

InsideReport

Tamil Eelam News Round-up

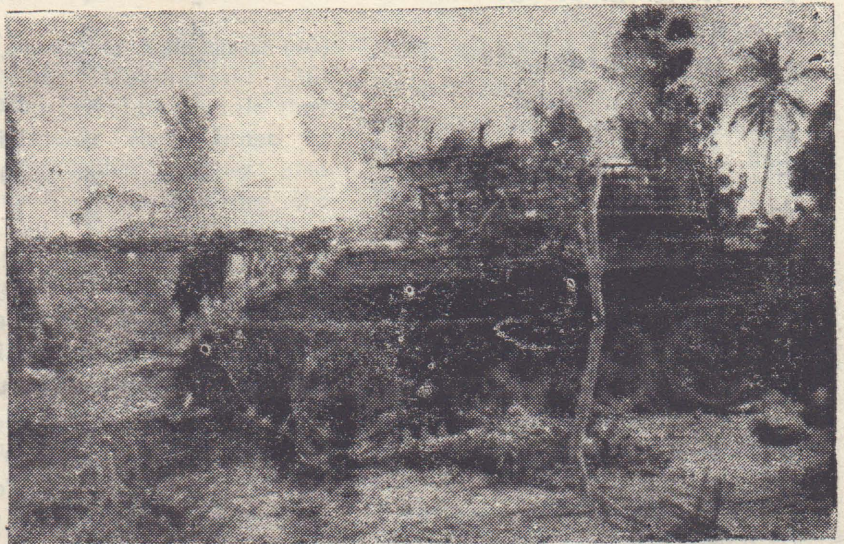
Vol 1 No. 7

5th October 1993

'YAL DEVI' Operation A Military Debacle

The so called 'Yal Devi' offensive operation undertaken with the strategic objective of taking over Kilali area to enforce an effective blockade of the Jaffna Peninsula has turned out to be a major military debacle. The heroic resistance of the LTTE fighters which resulted in the severe loss of life and equipment for the armed forces has compelled the Sri Lankan military highcommand to abandon the offensive operation.

On 28th of September, the Sri Lanka Government launched a major offensive operation code - named 'Yal Devi' to take control of Kilali area, a pivotal region where the people of Jaffna undertake a perilous journey through the lagoon. The strategic objective of the operation was obvious. The Sri Lanka Government wanted to close down the Kilali passage to enforce a complete blockade of the Jaffna Peninsula, de-linking the Peninsula from the Northern mainland. This would place a million people of Jaffna under total siege and would cause enormous economic difficulties. The ultimate objective, of the



government is to break the will of the Tamil people by driving them to the brink of starvation.

A massive force of 10,000 troops were mobilised with tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery pieces and with the support of the airforce, the military columns marched from Elephant Pass base towards Kilali. On the morning of 29th Sept. the commando units of the LTTE including women fighters engaged the advancing columns of the Sri Lankan army at Pulopallai about 3K. meters from Kilali. A fierce fighting broke out and lasted for more than 4 hours. The army suffered the worst casualties in the history of the war.

130 soldiers including several officers were killed and 250 injured. Tanks and armoured vehicles were destroyed. A huge quantity of arms and ammunition were captured by LTTE fighters. On the LTTE side 83 fighters were killed. Having launched a sudden, lightning assault and throwing the army in total disarray the LTTE fighting units withdrew from the battle field in preparation for further attacks. Severely mauled, the armed forces advanced towards Kilali where they burnt down several huts and destroyed hundreds of passenger boats. Having reached Kilali, army faced a dilemma whether to

consolidate their positions and to face LTTE's attacks or to withdraw. Realising the danger of holding a vulnerable position with imminent assaults from Tiger guerrillas the military high command finally decided to withdraw the troops from Kilali. Thus the so-called 'Yal Devi' Operation ended in fiasco as a grave military setback to the armed forces. But the military high command has not given up its strategy of launching further offensive operations in the Peninsula nor the political leadership has given up its policy of military solution though the war is causing heavy loss of life to the armed forces.

