

SRI
LANKA

**SITUATION
REPORT**

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தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்

SITUATION REPORT

A selection of recent reports from Sri Lankan newspapers, without comment, Readers are requested to form their own conclusions.

"Bomber" plane crashes

A pilot and an officer cadet of the Air Force were killed when the Siai Marchetti they were flying crashed into the sea off Beruwela yesterday morning. They were on a training exercise in one of the six Siai Marchetti planes of the Air Force when the crash occurred. The bodies of Pilot H.T.T.K. Seneviratne and Officer cadet R.P. Punchihetti have been recovered, Air Force officials said. Eye witnesses said that plane was flying at a low altitude at the time of the crash. The plane was destroyed completely. Operations are underway to recover the debris with the help of the people in the area. An inquiry is to be held shortly. The Air Force in July last year purchased six Siai Marchettis to train their pilots. The Italian made aircraft is of dual purpose and could be used for training cum ground attack... (Sun-26.3.86)

Human error the cause

Human error was the cause of Tuesday's Siai Marchetti crash, an official inquiry revealed yesterday. Air Force officials said the pilot and the officer cadet were flying at a lower altitude when the tragedy occurred. The pilot, H.T.T.K. Seneviratne and officer cadet, R.P. Punchihetti were on a training exercise when the aircraft crashed into the sea off Beruwela. Two eye-witnesses, a former Air Lanka pilot and a German pilot had recounted the accident. Most of the debris has been recovered from the seabed, officials said... (Sun-28.3.86)

"Yal Devi" loss: Rs. 32 million

Terrorists attacked the Yal Devi for the second time in ten days yesterday causing over Rs. 32 million in damage and stranding over 900 passengers heading for Colombo from the North. They stopped the train between Puliyankulam and Omanthai. Some 927 passengers on board had been ordered out by armed terrorists. Thereafter, they had set off explosives damaging the engine and several compartments. The incident occurred shortly after 11 a.m. National Security Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, was in the North visiting security installations when the incident occurred. Later in the afternoon he flew over the area. From his Bell 412 helicopter I saw the engine and some compartments of the Yal Devi burnt. The fumes reached out high into the sky and were visible from the chopper that had flown into the area... The engine of the train looked out of shape. Its roof and body had been wrecked by the explosion. The shattered engine and an adjoining compartment were burning. So were at least three compartments in the rear... (Sun-26.3.86)

Tea takes a tumble

Tea prices slumped to their lowest since the Government imposed stringent standards

on tea exports at the weekly auctions yesterday. The better grades of tea, which until now offset the poor prices fetched by the lower grades fell by Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 a kilogram pushing the average sales price by one rupee a kilogram. The trade described the reversal, in prices as 'very disappointing' and said the trend was bound to continue. Egypt and the Soviet Union two major buyers kept out of the auctions yesterday as 3.9 million kilograms were sold for an average of Rs. 30.50 per kilogram in an auction restricted to one day. The slump in prices followed weeks of irregular trends in prices which were causing increasing concern to the trade and occurred despite a government attempt to boost prices by imposing standards on tea exports in mid-February... (Sun-25.3.86)

Malaysian national killed

A technical officer attached to the Pelwatta Sugar Company, Monaragala, Caslanjal Kevni, a Malaysian national, is alleged to have been killed by some workers by assaulting with an iron bar. He died after admission to the government hospital Badulla. According to the report received at Police Headquarters from the Buttala Police station the incident had taken place on 22nd. It is alleged that the deceased asked four Labourers to assist him to lay some wires. They had refused. Then the deceased has locked them inside a container. A few minutes later they had been released. After their release they had come up to him with an iron bar and assaulted him. He was rushed to the Badulla Hospital where he died. The Buttala Police are making inquiries and have taken four labourers into custody as suspects... (Sun-29.3.86)

Land forcibly occupied

A land belonging to the Peradeniya University has been forcibly occupied by unauthorised persons from the Peradeniya town and adjacent areas. Reports said that the illegal occupiers were setting up trade stalls on the land which they had portioned out among themselves. The land is located between Peradeniya-Gampola highway and the Mahaweli ganga. The security authorities of the University summoned the encroachers and admonished them but none has moved out. Police are expected to charge them for criminal trespass... (Sun-25.3.86)

B'caloa University closed

The Batticaloa University Campus was closed down indefinitely on Tuesday evening following a dispute between Professor David Arulpragasam, Director of the University, and senior undergraduates of the campus, university sources told "The Island". Prof. Arulpragasam was not available for comment as he was on his way to Colombo for discussions with the Education Ministry authorities, but Batticaloa University sources said that the dispute arose when senior undergraduates held a social for the freshers of the campus on Monday despite orders from the University Director not to do so. One

University lecturer told "The Island" that Prof. Arulpragasam had tried to prevent the social, partly because of certain incidents of ragging by the seniors, and also because of the prevailing situation in the country. But the seniors had flouted the Director's orders and held the social after forcing open the doors to the main hall of the University, the lecturer said. Following this incident, the Director had closed down the University indefinitely and declared the campus out of bounds for all undergraduates of the University. The University staff too had been requested to go on leave until March 31, the source said... (The Island-27.3.86)

