

**SRI  
LANKA**

**SITUATION  
REPORT**

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**Published by the Tamil Information &  
Research Unit (TIRU), Besant Nagar, Madras, India,  
on behalf of Tamil Information Centre,  
3rd Floor, 24-28 Clapham High St. London SW4 7UR, U.K.**

# SITUATION REPORT

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

## Journalists criticised

"The pens of journalists cannot build dams or cities. Nor can these pens build new roads," said Mahaveli Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake at the opening of a new medical centre at Siripura, Dehiattakandiya in System C of the Mahaveli Scheme on Sunday. Mr. Dissanayake who was critical of the "Divaina" carrying an article about threatening letters received by the settlers in System C, said that newspapers were out to highlight the shortcomings of the authorities but failed to recognise the difficult conditions under which the officers functioned. The Minister said that contrary to what the "Divaina" published the only letters received by people in Girandurukotte were three post cards written in Sinhala and not in Tamil to the effect that the Tigers would come. This he said was not the work of Tamil Tigers but of Sinhala tigers.... (The Island — 17th June, 1986)

## Pop star released

Pop star Desmond de Silva who was held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for over two months was yesterday released on an order by National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudhali. Mr. Athulathmudhali, issued a restrictive order releasing Mr. de Silva. Mr. de Silva was arrested at the Katunayake International Airport on his return from the United States, two months back.... (The Island — 19th June, 1986)

## Tea slides further

Tea prices, down to the lowest in the world last week, plunged further yesterday as Government began subsidy payments to the crisis hit trade. Yesterday's decline pushed prices to the Rs. 24 levels for the first time since May 1982 and demand for all categories of tea fell, the trade said. Prices at Colombo

auctions, on a downward trend since February this year are now about ten rupees below London auction prices and eight rupees below the cost of production. The 5.7 million kilograms of tea on offer yesterday received little demand due to the absence of the Soviet Union and Egypt two major buyers, the trade said explaining the decline in prices. "Iraq is now the mainstay of the market but we cannot see prices improving in the near future" a spokesman for a leading brokering firm said.... (Sun — 18th June, 1986)

## Civil Defence Commissioner

Lionel Fernando, former Government Agent Jaffna, and Chairman of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation has been appointed Civil Defence Commissioner... The Civil Defence Commission the government hopes to establish will assist in maintaining security and combatting panic at times of crisis. (Sun — 16th June, 1986)

## Fishermen to be armed!

Fishermen in the Eastern Province are being given a training in the use of arms by security forces after terrorists issued fresh threats of attacks yesterday. Special Task Force commandos are overseeing the training of Sinhala fishermen in Batticaloa including the village of Pankuda in the Eravur area. Military sources said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had threatened villagers in Pankuda earlier this week. Therefore, these migrant fishermen are being trained in the use of weapons in self-defence, as there are no home guards in these villages sources said. (Sun — 19th June, 1986)

## Anura Bandaranaike says.....

Leader of the Opposition, Anura Bandaranaike opening the debate on the motion for the continuation of the emergency regulations, said that the National Security Minister seems to be the only Minister in Cabinet who realises the gravity and the danger all Sri Lankans face today. The "Time" magazine has written a cover story on Sri Lanka. This Magazine is one of the most respected and widely read magazines in the

world. I think the "Time" article on Sri Lanka entitled "Island at war" was rather biased. It was after 37 years that "Time" has had a cover story on Sri Lanka.... The President in an interview with the "Gentleman" magazine has said that terrorism started just before July 1983. However, the President had in 1979 issued orders to the then Army Commander Brigadier Tissa Weeratunge to wipe out the menace of terrorism. This shows that the government was aware that the menace of terrorism stalked the land but soon forgot about it and went into deep slumber only to wake up in July 1983. I can never understand the contradictory statements the President makes.... (The Island — 21st June, 1986.)

## Unidentified Plane sighted over Jaffna

The presence of, unidentified aircraft over Jaffna in recent weeks, is baffling security authorities. Early this month they had appeared four days in succession and had been flying above security installations in the north, sometimes descending to very low altitudes. Security authorities in the north, minus adequate radar equipment for tracking air movements and anti aircraft guns to bring down enemy aircraft, were eye witnesses to these reconnaissance flights, military sources said. On one occasion, radar at the palaly airport had tracked an aircraft having clearly violated Sri Lankan airspace and had radioed the erring jet, but had received no response. The aircraft preferred to remain silent, security officials told WEEKEND. Sri Lanka Air Force units stationed at the country's northern and eastern bases have been placed on a full alert after these events.

The Defence Ministry is tight-lipped about these incidents and declined to give details. Sources however did not rule out the possibility of these aircraft conducting aerial photography and familiarisation flights. The frequency of these alleged violations of Sri Lankan airspace have ruled out the possibility of aircraft accidentally flying over Sri Lanka. Sources added that violations were by military planes and not civilian aircraft. Two months ago the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Minister told the state's legislative assembly that the New Delhi administration had instructed the Indian Air Force to patrol Indian airspace around the Palk Straits.