Details of Arms and Ammunitions Recovered

by L. T. T. E. at the Battle of Pulopalai

★ L 3 L M G	2	★ I. M. Rounds	10,030
★ Mini Mini	2	★ A. K. L. M. G. Link with rounds	401
★ G. P. M. G.	2	★ L. 3 Link with rounds	1450
★ A. K. L. M. G.	2	★ 50 Calibre Rounds	94
★ R. P. G.	4	★ G. P. M. G. Link with Rounds	500
★ 60 m. m. Motor	2	★ Communication Set (mobile)	3
★ 40 m. m. Pistol	3	★ Batteries	4
★ T 56 - 1 Rifles	11	★ Binocular	1
★ T 56 - 2 Rifles	36	★ 60 m. m. Shells	12
★ T 56 New model Rifles	8	★ R. P. G. Shells	5
★ T 81 Rifles	15	★ A. K. Holsters	33
★ T 81 Magazine	32	★ A. K. L. M. G. Holsters	5
★ T 56 - 2 Magazine	120	★ Rain Coats	5
★ A. K. L. M. G. Drum Magazine	3	★ Kit Bags	2
★ J. R. Grenades	43	★ Bullet Proof Jacket Holster	23
★ M. 75 Grenades	3	★ Helmet	2
★ T. N. T. Grenades	4	★ Water Can	34
★ 203 Shells	5	★ Focus Light	1

Naval Boats and Helicopters Fired on Vadamaradchi

On the early hours of 27th September a 'Dvora' Gun boat of the Sri Lankan Navy came over the sea off Vadamaradchi north and opened cannon fire on the sea shore villages Myliathanai, Kattupulam, Valvettithurai and on the areas in the vicinity of the Point Pedro harbour. At the same time a helicopter flew over the area and fired 50 Cali-

bre shots directed on residential areas there and on fishing boats in the sea. A small boy who got hit on the head while running to a safety shelter by a shrapnel has been admitted to the hospital at Point-Pedro. When the fishermen in the boats were fired at, they abandoned their boats and jumped into the sea and swam to safety.

Kilaly and Alankerny Bombed and Fired

On 20th night from 7.15 p.m. Puccara planes of the Sri Lankan Airforce carried out aerial bombings, a helicopter opened fire and army at the camp in Poonakary fired shells, directed on the ferry points of Kilaly, Allipalai and Alankerny, intermittently right throughout the night.

Chauvinist Sinhala State Unleashes Terrorism in the North

Indiscriminate aerial bombardment and shelling by the Sri Lankan Forces have killed 55 innocent civilians in 15 days and severely injured more than a hundred and rendered thousands homeless.

Temples, schools, hospitals, shops and houses have been either completely destroyed or severely damaged.

Lack of the necessary medicines and the delay in transporting the injured to hospital due to aerial bombing and helicopter strafing have made the plight of the injured desperate.

Daily, hundreds and hundreds of people are evacuating Valikamam and Thenmaradchi areas as there have become targets of indiscriminate bombing and shelling.

Even the temples and schools where these refugees seek temporary shelter have not been spared by the S L A F.

The people of the North are at death's door due to the economic blockade and the military encirclement.

It is clear that the chauvinist sinhala state has decided to unleash the full fury of its terrorism in the North, observers say.

A Diary of State Terrorism

We chronicle below details of the terrorism the state has unleashed in the North.

18-9-1993: Sri Lankan Puccaro bombers launched rocket attacks on thousands of people who were participating in a cultural programme at night in the village of Mathalan in the Mullitivu District. 13 people were killed on the spot and their bodies were blown to bits. More than 60 people were injured, of whom two died later in hospital.

A shell launched by the Thallady Army camp in Mannar injured several persons including a mother and her daughter in Vidathaltivu.

26-9-1993: Two people were injured when shells fired from the Mandaitivu Army camp exploded within the Jaffna General hospital security zone.

28-9-1993: 2 S L A F Sia mac hetti bombers indiscriminately bombed Sangathanai in the Thenmaradchy area. 20 people including women and children died of suffocation when the bunker in a timber depot in which they had taken refuge collapsed after a direct hit.

