

**SRI
LANKA
SITUATION
REPORT**

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SITUATION REPORT

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

'Pakistan a better friend'

"President J.R. Jayewardene has in an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) which is reported in the 'Hindu' said India was maintaining double standards with respect to Sri Lanka and that Sri Lanka cannot be friendly with a person with double standards. Mr. Jayewardene is also reported to have said that Pakistan was a better friend of Sri Lanka than India."

"In an interview with John Mills of Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), portions of which were broadcast today by Radio Australia, Mr. Jayewardene spoke at length on the activities of the Tamil militants in the North and East, Sri Lanka's relations with India and Pakistan, and his conditions for holding talks with the Tamil militants..." — (The Island — 21.4.86)

Air Lanka Boeing on lease

"Air Lanka will lease out one of its Boeing 747-200 aircraft to Egypt Air in what the airline's chairman, Rakitha Wikramanayake, described as the best deal yet with a foreign carrier. Egypt Air will pay 425,000 US dollars a month for two years, for the aircraft 'King Tissa', which was bought last year from Qantas Airways for 32 million US dollars. Capt. Wikramanayake said Airlanka would reap a 115,000 dollars profit a month from the deal, after providing for 270,000 US dollars as loan repayment on the purchase of the aircrafts."

"Airlanka decided to lease the two Jumbos it bought from Qantas because of the drop in passenger traffic from the main income generating markets in Western Europe. The airline is also negotiating the lease of a second Boeing to Qantas. The aircraft was bought from the Australian airline for 23.5 million US dollars..." — (Daily News — 22.4.86)

Kantalai Tank breaches the bund

At least 30,000 people were rendered homeless and 25 feared dead when the Kantalai tank bund burst at dawn yesterday inundating vast areas including some 35 villages and 21,500 acres of paddy and sugar. The armed forces and the Police launched a massive relief operation. In four and a half hours, they moved some 18,000 displaced people to two hurriedly set up refuge camps. Brigadier Harsha Gunaratne, Co-ordinating Officer of Trincomalee who is directing operations said a fleet of Navy patrol boats and helicopters had been detailed on this unprecedented exercise. The 42-foot high

bund which held some 110,000 acres of water had been breached at a spot near the rest house from where water had been previously leaking. There was no immediate reason to suspect sabotage, he said. The Kantalai tank, which draws the Mahaweli waters through Minneriya Wewa and Yoda Ela, besides the Gal Oya and the Alut Oya, lies west of the Kantalai town in the Trincomalee district. It is 138 miles north east of Colombo... — (Sun — 21.4.86)

"Lands and Mahaweli Secretary Nanda Abeywickreme said that according to latest figures, 30 bodies have been recovered and 25 are missing in the Kantalai tragedy. The refugees who numbered 8,000 on Sunday were 1,500 by Tuesday and would have reduced further with more going back to their homes, he said." — (Daily News — 24.4.86)

Petroleum store goes up in flames

"Colombo and Anuradhapura were yesterday rocked by two terrorist bombs which killed 9 persons and injured several others, damaging the Wellawatte Police Station and sending sky-high flames through the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's bulk storage depot at Anuradhapura. The Wellawatte bomb, a five kilogram monster packing a heavy charge, seriously injured two policemen and a private coach driver but fortunately cost no lives."

"The Anuradhapura explosion was more lethal, killing nine people — some CPC employees and two others — and causing heavy damage to a section of the bulk storage depot... Police said that investigations suggested that a bowser drawing supplies for Mankulam had carried the bomb into the depot. Inquiries are under way to determine how the bombers had succeeded in getting the explosives into the facility despite the ironclad rule that no bowser is admitted to the facility without a 24-hour wait in the yard... Anuradhapura police have not yet established whether they were the regular bowser crew or two others. But police are fairly certain that the explosives that caused the blast were in that vehicle... The CPC chief who declined to say how much oil was stored at the depot for security reasons, rushed a team to Anuradhapura to inspect the damage... — (Daily News — 24.4.86)

Pistols and shotguns seized

"A retired school teacher who had acquired a gunsmith's skills and could produce a firearm at his backyard workshop in a couple of hours, has been taken into custody by the Wandurumba police who have also recovered an arsenal of 26 pistols and 12 shotguns. Galle's Senior S.P., W.A. Weeraratne told the 'Daily News' that the 60-year old gunsmith sold his homemade arms at prices ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 and did not lack custom. A total of 32 people who were bought the school master's guns have been rounded up and police are busy tracing a number of weapons he had made and sold." — (Daily News — 23.4.86)

Colombo youth had grenade

"A youth who was found to be in possession of a grenade was arrested near the Secretariat railway halt in Colombo Fort and remanded till April 30 by the Joint Magistrate Colombo Fort, Quintus Perera. The suspect, Antony Bernard, alias Rosa was arrested on a tip-off received by the Colombo Fort Police" — (Sun — 21.4.86)

Cyanide story and Correction

"The CID have taken seven men into custody following the discovery of a large quantity of cyanide in a Grandpass business premises supplying the gram trade in the city."