The Indian Navy also had been ordered to patrol the Indian waters in the Straits, on the grounds of providing protection to Indian fishermen in the Straits. Military sources in Colombo said they were awaiting reports from their headquarters in the north on whether they have been able to ascertain the markings on the aircraft that violated Sri Lanka airspace. (Weekend — 29th June, 1986)

(Continued on Page 7)

# DIARY OF EVENTS

and

## Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from April 27 — May 11 were carried in Issue No. 13 of the Situation Report

### MAY 12

Land mine kills 5 employees of Land commissioner's Dept. at Weli Oya in Padaviya. National Security Ministry reporting the incident from Colombo adds that the land mine had been detonated by "Marxist separatist militants"

Helicopters active between Jaffna army camp and Palaly army camp through the day. According to local information, whilst those on transfer orders are being taken to Palaly more troops are being brought into Jaffna Fort to strengthen the garrison there.

Hundreds of soldiers, along with armoured vehicles, move out of Palaly camp and reach Thondamannaru camp on foot, firing indiscriminately en route and killing a few cattle. Shelling erupts from inside the Thondamannaru camp following their arrival there and continues till midnight. A few houses around the area are damaged. This is the third time the army came out on foot.

In Colombo, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali attributes military activity in the north to "turnround of troops". Reuters report that the build-up has begun, setting speculation of a major offensive in the north.

In Colombo, some Sinhalese employees attack Tamil officers who reported for work at Central Telegraph Office, after the bomb blast on the 7th. Injured admitted to hospitals.

Commandos from the Kaluwanchikudi camp arrest 10 persons from Wards 1 and 2 of Kalmunai, including a C.I.D. Officer from Kalmunai Police. Also arrest 7 persons en route to Kalmunai. Of the arrested, 3 youths are dropped at the Kalmunai cemetery, blindfolded, clothes removed and asked to run, and shot dead.

### MAY 13

In Colombo, Perinparaja from Batticaloa, who was attacked by his Sinhala co-workers at the Central Telegraph Office and admitted to hospital succumbs to his injuries.

Gun boats guard two big vessels at sea off Kankesanthurai harbour. Goods unloaded from the ships are taken to the Kankesanthurai harbour in the first instance and then flown to

the Palaly army camp in helicopters. A helicopter keeps circling these ships.

Hundreds of soldiers arrive by sea at Kankesanthurai harbour and are immediately flown to Palaly army camp in helicopters.

Army demolish newly built office and quarters for Agricultural officers, situated to the north west of Oddichuddan army camp, costing several lakhs of rupees, as a security risk and take away furniture, timber and other recovered articles.

Jaffna Kachcheri notifies that commencing from month of May payment to pensioners will be at the Bank of Ceylon office in the Jaffna Fort.

If Jaffna, EPRLF in a statement says that there is no truth whatsoever in Rupavahini telecast quoting Lanka Puwath that EPRLF will co-operate with the Govt. in finding a solution to the ethnic problem.

Army takes over Teachers' Training College at Vasavilan, Palaly for purposes of expanding the Palaly army camp and also to accommodate additional troops arriving in Jaffna.

### MAY 14

Militants fire at soldiers of Navatkuli army camp who attempt to pass through a coconut grove. Soldiers fire back and retreat into camp. Shells are fired inside the camp on their return. No damages, no casualties.

Unknown persons bomb blast two granaries belonging to the Puliyankulam Paddy marketing unit situated near the Puliyankulam post office on the Jaffna-Vavuniya road.

Armed forces patrolling along a coastal area in Mutur attack 4 members of a family and throw boiling water on Rasaratnam (40). All admitted to Trincomalee hospital for treatment.

Armed forces arrest 3 persons including 2 volunteer teachers at Chenkaladi.

Mystery ship reported at sea off the coast of Addalachchenai, in the Amparai district. Special Task Force stationed at Akkaraipattu call at Addalachchenai beach and line up along the sea boundaries accompanied by armoured cars. The ship thereafter moves out into the

sea and disappears; but comes back when the STF left. People believe that the mystery ship could be a submarine.

Security forces proceeding to Cement Factory at Kankesanthurai commandeered 12 lorries that have come there to load cement and take them to the harbour to transport goods to the Palaly camp.

### MAY 15

Early morning at 7 a.m., about 300 troops proceed to Kankesanthurai from Palaly on foot. No vehicles accompany them and they spread out and walk along the roads and beaches breaking through compounds cutting down fences. People are panicky and tension prevails. Half hour later about 200 soldiers of the STF armed with modern sophisticated weapons leave for Kankesanthurai on foot. At about 10.00 a.m. another 200 soldiers accompanied by armoured cars proceed towards Kankesanthurai from Palaly. According to residents of the area, this contingent dropped pamphlets titled "Get rid of Prabhakaran" and asking everyone to unite to get rid of Prabhakaran.