TELO chief's brother jailed

Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation leader Sri Sabaratnam's elder brother Sunderampillai Kandasamy alias Sunderalingham was yesterday sentenced to nine months rigorous imprisonment by the Colombo High Court Judge H.W. Senanayake when he pleaded guilty to a charge under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The accused was charged on two counts under the PTA with having between August 1st and 24th, 1983 at Mannar enlisted members to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation and failing to inform Police regarding certain offences committed by one G. Vemalsingharajah. Attorney Motilal Nehru appearing for the accused with Kumar Ponnambalam and Miss. A. Ibrahim told Court that the accused was in remand for a period of about 31 months and if the prosecution was prepared to withdraw count one against the accused he (accused) was prepared to tender a plea for the second count. State Counsel Lalin de Silva withdrew the first charge against the accused and then he (accused) pleaded guilty to the second charge. The Judge imposing the sentence on the accused said that those trying to topple a duly elected government under democracy by the votes of the people could not be dealt with leniently. He said that a government elected by the votes of the people could be overthrown only by the votes of the people. The offence committed by the accused in sending people to a foreign country for war training to fight the government was very serious and he therefore could not show any leniency on the accused... (Sun-25.3.86)

Tourism promotion slashed

The Ceylon Tourist Board is closing some of its offices abroad and terminating its representation in low yield markets, authoritative officials sources said last week... The Tourist Board offices in New York and Milan have now been closed and a representative agreement in Sydney with an advertising firm, F.P. Leonard, has been terminated. Mr. Tom Daloathedo, the Board's director in London, has been recalled to Colombo and the representation in Tokyo will be discontinued at the end of the month. The embassy in Tokyo will handle this work. Board sources indicated that the representation in London, by a Briton who is managing director of a travel and tourism marketing firm, is also

DIARY OF EVENTS

and

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Events from February 1 - February 13 were carried in Issue No. 7 of Situation Report

FEBRUARY 14

"Black terror" strikes again at Vavuniya. In a school at Poovarasankulam black uniformed masked "state terrorists" rob teachers and students of watches and items of jewellery. They leave firing shots in the air.

Meanwhile, the Sinhalese who was killed at the Poovarasankulam tea shop army firing yesterday has been identified as 92-year old Gunasekera.

Bodies of 3 of the six Tamil youths taken for questioning yesterday by the armed forces from the village of Pathalai in Batticaloa found this morning near a river bank with gun shot injuries at Meeravodai. The 3 youths are K. Kumaramalingham (18), E. Mahendraraja (20), and N. Yogendran (20). The fate of the other 3 are not known.

It has been reported in Colombo that Income Tax revenue from Jaffna Peninsula which totalled Rs. 4 million and 30 lakhs in 1983 had dropped to Rs. 2 million in 1985. Earlier in 1984 the revenue had dropped to Rs. 3 million and 90 lakhs. In Batticaloa district Income Tax revenue has been dropping from Rs. 1 1/2 million in 1983 to Rs. 1 million 40 lakhs in 1984 to Rs. 1 million 17 lakhs in 1985. Commissioner of Inland Revenue ascribes violence in these two districts for the loss of revenue. (Sanjeavy, Saturday Tamil weekly, Jaffna)

3 Sinhala youths, one armed with a gun arrested by police in the Habarana jungles. Police say they belong to a radical left party.

In Kalmunai, lorry loaded with Rs. 8,000 worth "Edna" chocolate hijacked.

In Batticaloa "Home Guards" to be composed entirely of Muslims are being recruited. Their function will be to assist the armed forces.

In Jaffna, Traders' Association appeals for the release of Sivakadacham and Sriskandan two businessmen who were kidnapped on the 7th.

Brigadier H. Rupasinghe, military commander in Jaffna gives assurance to heads of Jaffna schools coming within the security zone that as far as possible he would ensure the safety of the school children.

A Sinhala railway employee working in the Intercity train released by armed youths after his identity was proved.

Joseph Amilan (36) warded under heavy security for treatment at military hospital in Colombo. C.I.D. reported to be investigating his background. Joseph Amilan was shot and injured by navy men in the northern seas last week.

In Hatton, an army camp set up temporarily has been removed.

FEBRUARY 15

3 pensioners, B.S. Arulappa (77) of Ilavalai, father of 6 girls, Muthukumar Selathurai (77) of Koiiyathotam, father of 8 children and Murugan Iyathambi (50) of David Road Jaffna, father of 6, were all shot dead opposite Jaffna Fort by a soldier when they went to take early places in the queue for pensions, around 5.30 a.m. Despite immediate panic some youths remove the bodies and bring them to hospital.

Panic and tension in the Palaly, Kadduvan, Myliddy, Kurumpacity areas following sniping by a low-flying helicopter at a green coloured jeep carrying armed youths. The youths return the fire while the helicopter kept on ascending and strafing. Several houses, including those of Vyavan Thampirasa of Achchelu, Chunnakam, K. Velauthan of the same place and Seleamutthar Sachithanandasivam of Kurumbacity damaged and several receive injuries.

A coffin containing the corpse of a Chunnakam resident who died in Trincomalee which was being brought to Jaffna by the dead person's wife reported to have been examined at more than a dozen points on the way despite clearance papers from military authorities being shown.

Direct confrontation between armed forces and Tamil militants at Madhu Road between Mannar and Vavuniya. This follows severe damage caused to two army vehicles by a landmine explosion.

Following repeated rocket fire from midnight yesterday, a section of the Pannai bridge connecting Jaffna islets with the mainland found damaged and impassable for traffic.