"We are happy that the schools are now on vacation. We have not established why the cyanide was where we found it, but are glad that the gram business is slack now, with school children enjoying their April holidays", a source close to the investigation said.

"A detention order under emergency Regulations has been served on the 7 suspects, now in custody on the order of the Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of the CID, Tyrell Gunatileke. Sources said the gram shop dealt largely in peanuts, which have a ready sale outside the schools. A police source said that in the light of this discovery it would be prudent if parents ensured that their children kept off gram and other "street foods".

"The owner of the premises where the cyanide was found is a man from Ratnapura, police said. The other suspects come from Hatton, Akkaraipattu and Batticaloa. Investigations have suggested that the shopowner was a close associate of Paul Jayaseelan, whom police want to interview in connection with the investigation of the recent Maligawatte bomb attempt". — (Daily News — 19.4.86)

The govt. correction

"The Daily News in its issue of Saturday April 19th, 1986, carried a news item 'CYANIDE IN GRAM SHOP: 7 ARRESTED'. The ministry of National Security wishes to inform that there is no truth in the story and that no arrests have been made in this connection."

Daha faces expulsion

"Dr. W. Dahanayake, MP for Galle who was only last month sworn in as Minister of Co-operatives, now faces expulsion from the United National Party. He is to be summoned before the party's working committee when it meets next to explain why he did not support the candidature of Albert Silva at the Akmeemana by election."

"An exclusively reported in yesterday's SUN, President J.R. Jayewardene, told a rally that wound up the UNP's by election campaign at Akmeemana that disciplinary action would be taken against Dr. Dahanayake. According to UNP sources, even

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DIARY OF EVENTS

and

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Events from March 1 – March 12 were carried in Issue No. 9 of Situation Report

MARCH 13

Eye witness accounts in Jaffna newspapers talk of pathetic scenes in the largely peasant-populated area of Myliddy South in Jaffna peninsula, consequent to two indiscriminate helicopter attacks on the area. A dumb person Velautham was seen carrying on his shoulders his 3-year old male child Vijayakumar who was among 3 who were killed instantly. The child's brains had been blown out and the father was seen soaked with blood. In another incident, a 16-year old girl Rathinam Sumathy who was working in an onion plantation was killed and her body brought to their home. While her family members including her younger brother Rathinam Sathiswaran and her elder sister Rathinam Shanthi (18) were mourning besides their sister's body, another direct hit on the home kills 5-year old Sathiswaran, leaving the paralysed elder sister alive but with two of her fingers blown off. Among the several injured were three women – Rasathy Manickam (40), Yogamalar Selvarasah (36) a widow with 4 children who was looking after her children by undertaking menial jobs, and Kundumany Velautham (53), an aunt of the dead boy Vijayakumar. Several houses also damaged in the attacks.

A small platoon of about 25 black-uniformed and green-uniformed soldiers emerge out of the Dutch Fort army camp in Jaffna City, around 9 a.m., advance for about a furlong, but withdraw to the Fort thereafter.

"In Colombo, Govt. offers a week-long moratorium on aerial bombing in the north and said it would permit movements across the surveillance zone for eight hours a day to enable Sri Lankan refugees to return home from South India." Announcing this at a Press Conference, National Security Minister Athulathmudali says the moratorium would be extended "if the terrorist groups reciprocated by halting the movement of men, materials, arms and ammunition across the Palk Straits to the North." But in Jaffna, public opinion dismisses the "offer" as only a gimmick in order to accommodate a widespread demand from members of the armed forces to get back to their villages on home leave for the Sinhala New Year festivities which begin tomorrow.

Govt. decides that dry rations will not be provided to refugees refusing resettlement in "safe" areas. (Sun).

Three more armed forces camps are to be set up in the eastern Batticaloa district.

They are likely to be located at Ayithiyamalai, Vavunathivu and Sippimadau (Sun).

An Avro Air Force plane escapes "by inches" at Palaly military airport when a massive bomb on the southern end of the runway explodes as it takes off, says a Colombo report. (Sun).

MARCH 14

Two naval ratings, H. A. A. Jayatileke and W. P. Gunasena killed and two others injured at "Kottiya" culvert near Trincomalee when a landmine explodes under the truck in which they were travelling, lifting the vehicle nearly fifty feet off the ground and blowing it to pieces.

A large funeral procession in Jaffna, for schoolgirl Thaneway and Udayapatham killed in a factional clash at Muththiraichanthai, Nallur on the 12th. Slogans calling upon militant movements not to kill members of the public and not to interfere with newspaper freedom were displayed. Meanwhile, Vadamarachy area observes "hartal" for the 3rd day, in protest against the killings at the Jaffna hospital and at Nallur.

A young farmer from Paranthan, Vellaichamy Thinakaranathan (23) who was on his way to Paranthan junction to buy spares for his tractor was shot dead by soldiers in an army convoy.

An army detachment consisting of nearly 100 soldiers going from Kaddaiparichchan to Koonithivu in Mutur was attacked by LTTE guerrillas. Details of any casualties not known.

An open verdict was returned on the death of a soldier Samanthakumara, who was reported to have collapsed after taking tea in an eating place in Trincomalee and died yesterday.

Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe who flew by helicopter to Kilinochchi to meet Education officials and heads of schools goes back to Colombo disappointed because only a few of those summoned were able to attend. It was reported that the others had been prevented from going for the conference by Tamil militants.

About 2000 residents in Valvettiturai area flee from their homes and take shelter in schools, following repeated shelling from the army camp and from the sea.

In Colombo D.I.G. Police, in charge of

Personnel and Training warns that police personnel who refuse to serve the compulsory 6 months stint in north and east will be served with "vacation of post" notices.

Confrontation between armed forces and Tamil militants reported from Triyai north of Trincomalee. A subsequent LTTE statement claims 4 soldiers were killed and a quantity of arms seized.

MARCH 15

The hundred-yard long road bridge at Thondamannaru is blasted by LTTE guerillas. This bridge provided direct access from Thondamannaru army camp to Valvettiturai army camp 1 1/2 miles away and Point Pedro army camp 7 miles away.

At least 3 people died and about 30 injured when a Jaffna-bound "Yal Devi" from Colombo was derailed at an exploded culvert at Paranthan. 16 injured passengers admitted to Jaffna hospital say that they saw army men talking to the railway guard at the Kilinochchi railway station where the train had stopped immediately before the incident occurred. They also saw some youths in the area making urgent signals to the engine driver in response to which the train suddenly slowed speed; as a result only the engine and the first 3 compartments were affected.

An EPRLF statement carried in Jaffna newspapers say that 6 navy men were killed by their militants and the boat in which they were travelling destroyed between Karainagar naval base and Kadalkottai. The church at Kayts was damaged later in the afternoon when the town was subjected to shelling from Karainagar naval base.

3 shells burst near the Jaffna bus stand, apparently directed from the Jaffna Dutch Fort army camp.

In Colombo, "Sun" reports that the personal security of several senior cabinet ministers has been tightened following information received by the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) that there was plot to kidnap 5 ministers.

MARCH 16

Several killings reported in various parts of the north. At Vaddakachchi in Kilinochchi district, men belonging to the armed forces in civils travelling by tractor confront about 10 other persons also in a tractor. Govt.

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troops open fire killing 4 and wounding two others. In Colombo, the National Security Ministry referring to the incident claims "7 terrorists" in a tractor were killed in a shoot-out. It is not clear whether the victims were Tamil militants or farmers. In a related incident near the second culvert at Kilinochchi the same tractor load of armed forces had opened fire on a group of 20 men and women working in a farm killing one and injuring several others.

At Valvetturai a group of about 35 soldiers who were seen in ambush positions about 500 yards from the army camp were set upon by LTTE guerillas and 6 of them believed killed.

In another incident where about 200 soldiers from the Thondamannaru army camp came out in the direction of Palaly army camp along the beach and the beach road one elderly resident of the area was killed in indiscriminate firing and several houses damaged.

At Myliddy north, black uniformed commandos and armed forces in civils surround the area and set fire to several houses making people flee through Tellippalai to other areas like Mallakam, Chunnakam, Uduvil, Erlalai, Arali and Kondavil seeking refuge in the homes of their relatives. About 53 families who were earlier given notice to vacate in 48 hours could not meet military commander although arrangements were made.

In Vavuniya, two persons Kovinthan Selvam (27) and a boy S. Logeswaran (14) were killed by soldiers from the Vavuniya army camp.

Govt. officials who had been waiting at the Talaimannar pier expecting a large number of refugees from Tamil Nadu to return following the one week moratorium go back disappointed after waiting from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Not a single refugee had arrived the past 2 days.

In Colombo, a new Muslim political party is formed to safeguard Muslim interests. At a meeting held at Hotel Ranmuthu, former Education Minister Baduddin Mahmud says the Muslims must learn to live in unity with Tamils in the north and east. Several speakers including a govt. Deputy minister Jabir A Cader, Janab Alavvi Moulana, Janab Haleem Ishak are critical of the govt.

At Paranthan, repair work begins on the railway track which was blasted recently.

In Colombo a special army commando unit trained in anti-hijack operations is stationed near the Katunayake airport.

MARCH 17

Thousands of Tamils who had pawned items of jewellery with the govt.-owned People's Bank in Jaffna begin agitation

outside the bank branches, demanding the return of their jewellery. The bank has been refusing to part with the jewellery even after monies for the redeeming of the jewellery had been paid.

At Kilinochchi, rotting human corpses cause a stench in the absence of qualified doctors at the Kilinochchi hospital. The last qualified doctor went on transfer in January and had not be replaced. Out of the 11 bodies awaiting post mortem, 9 are victims of gun shots.

A 15-year old youth Kathirkamanathan Balamurali, employed in a glass factory in Navatkuli who was returning after work shot dead from the army camp.

5 Muslims Tamils shot dead at Mallikaithivu junction in Muttur by armed forces in civils. When the acting Muttur magistrate went to the spot to hold an inquiry he was told that the men had come back and set fire to the bodies. In another incident 2 "Home Guards" at Kinniya shot dead by LTTE guerillas. A third "Home Guard" was injured and admitted to Anuradhapura hospital.

