

SRI LANKA SITUATION REPORT

Published by the Tamil Information &
Research Unit (TIRU), Besant Nagar, Madras, India,
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A selection of reports from Sri Lankan newspapers, without comment. Readers are requested to form their own conclusions.

Political Astrology !

"A Star War will take place on January 8, 1986, in the house of parliamentary affairs. This planetary war is between Mercury, the planet of communication and mass media vs. mysterious Neptune. The winner is Neptune the planet of "worry". It builds up fear from neighbours. Cordial relations between rulers of neighbouring countries turn into dreadful situations. This could also be a period of stress adversely affecting the rule of law. Resolutions of condemnation of rulers may be discussed as internal dissensions grow. Racial stress will adversely affect country's peace. A politico may play a peculiar political role this week. In this instance it suggests a great set-back for a trade union. It also creates fresh problems in the plantation and agricultural sector. Mercury's defeat may hit the trading floors again. Expect a sharp drop in the prices of tea, rubber and coconut... Saturn and Moon join on January 7 in the house of royals and build up a very crucial and critical week for a top leader... Death of a famed person will also be in the news ..."

WEEKEND SUN — January 5, 1986 — From the astrological page run by Dr. Kingsley Goonetilleke and Professor Kheiro.

Horseracing again

Horseracing — the "Royal game" and the sport of "kings and beggars" — is likely to make a legitimate re-appearance in Sri Lanka shortly. The government, Weekend learns, has signified its approval and the Ceylon Turf Club is planning to build a racecourse at Taldawa, 30 miles from Colombo. The re-introduction of horseracing is expected to substantially boost government revenue ...

(Weekend — 5/1/86).

Home Guard hero !

A young Home Guard who was armed with a gun died when he tried to show his mother how a person could shoot himself. This was disclosed at an inquest held into the death of W. Gamini Ratnayake (18) of Etambendiwewa (Trincomalee district) by the Inquirer into Sudden Deaths, Gomarankadawala, Mr. U.B. Gunasekera. Mother of the deceased P. Dingirimenike (36), in evidence said deceased was her second child. On the day of the incident he left home at about 8 p.m. along with K. Dharmadasa. They went to a guard point near their house. A little while later witness along with her elder daughter went towards the guard point hearing the approach of a vehicle. It was a jeep from the A.G.A.'s

office and a parcel containing sugar and tea was delivered... The deceased was cracking jokes and pleasing the others. He kept the muzzle of the gun at his neck and demonstrated to his mother how a person could shoot himself. He pulled the trigger with his leg. There was an explosion and the deceased fell dead at the foot of his mother. Witness said deceased had forgotten that the gun was loaded and cocked.

(The Island — 23/12/85)

Appeal for Red Cross

Jaffna Citizens' Committee has requested President Jayawardene to permit a team of observers from the International Red Cross to stay in the country not only as observers but also to provide relief to the refugees. In its memorandum signed by its Secretary, Attorney-at-law Mr. R. Balasubramaniam, the Committee continued that Jaffna had now become an area of refugees not being properly looked after and non-government organisations were compelled to go to their rescue, looking after them whether they were in houses or camps.

(The Island — 4/1/86)

Mrs. B's contention

The main reason for the troubles in the North is the fraud known as the Referendum which was held to postpone the general elections by six years, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike the leader of the SLFP said at her first public meeting after the restoration of her civic rights, held in Gampaha. Mr. A. Amirthalingam who won 14 seats at the General Elections in 1977 and became the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, has been rejected by the people in the north. Continuing further, Mrs. Bandaranaike pointed out that in the 1982 Referendum, the symbol "Lamp" received only 25,000 votes in Jaffna while the Opposition symbol the "Pot" received 250,000 votes in the area. She said people in the South as well as people in the North and East gave the vote to the "Pot" calling for a General Election...

(The Island — 6/1/86)

Job in Interpol

Senior D.I.G. R. Sunderalingam now on a police assignment with the German C.I.D. (Bundes Kriminalant) has been selected for a senior posting at the Police division of Interpol headquarters in France. Mr. Sunderalingam was among several overseas applicants for this prestigious post. He is the first Sri Lankan and only the second Asian Police Officer to join the cadre of this international police organisation which was established in 1913 and is manned by 50 hand-picked police officers drawn from 134 member countries.

(The Sun — 1/1/86)

Air Lanka on the mat

Sri Lanka's national carrier, Air Lanka, has come under heavy fire from the country's defence boss — General Sepala Attiygalle — for the non-payment of their share of Katunayake Airport's electricity bill. The former Army chief who presently heads the Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Ltd., in his annual report for the limited liability company has stated that electricity bills to the tune of Rs. 16.2 million rendered to Air Lanka, Ltd. and Air Lanka Catering Services Ltd. have not been paid ... Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Ltd. which was formed in March 1983 has reported a nett loss of Rs. 35 million for the year ending March 31, 1985 ...

(The Sun — 1/1/86)

Polls Speculation

Political observers were positive yesterday that Government would hold an election or a referendum within the next six months. According to many observers, the likeliest decision is a referendum at which the government might put forward its own proposals and those of the other political parties for the solution of the ethnic problems so that the people could decide. Asked by SUN, an official of the Election Commissioner's Dept. said it was ready for anything — Presidential election, a General Election, Development Council Elections or a Referendum. The electoral lists of 1985 could be made available by next month.... (The Sun — 4/1/86)

5-Star Theft

Left with only the clothes on his back, Jordanian M.M. Abu Dayyah will take back with him bitter memories of a New Year's Day in a 5-star hotel in Colombo. Mr. Dayyah, the General Manager of an Omani recruitment agency had his cash and valuables worth Rs. 144,250 stolen while he slept. Today the man who came to recruit 343 Lankans for jobs in West Asia is disillusioned and is having second thoughts about hiring Sri Lankans. ...