Tamil estate workers from Hatton district travelling to Colombo and Avissawella reported to have been set upon by armed thugs at Girigathene, Kithulgala areas.

After a long interval a lamp post killing occurs in Jaffna-Chellapa Selvanayagam (35) of Inuvil whose brains were found shattered by gunshots and his body tied to a lamp post. He was accused in a placard hung on his neck, that a letter and a sketch identifying militant camps in Inuvil, Uduvil, Kondavil and Thavady were found on his person. The placard further states that these facts were made known to his father, his wife and the Peace and Conciliation Committees of the areas and punishment was given only with public approval. The placard was signed by the Tamil Eelam Army.

13 girls between the ages of 13 and 17 who were among the 42 women taken for questioning at Mutur have been sent to Trincomalee police station for further detention.

Thangammah, a 60-year old woman injured in the army shooting at Kilinochchi

Railway station on the 28th of last month succumbs to her injuries.

FEBRUARY 16

Pre-dawn confrontation between Sri Lankan army and Tamil militants (TELO) at Kurunjitheevu between Elephant Pass and Pallai. At least two army men Sergeant Sarachandra and rifleman Giribanda killed, and 11 others injured, four of them grievously. TELO claims army casualties as 52, but no independent corroboration available. It appears that army units were moving towards Iyakachchi when TELO militants forewarned of an impending army attack had engaged them in a fierce battle that lasted for about 20 minutes. This was followed by widespread helicopter attack and it is feared that 20 to 30 members of the public were either killed or injured, during a 3 hour strafing. Sundaram Thiruvanandamurthy (18) who was travelling in a mini bus along with several others, and escaped says that 3 of his fellow passengers were killed when a low-flying helicopter kept shooting at the bus for 15 minutes. The witness is warded at Jaffna hospital.

Passengers in the Colombo-bound train which reached Elephant Pass soon after this incident express the feeling that they were recalled from death! Some angry soldiers had stopped the train and contrary to usual practice ordered them to get off. A superior officer who had been watching this from the nearby army camp was seen quickly arriving at the scene. He ordered the soldiers to get back to the camp and enabled the passengers to resume their journey.

Jaffna businessman Sivakadacham released after 8 days.

Sri Lanka Govt. reverses its stand on not admitting International Red Cross Representative to take charge of Mrs. Penelope Willis as demanded by EROS. A ICRC representative Sandra Singer is scheduled to arrive in Colombo tomorrow. Govt. also promises to suspend all military activities in Jaffna as demanded by EROS.

In the plantations most of the refugees affected by recent violence are reported to be going back to their homes. In Hatton alone 24 shops, 16 houses and 60 pavement shops had been destroyed by violence.

Opposition members in Parliament to bring a vote of no-confidence on Minister Thondaman.

Colombo newspaper "Sun" says 38 Tamil youths between the ages of 12 and 20 boarded a flight from Colombo to Amsterdam on the 12th. "But the mystery behind their mission continues to baffle both Govt. officers and diplomats." They were picked by a West German lawyer. One source said the youths

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were rejoining their parents who are asylum seekers in West Germany.

FEBRUARY 17

Following yesterday's incident, residents of Iyakachchi area vacate their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring villages.

At Kuchchaveli north of Trincomalee a helicopter damaged by Tamil militant fire makes emergency landing. The incident happened yesterday and since then, there had been ceaseless confrontation between militants and Govt. forces. Three more helicopters and a small plane had been strafing and bombing the area. More army reinforcements sent to Kuchchaveli.

Tension continues in Paranthan following yesterday's incident at the village called Pulliampokanai where a shop was set on fire and 7 persons arrested. Two youths, S. Kulendran (21) of Kodikamam and K. Nagaraja (20) were injured by army fire and a farmer, M. Selvam (26) was axed on his head by a sharp implement.

Low-flying helicopter creates scare among persons who were fishing near the Atchuvally-Vallai bridge, but no damage reported.

In Lindula, around 4,000 CWC estate workers stop work demanding release of 7 Tamil youths arrested by Police. Later report says on the intervention of Minister Thondaman, all 7 were released.

Workers returning from Kankasanturai Cement Factory, and other residents of the area dive for cover when a helicopter, apparently piloted by a foreign mercenary engages in a 45-minute display of aerobatics. The copter was providing cover for vehicles carrying food and provisions from KKS station to Harbour View Hotel army camp.

Mr. udugampola assumes duties as police chief in Jaffna.

In Mannar, 11 out of 42 arrested a few days ago are released. Three of them are government employees.

FEBRUARY 18

Mrs. Penelope Willis released. Jaffna Citizens' Committee members meet ICRC representative Sandra Singer. EROS announces they have enough evidence to prove that Mrs. Willis had been spying on Tamil militants.

One army man killed and four others believed injured at Poonakari. They were reported to have been set upon when they went for a bath in a wayside pool. A passer-by, Kumaravelu Sinnaiah injured by subsequent army firing, and four others taken into custody.

At Chemmankudil, an eye witness report says how a helicopter directing its gun below to shoot, withdrew its gun when a 10-year old boy caught on a lonely road, began pleading with his hands folded.

Colombo Police sources say, a lorry from Jaffna to Colombo owned by a Jaffna

business firm was checked at Alawwa on prior information and bombs were found in a box packed with cigars on top. A business firm at 4th Cross St. to which the goods were addressed was sealed by police and 8 employees taken into custody.