When the Kokuvil, Nanthavil Amman Kovil was bombed 3 women who had sought sanctuary in the temple were killed on the spot and their bodies blown to bits. 18 people were injured in this incident.

S L A F bombers and helicopters bombed and strafed Ketpeli Chavakachcheri, Pallai and Yak kachi in Thenmaradchy. There was a heavy artillery shell barrage from the Elephant Pass Army camp and 7 people were injured.

29-9-1993: The Palaly army camp heavily shelled civilian residential areas. 6 People including a young mother and 2 children were killed in Navakiri and 11 civilians were severely injured. Several houses were damaged. In Puttur one person was killed and two injured.

Shelling from the Mandaitivu army camp injured two persons at Koddady.

Heavy shelling from the Elephant Pass army camp killed 3 persons in Pallai Arasankerny area and injured 7.

Helicopter strafing and aerial bombardment injured 7 persons in the Chavakachcheri area.

Two people were injured when helicopters strafed Kunchu Paranthan in the Kilinochchi District.

30-9-1993: One person was killed and 9 injured when S L A F bombers attacked Chavakachcheri and Nunavil, without a let-up. Several houses were damaged.

1-10-1993: Six persons were injured when Puccaro bombers and helicopters launched rocket attacks on Chavakachcheri Town. The rockets set Kerosene sales depots ablaze. Chavakachcheri Drieberg College, the children's dental clinic, a motor car a Co-op Union and several houses were damaged.

One person was killed on the spot at Vembadi in Valvettiturai when a helicopter carried out a rocket attack. Four people were severely injured in this incident.

2-10-1993: Five refugees who had sought sanctuary in Vidathalpalai Kamalambihai M. V in Thenmaradchy were killed when a helicopter hurled grenades and launched rocket attacks. Several were severely injured. Among those killed were two women and two children.

A father and son were injured when two Sia Marchetti planes bombed the Munai area in Pt. Pedro.

When the Kodikamam market was bustling with activity, a helicopter launched an indiscriminate attack, severely injuring 11 persons and damaging several shops.

*Admission to Faculties. V. C. Writes to Minister
University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka.*

Hon' ble W. M. Loku Bandara,
Minister of Higher Education,
through,

Prof. A. P. R. Aluvihare,
Chairman,
University Grants Commission,
20, Ward Place,
Colombo - 7.

Thirunelvely,
Jaffna,
Sri Lanka.

Telephone: 0252834

23rd September, 1993.

Dear Sir,

Admission to Medical and other Faculties for the year 1993/94

The Chairman, University Grants Commission by his letter dated 02.08.1993 to Dean, Faculty of Medicine has indicated that the intake of students to the Medical courses may be drastically reduced. He attributes this reduction due to poor performance of the students from the North East. This matter was brought to the notice of the Senate at its last meeting held on 21.09.93. The Senate was of the view that the poor performance of the students at the Repeat G. C. E. A/L. Examination held in April 1992 could be the result of the war-torn situation in the North East for the past two to three years. The students had to undergo considerable hardships due to the following reasons:—

1. **Electricity**

Interruption of electricity supply to the northern region had caused immense hardship to student making it difficult to study at home on their return from school.

2. **Kerosene**

Inadequate and irregular supply of kerosene resulting in the price going up to Rs. 300/00 per litre. Even today the price is around Rs 80/00per litre.

3. **Closure of Schools**

Closure of several schools and displacement of families and students due to military operations in the Islands, from Thondamanaru to Mathagal and other parts of North East.

4. **Over Crowding in Schools**

This displacement and closure of schools had led to over crowding in other schools where displaced students were accommodated.

5. **Lack of Facilities in Schools**

The schools were not adequately equipped for carrying out their teaching programme due to shortage of furniture and laboratory equipments. Books, periodicals and exercise books do not reach Jaffna in time and in adequate amounts.

6. **Public Transport**

Disruption of public transport due to lack of fuel had resulted in poor attendance in schools. In the absence of public transport the students use bicycles, but they are finding it difficult to purchase bicycles at prohibitive prices (around Rs. 6000/00).