(The Sun — 4/1/86)

Fate of Indian boat

Jaffna High Court has no jurisdiction to hold an inquiry into the application for payment of compensation or value for any production lost or damaged. State Counsel Mr. Iyathurai Gnanathan made the above submission before the Jaffna High Court Judge Mr. T. Ananda Coomaraswamy during an inquiry into an application by a crew of an Indian trawler for the payment of compensation for the loss of the trawler while in the custody of the court. Attorney-at-law R. Balasubramaniam appeared on behalf of the applicant Ganesan. Police Constable Suppiah Parameswara of the Jaffna Police in his evidence stated that during the year 1984 he was attached to Kayts Police Station. The Indian fishing trawler RN III

was handed over to Kayts Police on a directive by the Jaffna High Court on 25/11/84. The Kayts Police Station was closed and on 25/12/84, Inspector of Police Gnanapiragasam who was in charge, was killed. He was aware that the said Indian fishing trawler was a production in the case - F 9.... Fisheries Inspector, Kayts, S.Velupillai in his report had said the upper portion of the trawler was burned and the lower part was submerged in water. Further inquiry was put off (The Island — 31/12/85)

Home Guard guns

Mr.A.E. de Alwis, A.S.P., Madawachchiya said yesterday that 18 shot guns in the possession of certain Home Guards in Madawachchiya area have been withdrawn on account of their alleged misconduct. The A.S.P. further said that it has been decided to further withdraw 12 other guns from the Home Guards in the Punewa area too.... In the meantime Police have taken into custody a gang who attempted to rob a vehicle in the same area and found a Home Guard and an ex-Special Police officer among them. Two other Home Guards are already in police custody in connection with an attempted robbery (The Island — 31/12/85)

Helicopter crash

The court martial proceedings against Pilot Officer C.R.Gurusinghe were recently fixed for January 28 by Judge Advocate Mervyn Samarakoon. Pilot Officer Gurusinghe is being charged for negligence leading to the crash of a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter in the Batticaloa lagoon on May 27, 1984, leading to the death of Squadron Leader R.P.Attapattu and Leading Aircraftsman H.M.S.Chandradasa (The Sun — 6/1/86)

Tea & Cyanide

Leading tea exporters were putting their stocks through thorough checks after assuring buyers that reports of Sri Lanka's tea being contaminated with Cyanide or Arsenic were merely a terrorist canard. In one leading export house, as in many others, more than 30,000 samples were being tested.

... Some exporters in the United States, Britain, and Australia have suspended Lankan tea imports and advised agents to check the stocks thoroughly..... (The Sun — 9/1/86)

"Fowl Cage houses"

Prime Minister R.Premadasa yesterday dismissed accusations by SLFP leader Sirima Bandaranaike that the houses built under the Village Reawakening Project resembles "fowl cages" and asked her to come and see the houses built at Bandaranaikepura. Speaking at the ceremonial opening of the Bandara-

naikepura model village, the Prime Minister said that although the former Prime Minister could not lay an egg she might at least cluck when she saw the new houses ... (The Sun — 7/1/86)

U.S. Tea tests

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has moved to detain Sri Lanka's Tea imports for special testing following terrorist threats to contaminate that nation's tea with cyanide, states a report datelined Washington in yesterday's issue of the "Wall Street Journal". The report says that Sri Lanka provides about 10 per cent of US tea imports or about 21 million pounds of black tea annually ... (The Island — 9/1/86)

Bridge blown up

Tamil terrorists have blasted the Irrakkakandy bridge for the second time in order to prevent security forces moving into Kumburupiddy.... The establishment of an Army camp at Irrakkakandy had irked the terrorists in the Kumburupiddy area... At least 90 per cent of the buildings at Nilaveli including tourist hotels have been found to be damaged by terrorists and very few people were seen using the main road. Nilaveli area which was one time busy with vehicular traffic has now become almost a ghost town. (The Island — 9/1/86)

Chinese visit

Deng Xiaoping, leader of the People's Republic of China and the man who is masterminding an ambitious modernisation programme in the world's most populous country, will pay a 3-day official visit to Sri Lanka from March 13... The visit is a reciprocation of President Jayawardene's 5-day visit to China in May 1984... (The Sun — 8/1/86)

Jail for nurse

A Tamil nurse attached to the Batticaloa hospital was yesterday sentenced to four weeks' simple imprisonment by Colombo High Court Judge K.Vignarajah when she pleaded guilty to a charge under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The accused, Seethadevi Ravindrarajah was charged with withholding between September 1 and September 30, 1984, information from Police. She had known the two men, Michael Ramachandran and Rasiah Arulnathan who had attacked the Kaluwanchikudy Police on September 22, 1984... (The Sun — 9/1/86)

"Could be wrong"

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said yesterday that every effort is being made to solve the ethnic crisis. "I feel the

worst is over. But I could be wrong", was his reply to questions raised as to prevailing mood, at the briefing to diplomats and international agencies, held at the Defence Ministry headquarters. The Minister pointed out that his optimism was based on information covering the terrorists campaign plans and situation reports... (The Island — 7/1/86)

No night work

The minor employees and counter clerks of the Jaffna Post Office have unanimously protested to the Chief Post Master that they cannot risk their lives by doing night work (The Island — 7/1/86)

Pak horse for Hindu rite

No blood will be shed at the "horse sacrifice" now into the 13th day of a 48-day Hindu ritual performed at the Kathiresan temple in Bambalapitiya. The "Aswamedha Yagna" as the ritual is termed, raised a few eyebrows among the Hindu intelligentsia, both in Colombo and India, when news of its revival from the Puranic era was broken late last year. "But we have been entirely misunderstood", a spokesman of the Ministry of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs said yesterday. "No blood will be shed... the horse to whom we are making offerings now, symbolises Lord Vishnu. We will release him on the 48th day of the ritual, and he will be cared for, thereafter by a Hindu temple", the spokesman said.... The spokesman for the Ministry said the white horse had been purchased at a cost of Rs.13,000/- from Pakistan... (Daily News — 9/1/86)

Brain Drain

Nearly 150 academic staffers from four of the country's universities have gone abroad for post-graduate work, and not returned allegedly violating their bonds and agreements, University Grants Commission sources disclosed. These include 55 from the Colombo University, 51 from the Peradeniya University, 25 from the Jaffna University and 14 from the Sri Jayawardenepura University.... (Sunday Observer — 5/1/86)

Anura also opposed

In a wide-ranging speech before the government parliamentary group, President Jayawardene yesterday reiterated government's opposition to any North-East link.... The President said that under the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact there was provision for the merger of Northern and Eastern Provinces. It was on this issue that they organized the march to Kandy. Mr.Anura Bandaranaike had stated now that he was also against the amalgamation of North and East.... (Daily News — 8/1/86)

DIARY OF EVENTS

and

Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from Nov 4th — Nov 23rd were carried in Issue No 2 of the Situation Report.

