: 07956 367974.



Hrishi receives a special award from his Guru

## BOOK REVIEW

Like the mythical bird, which is reborn, out of its ashes not only the Jaffna Public Library but also the Tamil Nation, as a whole should be reborn out of this shambles.

## PHOENIX RISING

Mr. N. Selvarajah, the well-known librarian from Sri-Lanka and a consultant to the Jaffna Public Library has come up with yet another book entitled "Rising from the Ashes" detailing the aftermath of the burning of the Jaffna Public Library; the progress made so far towards its renovation; the political innovations involved in this process; and the contribution of the international community towards its rebuilding. This book was released in London on 1 June 2003 to mark the 22nd anniversary of the monumental destruction.

The burning of the Jaffna Public Library on 1 June 1981 was one of the most

significant events in the history of the Island since its independence, to have had profound political, social, cultural and moral implications. The

perpetrators of this barbaric act also initiated something they had not bargained for. They galvanized a dormant community, mobilized an entire population against state sponsored terrorism, and kick started a resistant movement to take up arms against the government forces. Thus 1981 was the year of the 'Phoenix Burning' when the Tamil Nation awakened to the reality that the Sinhala Government was bent on the decimation of their intellectual Institutions. To the Jaffna man the Jaffna Public Library was not merely a storehouse for books, but represented a symbol - a symbol of the Tamil intellectual wealth, a shrine to the knowledge that was handed down to them through the ages, a Temple to the Tamilian wisdom, a monument to their cultural heritage.

Many Tamils came from the arid north and had risen to prominence in the pro-

fessions and the civil service through a devotion to education. To them schools and libraries are places of adoration; sanctuaries of reverence.

Its burning was a catastrophic blow to the Tamil psyche; an assault to their cultural ethos and many still carry the scars. This was also an incident which

shocked the civilized world and exposed to them the moral and mental degradation of those conducting an ethnic hate campaign. Several Sinhalese academics expressed their shock and dismay of this act by the security forces and the men behind them. Over the past two decades, what followed the destruction of the library was the displacement, demolition and destruction of the Jaffna homes, social fabric and community life.

Now as peace efforts strengthen and the truce between the Government of Sri-Lanka and LTTE continues, several foreign agencies are providing financial aid for the rebuilding of the library. A Ford

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ment he went to Nigeria where his knowledge of law and accountancy became useful to the Nigerian business community. After working for a few years he moved to Malaysia with his family to the place of his Guru, Swamy Sandanandaji. The eldest daughter Janaki after getting professionally qualified moved to Australia with her family. With the full blessings of their Guru, Thanapal and wife moved to the U.S.A. during the early nineties where their sons Manivannan (Kannan) and Ahilesan (Easan) are professionally qualified, married and settled. Initially it was not without problems but in accordance with their Guru's blessings things started to move well for them and gradually got settled down. His qualifications combined with his qualities earned him the association of a good business firm where he was highly respected for his services as an accountant, counsellor and guide. He was affectionately called "Appa" (father) by the young management team.

Thanapal was very charismatic and a man of character, soft spoken and kind hearted with a mild temperament. His wife and three children have never known of any harsh word from him, a quality for which they remember him with great admiration and affection. In fact this is one major quality that earned him a large circle of friends and admirers. He being a vegetarian and a teetotaler, religious observations were not a problem - for him religion was a way of life. From the early days of his marriage, he used to visit sacred places of worship in India with his wife. He believed in Guru Bhakthi, a belief and practice inculcated into his family and they are fully benefiting from his life style and associations.

His interest in music was total. His numerical ability combined with his religious inclinations enhanced his understanding helping him to appreciate music to the full. Even though my father helped my sister to acquire the basic foundations of music under renowned artists, it was the efforts of Thanapal that made her mature into an accomplished vocalist fulfilling his own manifest in her. All three of their children, Janakai, Kannan and Eason even though academically qualified and well settled in different professions, their knowledge of carnatic music helps them to be very much a part of our culture.