7. **Teacher Training**

The teachers, especially of the G. C. E. A/L classes in the region denied the opportunity of attending workshops / training programmes periodically held in Colombo by the Department of Education; the lack of facilities for continuing education for the staff could also have contributed to the deterioration of the standards in schools.

For the above reasons the Senate strongly recommends that the University Grants Commission and the Ministry of Higher Education should review the admission policy to the University for students entering to any faculties of the Universities from the war-torn North East region. The Senate suggests that the intake for any stream be not less than the average number admitted during the past five years from a particular district.

The Senate is in favour of positive remedial action by the University Grants Commission on the lines suggested above. In our view, this is a fair and reasonable request to be considered by the UGC and the Ministry of Higher Education under the prevailing situation in the North East.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. A. Thorai rajah
(Vice - Chancellor)

EDITORIALS

Who In Fact Are The Terrorists?

Once again the Sri Lankan government has proved its record of barbarism, by its aerial attack on a crowd of civilians watching a cultural event in Mullaitivu killing 13 persons and seriously injuring more than 40. The victims include women and children. This is part of the Sinhala - Buddhist scheme to annihilate the Tamils. The Sri Lankan President has branded the armed struggle of the Tamils as 'terrorism'.

When Sri Lanka became independent the Tamils welcomed it. But successive Sinhala-Buddhist governments sought to curtail the rights of the Tamils. To restore their rights the Tamils resorted to non-violent passive struggles but the Sinhala governments adopted a ruthless policy of military repression which forced the Tamils to take up arms.

The Sinhala only Act of 1956 and the Colonisation policy

of the various governments are the germs of Tamil discontent. The riots of 1958, 1977, 1983 are examples of state terrorism, where by the armed forces joined lawless elements and indulged in murder, arson, rape and plunder. The UNP which boasts of a long record of democratic rule in this country must bear the responsibility for the ethnic crisis. From D. S. Senanayake to Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, the governmental attitude to the aspirations of the Tamils has not varied.

The armed struggle of the Tamils has a 15 year history. It is a defensive war on the part of the minority Tamils. Who then are the terrorists? It is government that commits genocide as state policy or the tigers who are the only protectors of the defenseless Tamils.

Eelanatham. 21-9-1993

Hameed's Dilemma

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Hon A. C. S. Hameed has a long record of political experience to his credit. It would not be wrong to say that he has a full knowledge of the depth and quantum of the problem facing the people of the Tamil Eelam. He had been a participant in many negotiations relating to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. His awareness of this communal strife is more profound than that of President D. B. Wijetunga.

Recent pronouncements of Minister Hameed on the ethnic question are contradictory. Some of his comments are not based on reality and many are not worth attributing to a politician of his calibre.

"It is wrong to indulge in finding a militaristic solution to the problems existing in the North and East of the country. An atmosphere of goodwill and understanding must be first created and negotiations should follow to settle this thorny problem."

These are words which Mr. Hameed delivered at a Public meeting in his own constituency Akurana.

Beyond doubt, this opinion sounds realistic and thoughtful and shows a sense of political maturity. This statement also indicates his awareness of the fact that the Tamil National Liberation

struggle cannot be resolved by military means.

But what he expressed at the interview with the B. B. C. correspondent recently indicate that Mr. Hameed is indecisive and confused. He says that "the problem existing in Sri Lanka is not an international one. Therefore we have to find our own solution to this internal question. Settlement of this ethnic crisis is delayed because of the problem of terrorism and that is why the President wants to eradicate terrorism." These words of the minister can be construed as the voice of the chauvinistic regime.

Furthermore he has said that the government is always prepared to talk to the Liberation Tigers to arrive at an amicable settlement of this issue.

To be precise, Mr. Hameed speaks of 'Terrorism' and a unilateral solution on the one hand and on the other he says that the problem is an ethnic one, therefore a national problem. He also says that negotiations with the Liberation Tigers is indispensable and the government is anxious to settle it that way. Minister Hameed who is supposed to be very conversant with this complex problem is pathetically slippery.