NOVEMBER 24

"Show of strength" by armed forces in civvies, in Jaffna. Panic in city areas as men in armoured cars emerge out of old Dutch Fort camp in 3 directions. Sounds of gunfire and bombs send people scampering for safety. At Bankshall Street, 19-year old Jayanthini and another woman injured by gunshots. Pedestrians assaulted. Cyclists drop their vehicles and run for cover. About 15 bicycles damaged beyond repair, run over by armoured cars. Youth militants help people in the busy bazaar area to get away to safety. Colombo newspaper "Sun" reporting the incident on the 25th says that "Terrorists mounted an attack on the Dutch Fort at Jaffna" and "the army repulsed the attack".

Govt. sources in Colombo say that "about 25 terrorists launched an attack on Wellaveli police station in Batticaloa district" around 1 a.m. Some damage to the station, but no casualties. Exchange of fire went on for an hour, they say.

Culvert between Kaluwanchikudy and Kalmunai in Batticaloa district damaged by Tamil militants and is impassable for traffic.

NOVEMBER 25

Five State-owned jeeps returning to Amparai carrying participants at opening of new Maha Oya hydro-electric scheme hijacked by 25-strong armed group at Arantalawa on the 32nd milepost on the Maha Oya-Amparai road. Some occupants of the vehicles abducted, including pro-govt. political monk — Ven. Hatekumbura Dhammaratna, the Viharadhipathi of the Mangala Oya temple in Amparai district.

Tamil Press photographer S. Sivaraj robbed of cash Rs. 260/- and gold ring valued at Rs. 2,500/- on his way to the Captain's Gardens Hindu temple at Maradana, Colombo, by two men who threw chillie powder on his face.

Posters at Vavuniya and Kilinochchi in the name of Liberation Tigers claiming execution of death sentence of Inparajah (Reagan), leader of a militant group (EPRLF) that was responsible for the murder of their supporter, the elderly owner of Uthaya Mills, and his son. Others in the group responsible for the killing had been released with a warning, say the posters.

Second refugee centre opened at Atchuvely, Jaffna, to accommodate more Tamil refugees fleeing Trincomalee district.

NOVEMBER 26

National Security Minister Lalith Athulath-

mudali observes his 49th birthday today by leading Blood Donation campaign in aid of injured soldiers.

"Unidentified gunmen" in civvies round up about 15 Tamils in Pullumalai village in Batticaloa district, including officiating Brahmin priest at Hindu temple and hold them as ransom for return of Buddhist monk kidnapped in Amparai district yesterday.

For the second time in 10 days, Vavuniya G.A. Logeswaran's house robbed by armed youths. Among articles taken away were a generator and a photo of the G.A. who was believed to be away in Colombo at that time.

Four Sinhala traders travelling in lorry from Colombo laden with produce killed by unknown persons at Morawewa in Polonnaruwa district.

Colombo report says four bodies with gunshot wounds discovered in jungle close to an irrigation canal in the Medura Oya settlement scheme.

Anuradhapura Urban Council calls upon all Tamils who fled the district after locking up their shops and houses to prove in writing their title to their property before December 31. It is feared many of these premises have been broken into and occupied illegally by unauthorised Sinhala squatters.

Colombo report says Govt. will soon go ahead with a phased programme of holding elections in the north and east, particularly Trincomalee and Paddiruppu.

NOVEMBER 27

A 30-strong pro-govt. armed gang stop Batticaloa-bound bus at Poonanai, order five Tamil passengers out, and gun four of them down on the spot. The fifth Tamil, Milton Rajah of Kotahena, Colombo, escapes with injuries. The bus with the rest of the passengers allowed to proceed. It was believed to be a retaliation to the killing of 4 Sinhala traders in Polonnaruwa district yesterday. One of the four Tamils killed was identified as Kamalalingam of Batticaloa. Later in the day, Kamalalingam's father Ponniah, another son Karunalingam (25), a relative Kanesamoorthy (41) and a Muslim Tamil friend Ismail who had set out in van driven by Ponniah to collect the body of Kamalalingam at Polonnaruwa hospital were themselves attacked by armed gang at Vakeneri. Ponniah was killed, and Karunalingam and Kanesamoorthy later admitted to Batticaloa hospital with serious injuries. Ismail escaped with minor injuries. (Virakesari & Eelamurasu).

National Security Minister spokesman in Colombo says that six out of ten Tamils abducted by a gang in retaliation for the kidnapping of the Buddhist monk have been released. "Four are still being held", said the spokesman. (Daily News).

In Colombo, 72-year old millionaire club owner Sellaiyah Mudalali (J.M.S. Fernando), gunned down "Chicago style" at Reclamation Road, Pettah, by a man in another vehicle running parallel to the businessman's chauffeur-driven car in broad daylight.

Govt. forces let loose terror in 3 villages in the East — Mandur, Vellaweli, and Kaluwanchikudi in the course of an intensive search and destroy operation of Tamil militant bases, with three or four helicopters giving air cover. Repeated gunfire, bomb bursts and clouds of smoke cause exodus of population to Periakallaru and other neighbouring villages.

Jaffna report says the Singha Regiment of the Sri Lanka army is to replace some of the army units stationed in Jaffna hitherto.

Tamil youth V.M. Ranjan (26) employed as a mechanic, who was carrying a bag of tools and walking along the Jaffna Post Office road, shot dead on suspicion by army sentry from the ramparts of old Dutch fort. (Eelamurasu, Jaffna).

Army men in uniform enter a house at Dharapuram in Kilinochchi district and take into custody a mother and daughter, Mrs. Arasammah Murugesu (55) and M. Kugajini (20). They also take away a lorry driver Selvam of Murasumoddai and the lorry cleaner along with the lorry.

Refugees from Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Batticaloa and Mullaitivu, including women and children in large numbers go on a 20-mile protest march at Jaffna, carrying placards and shouting slogans condemning the govt.