Residents of Erlalai report a mysterious fiery round object with a 10-foot long tail was seen shooting through the air at a fairly low height. It create panic in the area. Residents of Tellipallai and adjoining Kollankaladdi also report a similar object coming in the direction of Palaly and dropping in the sea.

In Colombo, 7 Tamil youths in a lodge, taken into custody on suspicion.

A main road bridge-the Koduwamadu bridge- connecting Batticaloa with the Kandy-Badulla roads blasted, presumably by militants. In consequence, all traffic from Chenkalady to Maha Oya and Pullumalai also disrupted. Army units camped at Karadian Aru junction are now unable to reach Batticaloa.

Half-buried body discovered in the Iyankerni jungle has been identified as that of Mudalithamby Somasundaram (25), a father of 2 children, who was taken away for questioning by armed forces 3 days ago.

Several hundred Sinhala refugees housed in the Senapura camp in Anuradhapura are reported to have been resettled according to Colombo reports.

FEBRUARY 19

A day marked by three major tragedies in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Mass killing of an estimated 50-60 Tamil farmers, or more, labourers and gypsies in paddy farm, Udumbankulam, adjoining the village of Thangavelayuthapuram in Thirukovil in Amparai district. According to eye witnesses, members of armed forces, some dressed in camouflage uniform, others in blue uniform, carrying automatic weapons surround the paddy field, firing in the air. The uniformed men force the people working in the field to the gravel road tie them up two by two after assaulting them, hitting them with their boots, and cutting some of them with the reaping knives they had. Thereafter, they shoot them dead; other persons working on the threshing floors were treated similarly and were added to the human heap. Party threshed stacks of paddy, straw, and timber and cadjan pulled out from a nearby hut were all thrown over the heap of bodies and the men make a big bonfire of their victims. Three women who were chased away earlier hid themselves behind a bluff and watched the gruesome scene in terrified fear. Names of most of the victims are known.

Elsewhere in the eastern province 35 Sinhala settlers being transported from Seruwila to Muttur village die in a massive landmine explosion along with 4 of the soldiers who were escorting them. 35 more settlers and 3 more soldiers sustain injuries, some of them grievous. They were going in a

convoy of 2 buses, a lorry, and a jeep. The explosion occurred at Allaikantalai in Trincomalee district.

In Jaffna govt. launches aerial bombing on 5 to 6 villages. At least 3 persons including two children were killed and more than 15 others injured. At least 15 vehicles and 12 houses were destroyed or damaged. Some of the bombs left craters 3 or 4 feet deep. The bombing which occurred between 5 and 5.45 in the evening involved 5 planes and a helicopter. Areas affected were Thavady, Kokuvil West, Kondavil, Inuvil, Suthumalai and Urumpirai. The bombing was believed to be an angry govt. reaction to the landmine explosion at Allai-Kantalai.

In Jaffna army units from the Dutch Fort take advantage of the aerial bombing outside the city limits and make an attempt to come out in force but were repulsed by militants. A bakery employee M. Padmanabhan (25) was killed by army shelling and two others injured. A shop in Main Street damaged.

In Colombo, 136 Tamils were rounded up on suspicion, over an alleged planned bomb attack on selected targets in the city. Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali tells a Press conference that the Tamil Eelam Army has been behind the bomb plot, and while leader Ponraja Jeyaseelan of Maligawatte has escaped two other accomplices Ramachandra and Balasingham had been caught.

American free lance journalist Ms. Wichinsky who was arrested under emergency regulations is granted permission to leave the country.

Dame Judith Hart, former British cabinet Minister and chairman of the International emergency Committee on Sri Lanka has discussion with Sri Lankan cabinet ministers in Colombo.

FEBRUARY 20

Complete hartal in Jaffna in protest against yesterday's aerial bombing. Tamil militants explode bombs, govt. offices and schools close while demonstrators threaten to paralyse govt. offices permanently unless their strong protest over the aerial bombing is conveyed to the govt. in Colombo. Meanwhile three of those killed in yesterday's air attack have been identified as Sundaralingham Mayuran (7) whose head was severed and the body burnt by a bomb, Srirangan Rajasekaram (10) and Suppiah (68).

At Avarangal in Jaffna Peninsula a lone helicopter strafes area close to the Sivan temple around 7.30 a.m. No casualties reported.

In Colombo, government announces that aerial bombing was done to prevent landmine attacks by militants and warned residents in Jaffna such attacks could continue. Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit expresses concern to Ceylon government over the aerial bombing.

In Jaffna EPRLF accuses LTTE of having killed one of their military commanders

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Jeganathan (Amin) at Koddady yesterday and take out a funeral procession in his honour.

Two residents of Valalai near Thondamanaru army camp known as "Kundumany" and "Rasu" were "executed". Both of them were suspected to be having contacts with army authorities at Thondamanaru.

At Kilinochchi a person around 45 years age whose name was given as Gunaseelan was "executed" for allegedly giving information to the army.

Jaffna resident Kulanthaivelu who was hit by army shelling from inside the Dutch Fort admitted to hospital with injuries. A hand grenade was reported to have been thrown at a vehicle carrying army commandos on Pottuvil-Moneragala road. The jeep was damaged but no one reported killed or injured. Following this, commandos open fire in the area and take away four persons for questioning.

One more victim of the Allai-Kantalai landmine explosion succumbs to injuries in Colombo bringing the total number of deaths to 40.