One major effect of the situation in our country is the separation of family members to different parts of the world and we were no exception to this. For nearly two decades letters and telephones and recently e-mails remained the avenues of maintaining contact with relations and friends.

Last July, probably an act of premonition drew us to New Jersey from London to spend a week with Thanapal and family without further postponement. It was a very pleasant heart-rending week, spending long hours recapitulating past memories. He looked a little feeble but relaxed and well-settled with two of his married sons comfortably placed in life living closely. He had also cultivated a large circle of friends particularly in the fields of music and religion, his wife as a music artist herself contributing in no small measure towards it. It being our first visit to the U.S.A., Thanapal took us to some places of interest, being together making some good the lost years of separation. We were planning to meet in London soon afterwards and make our visits more often but that was not to be - a hard and sad reality - conveyed to us by my sister on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2002 in just one week of our returning home, that Thanapal had passed away having succumbed to a severe heart attack. For her part she had lost a life partner of exemplary qualities and to us he was always a tower of strength to be part of the family guiding us more by example than by precept.

We went back to New Jersey and were able to participate in all aspects of his last journey and to express my feelings and impressions to a large gathering of friends and relatives at the funeral service.

'May his soul rest in peace'

**T.Puthirasingam**

## Northern Sportsmen Salute Canagalingam

It is with great respect and deep affection that I pen this tribute and appreciation in memory of ex-FIFA referee Mr. E. Canagalingam of Jaffna, who was called to rest on 13th May 2003.

I recall my earlier days as a student in 1955 and later as a close associate of Canagalingam. He was a highly disciplined person who was devoted to duty. He has been a teacher, lecturer, and principal at Vivekananda College, Colombo and later at Palaly Teachers Training College in 1985. In the field of sports he excelled in football and was a fine sportsman both in the Northern Province and in Colombo.

Canagalingam was an old boy of Jaffna Hindu College where he excelled in football, cricket and athletics from 1941 to 1944. From 1945 to 1949 he was reading at Madras University, where he represented the university in football and was classified as an outstanding goal keeper. In 1949, he captained the Madras University football team. He represented the Jaffna District football team after his return from Madras. He excelled as an outstanding goal keeper in Northern Province. Canagalingam took up soccer coaching to the schools and was in charge of the Jaffna Inter District Soccer team.

While teaching and coaching, he took up refereeing in 1956 and was promoted to class I referee in 1959. Ceylon Football Association nominated him to the FIFA referees panel in 1969 and continued for few years in the panel of International referees. Incidentally his elder brother was one of the first FIFA referees to represent Sri Lanka with M/S Michael de Silva, P.M.

Mantara & Pestingie. He was elected President of the Colombo Referees Association and President of the Sri Lanka Referees Association in 1969/70. He functioned as a Referee Instructor and as Examiner for the Referees on behalf of the Ceylon Football Association. He used his Morris Minor car to visit all schools and sport grounds to instruct the referees, who were officiating in matches and following referees classes. He used to point out the good points and errors and direct them correctly.

In 1969, an exhibition football match was conducted by the Ceylon Football Association in connection with the visit of Sir Stanley Rous, President of the International Football Association to Sri Lanka, which match was officiated by Canagalingam. The FIFA president congratulated him for the excellent manner in which he handled the match at the Police grounds, Bambalapitiya. In 1997, the President of the Sri Lanka Football Federation Manilal Fernando awarded the prestigious meritorious award for promoting football and refereeing in Sri Lanka at the Annual General Meeting. His vast knowledge of the laws of the game and fluency in English made him a speaker par excellence. He was very active, healthy and looked at life in a positive manner and gave strength to all around him. He was very religious and never missed the Nallur Kanthaswamy kovil festival and was fasting all the 25 days.

He was determined to marry his own cousin Kamalasan from Malaysia, and married her and was a dutiful husband and loving father of his two daughters Dharmini and Suhanthini. He treated both his sons-in-law Sivasothy and Pirabaharan as his sons. His daughters and sons-in-law rendered all help and assistance necessary during the period they both were immobilized and bedridden. He was my best and trustworthy friend who left us, leaving a void, which will never be filled. It is a great loss to all referees in Sri Lanka.