NOVEMBER 28

24 Tamils killed in the Mandur area in yesterday's army terror. 21 Tamils in the Trincomalee district and 9 in Mutur also killed making a total of 54 Tamils killed in two days in the Eastern province. Many of those killed in Mandur reported to have died in the course of strafing by helicopters. Those killed include several women and children. Several houses, tractors, lorries and other vehicles also set on fire along with household goods. (Virakesari, Colombo, and Eelamurasu, Jaffna). Govt. sources in Colombo say that 41 "terrorists" were killed in the East (referring to the same incidents) in their "clashes with security forces" (Daily News).

DIARY OF EVENTS and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Colombo Magistrate's Court Production Room at Hultsdorp robbed, for third time within six months. Items robbed include money, gold, and even heroin, all estimated to be worth a few million rupees. (The Island, Colombo).

National Security Minister states in Parliament that several Sinhalese who are members of two groups — the Samaja Janath Vijayapara (SVJ) and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna Nava Pravanathanaya (JVP NP), a breakaway group of the JVP, both believed to be having links with PLOTE, have been arrested.

Soldier on foot patrol in isolated area in Mutur shot at and seriously injured by "two terrorists who came on push cycles" states govt. report.

Train service between Colombo and Jaffna to operate as normal from today.

Tamil youth who flew in from Singapore arrested at Colombo airport for smuggling 18 walkie talkies inside a TV set. (The Island).

NOVEMBER 29

Mandur village goes into mourning as 14 bodies of Tamils shot dead by strafing helicopters are fished out from the waters of Kurumanveli lagoon and the relatives bury the dead. Two others believed killed in the same incident, Rasakuddy and Mekarajah, but bodies not recovered. No inquests or post-mortems held. Batticaloa Citizens Committee members Rev. Fr. Chandra Fernando, Sam Tambimuttu and S. Mahendran visit Mandur and listen to the woes of the public. They are told all those killed were poor huddlers who were going on their legitimate occupation by boats. Citizens Committee Secretary Prins Casinader sends urgent telegram to Monitoring Committee to visit Mandur and hear the people's representations (Virakesari).

Of the Tamils killed in Trincomalee district by govt. forces on the 27th, there was hardly any of them who could be called "terrorists" according to the personal data supplied to the Trincomalee Citizens' Committee by the villagers. Nine killed were from Kadalkarachennai, another nine from Chenaiyur, two from Kaddaiparichchan and one from Sampur. Among those killed were 65-year old Sithamparapillai Sinnathurai, 60-year old Kathiramalai Thangarasa, and 60-year old Marisalin. (Virakesari).

Daring night hold-up at Valaichchenai Paper Mills premises on 28th night reported. An armed gang about 25-strong threaten staff at gunpoint, lock them up in rooms and get away with official vehicles and goods worth over Rs. 15 lakhs. Jeeps, motor cycles, a TV set, camera, were among items robbed.

Also in the East, Tamil militants hijack petrol bowser at Chenkalady.

Govt. displays arms captured from Tamil militant camps at a Press conference in

Colombo, including hand grenades with LTTE markings.

Australian woman tourist robbed by masked men waving home-made pistols near Yala Wild Life Park in south-east Sri Lanka and relieved of cash and property worth Rs.29,000/- according to a complaint made by her to Police.

NOVEMBER 30

Muslim Tamil youth Jainudeen and another Tamil youth K. Thiyagarajah, both from Batticaloa, who were in army custody at Army headquarters in Colombo shot dead. Govt. claims they were killed by army sentries when they made a bid to escape.

23-year old Tamil youth Appakuddy Thiagalingam from Thiruvaiyur in Kilinochchi district who was on the Colombo-bound train along with his mother, sister and brother, intending to go abroad, taken away by army personnel on the train, to Elephant Pass army camp (Eelamurasu).

12 Tamil youths travelling in a bus from Kalmunai to Jaffna taken into custody by armed forces at Batticaloa bus stop.

All railway stations instructed not to accept any rail parcels to north.

DECEMBER 1

One Police constable killed and several injured when Tamil militants attack a jeep with hand grenades at Kaluwanchikudy. In another incident at Akkaraipattu, two jeeps in which Police Commandos were on their way to Thirukovil, run into a road mine. Govt. report says jeeps were damaged, but no casualties. Following these incidents, tension builds up at Kaluwanchikudy, Kallaru and Padiruppu areas. Clash reported between Police Commandos and militants at Thampattai. Army reinforcements rushed from Komari army camp. One soldier who suffered injuries dies later in hospital. (Virakesari, Eelamurasu and Sun)

Bodies of 4 Tamil youths, Ashok, Bala, Niyaz and Ivan, believed to be members of a militant group and shot dead by army men in a house at Thiruvaiyaru in Kilinochchi reported missing from Kilinochchi hospital morgue.

About ten armed youths rob cash box in Colombo-bound Yaldevi after ordering engine driver to stop at Mukamalai off Kodikamam. Inter-city express also robbed of cash collection at Thachchanthoppu.

DECEMBER 2

Point Pedro Citizens' Committee protests to President Jayawardene against stoppage of aid to Vavuniya refugees in Jaffna.

Following repeated robberies of railway cash, govt. introduces new system for purchase of rail tickets. Jaffna city commuters to purchase their tickets at the Durayappa Stadium, and others to pay through money

orders; to come into effect from the 4th.

Army fire at group of youths at Arasady Road, Batticaloa. Although no one was killed, one youth was reported to have swallowed cyanide and died.

Four youths in an earlier incident reported to have tried to force their way into the Batticaloa jail, but had fled when prison officers fired shots in the air.

Case against Uma Maheswaran and 11 others in connection with the Kilinochchi People's Bank robbery taken up before Colombo High Court Judge H.W. Senanayake and put off for April 21, 1986.

Four militants reported to have fired at a helicopter between Kuchchaveli and Pulmodai. Helicopter believed to have been damaged.

DECEMBER 3

Five soldiers and a civilian driver killed and three others seriously injured when their jeep ran into a landmine ambush between Dehiwatte and Kantalai in Trincomalee district. Victims were Sergeant Heenbanda, Corporal Vesudeva, Lance Corporal Ekanayake, Private Pelipane, Private Subarathne and driver Jinadasa. Three injured soldiers flown to Colombo. Shops, offices close, and panic in the area as continuous firing is heard.