In Colombo, National Security Minister tells the Press that government forces had killed "8 terrorists" and "5 others who unfortunately happened to be there". He also claims that two "terrorist hide-outs" were destroyed in the northern province including the one where Mrs. Penelope Willis was held captive by EROS.

State of emergency declared nearly 3 years ago on May 19th, 1983, extended for a further month by Parliament.

Hundreds of soldiers who emerged by foot from Palaly army camp repulsed by Tamil militants and forced back into the camp around 7.30 in the night. Sounds of bombs, gun fire and shelling keep residents of Palaly and Myliddy in tension.

FEBRUARY 21

At Urany in Kankesanthurai army men suddenly enter a house and kill Muththan (45) who was standing in his compound. The incident occurred when army units were escorting a convoy of cargo from K.K.S. harbour to Palaly army camp.

A small boy Sinnathamby Siva (10) who was fishing with a rod at the Thondamanaru river bank injured by a army shell from the Thondamanaru army camp. He was admitted to Mandihai hospital with injuries.

In Colombo 53 Tamils out of 136 who were arrested earlier are detained for further questioning. The others are released. Meanwhile security in Colombo has been tightened up.

A 4-foot bomb 9 inches wide and greenish black in colour which failed to burst, in the course of the aerial bombing on the 19th, has been placed at Urumpirai for public exhibition.

At Nallur, residents of Nallur Cross Road and surrounding areas were disturbed in the

night by sounds of bomb bursts and gun fire, apparently caused by militant group rivalry.

Residents along the coast from Kankesanthurai to Mathagal live in fear, following repeated firing by 3 gun boats which have been sighted in the area for the past 3 days.

The wife of Gurunagar fisherman Joseph Thuraimany who sustained severe injuries by navy firing at Palaithivu last week has been given permission to see her husband at Colombo hospital. Unofficial sources say that Joseph was flown to Colombo on suspicion that he might be a non-national.

Colombo newspaper "Sun" reports that "more than 1000 suspects being screened for alleged terrorist connection" at the Boosa detention camps are to be "rehabilitated" and resettled in Sinhala areas.

Later reports on the massacre at Udumbankulam on the 19th say that the total loss of lives could be over 100. Meanwhile, Colombo media quoting the Police talk of "40 terrorists killed in hour-long battle in Lahugala jungle" on the night of the 20th, apparently referring to the Udumbankulam massacre, but changing the day, location and the facts.

The Sinhala "settlers" who became victims of the landmine explosion on the 19th were those who were given arms training at the "Home Guards" training centre at Seruwila, and their families, and not "civilians" say EROS in a Press release. Shot guns and automatic weapons were discovered in the wreck of the convoy.

FEBRUARY 22

Several diplomatic missions in Colombo are reported to have expressed their concern over the massacre at Udumbankulam, and casting doubts about the claim of "40 terrorists" being killed. Pressure is reported to be mounting that there should be a public inquiry into the incident.

Three Gurunagar fishermen attacked on the Pelathivu sea by Navy boat and taken into custody are released.

A Sinhala youth named Tossahamy Ranjith, calling himself as "Ruban" was found to be a spy of the armed forces and was "executed", says Tamil Eelam Army in a statement in Jaffna.

A cyclist who failed to stop when ordered to do so, was shot dead near the Jaffna Dutch Fort in the early hours of the morning. He carried an identity card that gave his name as Leo Maria Sebastiampillai of Station Road, Mannar.

Recent LTTE-EPRLF clashes have now been amicably settled, says a statement issued by EPRLF in Jaffna.

A "bomber" plane dips low and circles Inuvil, Thavady, Suthumalai areas causing panic, followed by a bigger plane from the Palaly military airport. Many residents are now digging trenches and cleaning drains, to take cover.

Residents living within close distances of Palaly army camp in Palaly and Vasavilan areas are fleeing in fear.

FEBRUARY 23

At 4.30 in the morning, "bomber" planes which had caused destruction in Jaffna for the past one week, seen flying away from Jaffna, one after another, apparently under orders from Colombo.

A 55-Kilo bomb dropped at Thavady which failed to burst, put out for public exhibition in Jaffna city by Tamil militants. A note said it was a U.S. made bomb capable of destroying a 200-yard area, but since its "nose" was chipped it had failed to explode, and the activating elements had now been removed.

General Cyril Ranatunge, overall commander of Govt. forces pays a flying visit to Jaffna and Palaly army camps.

Two Tamil youths shot dead opposite Mannar Kachcheri.

"Don't kill unarmed defenceless Tamils the way you kill wild animals in the jungle", says a protest note sent to President Jayewardene by the Point Pedro Citizens' Committee.

16 persons including an Assistant Superintendent of a Tea estate arrested by Police in connection with the recent violence in the plantations.

Sinhala refugees housed in the Senapura refugee camp and Sinhala villagers clash for the second day. Peace Committees appointed.

FEBRUARY 24

In Anuradhapura, clashes between Sinhala refugees from Senapura camp and Sinhala villagers continue. Senapura refugees are those who fled from Trincomalee, Vavuniya and Mannar districts. One shop was damaged.

In Colombo, government denies that security forces had killed civilians at Thangavelauthapuram on 19th. They say those killed were "EROS terrorists". But, however they were appointing a Committee of Inquiry composed of Navy Chief of Staff Commodore Ananda de Silva (chairman), Chief of Staff of Air Force Group Captain Terry Gunawardene and Army Brigadier George Fernando, to be assisted by the C.I.D.