An exodus of people from Kayts, Karainagar and Paruthiaddaippu has been reported following continuous shelling from the sea. It is learnt that earlier a naval boat attached to the Kayts naval base had been damaged by a sea mine, but no details known about the incident.

The army camp at Santhiveli Batticaloa is to be expanded by taking over another private rice mill.

In Vavuniya, the military authorities decide that no further refugee camps would be opened for Tamil refugees in the district.

MARCH 18

Armed forces in large numbers terrorise the villagers of Manaichenai and Peruveli in Muttur district. Several houses looted, several set on fire and some shops and houses completely destroyed. The villagers flee for safety and many of them take refuge in the Irutheyapuram church premises.

At the 4th mile post in Murasumodai in Kilinochchi district, a confrontation between Tamil militants and armed forces reported. Details of casualties not known. Following this, men in civils open fire at farmers in a paddy field killing four and wounding several others. K. Sundaralingham (28) of Kokuvil West who had gone to Kalmunai with a consignment of cigars shot dead by police commandos. Another person who went with him, also from Kokuvil, Shanmugarajah (30) escapes with injuries.

People's Bank branches in Jaffna remain closed for the second day following agitation by clients demanding their pawned jewellery.

Two ships arrive on the north coast and remain stationed in the sea between two army camps. One ship is believed to be foreign-owned. Several gun boats are seen surrounding the ships. Huge crates seen being unloaded from the ship under heavy security and taken to Karainagar naval base. Planes and helicopters also seen providing aerial cover.

At Navatkuli, about 25 soldiers who attempted to advance from the army camp through paddy fields retreat to the camp soon after, when they were attacked by Tamil militants with hand grenades and hand bombs.

A retired Sinhala teacher Ratnayake Mudiyanalage from Gokkerella in Kurunegala who was found a month ago in Jaffna and was detained by some Tamil youths was released.

An increasing presence of Tamil militants seen in the areas of Myliddy, Kankesanthurai the past 3 days. Residents concerned about a possible major confrontation with the armed forces.

In Colombo, two people killed and 3 injured when an Oxygen cylinder explodes at Oxygen Limited, Modera. The incident occurred when a cylinder was being refilled, police said. One of the 3 injured is in hospital in a critical condition. Police said they suspect that the cylinder which exploded was brought down from Jaffna. A Tamil driver and cleaner who unloaded the cylinder at the yard taken into custody for questioning.

About 7000 nurses stage a walk-out and govt. sets them a dead line to return to work by 1 p.m.

At Talaimannar govt. officials—an A. G. A., 3 gramasevakas and two clerks wait from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the pier, but for the 4th day there was no arrival of refugees.

MARCH 19

A mass protest by fishermen, their families and sympathisers in Jaffna demanding the revocation of the ban on fishing. An estimated 10 thousand persons including women, children and elderly persons from Gurunagar, Pasaiyur, Navanthurai, Colombuthurai, and from Vadamarachchi areas like Valvetturai, Point Pedro, Thalaiaddy, march in procession and submit a petition to the govt. agent.

At Kilinochchi, a post-mortem is at last held into the 10 bodies which were lying in a decomposed state. Since 8 of them were not identified, cremations at state expense ordered.

75 Muslims are made "Home Guards" at Kattankudi, Batticaloa and each given a rifle and a hand grenade. This action has brought concern to several religious and

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community leaders in the area who had been trying to promote unity between Tamils and Muslims.

In Jaffna city, TELO organises a traffic scheme to enable easier movements of vehicular traffic.

At an inquiry held into the killing of 5 Muslims traders at Mallikaithivu on the 16th, an eye witness Shahul Hameed Akbar (30) giving evidence said that 5 carts loaded with paddy were coming from the direction of Thopur. When a party of soldiers at the junction ordered them to stop, all 5 carters got off their carts and came towards the soldiers with their arms raised but the soldiers promptly shot all of them down. In fear he had rushed into the nearby hut and escaped.

A series of gun shots heard at a motor garage owned by a Sinhalese in Batticaloa followed by a contingent of soldiers from Kallady camp rushing towards the spot. No further details available.

84 Tamils youths from the Trincomalee district detained at the Boosa camp released at Trincomalee in the presence of Mr. K. Sivapalan president of Trincomalee Citizens' Committee. 41 others from Batticaloa-Amparai district also released.

Panic at the offices of the Colombo newspaper "The Island" following an alarm that a bomb has been placed in the premises, but a thorough search reveals nothing.

Army men shoot at two youths on a motor cycle opposite CTB depot in Batticaloa for failing to stop when ordered. One escapes but the other was killed.

A cargo ship arrives in K.K.S. harbour with 917 metric tons of wheat flour from Trincomalee.

About 12 persons in Mannar arrested by the army.

Several lakhs worth wheat flour at the Tellippalai Multi purpose co-operative stores destroyed by fire and the building damaged. Cause of the fire not known.

Referring to the confrontation between Tamil militants and armed forces at Murasumodai in Kilinochchi, TELO says in a statement that 6 soldiers were killed and one TELO fighter Kirupakaran shot himself dead after being injured.