A helicopter appearing suddenly fires at a fishing boat with 3 fishermen off the Thalayady coast, causing damage and injuring Selliah Paramanathan (45). He is admitted to the Jaffna hospital with gun shot injuries.

Armed gang attempting to rob a house at Periyakulavanai. Kalmunai kill Thamotheeram Kala, a girl of 14, when their attempt was foiled. Two others seriously injured and admitted to hospital.

Akkaraipattu police recover body of T. Bhaskaran (32) tied to tree with gun shot injuries at Thirukovil. Up to now 6 bodies had been tied to this tree including that of a female last week.

Second MP for Batticaloa Mr. Ahmed Rizvi Sinna Lebbe complains to police that several hand-bombs were exploded near his house. He suspects his political rivals.

Two big cargo vessels arrive off the coast of Talaimannar, with gun boats guarding them. Big packages are unloaded into naval boats and brought to the pier. Low flying helicopters circle around the vessels.

## Diary of Events

# and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

### MAY 16

Batticaloa co-ordinating officer Mr. Donald Mendis informs Batticaloa Citizens' Committee that particulars relating to those so far arrested by security forces in Batticaloa district are being collected from the various army camps in Batticaloa and would be furnished in due course. This is in reply to a complaint by the Batticaloa Citizens' Committee that whereabouts of 349 persons arrested by the armed forces are yet unknown.

Rev. Fr. Jerome Lambert, Parish priest of Delft Diocese, Hindu priest Brammasiri K. Puvanendra Sarma and Rev. W.K. Devadasan lay foundation at Delft harbour for a pillar in memory of those men, women and children on passenger boat "Kumuthini" who were brutally killed, by Naval personnel.

Armed forces numbering 200 on 'search operations', move into Marakampallai, Sastri Kulaamkulam, three miles from Vavuniya, on foot cordon these villages and arrest S. Jeganathan (32) and S. Manivannan (24) brothers, and N. Thangarasa (34), T. Poopalasingam (24), A. Satyamoorthy (26) father of 2 children and K. Selvarasa.

Naval sentries on guard duty at a water distribution point, shoot by mistake and kill Pilot S. Kulathunge (35) as he was coming on to the road from a wedding reception to an Air Force corporal at Andankulam, Trincomalee.

Santhanam Sugirthakumaran, a youth arrested at Chulipuram-Ponnalai junction by armed forces on a surprise inspection six months back, is released.

In Kurinchikerny, Trincomalee district Home Guard Abdul Muthalib Abdul Rawoob (26), living in separation from his wife, and supplied with a gun after appointment as Home Guard, taken into custody and remanded on his attempting to shoot and kill his father-in-law. Seriously injured father-in-law transferred to Anuradhapura hospital for treatment.

Armed unknown persons enter Kankesanthurai cement factory and rob 4 gas cylinders.

### MAY 17

A 3-day 3-pronged offensive by Govt. forces to regain military control of Jaffna begins. This major operation involving an estimated 3,000 Govt. troops, helicopter gunships and bomber planes which begins at dawn meets with stiff

resistance by Tamil militants at various points in the peninsula:

At Elephant Pass, a heavy charge bomb explosion near bridge between Kurinchativu saltern and army camp, about 7.00 a.m. signals the confrontation with shelling and heavy firing following. LTTE militants blunt the progress of a moving column of armoured vehicles, with 3 helicopters providing aerial cover proceeding towards Jaffna. After few hours of firing and counter-firing army retreats into camp.

Following this set-back a helicopter gunship comes up firing and strafing the area accompanied by heavy shelling from inside the camp.

Again, by noon, army comes out from camp and moves towards Jaffna along Kandy Road, re-inforced with more troops and armoured vehicles. 2 hours from the camp, heavy fighting erupts for the second time at Iyakkachchi. 2 bomber planes and helicopters circle over Iyakkachchi with helicopters firing sporadically.

At Palay around 7.30 a.m. militants launch a counter-offensive at a moving column of troops and stall them at Vasavilan junction. Residents, frightened of army movements, take shelter in adjoining villages. All vehicles divert their routes. Tension mounts as 2 helicopters engage in strafing and a sea plane circles over Tellipallai, Kadduvan, Ertalai, Vasavilan, Punnalaikadduvan areas. A 70-year old man Velupillai of Vasavilan killed, and several injured.

Around 9.15 a.m. 2 bomber planes circle over Mallakam, Chunnakam, Uduvil, Manipay areas. Residents run for shelter.

In Karampan, militants attack a contingent of about 50 members of Special Task Force landed by helicopters and proceeding towards puliyankoodal and cause severe losses. Militants also thwart an attempt by army from Pooneryn crossing over into Kerativu by sea via Sangupitty.

In Jaffna, tension prevails as 2 bomber planes circle over the city several times. Helicopter from Jaffna army camp circles over Jaffna city and fires indiscriminately. Following this, shots are fired from various places. People in town stampede and run for safety. Trade establishments close. Chandran (18) from Beach Road, receives injuries and admitted to Jaffna hospital for treatment.