VP, AFC, Manilal Fernando along with ex-FIFA Referee M T. Fernando, former Secretary and VP of FFSL G. K. Abeyasekera and President FFSL Gamini Randeniya S/DIG attended the religious ceremony and the funeral on 14th May, 2003 in Colombo.

May God bless and reward him.

**T. Perinpanayagam,**  
President, Sri Lanka Football Referees Association  
Council Member, FFSL



(Continued from page 34)

Fawzie.

**AL student rescued:** July 18 - Troops on 15 June rescued an Advanced Level student as he was being abducted to a Tiger-held area in the Batticaloa district. A senior army officer said troops manning a checkpoint at Vavunativu stopped a van for a routine check. "There were about a dozen persons in it. They identified themselves as LTTE cadres and wanted to enter the area under their control," he said.

As they were about to pass the security barrier, one of the occupants, a boy yelled. The boy called the troops to save him, the officer said. Troops blocked the van. Subsequently, the Batticaloa office of the Scandinavian truce monitors who were informed of the incident, intervened and the LTTE handed over the 18-year-old student, the officer said.

#### Bishop protests closure of Madhu road

July 19 - At a meeting at the Mannar Secretariat on issues related to forthcoming festivals at Madhu shrine, Mannar district Bishop Rev. Rayappu Joseph said that the continued closure of the road to Madhu shrine by the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) is a human rights violation, a report in Jaffna daily Uthayan said.

Additional Secretary to the Sri Lanka

Ministry of Local Government, Ms. Rose Fernando, Mannar district Political Head of the LTTE, Amitab, Commander of SLA's 214 brigade, Rajapakse, Mannar District Commissioner of Sri Lanka Police, Shantha, Commander of Thalladi SLA camp, Col. Jeyakody and others participated in the meeting according to local reports.

The Bishop said, "the SLA opens the road only during festival days. Residents and devotees are unable to use the road on other days to go to the shrine for their daily prayers. This amounts to violating basic human rights of people and the SLA should take actions to open the road permanently," the report added.

**Grenade attack in Oddamavadi:** July 20 - Unidentified persons hurled a grenade at the residence of the Chairman of the Tamil-Muslim Reconciliation Committee, Mr. Mohamed Hussein Hayat Mohamed, in Oddamavadi in the Batticaloa district, police sources said. Mr. Hayat Mohamed is also the Principal of the Oddamavadi Muslim Madhya Mahavidyalayam, the police sources said.

The house was damaged but no one was hurt in the attack, police said. Mr. Hayat said he did not know the reason for this attack on his house. The police has commenced an investigation into the incident. □

(Continued from page 35)

Goonetilleke's debt for having made their research forays so much easier than they would be without his bibliography to guide them on the way.

It consolidates his reputation for scholarship and sets the standards by which all other Sri Lankan bibliographers would be judged. His greatest achievement is to have raised the craft of bibliography, if not to an art form, at least to a level of equality with some of the better monographic studies produced by scholars in the social sciences". We can go on quoting many such words of praise and admiration, and I wonder what else we can add to Professor J.D. Pearson's observation that H.A.I. Goonetilleke rank with "the greatest Orientalist bibliographers of all time".

Like his colleague, Sarachchandra, who called Peradeniya "unbelievable, a magical part of the world", Ian had a deep attachment to this magnificent institution and helped it to achieve the stature it had by the time he left. Here I would like to quote his own words: "About the campus I have always maintained that it made me what I became - the influence of the context of scholarship and learning, the nature of the institution, the natural setting. In our old age we revive the moment we cross the Peradeniya Bridge and our shrivelled bodies are warmed and enlivened by the essence and ambience of the dear perpetual place".

Peradeniya, in recognition of his scholarly achievements and his contribution to the development of the academic stature of the institution, conferred on him the Degree of Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) in 1991. For Ian, having acknowledged the fact that the 27 years he spent in Peradeniya were the most rewarding, fruitful and enlightening period" of his life it was perhaps but natural to have decided in 1994 to bequeath his unique collection of books, painting, drawings and other objects of art to this institution for which he had an incomparable love and attachment.