Ceylon Workers' Congress decides to abstain from work in the plantations in the mornings and hold prayers from Thai Pongal Day till Tamil New Year Day.

Army men in civils arrive at Pallai in buses and passenger vans, and suddenly swoop on all youths in the area and in the vehicles. One youth killed, another youth Karunanithi (22) admitted to Jaffna hospital with gunshot wounds and 40 others arrested. (Eelamurasu, Jaffna).

DECEMBER 4

Unofficial Colombo reports say that Mr. Thondaman the plantation Tamils leader figured prominently in today's Cabinet meeting. President Jayawardene holds exclusive talks with him at the end of the Cabinet meeting.

Foot patrols by armed forces now camped at Dollar and kent Farms, in the surrounding areas, bring new tensions. Several young boys who had run in fear into jungles found to be missing.

Continuous reports of Jaffna-bound lorries being robbed on the way by armed gangs near Poonavai.

Train that left Talaimannar for Anuradhapura robbed by four armed youths at madhu Road. Cash Rs. 45,000/- belonging to Railway taken away.

In Colombo, Additional Defence Secretary, Dr. Wickrema Weerasooriya tells a news conference that the report by Amnesty Inter-

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national "File on Torture" published in October 1985 was false. He said he contacted the local representative of AI, Ms. Anne Ranasinghe and several others who denied they had anything to do with the report. (Sun).

DECEMBER 5

Army men in Navatkuli army camp in Jaffna go out on foot patrol in the area, stop and examine passing vehicles. Approaching the grain warehouses 200 yards away, some hand bombs were alleged to have been thrown at them, provoking them to open fire indiscriminately. Warehouse employees run away to safety and some youths in the vicinity were arrested. (Eelamurasu).

39 out of 49 who were arrested by army personnel at Pallai on the 3rd released.

Army men surround Neelachchikulam, Kunchikulam villages in Vavuniya district in search of Tamil guerrilla hide-outs. No independent reports of any arrests but Colombo govt. report says a cache of arms and explosives was captured. Govt. report also says a local leader of a Tamil militant group Bahirathan was captured near Vavuniya railway station.

16-year old youth Elimaran of Mulliyalawalai discovered dead about 30 yards away from his home under mysterious circumstances.

Two armed youths break into the home of Satkurnathan of Kokuvil West in Jaffna at 10 in the morning, threaten the lone woman occupant and get away with cash Rs. 28,000/- (Eelamurasu, Jaffna).

13,150 refugees in the Batticaloa district, according to Social Service Officer of the district.

Kandiah Thiagarajah of Nedunkerny admitted to hospital with grievous gun shot injuries following army search in the district.

13-year old girl injured in police shooting following sound of an explosion near the Batticaloa police station.

Govt. newspaper Daily News reports that ten unnamed "terrorist suspects" were shot dead at Seruwila when they tried to escape.

Dr. Wickremabahu Karunaratne, NSSP deputy leader produced before the Additional Magistrate, Colombo by Borella Police on a charge of distributing anti-govt. literature.

DECEMBER 6

Seven Tamil officials in the Administrative service, including two G.As serving in northern districts are reported to have applied for long leave on no-pay, for periods ranging from 6 months to two years.

86 families who were displaced from Gurunagar before the closing down of the army camp there and housed at Navatkuli Housing scheme get back to their original homes at Gurunagar because of constant tension after setting up of new army camp at Navatkuli. (Eelamurasu).

Tamil refugees from Chettikulam in Mannar district who fled army violence and lived in refugee camps at Kilinochchi and Jaffna now forced to beg and live as vagrants because of the stoppage of all govt. assistance.

Velaichchenai Paper Mills Factory robbed for the fifth time within recent weeks.

10 army officers trained in Israel in anti-guerrilla warfare arrive in Colombo.

Govt. has granted approval for the 4-day goodwill visit of 2 Chinese Warships to Sri Lanka, from December 18 to December 21, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Tyrone Fernando says in Parliament.

Monitoring Committee members visit Welikade jail in Colombo and spend four hours talking to detainees suspected of terrorism.

DECEMBER 7

Monitoring Committee fly down to Jaffna and motor to Kilinochchi. Several residents who were eye witnesses to incidents involving the armed forces in Kilinochchi district volunteer evidence.

Armed youths in three vehicles break into China Bay Cement works factory, in Trincomalee, order Sinhala security staff into one room, rob various items including walkie-talkies, helmets and cash, after telling the security men that they were not against the Sinhala people but were only fighting against the government and its armed forces.

Five Tamil youths in a refugee camp in Vattapalai in Mullaitivu taken away by army personnel after their eyes and mouths were tied up by the shirts they were wearing.

Trincomalee refugees in Jaffna refugee centres informed that all govt. assistance will be stopped by the 15th of this month.

Brief tension in Jaffna city in early hours of the morning after sounds of bomb blasts and gunfire in the Dutch Fort area, but no casualties or damage reported.

Colombo report says that about 85 Tamil youths from Trincomalee, Uppuveli, Pulmoddai and Kuchchaveli who were detained at the Boosa detention camp for the past 6 months are likely to be released within the next few days.

Another Colombo report says Sinhala "Home Guard" R.P. Wijeratne of Kaddukulam in Trincomalee district was killed by Tamil militants on the 3rd of this month.

Four servicemen from the Sri Lanka army, navy and police who lost their limbs in action in the north and east return to Colombo after being fitted with artificial limbs at the Tel Aviv hospital in Israel. They are Corporal M.D. Mithrananda, Sergeant H.K. Dayaratne of the army commando unit, Lt. W.U.G.A. Perera of the navy and Susantha Hettiarachchi of the Police Special Task Force.

DECEMBER 8

Conflict of opinion among members of

Monitoring Committee in respect of the report on the Committee's visit to Jaffna from the 4th to 6th of this month, says Jaffna Tamil daily Eelamurasu quoting reliable sources. A dissentient report might be submitted by some of the members, the report says.