Army out on 'search operations' at Ampilanthuru, Batticaloa kill 6 civilians and set fire to more than 20 houses.

In Colombo, Govt. owned "Daily News" reports launching of attacks by terrorists on

route clearing patrols making their scheduled change over of troops at Vasavilan, Kayts and Elephant Pass. Adds that security forces repulse attacks, killing 12 terrorists and seizing arms, ammunition and 300 grenades.

### MAY 18

A 1000-strong army contingent camped overnight at Iyakkachchi off Elephant Pass, attempts to force its way into the peninsula, but Tamil militants engage them in fierce combat. Planes and helicopters attack militant hide-outs.

Barrier at Elephant Pass is closed to vehicles coming into Jaffna peninsula. More than 3500 passengers stranded at Kilinochchi and Paranthan. K.C. Logeswaran, GA Vavuniya turned back at Elephant Pass barrier.

On the northern coast, Mankanthankerni culvert is blasted by Tamil guerillas to prevent army proceeding towards Pt. Pedro via Pudukkadu junction.

At Valvettiturai one soldier killed and another 3 receive injuries when militants fire at a column of 30 soldiers who attempt to "sneak" out of Valvettiturai army camp. Soldiers retreat into army camp after an hour long shoot-out, and 15 minutes of firing from a helicopter. Militants fire at helicopters carrying troops. Naval boats at sea shell towards coast.

A convoy of 4 army vehicles from Jaffna Fort camp proceeds towards the Islands, despite a bomb explosion at Pannai. A mile away from the Pannai causeway bridge, militants open fire at convoy from opposite direction. In an attempt to return, convoy reverses and comes back up to the causeway bridge when militants open fire from Pannai end. Convoy stranded on causeway bridge. A helicopter that arrives at the scene at noon returns as militants fire at it. Thousands witness the stranded vehicles from Koddady, Vilundy cemetery and Alupanthy jetty.

Meanwhile, Jaffna city takes on the appearance of a war zone. Militants in large number appear at various points in town with sophisticated weapons moving in their vehicles. Sand bags are seen stacked at various vantage points around the Jaffna Fort Camp. It is reported that this has been done in readiness to meet the army coming out of Fort camp.

Shelling from inside Jaffna Fort kills Veerasingam Vasanthakumar (13) of Koddady.

LTTE in a statement, in connection with yesterday's incidents claims repelling of

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armed forces, forcing them to retreat, killing of a number of soldiers, causing damage to 2 armoured vehicles at fronts of combat. It salutes two of its fighters, "Hari" of Pungudutivu and "Nithi" of Nainathivu, who lost their lives fighting to the last in combat with Special Task Force at Karamban, and proclaims that "Everyone of them will fight to his last to protect our people".

According to Govt. owned "Daily News", major military offensive for the second day continues and the thrust of the offensive was to open some of the major roads in the peninsula which the "terrorists had tried to control by laying of land mines".

### MAY 19

Army contingent from Elephant Pass camp, that launched a major offensive to push through to Jaffna and link up with armed forces from Kayts and Palaly, unable to withstand heavy assaults by Liberation Tigers at Pudukkadu junction, and in disarray, abandons its offensive and retreats to camp.

Army vehicles stranded at Pannai causeway bridge return to Jaffna Fort army camp under aerial cover of a continuously firing helicopter gunship. At about this time, shell firing from inside the Fort camp kills Kumarasamy (65) of Inuvil at Main street Jaffna. Another shell also from inside the Fort camp causes severe damage to a house at Railway lane, Jaffna and injures all 5 inmates who are admitted to Jaffna hospital for treatment.

At Valvettiturai, in the early hours of the day, soldiers from army camp attempt to move out from three directions preceded by shelling from inside camp. Militants open fire and force the soldiers back to camp. Army retaliates by firing from helicopters and shelling from sea causing damage to several houses, a school and a temple. Militants foil a second attempt by army to move out of camp. In reprisal, 2 houses at Polikandy hit and razed to the ground by a bomber plane. It is understood that 6 soldiers were killed and 2 militants and 5 civilians injured in connection with these incidents.

In Jaffna city, the hospital is bombed. For about 45 minutes from 4 p.m. 2 bomber planes and 2 helicopters attack the town area for the first time and cause severe damage to O.P.D. sector and 3 wards of Jaffna hospital. As the air attacks were sudden and unexpected, people both in town and hospital flee in terror and panic. Rajanayagam (16) an inmate of Wd. 20 receives severe injuries. A leading doctor, Professor Sivakumaran escapes narrowly.

Many business establishments and private houses are damaged. An oil mill goes ablaze. More than 60 persons are injured.

In Colombo, Govt. owned "Daily News" reports tension in Jaffna for the third successive day as troops fight to make the peninsula's main routes "safe from terrorist attacks". Adds that troops are continuing their operations pushing towards Jaffna on the main roads from their bases at Elephant Pass, Palaly, Kayts, Kankesanthurai and Valvettiturai roads with slow progress in Kayts.