Police ordered to call off their operation to arrest persons in connection with the hill country violence, barely 48 hours after they launched it, says the "Sun".

Fishermen who fled Nayaru, Kokilai areas on the east coast are now being settled at Kalpitiya, north of Puttalam on the west coast, with govt. assistance.

Army headquarters in Colombo issue orders that all drivers of lorries going from north and east to other parts of the country should carry documents listing every item carried in the lorry.

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Secret police are reported to be harassing some members of Citizens' Committee in Batticaloa district alleging that they were giving false information to newspaper correspondents.

Muslim leaders in the Eastern province who met at Kattankudy yesterday and the day before, trace the present problems in the country to the denial of fundamental rights to Tamils. They also call upon the Govt. and Tamil militants to lay down arms so that an honourable solution could be found. Resolutions were passed opposing any Super Power interference, and asking the Govt. to create the necessary climate for the return of Tamil representatives to Parliament.

Residents living in Kayts, Nedunthivu and Nainativu, off the Jaffna coast, complain of shelling from the sea during the night.

FEBRUARY 25

In Mannar, several soldiers believed killed and two army vehicles heavily damaged in a landmine explosion around 6.30 in the morning. The soldiers were returning to Thalady army camp after doing night guard at the Mannar Fort Police station. Following the incident, heavy indiscriminate shelling from the police station causes the death of two civilians and injuries to at least 23 others including several women and children.

Soldiers from the Navatkuli army camp try to come out on foot patrol but withdraw to the camp following bomb blasts in the area.

Violence in the plantations again. At St. Coomb's Estate, Talawakelle, a 3-year old child was killed by police firing when a crowd of estate workers stone the armed police party. About 5,000 workers stop work in protest.

At Vavuniya, half-hour confrontation between govt. forces and militants result in damage to several houses.

Loud bomb explosion at the time when a plane was about to land at Palaly airport causes panic in the villages around.

Batticaloa Citizens' Committee says that the 3-man military inquiry committee appointed by govt. into the Thangavelaudapuram massacre was totally unacceptable.

A tourist couple from Britain on their way to the Yala Wild Life Park in the south, robbed of cash and articles worth about Rs. 45,000/-

FEBRUARY 26

At Dēhiwatte army camp, in the east, a soldier Gamini Harichandra (21) shoots and kills Lt. Fernando (32) because the latter refused to approve his home leave. When other soldiers came rushing to the scene, the young soldier kills himself with the same gun. A verdict of homicide and suicide respectively was recorded at the magisterial inquiry held by

Additional Mutur Magistrate, Mr. M.K. Selvarajah.

Subramaniam Thirukumaran (26) who was taken by the army for questioning on the 14th at Mutur dies in army custody. Thirukumaran, an employee of the Anti-Malaria Campaign office was taken into custody on his way to work. Army authorities who left the body at Trincomalee hospital are reported to have left a Doctor's certificate that state he died of "natural causes".

S. Kallanathan of Mullaitivu admitted to Jaffna hospital with injuries which he says he sustained when army men shot at a van in which he had six others were travelling, at Mullaitivu.

Gurunagar fisherman Joseph Thuraisamy injured by Navy firing in the Jaffna seas and detained at Colombo hospital, succumbs to his injuries.

A youth from Thirunagar in Kilinochchi district, Selvarajah given a harsh "execution"; he was "bombed" to death on a charge of betraying Tamil militants.

Hundreds of residents from Thangavelaudapuram and Akkaraipattu in the east flee to Jaffna in the north following the recent massacre there.

Badulla-Colombo train delayed by 7 hours because of a large tree felled across the track near Nanu-Oya.

FEBRUARY 27

Air attacks in Jaffna again. An officiating Hindu Brahmin priest of Nagapooshani Temple, Kondavil East Amirthalingam Sivarasa Iyer (50), a woman resident of Suruvil, Catherine Jeyamany-John (62) and a factory worker from Thavady, Lucas (21) were killed, several others injured, and heavy destruction to houses, vehicles, roads and farm produce in the air attacks from 7.30-8.30 a.m. over several areas in the peninsula, including Thavady, Suthumalai, Suruvil and Mathagal. Colombo media quoting Joint Operations Command in Colombo say that two persons were killed in the air attacks and both were "group leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam"!

Meanwhile, a public, anti-government rally and procession in Jaffna, takes place as scheduled in Jaffna city. As the procession was on its way, an army unit emerges out of Dutch Fort camp firing in the air. 15 minutes later they withdraw to the camp. One person injured in the army firing.

Several Sinhala-owned shops at Radelle in the plantation area reported to have been set on fire by thousands of estate workers following the killing of the 3-year old boy by Police shooting.

Colombo newspaper "Sun" reports that "terrorist attacks on the Maha Willachiya police station were repulsed after a 3-hour gun battle". Maha Willachiya is in the north-central province, close to the Wilpattu National Park.

FEBRUARY 28

Govt. announces total ban on fishing on territorial waters from Talaimannar to Chundikulam from March 2, covering the Palk Strait and the peninsular coasts. The ban will also cover the waters of the Jaffna lagoon. The area covers the stretch of sea where Tamil fishermen operate exclusively. The ban, which the govt. says is meant to prevent arms flow from Tamilnadu, will affect as estimated 8,000 fishermen and their families.