Army convoy consisting of armoured cars and soldiers on foot emerge from Dutch Fort and move towards Palaly along the Palaly Road in the morning, and return in the evening by same route. Despite some early tension, no incidents and no panic on the part of the public.

19 Tamil youths arrested at Karadian Aru Farm in Batticaloa district. Govt. claims capture of 3 landmines, motor cycles and military uniform.

Jaffna-bound lorry from Colombo laden with trading goods worth Rs. 5 lakhs robbed by armed youths at Murikandy.

Jaffna fishermen from Gurunagar who set out on a mechanised boat for deep-sea fishing assaulted by Navy personnel off Nedunthivu and boat itself was damaged.

83 youths from Trincomalee district released from Boosa and sent to Trinco but prohibited from leaving the district for the next three months.

5453 Tamil refugees in Muttur district deprived of all govt. assistance because they refused to be moved into Trincomalee refugee camps face starvation.

Daily News reports that "armed terrorists entered the Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation office in Hingurana in the Amparai district and removed 16 guns, 216 rounds of ammunition and three motor cycles.

Govt. Rehabilitation Ministry sources in Colombo say that about 1,000 refugees from Trincomalee who were temporarily accommodated in Batticaloa have returned to Trinco.

DECEMBER 9

Tension and panic in Navatkuli in Jaffna. Army men in civils from the Navatkuli army camp comb the area. One army unit approaching the railway station attacked by Tamil militants. Several army men believed injured. Near the Navatkuli junction one army man injured, accidentally caught in the army fire. Unconfirmed reports say that three persons were killed in the course of the army shooting. Several residents in Navatkuli area flee their homes. Yal Devi to Colombo delayed by two hours.

Armoured car collides against a parked lorry by the roadside near Elephant Pass Post Office, causing serious injuries to lorry driver who was sleeping inside and damaging the lorry. Lorry driver N. Sathasivam (30) of Valvettiturai despatched to Jaffna hospital by local residents with the help of army personnel.

New army camp set up in Nagarkovil, Kudaththanai, in Vadammarachchy district in

Jaffna peninsula. Around 6 in the morning, 18 armoured cars escorting several lorries loaded with heavy wooden posts, barbed wire and implements, reported going past Kallundai road and Chonnappu Alaya junction towards Mullichanthi. Sounds of gunfire heard for several minutes continuously near Mullichanthi. A low-flying helicopter was seen overseeing the entire army movement. Around 10 in the morning, 8 of the 18 armoured cars were seen getting back to Thondamanaru army camp, by way of Alayachchanthi, Mandan. (Eelamurasu and Jaffna eye witness reports).

25 fishing boat motors seized by Bank of Ceylon branch, Batticaloa and kept in their custody for non-payment of loans by individual fishermen, reported stolen on 8th night.

Five out of 9 Tamil youths arrested by armed forces at Kilinochchi yesterday while they were returning after seeing a video film released. Relatives of the other 4 youths make complaint to Citizens' Committee.

DECEMBER 10

Around 5.30 p.m., five armed youths enter Kankasanturai Cement factory premises, compel a train driver to use an engine to pull out two goods wagons out of the premises and halt half a mile away between Kankasanturai and Maviddapuram. All goods in the wagons, meant for use by the armed forces, unloaded into waiting lorries and driven away. (Uthayan, Jaffna daily).

7 Tamil youths, including two Muslims released from Dutch Fort army camp.

10 Army men suffer grievous injuries when the truck in which they were travelling was blown up by a land mine near Paranthan Chemicals factory. The truck was part of a convoy of 6 vehicles going from Elephant Pass army camp towards Kilinochchi. Injured soldiers rushed to Colombo by helicopters.

One Tamil youth shot dead and his body removed by army men following gunfire by army patrol at Karadipokky Junction at Kilinochchi. Incident occurred around 10 in the morning and the sudden patrolling in 8 vehicles after a long spell take residents by surprise. After mid-day the convoy was seen going towards Uruthirapuram.

DECEMBER 11

Army takes possession of several public and private buildings opposite army camp in Kilinochchi with a view to expanding the army camp. Officers and members of public now apprehensive of going near the area. Public demand to shift the Post Office too from the area.

Hijacked train engine and goods wagons taken back to Kankasanturai Cement factory premises by army personnel.

New army camp opened at Pullumalai, bordering Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa districts.

S. Ramu (27) who received a bullet injury on the face in the course of army firing at

Paranthan on 10th, admitted to Jaffna hospital.

Intensive army cordon and search at Batticaloa town from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Several persons taken away in army vehicles.

Big bomb blast in Jaffna opposite Multi-purpose cooperative stores on K.S.S. Road. Some damage to adjoining buildings, including an arrack tavern. Another bomb blast heard around 1 o'clock in the morning, followed by gunfire from within Dutch fort army camp.

Farmer working in his field at Uruthirapuram shot dead and several others injured near the 6th culvert in the course of random firing by passing army convoy. 3 shops on the way also set on fire.

Reuter reports from Colombo say that 3 of the 8 army men grievously injured in landmine blast at Paranthan on 10th succumb to injuries, at Colombo army hospital.

Two Tamil women allegedly shot at by armed Home Guards admitted to Trincomalee hospital.

At Mutur, a father of seven, Gabriel, allegedly pulled out of his house by armed Home Guards, put to death and his body was burnt.

8 Tamil youths from Kilinochchi detained at Dutch Fort army camp released.

DECEMBER 12

Army firing in Jaffna city. Two elderly persons — K. Thuraiamy (79), a Malayan pensioner of Manipay and Krishnapillai (58) of Beach Road Jaffna, both shot dead by the wayside near the main bus station. Four others — S. Mathialagan (17), an employee of Sai Stores and resident of Tinnevely, S. Zubair (18) from the Muslim Ward, K. Jaya-weerasingam (23) of Clock Tower Road, and Suppiah from Atchuvvely were admitted to hospital with injuries. Mathialagan's condition was reported critical. The army men were stated to have gone to Perumal Kovil where a major robbery took place recently, to take photographs of the temple. In the process they were reported to have smashed up a car and bicycle parked near the temple. Bomb blasts were thereafter heard in the vicinity and other city areas, apparently set off by Tamil militants to warn off the army. Suddenly, army men begin firing at people who were trying to flee from the area. Shops close, students sitting in the G.C.E. exam, run away from exam halls and panic grips the city. Govt. statement from Colombo says (Daily News) that "Marxist terrorists launched a furious attack on security forces", the "security forces counter-attacked effectively" and "two civilians were caught in the crossfire and later succumbed to their injuries".