LTTE guerillas smash 2 patrol boats and a gun boat at Valvettiturai using rocket launchers. 3 ships from which these boats were unloaded move deep into sea without anchoring at Valvettiturai or, witnessing smashing of gun boats. Heavy shelling erupts from the sea injuring seriously a mother and 2 children who are despatched to Manthikai hospital for treatment. Irangani (32) of Valvai despatched to Jaffna hospital for surgical treatment when her bowels came out consequent to shell attack.

### MAY 20

Jaffna city was returning to normal following yesterday's air attacks when 2 planes flying fairly high suddenly swoop over the town and drop 3 bombs at 2 places. Militants open fire.

Over 400 soldiers move into police married men's quarters at Pannai, in close proximity to the Dutch Fort, virtually converting it into an army camp. Few move into adjoining children's home as well. Telephone Exchange staff do not turn up for work in fear.

Kayts subject to attacks from helicopter gunships and shelling from sea for the second day. Sellathurai, Mallikamalat and Perinpanayaki, members of the same family, receive injuries and admitted to hospital for treatment.

Army firing from Pannai police quarters kills 3 pedestrian passing along Koddady Telephone exchange road. One of those killed is Razooldeen (28) a Muslim.

Hundreds of soldiers arriving by boats cordon Paruthiadaippu. Militants mount offensive leading to direct confrontation. At about same time, 2 planes drop bombs in the area seriously injuring several persons.

Six bombs dropped around Vasavilan Maha Vidyalayam, (school) recently converted into an army camp. Immediately before and after bombing, these areas were strafed by

helicopters. Following the air attacks, troops from inside the school fire at the village. Casualties not known.

In Colombo, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali defends Govt. activities in the north stating that Govt. had every right to act in self-defence. He asserts that the forces were in the process of clearing roads in the areas to turn around troops, with the objective of securing security bases that were being attacked by LTTE. He adds that Govt. was neither wavering from a political commitment nor opting for a military solution.

A Defence Ministry spokesman admits pull-back of troops to Elephant Pass after "attacks by terrorists from forty hideouts".

### MAY 21

15 armed youths who enter a privately owned Cement Factory in China Bay in Trincomalee, in the early hours of the morning lock away 15 employees, in a room in safety, and set off 3 bombs, blasting the main plant and causing extensive damage.

Valvettiturai, the northern seaport attacked from air and sea. 2 bomber planes, 5 helicopters and 3 gun boats join in simultaneous attack for over 1 1/2 hours continuously. As majority of residents had left in anticipation of a major attack, casualties were negligible. Senthilvel Kala (16) and Sivagnanam (27) receive injuries. Several houses, a library and Peoples' Bank buildings are badly damaged. On militants firing rocket launchers and mortars, the planes and helicopters fly out into the sea. 4 hours later, a plane circles over Valvettiturai but desists from firing.

Militants attack an army detachment at Periya Pullumalai army camp, Batticaloa with rocket launchers and automatic weapons. Camp is destroyed after a fierce battle lasting 5 hours. 3 soldiers reported killed, 20 injured and several reported missing. Attack comes to a halt on arrival of helicopters from Batticaloa. Dead and injured removed to Batticaloa in the first instance and then to Colombo.

Decomposed bodies of 6 of the 9 Sinhalese said to have been kidnapped by unknown persons last Sunday at Muthalikulam, Trincomalee found lying at a place 2 miles away from Muthalikulam police station.

GA Jaffna, Mr. Panchalingam and Public Relations Officer Mr. Kulasekaram inspect damages to Jaffna hospital caused by aerial attacks and meet indoor patients. They also

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inspect shops and other establishments damaged in Bazaar area.

Army on 'search operations' accompanied by Home Guards set fire to houses belonging to 16 Tamils at Alankerny in Trincomalee district.

Army-civilian clash in Muslim populated Slave Island in Colombo. 7 persons - 5 Muslims, 1 Tamil and an army corporal are killed. Several shops and vehicles in the area set ablaze. Army commander Nalin Seneviratne says that a senior military officer will investigate the conduct of soldiers involved.

### MAY 22

Hundreds of soldiers from Elephant Pass army camp, moving on foot through jungles and fields, arrive at Kaddaikkadu, Chembiyanpattu; with 4 low flying helicopters giving aerial cover. At Kaddaikkadu, militants mount offensive and there is direct confrontation. 2 planes and 4 helicopters join in aerial attack for an hour killing 8 persons, including an year old infant, a 5-year old child and a mother of 8 children. Several others injured, more than 12 houses damaged, cattle die, productive trees are destroyed. Widespread destruction to villages.

Shelling from inside Jaffna Fort army camp. One of the shells shatters roof of "Eelanadu" a Tamil daily newspaper.

Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) in a statement claims responsibility for overrunning Pullumalai army camp.