Intensive search operation by govt. forces at Uruthirapuram and Sivanagar areas in Kilinochchi district.

Elsewhere in Kilinochchi, a direct confrontation reported between Govt. forces and Tamil militants, in the course of which several students in a nearby school were injured.

In the village of Nochchimodai in Vavuniya, govt. forces take into custody 3 farmers busy in their paddy fields along with 3 plantation youths who were engaged as watchers. Following protest to the military commander of the area, assurance was given that they would be released.

A Sinhala gram seller in the trains reported to have taken away by militants on suspicion. Following this, armed forces terrorise the area around Mankulam, searching for the gram seller.

One woman, Poomany (45) and two men Rasamany (55) and Sinnathamby (50) shot dead in their sleep at their homes, by unknown persons in the village of Santhiveli on the Batticaloa-Valaichchenai road.

A Sinhala-owned lorry and a van set on fire Udapussellawa in the plantation area, by unknown persons.

A lorry going from Mawanella to Vavuniya loaded with good worth Rs. 40 thousand hijacked at Vavuniya by unknown persons.

14 residents of Valvettiturai who were detained for the past 10 months at the Palay army camp on an allegation of smuggling, are released.

In Colombo, 400 Buddhist monks and others stage a procession demanding the resignation of the govt. for failure to solve the ethnic problem. The procession led by the head priest of the famed Buddhist Sanchi temple in India, was stopped by armed police.

Reuters news agency reports that more than 3,000 persons have been killed in Sri Lanka since the major riots of July '83.

likely to be terminated. Mr. Buddi Abeysekera who ran the Board's New York office, has joined Air Lanka in New York as its representative in the eastern United States. He will continue the promotional effort as an Air Lanka official. Prospects of reviving traffic from the USA have dimmed with the issue of a State Department travel advisory that the North and East of Sri Lanka are unsafe for visitors... (Daily News - 25.3.86)

Nallanayagam on trial

ASP Thomas Malcolm de Cruz told Colombo High Court Judge K. Viknarajah on Thursday that the accused Paul Velupillai Nallanayagam was arrested by him on the orders of a senior Police Official. In this case the President of the Kalmunai Citizens' Committee Mr. Nallanayagam has been indicted under 7 counts, under Emergency Regulations, with conspiracy to cause embarrassment to the Government by verbal and written statements between April 1st, 1985 and May 21st, 1985. When hearings resumed on Thursday S. Nadesan Q.C. continued his cross-examination of the witness. Witness said the accused applied to him on April 17th, 1985 for permission for 2 foreigners to take photographs of the Tamil refugees accommodated in the Karativu refugee camp. Witness understood that the accused had tried to take photographs of the Karativu camp but the officers manning the Police Post had not allowed him. Witness did not allow his request he said... (Sun - 29.3.86)

Fracas at T.U. rally

Pandemonium broke loose at the end of the National Trade Union Convention held yesterday at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium. No sooner Mr. 'Jak' Perera of the Public Service Trade Union Federation (PSTUF) adjourned the Convention, a large group of delegates surged towards the main rostrum. Seated at that time on the rostrum were Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Mr. Alavi Moulana, Mr. L.W. Panditha and several others. Chairs were thrown and some of the leaders of various trade unions were assaulted. No reason was known, but when some delegates were asked they told 'The Island' that the young radicals were seeking instant solution for some of the problems outlined at the sessions, earlier during the day. The convention of the National Trade Unions was held to organise a national protest against the policies and action of the government against privatisation of public enterprises; the use of emergency regulations to repress trade unions and trade union action, and failure to reinstate a large number of strikers dismissed in July 1980 under emergency regulations; the use of undemocratic laws such as the Emergency Regulations and the Prevention of Terrorism Act to arrest political opponents and to prevent various organisations from functioning. They also protested against the government placing burdens upon the people throughout the country by its economic policy, accompanied by a wage freeze and by its war policy in the North and East, causing death

and devastation. The 25 Trade Unions which participated also whole heartedly supported the Nurses Union in their demand for a wage increase... (The Island - 26.3.86)

Bid to blow up runway

Security forces said an attempt made by terrorists to blow up the KKS runway was thwarted by security forces who defused a gelignite landmine found buried in the air strip. Asked when this landmine was detected they declined to say for "security reasons". The mine was set to go off on impact with an aircraft landing. According to security sources this two mile long airstrip is usually not guarded during the nights. They believe the landmine could have been buried when security was slack in the nights. The extent of possible damage, had this landmine gone off was not revealed for security reasons. Meanwhile, the defence council met at noon yesterday to discuss more effective security for this airstrip... (The Island - 25.3.86)

New Mahaveli settlements

Nearly 24,500 families are expected to be settled in System C under the Accelerated Mahaveli programme, by the end of 1987. According to sources, these families will be settled in new areas under the programme. It has been envisaged that 4,500 families will be settled this year. So far 900 families from the Kegalle district, Kurunagala district, and the Victoria and Randenigala areas, have been settled in System C. It is learnt that one of the biggest problems faced by the Accelerated Mahaveli programme is the death of teachers for the school already built in the new areas... (The Island - 25.3.86)