In Colombo govt. "sacks" over 6000 nurses who had stopped work.

MARCH 20

At Nedunkerni at least 15 Tamils were killed when about 300 black uniformed commandos surround a village called Eetimurinthan on the Padaviya road and terrorise the population. About 14 others were taken into custody and several

reported missing. No less than 35 houses were set on fire and several houses looted. Among those killed in this "house-to-house" search were a married woman Ravindran Kamalakumary (25) Perumal Sirirangan (60) and A. Nehru (45).

At Kilinochchi, near the 2nd culvert, stalks of paddy harvested from a 30-acre field set on fire by black uniformed commandos.

Nearly 500 persons in Batticaloa, including women, children and elderly persons without discrimination rounded up and taken for questioning to the military camp in several trucks. Some of them were returning from their working places and schools.

In the coastal village of Mathagal residents take cover when helicopters keep circling the area for nearly 3 hours.

Soldiers from Dutch Fort in Jaffna emerge on to the Pannai road creating a stir in the area but get back to the camp quickly.

Nearly 5000 persons in islets of Analaithivu and Eluvaithivu face starvation, following the disruption of sea traffic after the Nainathivu incident of the 17th.

About 12 masked armed men enter the house of a grape farmer at Karanaivai South and rob Rs. 4 lakhs worth cash kept for the purchase of a lorry, another Rs. 4 lakhs worth jewellery and other goods valued around Rs. 2 lakhs. 3 families were living in the house and the property belonged to all 3 of them.

Referring to the Nedunkerni incident a govt. report in Colombo says "security forces shot dead 12 terrorists and captured 17 others in an operation in Nedunkerni."

MARCH 21

A 11/2-year old child Rahu Sivakumaran and a young woman Senathiraja Premalatha (20) killed at Koddady, Jaffna, when govt. forces begin shelling from the Dutch Fort army camp from the early hours of the morning till noon. Simultaneously, army camps at Thondamannaru, Navatkuli and the naval base at Karainagar also begin shelling. At least 40 people including several children injured and several houses damaged. Subsequently, LTTE claims in a statement that several soldiers were killed in confrontation with their guerrillas near Navatkuli army camp and near the Dutch Fort. Several youths donate blood at Jaffna hospital for the benefit of the large number of people injured.

Govt. lifts ban on fishing in the Jaffna lagoon area only.

In the Mullaitivu district at least 7 persons reported killed including 2 women when black uniformed armed forces surround the village of Puthukudirruppu.

Looting also reported.

At Thondamannaru army camp a helicopter was about to land takes off again when the militants attack it with rocket launchers. In the heavy strafing that followed a 65-year old man who was on his way to the Sellasannathy temple is killed.

A strike at the Jaffna general hospital is averted when unknown persons carry away two dead bodies and assault a minor employee of the hospital. A leading militant group intervenes and gets the bodies returned.

Rs. 5 lakhs worth Aluminium cables belonging to the electricity office of Jaffna Municipal council reported stolen by unknown person. Municipal Commissioner Mr. C. V. K. Sivagnanam makes an appeal for the return of the cables.

MARCH 22

Vavuniya G. A. lodges strong protest at the siting of an army camp at the Jaffna road junction. He says this will discourage the public from coming to the kachcheri to transact official business and thereby weaken the civil administration.

At Tellippalai, a low-flying helicopter drops stacks of propaganda material asking people to disown militants.

Two men and two women belonging to the same family are injured in army shooting at Mullaitivu—a postman, Mylvaganam Kanagasooriyar (40), his brother-in-law Vijayanathan, an employee of the govt. Land Development office and two sisters-in-law, Padmavathy Sobanathan (32) and Jayanthi Sobanathan (22).

57-year old Kanthiah Chelliah of Nedunkerni, now admitted to Jaffna hospital, says when black-uniformed commandos entered his house on the 20th, he raised his hands pleading with them not to shoot; despite which, and with no provocation whatsoever they shot him on both arms and injured him.

A mysterious ship is sighted off Kankasanturai harbour on the northern coast, apparently not delivering cargo but guarded by several gunboats.

In Colombo, govt. claims 3 militants were killed in a surprise attack by armed forces at Mullaitivu and their bodies handed over to the local hospital, while two others who were injured were carried away by their comrades.

At Kallaru in Batticaloa, a youth named Sugumaran who tried to escape after being held, was shot dead by armed forces, according to a govt. claim.

In Colombo, 19-year old Sundararajah

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Padmanathan of Mannar, a member of the "Tamil People's Protection Front" sentenced to 3 years R.I. on a charge of concealing information about "terrorists".

MARCH 23

10 civilians injured at Kattaiparichchan during 24-hour search operation by army. Helicopters give aerial protection. Villagers flee to neighbouring areas.

A new army camp opened at Savalakkaddai junction in Amparai district, and 3 new army camps opened in Batticaloa — at Vavunathivu, Ayithiamalai, and Sippimaddu.

Assistant Superintendent of police Teldeniya, Mr. A.K. Mythiripala (35) shot dead in his bed-room, by unknown persons.

10 youths taken into custody at Periyativu yesterday brought to Elephant pass camp.