In material terms, I would say that Ian's bequest surpasses in value all other bequests made to this institution since its inception. As some of us are aware, there were financial offers for any sum he would name, but he was unswerving in his resolve. Such was his attachment to Peradeniya. Among his other gifts to Peradeniya is the Ludowyk Memorial Lecture, held annually with funds made available by Ian in memory of his Guru, Professor Ludowyk. Few alumni have made so much 'pratidana' to this institution as Ian has. We remember him with gratitude. May he attain Nibbana. □

(Continued from page 39)

*Foundation Grant of two hundred thousand US dollars has been awarded through the UNESCO. And several book publishers have come forward to donate their books to the library.*

*Although the buildings were completed and a re-opening date was set in February this year, this did not materialize. It was pointed out by several scholars and academics that the proposed opening of the library was a political stunt to show to the world that everything is back to normal in the peninsula, whereas the reality is quite different. Homes are not rebuilt, people are not re-housed, resettlement and rehabilitation has not occurred, basic amenities like electricity and water supply are wanting and most of the people in Jaffna are living in poverty and squalor. Rebuilding of Jaffna should start with return of the refugees, renovating their houses, re-demarcating their properties, restoring basic needs and working towards retrieving the lost grandeur of Jaffna. The re-opening of the library should come as the pinnacle of this process.*

*Mr. Selverajah's book through a series of compilations brings home details of its history, its development, its destruction, the scars left in its aftermath and the painstaking process of rebuilding and renovating the Jaffna Public Library to its former glory.*

*Another marvellous effort from this master librarian!*

**Dr. S. Thiagarajah**

**Price: £5 inclusive of postage available from the author, 48, Hall Wicks Road, Stopsley, Luton, Beds LU2 9BH, UK.**

## The Federation of Saiva (Hindu) Temples, UK Sixth Annual Conference

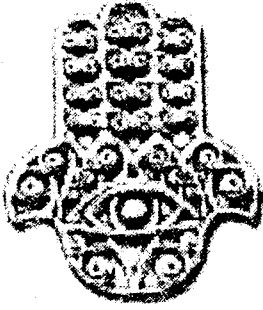
*The Sixth Saiva Conference organised by the The Federation of Saiva Temples in UK on the theme "The role of Saivism in the modern world" will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2003 at London Sivan Temple, 4a Clarendon Rise, Lewisham, London SE13 5ES Tel: 020 8318 9844 and on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2003 at Sri Kanaga Thurkkai Amman Temple, 5, Chapel Road, West Ealing, London W13 9AE. Tel. 020 8810 0835 from 9.30 a.m. to 9.30 p. m*

*Ilaya Pattam Thavathiru Maruthasala Adikalar of Perur Aadeenam Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu will preside and bless the conference. The distinguished speakers are Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan M.A., Ph.D. Professor & Head, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Madras, Tamil Nadu.*

*Mr. Siva Mahalingam, Asst. Director, Dept. of Hindu & Cultural Affairs, Jaffna.. Painthamil Selvi Dr.(Mrs) Thilagavathy Sanmuganathan. M.A., Ph.D, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Mr. S. Patkunarajah, World Saiva Council, Paris. Thiru Thanga Visvanathan, Erode, Tamil Nadu.*

*Many other prominent speakers and winners of the children's competition will take part in the conference*

*All Saivaites and their families are cordially invited.*



## Baqer Shah Sahib

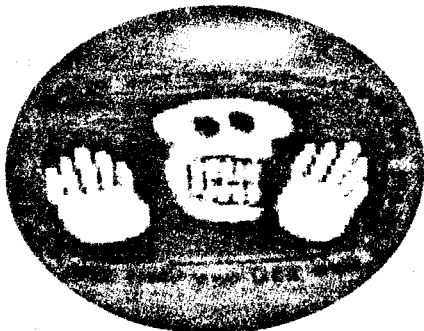
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