PLOT group put up posters in Jaffna that three of their men — Ravimurthy, Jegatheeswaran and Banda, were killed by members of a Tamil militant movement at Ariyalai yesterday.

Three unidentified persons found killed at the scene of a loud bomb explosion near the rail track at Kankasanturai in the early hours

of the morning.

A time bomb goes off in the Intercity train that reached Colombo from Jaffna after all the passengers had got off, completely damaging a compartment.

Report from Thopppur in Mutur area alleging rape of four married Tamil women by members of Govt. forces in civils. The men had entered four houses in the area, where the husbands had already been taken away for questioning and raped the wives, one of whom had delivered a baby only three months ago. The wives leave for Trincomalee to complain to the Monitoring Committee due to visit there today.

Tharmalingam (38) a farmer of Alankerny along with another farmer killed by govt. forces.

Mothers' Front in Jaffna take out a silent protest march from Urumpirai to Kokuvil through Kondavil carrying placards deploring clashes and rivalries between Tamil militant groups.

DECEMBER 13

Ceremonial cremation of 3 PLOT members killed by a leading Tamil militant movement at Ariyalai, held at Kokuvil. The killed members were Kokuvil PLOT unit leader Ravimurthy, Jegatheeswaran of Kaithady and "Banda" of Ariyalai. Armed PLOT members escort the procession. A series of bomb blasts throughout Jaffna precede the procession. No signs of any army movements. Earlier, in the course of the panic caused by the bomb blasts, a mother and daughter from Sankuvvely get knocked by a speeding mini-van in Jaffna, and the daughter Kamala (18) succumbs to her injuries at Jaffna hospital.

Colombo-Jaffna train services suspended until further notice. North-bound trains to go only up to Anuradhapura.

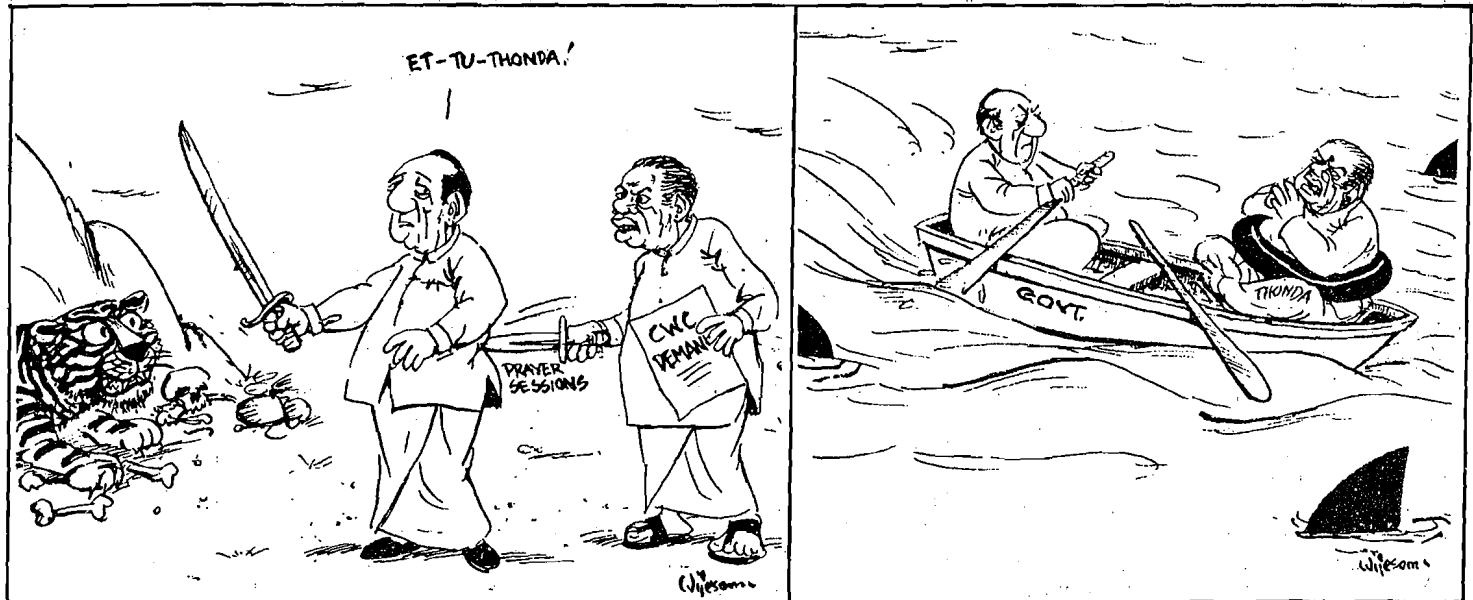
Following a report that about 75 suspected armed militants in army uniform were sighted at Horton Plains in Nuwara Eliya in the early hours of 12th December, an intensive security search is launched in the Nuwara Eliya district. Helicopters also enlisted for help. Plantation Tamils quarters also come under search.

Two charred bodies discovered at Alankerny in Trincomalee district, believed to be those of Tharman, a dealer in curd, and his kinsman Somasundaram, who were both missing after armed forces attacked Alankerny village on the 12th.

At Anpuvalipuram, armed Home Guards are alleged to have entered a house, attacked the inmates and robbed cash, gold and a video deck. Two of the inmates, Thuraiyasa Kamaleswary and Balachandran admitted to Trincomalee hospital.

Bribery Department officers from Colombo sent to Anuradhapura to investigate the killing of a Police officer by another over the sharing of the bribe. The bribe is believed to have been taken from a Tamil lorry driver at a check point at Medawachchiya.

SITUATION REPORT



Obituaries

DECEMBER

E.K. SHANMUGANATHAN — Ministry of Finance, Kaduna, Nigeria, formerly Principal, Kopay Christian College, Jaffna Central College and Director, Ministry of Education, husband of Selvaranee, father of Shanmugenthiran (National Milk Board), Seiventhiran (U.K.), and Sivendran. Funeral 7th December Kaduna, Nigeria. Church Lane, Kopay.