Army reprisals at Periya Pullumalai. Nearly a hundred houses and shops in the area set ablaze. Whilst those in uniform were engaged in arson, people who came from adjoining villages in tractors and lorries rob and carry away articles of value and other goods. Residents fearing for their lives take shelter at Kitulwewa Govt. Tamil mixed school. Many move out into Chenkalady, Karadiyanaru, Batticaloa and Eravur.

At Elephant Pass army camp a security forces helicopter crashes to the ground after rising a few feet on take off, injuring 7 persons including its crew.

Jaffna observes hartal to mark the death under tragic circumstances of Sinhala Communist leader, Sarath Muttetugama MP for Kalawana.

In Colombo, Govt. owned "Daily News" reports quoting military sources that objectives of security forces in Jaffna peninsula had been realised for the most part in the last 5 days in that defence cordons around Palaly, Karainagar, and Valvettiturai have been extended and strengthened.

Slave Island area in Colombo made out of bounds to military personnel and vehicles. Malay Street is closed to traffic.

### MAY 23

In the early hours of the morning, workers making preparations for poojas at popular

Hindu shrine-Thurkkai Amman Temple, Tellippalai discover a bag which is found to contain the entire jewellery robbed, by some unknown persons, from the Temple on 5th March, 1985. Although it was rumoured that the missing jewellery had been robbed by one of the militant groups, it remained unconfirmed. Thousands of devotees pour into the temple to view the jewellery exhibited at the entrance to the temple office.

Shelling and firing from Jaffna Fort towards Pannai and Koddady areas injure Cyril (23) from Uduvil, Gopal from Vannarponnai and Kanapathipillai, Nadesu (51) from Jaffna. All three admitted to Jaffna hospital for treatment.

More soldiers and more vehicles move into recently established camp at Maha Vidyalayam, Vasavilan. Security arrangements are being tightened up with barbed wire fencing around the Vidyalayam. Residents living in close proximity to the camp anticipating troop movements move out into adjoining villages.

Shelling in all directions from inside Kankesanthurai army camp around 12.00 noon causes tension among the surrounding villages. Two of the shells hit a house, located near Maviddapuram Kandasamy temple, causing heavy damage. Sothisoruban (16) son of the owner of the house Navaratnam seriously wounded and admitted to Tellippalai hospital.

Militants mount offensive and attack police married quarters Pannai, now occupied by army, with rocket launchers, mortars and shells. Parts of the building suffer heavy damage and 4 soldiers reported injured.

"The Island", Colombo daily reports that the security forces recover Mandaitivu, an islet 2 miles away from Jaffna Fort from "terrorist control after a pitched battle". It adds that security forces believe several terrorists would have been killed and several others injured in the encounter.

### MAY 24

Three persons, one of whom a woman, die as hand grenades are thrown and shots are fired by unknown persons into a shop and a house owned by a Sinhalese at Main Street, Kalkudah. Four others seriously injured admitted to Batticaloa hospital.

In Colombo, police discover a 5 kilogramme bomb hidden in a lorry carrying chillies parked outside a shop in Pettah. Lorry had arrived from Nelliady in Jaffna earlier in the week. Owner taken in for questioning whilst 3 others including the driver and the cleaner are said to be absconding.

Colombo newspaper, "Island" reports that "9 people were killed and 9 others seriously injured when terrorists attacked Sinhalese settlements in Serunuwara, Gomarankadawala and Kallar and many more escape into the jungles."

In Jaffna, soldiers occupying Pannai police quarters, bomb blast more than 5 houses and set ablaze huts lying in close proximity to these quarters apparently for security reasons.

At Kanesapuram, Kilinochchi, an armed

gang, holding inmates as hostages, rob house of a mill owner and take away cash, jewellery and other valuables worth more than Rs. 11/2 lakhs.

Thousands of Tamils of Periya Pullumalai and Alankerny in Eastern Province are rendered homeless, robbed of their life-long earnings and become refugees as a result of arson, looting and terrorising by Home Guards and security forces.

Kandiah Sockalingam (58) of Vasavilan admitted to Tellippalai hospital with gun shot injuries following firing by soldiers on sentry duty at Maha Vidyalayam army camp.

It is reported that helicopters have been successfully prevented from landing inside Jaffna Fort army camp during the past 5 days because of firing by militants.

A youth of about 24 accused of being army informant "executed" and corpse tied to a tree in Valukkyattu cemetery, Nallur, Jaffna.

Two planes coming from direction of Palaly circle Jaffna town thrice. People become panicky and run for shelter. Militants open fire and planes fly back towards Palaly.

### MAY 25

Co-ordinating Committee of Jaffna district Citizens' Committees in a letter to President Jayawardene says that ninety persons died and many more injured in attacks by security forces in the Jaffna district in the past week. They specifically complain of the aerial attacks where the Jaffna hospital suffered heavy damages. The Co-ordinating Committee points out that these attacks from land, sea and air were devoid of humanitarian considerations and requests the President to stop killing of innocent civilians and destroying their property and to seek a political solution to the ethnic problem.

At Alankerny, Trincomalee, 8 more houses belonging to Tamils set on fire and destroyed. With this, total number of houses belonging to Tamils in this village, burned down during the past few days, has risen to 55.