Army open fire on a boat in the lagoon behind Jaffna police station area, but the boat escapes and there was no casualties.

6 fishermen on 3 motor cycles arrested by the army at Murukandy and taken to Kokkavil army camp.

One person killed and 10 injured in army shooting at Koonithivu.

2 men and 2 women arrested at Colombo airport attempting to smuggle gold worth Rs. 325 thousand.

MARCH 24

Tension in Jaffna city when armed forces emerge out of Jaffna fort. People start running. Some of the soldiers take cover behind buildings. Others who tried to crawl into ambush positions were challenged by militant fire from the lagoon side and they all withdraw to camp.

Direct confrontation between militants and soldiers at Navatkuli. Bombs, hand-grenades, guns are used in the battle. LTTE claims that 3 soldiers were killed and 4 injured.

Boat service between the Jaffna islets and mainland resume after Citizens' Committee members of Karainagar, Analaithivu and Kayts meet Co-ordinating officer Mr. H. Rupasinghe and Navy Captain Quintus Wickramasinghe.

2 persons injured when soldiers from Thiallady army camp in Mannar open fire

while on patrol duty.

Govt. claims that TELA leader "Siva" was arrested at Kokkavil.

At Kilinochchi, security forces claim the arrest of 5 LTTE militants.

At attempt by "terrorists" to blow up the Palaly airport runway was thwarted by security forces according to a govt. report. It is stated that a delignite landmine found buried in the air strip set to go off on impact with an aircraft landing was defused.

MARCH 25

Militants set fire to Colombo bound "Yal Devi" and blast its engine at Omanthai, in Vavuniya district about 1.30 p.m. after asking passengers to get off. All 12 bogies destroyed.

Nearly 10,000 people participate in a peace march in the plantations organized by the Savodaya Movement and police to rebuild unity and peace of all communities.

One killed and 2 seriously injured when gas cylinder explodes at govt. Sapugas-kande gas plant.

Air Force "Saimarchetti" trainer aircraft crashes into the sea about 200 yards off the coast of Beruwella killing Flying Officer A.T.K. Seniveratne and Cadet Officer R.T. Punchihetti; according to eye witness the plane was doing aerobatics.

Batticaloa G. A. Anthonipillai and officials of the Citizens' Committee launch peace moves to reduce tension in the district between Tamil and Muslim communities.

3 soldiers killed and 10 injured in two separate incidents. At Anuradhapura road near Vavuniya junction, landmine damages a jeep injuring 7 soldiers. On Kantalai-Habarana road in Trincomalee 3 soldiers killed and 3 seriously injured when hit by a landmine.

5 policemen believed injured in landmine blast on the Vavuniya-Madawachchiya road. In an exchange of fire between militants and police that followed 5 civilians reported killed.

The govt. to pay Rs. 15 lakhs as compensation for damages caused to Nagapoo-shani Amman temple by armed forces, according to civil administration authorities, who took up the matter with the govt.

LTTE announces that in a series of operations during the past 2 days, Corporal Ranjan Nimal was killed and another

corporal and 2 army privates injured on a attack at the Navatkuli army camp: Lt. Het-tiarachchi was killed and many others injured and 2 jeeps and an armoured car damaged in a landmine explosion on the Kantalai-Habarana road: and some security forces men and "Home Guards" who were coming from Dollar farm were killed or injured.

MARCH 26

Despite govt. claims that aerial bombing had been stopped, a helicopter carries on strafing for nearly 2 1/2 hours in Tellippalai, Kurumbacitty, Kadduvan, Vasavilan areas, killing one person and injuring 3 others, including 16-year old girl M. Ambika of Kurumbacitty and 68-year old bakery employee Kesavan Anandarajah also of Kurumbacitty. Damage also caused to several houses in the areas.

2 fishermen, Manikkam Ragupathy (30) and Arumugam Sellathurai (55) who were reported missing on the 21st are now found to be detained in the Jaffna fort army camp.

Following a landmine explosion in Mannar, details of which are not known, govt. forces shell the area injuring Tajuddin (40) and Suren (19).

Bodies of 4 victims of army firing lying near Sellachannathi temple removed. All those killed belong to the over-50 age group.

4 large houses worth several lakhs at Valvetiturai near the army camp were dynamited and destroyed by the army. 25 such houses had been earlier destroyed in order to ensure security for the army camp.

27 persons including some women were taken into custody at Sambalthivu and Aaithimooddai in Trincomalee yesterday.

3 soldiers from Thondamannaru army camp who attempted to cross the steel bridge attacked by the militants and one killed in the process.

7 idols stolen from well-known Hindu temple of Thirukoneswaram in Trincomalee; the annual festival had been put off as a result.

Armed youths are reported to have struck gold in the abandoned Buddhist Naga Vihara in Jaffna city, after several hours of dynamiting the temple area. Gold in various forms had apparently been buried in the Vihara premises, before it was abandoned.

SITUATION REPORT

(Continued from page 2)

before President Jayewardene made the announcement on Tuesday, the party leadership had been contemplating disciplinary action against him. This is because Dr. Dahanayake has written to the United National Party Chairman, Harsha Abeywardena, stating that he would not be supporting the candidature of Albert Silva at Akmeemana..."—(SUN—17.4.86).