A.D.R. RATNARAJAH — retired Deputy Conservator of Forests and Managing Director of Ninety-Nine Exporters Ltd., husband of Thiraviamalar, father of Vijit (Accountant), Ehan (U.S.A.), Yuhan, son-in-law of Thiraviamayagam JPUM, Attorney-at-law, Chavachcheri. Cremation 8th December. Kanatte, Colombo. No.7, Quarry Road, Dehiwala.

JEGANATHAN — Pavalamalar, ex-staff, Hindu Ladies College, Jaffna, wife of Jeganathan, Staff, Somaskanda College, Puttur, mother of Sutharsan (U.K.), Suganthy and Samathy, mother-in-law of Nimalan (Accountant, Colombo Land and Development Co. Ltd.). Cremation 9th December Chemmany Burial Grounds. 120, Arasady Road, Kantheradam, Jaffna.

ILAGARATNAM — C., Director and Consultant Engineer, Samuel Sons & Co. Ltd., Consultant Engineer, Ceylon Cement Corporation, Chairman, Asbestos Industries Ltd., retired Chief Technical Executive, Walker Sons & Co. Ltd., husband of Nageswary, father of Sri Balaskanda (U.K.), Rohini (U.S.A.), Mala (Australia), and Sri Rengan (Sambamurti & Co., father-in-law of Dr. Easwarakhanthan J.S.A.), Rathe (U.K.), Saravanabhava (Australia). Cremation Kanatte, Colombo 11th December. 174/15, Alwis Avenue, Castle Reef, Colombo 8.

IVASUBRAMANIAM — S., retired Regional Manager, Paddy Marketing Board, husband of Vijalaxmy, retired teacher Ramathan College, father of Shivane (Canada), Evagan (U.S.A.), father-in-law of Ravisuthan (Canada). Funeral at Kokuvil, Jaffna 10th

December.

PULLENAYEGUM — Rev. Ilex, late Vicar, St. Luke's Church, Reigate, Surrey, husband of Doreen. Interment at Kanatte, Colombo, 14th December. Flat 25, Manormead, 56, Tilford Road, Hindhead, Surrey GU 26 6 RA, U.K.

THILLAIRAJAH — Viswalingam (Retd. Commercial Supdt., Railways), husband of Sivapakiam, father of Kamalam, Saraswathie, Kulendran, Logendran (U.K.), Maheswari (Canada), Mahendran (Saudi Arabia), Kulkendran (Canada), Menakadevi (U.K.), Thavamany, father-in-law of late Amirthalingam, J.P.U.M., Mahalingam (State Bank of India), Damayanthi (U.K.), Ramanathan (Canada), Rita (Canada), Dr. Gunasingham (U.K.), late Bremachandrakumar. Funeral 13th December. Punnalakattuvan North, Palaly Road, Jaffna.

RAJARATNAM — Queenie. Funeral 13th December, Kanatte, Colombo.

S. SITTAMPALAM — Sangarapillai, former Commissioner, Inland Revenue, later Tax Adviser, Ministry of Finance, husband of Soundari (nee Rasanayagam), father of Dr. Radhi (Male), Dr. Maya (Rainford) A-Z Computers, and Indrajith (American Express Bank), father-in-law of Stephen Rainford, brother of Kadirgamanathan (General Treasury), died in Colombo 12th December, cremated same day at Mallakam, Jaffna.

SPENCER — Sugirtharatnam Margaret, wife of the late Samuel Rajaratnam Spencer, mother of Mani Rajasenani (Lecturer Technical College, Kokuvil), Ranji Thambirajah (Deputy Principal), Vembadi Girls' High School), Deva-rajani (formerly of Bank of Ceylon, Colombo), Jebamany (Canada), Thavamany (Canada), Thiruranjitham (Canada), Jeyasothy (Canada), Swarnaratnam Reuban (U.K.). Burial 7th December. Spencers, 66, Brown Road, Jaffna.

RAMASAMY — Kone, Proprietor of Indo-Ceylon Cafe, Kollupitiya, Colombo. Cremation in Madras 15th December.

ARABINTHAN — Harry, husband of Suganthi, died under tragic circumstances in Australia. Funeral at Geelong, Australia 19th December. T. Kangadaran, Thunnaiai North, Karaveddy.

MANICKANADARAJAH — Nadarajah, retired D.R.O./Assistant Commissioner of Probation and Child Care. Funeral Kokuvil 18th December. 81, K.K.S. Road, Kokuvil.

GEORGE — Peter Joseph, retired Chief Jailor of Prisons Department died in Trincomalee on 16th December. Burial at Kanatte Cemetery, Colombo on 19th December.

V. VEERAKATHIPILLAI — (ex-Grindlay's Bank, Colombo), husband of Kamalambikai. Funeral 22nd December. 41, Seenivasagam Road, Koddady, Jaffna.

ARUDPRAGASAM — Robert, formerly of the Bank of Ceylon, Manipay, husband of Grace (Ranji), brother of Henry George Sam (U.K.), Thevarani and Christobel. Funeral 26th December. Suthumalai North, Manipay.

GUNASEELAN — Edward, Chief Accountant, C.F.T. Engineering, Browns Group, husband of Rachel. Funeral 26th December Colombo. No.48, Byrd Place, Colombo 6.

KASIPILLAY — S. (J.E.D.B.), formerly of Labour Dept. and C.E.E.F. Funeral Jaffna 27th December. 459, K.K.S. Road, Jaffna.

RAJANATHAN — S., retired District Judge, Point Pedro. Cremated 23rd December at Trincomalee. 2, Saratha Lane, Trincomalee.

PONNUSAMY — Sivayogavally, widow of the late V. Ponnusamy, Proctor S.C., Nuwara Eliya, mother of the late Maheswaran (Attorney-at-law), Rajeswaran (Berkeley, California), Naguleswaran (Attorney-at-law), Sathisivam (Kreston M.N.S. & Co.), Jayalakshmi (New Zealand), and Yogalakshmi. Cremated in Colombo 26th December. 17/1, Frederica Road, Colombo 6.