Colombo newspaper "Island" quoting National Security Ministry sources, reports that terrorists shot dead 20 villagers in Mahadivulwewa a Sinhalese settlement in Anuradhapura district. Ravi Jayawardene, Adviser to the Ministry of Defence, flies to the scene followed by foreign journalists. Number of villagers escape gun fire by fleeing into shrub jungles in the locality.

Gun shots from Pannai police quarters injure Veerasingam Jude Chandrakumar (17) who is admitted to Jaffna hospital for treatment.

In Trincomalee, town police arrest 5 girls and 5 boys on suspicion that they attended militant training classes.

In Batticaloa, K. Uruthirakumar (26) "executed" at Navarkuda, for engaging in anti-social activities.

LTE in a settlement says that peace and normality has returned to Jaffna after a week of turmoil in which their guerillas faced the invading army of 3000 troops and foiled the massive offensive launched by the combined units of the Sri Lanka armed forces.

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(Continued from Page 2)

## Lalith blames B.B.C.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali commenting on the British Broadcasting Corporation coverage of the events in Sri Lanka during the last few weeks said, "The BBC has quite often lacked balance in its reporting of Sri Lanka events". In an interview Mr. Athulathmudali stated that the broadcasts concerned the terrorist attacks and generally the matters regarding the Tamil ethnic problem in the country. Asked to elaborate, the Minister said "I will not comment anything more. But I leave it to the conscience of the British public and the British journalists who are fairminded to judge for themselves these reports of the events under a democratically elected government as in Sri Lanka".

However, he wanted to remind the British public the words of their great war time Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill who said during the last world war: "Falsehood runs a mile, when truth is putting on its boots". Minister Athulathmudali however wanted to explain how foolish it was for foreign correspondents working for short periods in Sri Lanka, with little understanding of the country's problems and the way a democratically-elected government was trying desperately to solve them, the depend on the so called "Citizens' Committees" that have sprouted out in the North and East, "much faster than mushrooms". Mr. Athulathmudali said "these Citizens Committees did not represent anybody but themselves or may perhaps the blood-thirsty terrorists. They are not responsible to anybody.

"What the terrorist want carried in foreign press and broadcasts, are channelled through these committees, who have special people to contact foreign correspondents as soon as they set foot in Sri Lanka. From then on it is a matter of pumping completely inaccurate information or highly inflated accounts of actual events. Some of the foreign correspondents who should think better merely despatch what is pumped into them and think that they have done their duty by the public of their countries, in giving the truth. These correspondents have not been told by the Citizens' Committees one word about the atrocities committed by the separatist terrorists. If these committees do so before the next day break the Committee members would find themselves at lamp posts with bullets through their heads".

Asked what the Government was going to do about it, Mr. Athulathmudali replied that the Sri Lanka Government was not going to do anything. As a matter of fact, what can the Government of Sri Lanka do against these powerful information organisations. They were only using Sri Lanka as fodder for their sensational headlines and the equally sensational stories that follow. Even if corrections and denials were sent they were not given any worthwhile consideration"..... (The Island — 24th June, 1986)

## Provincial Council proposals

The proposals put forward yesterday to the political parties by President Jayewardene envisages the devolution of government power within the framework of the constitution through three kinds of provincial administrative institutions: Provincial Councils, Municipal and Urban Councils and Pradesheeya Sabhas with village representation. All this devolution of power however will be subject to the maintenance of the unity, integrity and Sovereignty of Sri Lanka. The Central Government will reserve for itself 27 functions which includes defence, internal security, law and order and foreign affairs. However on the subject of the law and order, some of the powers will be devolved on provincial Councils and District Councils. Police administration will be two tiered with a National Division and a provincial Division for each province. Both will function under the overall direction and control of the IGP. It has been envisaged to have an Authority for the port of Trincomalee and this authority will be excluded from the area of any provincial administration.

The provincial Councils will be set up with an Act passed in parliament with a two third majority conferring powers on provincial Councils and the provincial Council will have powers to enact legislation operative within a province. The provincial administration in each province will have a Governor appointed by the president. The Governor will appoint a Chief Minister who will choose a Board of Ministers from the provincial Council. The term of office of each provincial Council will be coterminous with the life of parliament. The president will be empowered to even dissolve a provincial Council subject to approval by parliament. Detailed clarifications on devolution of power in respect of law and order as well as land settlement has been spelled out in separate notes. (The Island — 26th June, 1986)

## Plane catches fire

An Air Force plan on a training flight caught fire over the Ratmalana airport yesterday while practising a force landing but its tow-man crew escaped uninjured. The plane, an Italian "Siai Marchetti" is believed to have developed a technical defect leading to the fire. When the crew realised what had happened they

touched down at the airport and escaped, officials said. The aircraft was destroyed completely although airport firemen put out the fire, officials added.