Sinhala peasants to benefit

President J.R. Jayewardene yesterday pledged that the Government would launch the Yan Oya project in Trincomalee and the Lahugala project in Ampara district once the on-going "war" in the North and East came to an end. This is a Sinhala country. The Sinhala people have no other place to go. The Mahaveli is a project that belongs to the Sinhala people of this country. It will be the Sinhala peasants who will largely benefit by this project," the President told a massive gathering at the closing ceremony of the Randenigala Reservoir project, yesterday morning. President Jayewardene further said that if not for the late D.S. Senanayake and Sir John Kotalawela there would not have been any Sinhala people in the Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa areas today. Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike's intention was to settle Tamil people in the Anuradhapura Polonnaruwa areas, too. But D.S. Senanayake and Sir John strongly opposed this idea. The Moragahakande project in Vavuniya, the President said, would be started with Japanese assistance, no sooner terrorist activities ceased. The President also said that the massive channels, reservoirs and anicuts made by the ancient kings helped sustain Sinhala civilisation... (The Island - 24.3.86)

Mystery ship off Thirukovil

Did the East European container vessel spotted by a Sri Lanka Air Force helicopter off the Thirukovil coast on Friday bring in arms to terrorist groups? The Defence Ministry has ordered a full investigation to ascertain this, after the mysterious circumstances under which "M Bomat" appeared within two miles from the shore and disappeared. The move came as navy headquarters alerted base camps throughout the country to look out for this vessel. The vessel was first spotted by an SLAF helicopter two miles off Thirukovil with its deck loaded with containers. Although the ship had remained stationary earlier it had begun to move after the helicopter flew over it. Later a Sri Lanka navy patrol craft rushed to the area but was unable to locate the vessel... (Sun - 31.3.86)

"Justifiable homicide"

Colombo City Coroner, C.A.S.E. Crispeyn, on Thursday returned a verdict of justifiable homicide at the inquest held into the death of Gnanakandan Navaratnam (35) of Main Street, Kanthakudy, who was shot by home guards in the early hours of Monday (24) in the Kanthakudy town. Mohamed Sahabdeen (20) home guard in evidence said that he and fourteen other home guards had been posted at the Main-Road Boundary Road junction in Kanthakudy town on the night of March 23rd from 8 p.m. to six the following morning. At about 5.30 a.m. they had seen three men coming from the direction of the hospital. They concealed themselves and watched their movements. One of the men stopped about thirty feet from them and held something to the mouth and tugged at it. Then the man threw what was later identified as a grenade, at them. The grenade landed about two feet from them and seeing this they all started firing. The man who hurled the grenade at them was hit and fell on the street. They later informed the Special Task Force which arrived on the scene. Witness said that the grenade failed to explode. Yogakanna Navaratnam (33) in evidence said that his brother (the deceased) was running a shop in Kanthakudy. On March 24th morning he heard that his brother had been shot and was receiving treatment at the Batticaloa hospital. His brother was later brought to the General Hospital, Colombo, but was found dead before admission... (The Island - 29.3.86)

Refugees flee from camp

About 150 people of 25 families fled from the Refugee camps in the Kantalai area where they were housed since the terrorists attacked them. They started moving out on March 29. They were seen passing through the Fort Railway station, on their way to the villages from where they came. They had settled down at Allai-Kantalai Agricultural Settlement. These refugees were found in a pitiable condition and they said that they fled from the camp without informing the officers in charge of the camp. They had only a few rupees and the clothes that they wore. (The Island - 31.3.86)

SITUATION REPORT



Obituaries

In a land where Death by Violence is a common occurrence and the names of the victims rarely get obituary notices, here are some "fortunate" few who passed away into the void, duly noticed in Sri Lankan newspapers:-

PROF. W.S.KARUNARATNE— Professor of Buddhist Philosophy, Kelaniya University, former Sri Lanka envoy to USA, died in Colombo on March 15, at the age of 57. Cremated at Kanatte on 20th.

JESUTHASAN—S., Primary Court Judge, Mannar, husband of Sarojini, brother of Dr. Alfred (UK), Rodrigo (Canada), Grace Satkunan (UK), Herbert (Canada), Anton (UK), died in Madras, India on March 11. Funeral at Kilpauk Cemetery, Madras on 14th March.

BALASUBRAMANIAN—M.A., Accountant, Lotus Garments, Colombo. Funeral 22nd March, Galkissa Cemetery. 36/2, Initium

Road, Dehiwala.

REV. FR. G. ANTHONY GURUSAMY O.M.I.—Funeral at Jaffna Cathedral, 21st March.

MATHER—Rev. Dr. James Sountheranayagam. Funeral 22nd March, Colombo after service at Kollupitiya Methodist Church.

PUNITHARAJAN—Alagaratnam, (Indian Overseas Bank, Colombo). Cremation at Kanatte, 23rd March. No. 55, Fernando Road, Wellawatte.

RAMALINGAM—Meenadchipillai, wife of late Ramalingam, Member of Parliament,

Point Pedro, Funeral 26th March. "Kilana", Karanavai North, Valvettiturai.

AIYATHURAI—Grace (Daughty) wife of late Dr. S.T. Aiyathurai, mother of Sheila, Aileen, Prof. Eric, Raneer and Rita. Died in Singapore. Funeral 29th March. 3J, Mac Austar Road, Singapore 3. 145, Park Road, Colombo 5.

SELVANAYAGAM—Rajan, ex-Member of Parliament, Batticaloa, and District Political Authority. Funeral 31st March. No. 40, Trinco Road, Batticaloa.

THAMBI RATNAM—Attorney-at-law, Station Road, Chunnakam. Funeral 31st March at Chunnakam.