2 crowded trains to North

"Around 2,600 people left Colombo for Jaffna yesterday on two special trains which terminated at Vavuniya, officials said. From Vavuniya they were transported to Jaffna in state run buses, they said. The train service to the north was resumed only yesterday after the Yal Devi was set on fire at Omanthai on March 25th. The trains were operating only up to Anuradhapura."

"Railway authorities said advance bookings could only be made if passengers were obtaining return tickets. On Thursday alone more than 500 passengers had bought return tickets. Last morning large crowds gathered at the Maradana Station from 4 a.m. to buy tickets. Already more than 200 persons had made advance reservations for this morning's train, officials said. The two trains that left Maradana at 5.50 a.m. and 7.10 a.m. had nine coaches each. They will run again on April 15th and 16th, they said..."—(SUN—12.4.86)

'Teleglobe' in Jaffna

"At a time when all forms of communications are affected and deteriorating in Jaffna, I am pleased to inaugurate this "Teleglobe" which will put us in contact with various parts of the world in a few minutes. So said Prof. S. Vithianathan Vice Chancellor of Jaffna University when he inaugurated the "Teleglobe" in Jaffna..."—(The Island—16.4.86)

Cup of Tea now Rs. 1.75

"A cup of tea has gone up by 25 cents in price, since the re-opening of most Colombo eating houses yesterday, after the Sinhala and Hindu New Year holidays. As from yesterday, a cup of milk tea was sold at Rs. 1.75. Before the new year it was Rs. 1.50 in most city eating houses. The price of plain tea too, was up by 25 cents. Hoteliers attribute the hike to recent price increases in tea and sugar..."—(Daily News—22.4.86)

Tile factories to close down

"The leading three tile factories are to be closed immediately. The Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs has ordered the closure of Shaw, Noorani and Vijaya Tile Factories as the work force of about 800 employees of these factories have refused to work for the private sector and instead have demanded compensation... The total value of the three factories are around Rs. 35 million according to official

sources. The three tile factories could at full capacity meet 40% of the demands of the entire country. These three factories are now supplying as much as 70% of the roof-tile requirements in Colombo district..."—(The Island—21.4.86)

Ex-UC chairman killed

"Mr. T. Thambiraja (63) a former UC chairman, Matale, was killed on the spot and his wife was injured when a petrol bomb was hurled at his home on Sunday night. Mrs. Thambiraja is warded at the Matale hospital with serious burn injuries. Police said a 15-member gang had gone to Mr. Thambiraja's house around 11 p.m. on Sunday and carried out the crime. Two of the suspects are also warded in hospital with severe burn injuries. The gang is also reported to have set fire to a car belonging to Mr. Thambiraja..."—(Daily News—22.4.86)

The wife also succumbs

Mrs. Kamala Thambiraja (57), wife of Mr. T. Thambiraja former UC Chairman, Matale who was injured when a petrol bomb was hurled at their home on Sunday night died at the Matale hospital yesterday morning. Mr. Thambiraja was killed on the spot during the incident on Sunday..."—(Daily News—25.4.86)

Premadasa to meet Maggie

"Prime Minister, R. Premadasa will leave tomorrow on an official visit to Romania and Turkey. Mr. Premadasa will deliver the keynote address at the 9th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, which is scheduled to be held in Istanbul... The Prime Minister is also scheduled to meet Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of Great Britain on his brief stopover in London. The Prime Minister and party will return to the island on May 10th. The Prime Minister will be accompanied by Mrs. R. Premadasa and the Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. K.H.J. Wijayadasa..."—(The Island—21.4.86)

World Bank to fund Kantalai

"The World Bank will meet the cost of repairing the Kantalai reservoir bund which burst on Sunday, Cabinet spokesman Anandattissa de Alwis said yesterday. He said that Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel who was in Washington in connection with the World Bank and IMF meetings has telephoned President Jayawardene about the availability of World Bank assistance for this work."

"Meanwhile, Britain too has expressed willingness to help in both short and long term rehabilitation of the disaster area... The proposed repairs including the construction of a new sluice, re-building of the breached embankment and repairs to the damaged canal system is tentatively estimated to cost about Rs. 250 million..."—(Daily News—23.4.86)

Ex-Diplomat's son arrested

"Ramanujam Manikkalingam, 23, son of the late Mr. K. Manikkalingam, career Foreign

Service officer and onetime Ambassador to Indonesia, was arrested by Police last Saturday, a National Security Ministry spokesman said. He said that the young man, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, reported missing since March 27, had been picked up on suspicion by a policeman, while he was riding a bus from Batticaloa to Colombo.

"He is being investigated for terrorist connections and is in custody... We had reports from our missions in Canberra and Washington that various people and organisations had been lobbied by Eelam groups about this "missing" person. Although he was supposed to have been missing from home from March 27, he was reported missing only on April 1", the spokesman said. The spokesman said that the suspect's next of kin had been informed of his arrest and that the case is receiving "most careful attention".