(Sun - 27th June, 1986)

## Airlanka denies

The National carrier Airlanka has denied an Indian claim that one of the aircraft violated Indian airspace during a commercial flight this month. Airlanka 'WEEKEND' learns, has assured the Directors of Civil Aviation that the accident did not take place and its computers had no record of it. But India's High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit told 'WEEKEND' an Airlanka flight had intruded 80 kilometres into Indian airspace on June 3. This was one of two alleged violations of foreign airspace by Airlanka flights this month.

A letter from the Indian Foreign Ministry dated June 12, handed over to the Sri Lankan High Commission in New Delhi states that the Airlankan Tristar on the Karachi-Colombo route had strayed into the straits of Gujrat thereby violating Indian airspace. But Airlanka spokesman R. Shanmuganathan told 'WEEKEND' the Indian claim was not true and unsupported by Airlanka computers. A report on the Indian claim had been sent to the Director of Civil Aviation through the Chairman of Airlanka, he said. (Weekend — 29th June, 1986)

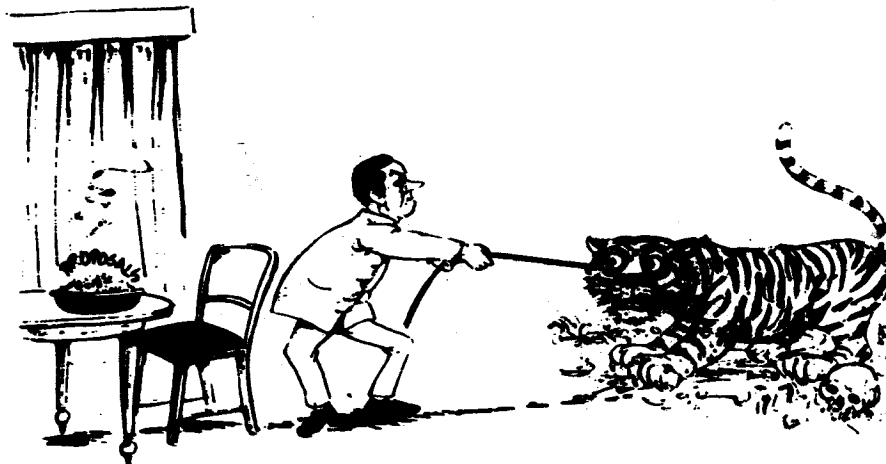
## 1 man charged with killing 13 soldiers!

The Attorney General has charged a man from Jaffna in connection with the deaths of 13 soldiers in Thinnaveli in July 1983, which triggered off the July ethnic violence in the country. According to Attorney-General Department sources, the accused named Jeevan a former store-keeper of a leading tea firm in Colombo, has been charged before High Court Judge, Wimal Wickramasooriya. The man is charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act on 14 counts including conspiracy to murder 13 soldiers at Thinnaveli and causing their deaths..... (The Island — 22nd June, 1986)

## SITUATION REPORT



WE WON'T ATTEND THE P.P.C.



## 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:-*

**MAHENDRA** - S.P. (J.L. Morrison & Sons.)  
Funeral rites performed in Jaffna. No. 26, 36th  
Lane, Colombo - 6.

**ARUNASALAM** - Sellayah (Rtd. Acct. Waler  
Sons & Co. Ltd., Colombo), Director of Unicor  
Metalics Co. Ltd., Cremation at Madampitiya  
Hindu Cemetery on 17th June. 88, Elie House  
Road, Colombo - 15.

**PASURATHY** - Murugesu (Rtd. Chief Acct.  
Customs) Husband, of Thillaimalar (Rtd.  
Teacher, Ramanathan College) father of Mrs.  
Sahalakalavalli Karunakaran (Nigeria) Mrs.

Chitrakala Logeswaran (Botswana),  
Umasuthan (Auditor Generals Dept. Colombo)  
and Miss Sivasakthi (Ramanathan College).  
Funeral 19th June "Lakshmvaram", Uduvil,  
Chunnakam.

**SARAVANAMUTTU, C** - (Rtd. Chief Post  
Master) son of late S. Chinniah, Malayan  
Pensioner, Kokuvil husband of Sreemathy-  
amma, father of Srinivasan (Bank of Ceylon,  
Colombo) Srirajan (Canada), Sriharan  
(Abudhabi), Sarathathevy (U.K.), Srihasan  
(Abudhabi). Funeral 16th June. "Sreemathy

vasa", Suthumalai Centre, Manipay.

**KAMALANATHAN** - K.C. Advocate,  
husband of Yogeswari (Yoga), son of late  
V.K. Chinniah of Trincomalee and Mrs.  
K. Chinniah, father of Dharshini, Suvendrini,  
Lokini and Umesh, father-in-law of Stewart  
Wilkrison (U.K.) brother of late Kamalanesan,  
Kamalabaskaran (U.K.), Kamalachandran  
(Australia), Kamalaranjini Muthulingam  
(Sudan), and Kamala Sabayson (Attorney  
Generals Dept.). Cremation in Lesotho (South  
Africa) 65, Deanstone Place, Colombo - 3.