"A Ministry News release said that there was prima facie evidence that the suspect was involved "in activities contrary to the ordinary law and the emergency law" and his own statements support this evidence. The interest of security precluded revealing details known at present, the news release said..."—(Daily News—23.4.86)

Air passenger overcarried

"A Sri Lankan woman who returned to Sri Lanka last Thursday by PIA after working in Singapore for four years had fallen asleep and left in the aircraft when it landed at Katunayake. She was overcarried to Karachi, as a result. She arrived in Sri Lanka on a PIA aircraft..."—(Daily News—23.4.86)

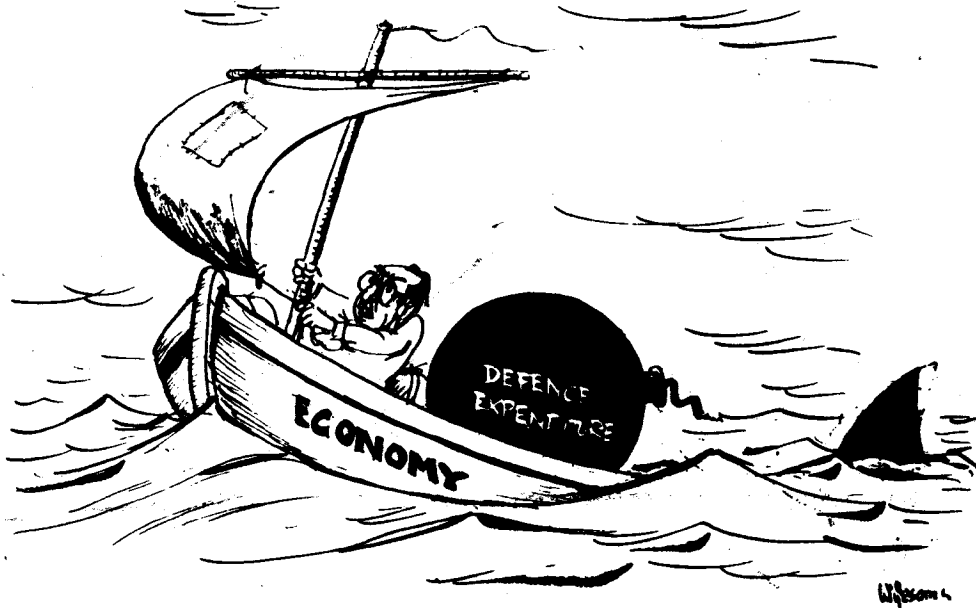
BBC report on Lanka

"Several hundred political opponents of the government in Sri Lanka have been detained or are reported missing, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported on Sunday. In its World Service broadcast, the BBC said between 200 and 300 persons suspected of leftist political leanings have been detained by the police or are missing and unaccounted for.

In a report filed from Colombo, the BBC cited the instances of the recent disappearance of a diplomat's son and the abduction of five Buddhist monks who staged a fast unto death, as example of such disappearances. They are an attempt by the government to curb growing political dissent, the BBC said. The broadcast also quoted Attanagalle MP Lakshman Jayakody as having accused the government of orchestrating the disappearances. Mr. Jayakody was unavailable for comment yesterday. A member of his household said he was out of Colombo.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali is quoted by the BBC as saying that the number arrested was about 50. They were extremists committed to the setting up of a marxist state in Sri Lanka through violence and when arrested were found with arms in their possession, Minister Athulathmudali has said, explaining the detention, the BBC broadcasts said..."—(SUN—22.4.86)

SITUATION REPORT



TULF, REJECTS
GOV'TS NEW
PROPOSALS.



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 by Sri Lankan newspapers :-

KALIAPPA PILLAI — K. P. Chairman of Kaliappa Group of Companies. Cremation at Kanatte, Colombo, 16th April. 31, Galle Face Terrace, Colombo 3.

PATHMARAJAH — Appiah, former Ambassador of Sri Lanka, husband of Saku, father of Tara, Meera and Mark. Cremation in Geneva on 23rd April. 9, Chemin des Colombettes, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

SEEVAKIREEDAM — Death occurred in

Abu Dhabi of K. Seevakireedam, husband of Ponmalar and father of Mohan, Mahi, Sayanthan and Balan. 21, Sengutha Lane, Nallur Market, Jaffna.

SIVAGNANASAMPANTHAR — Mrs. Maheswary, wife of the late Sivagnanasampanthar of 13, 55th Lane, Colombo 6 and her daughter Jayanthy, mother and sister of Jayakumaran, Bavani, Ramani and Gowry, died under tragic circumstances in U.S.A. Funeral 24th April in

U.K. No. 4, Magnanels House, Barniug Maidegone, Kent, U.K.

KANDIAH — V.A., former Secretary, Bulgarian Embassy, husband of Anandi, father of Gowri (U.K.), Cremation Colombo 27th April. 28/2, Periera Lane, Wellawatte.

SENANAYAKE — Robert Parakrama, son of the late Mr & Mrs D.S. Senanayake, brother of late Dudley. Cremation Colombo 28th April. No. 157, Kynsey Road, Colombo 8.