A very senior Minister of the calibre Mr. Hameed has to be reminded that this sort of indecision and confusion would not bring peace or solution to the ethnic problem. Such contradictions can cause only discredit to himself and disaster to the country.

Eelanatham 27-09-1993

The Freedom of The Tamils In Sri Lanka

The mass arrest of Tamils in Colombo is a daily occurrence. Be it on the Galle Face promenade or in some boarding houses no Tamil is safe in the city. Men and women of all ages are taken into custody humiliated and interrogated. Government servants in high positions, labourers, students and mercantile employees have become victims of this persecution for the simple

reason that they are Tamils.

Protests had been made against these indiscriminate arrests. The Tamil groups in Colombo have begged the Government to stop it but the arrests continue unabated. To justify this unjustified action the Government and the Sinhala chauvinistic newspapers are spreading a canard that the Tigers

have infiltrated Colombo. Big sums of money pass hands in exchange for the release of the detainees. But the President showing a callous disregard to these events has proclaimed that the Tamils are safe in Colombo.

Eelanatham 18-9-1993

Thamil Eelam Remembers Martyr Thileepan

On the final day of martyr Thileepan's 6th year celebrations people gathered in thousands to pay their tributes to their heroic son of the soil who sacrificed his life, fasting unto death for the emancipation of Tamil Eelam on 26th September 1987. Jaffna Peninsula and the Vanni area were full of activities.

Chariot processions, various types of dancing performances token fasts and shramadana (Volunteer services) took place. Numerous other forms of traditional tributes were also offered in his memory.

In the Valigamam division, Nallur Kandaswamy Temple premises where Thileepan attained his martyrdom was a hive of activities. A special 'pandal' was erected to house the thousands who gathered to perform token

fasts. People were entertained with dramas and recitals depicting Thileepan's memory.

Several senior members of the LTTE spoke at the public

meeting that followed the day's celebrations.

People belonging to all walks of life from all parts of Jaffna participated in the occasion.

In thenmaradchi thousands of people from the area gathered at the Manankuna & Pillaiyar temple premises. Mr. Kanthanna Political Leader of Thenmaradchi presided over the meeting. More than 5000 people gathered to observe token fast.

In Vadamaradchi occasion was solemnly celebrated at the Vinayagar temple at Malisanthi. A chariot carrying Thileepan's life-size photo was at the head of the procession that started from Alwai Muthumari Amman temple special 'pandal' that was erected for this purpose was over-crowded with people observing fasts and singing bhajan.



Batticaloa—Kalkudah Sinhala Fishermen Settled In Vaharai

The Fisheries Department is engaged in settling Sinhala fishermen in Kalkudah - Vaharai coas

tal area. They are being offered relief as a beginning and twelve fishermen co-operative societies had been formed. A sum of rupees Seventeen (17) lakhs had been allocated for this project. Fishing

boats worth Rs. 30,000/- each are being distributed to the said Sinhala fishermen to help them in their pursuits.

Navy Fired And Injured Fishermen

On 14th September from 12.45 p.m. Sri Lankan Navymen coming in 3 gun boats over the sea off Alampil coast of Mullaitivu district opened continuous fire on fishing boats on the sea and got 3 fishermen grievously injured. The boats as well as fishing nets cast in the sea were damaged. The belfry of St. Velankanni Catholic church on the shore was also damaged by being hit with cannon fire from the Navy boats.



News Items

Shells Fired From Palaly Killed A Child And Injured 10 Persons

On 15th September from about 6.00 p.m., a barrage of artillery shells were fired from the Sri Lankan Army camp at Palaly, directed wantonly towards residential areas of the villages Chunnakam, Urelu, Uduvil, Kantharodai, Mylany, Thottiladi and Koththiyawattai in the Valigamam North Division. By that time a young girl K. Tharminy (12) was killed by her head being shatte

red and her father Kanagarasa (40) and mother Manoranjani (36) were seriously injured while they were all inside their home at Urelu. Ten other persons also got injured grievously from the same shell firings. They are; M. Sunder (5) a child, S. Manoharan (31), K. Rajeswary (28), a house wife, and Vigneswaran (14) a young boy of Chunnakam; R. Manikkam (48), of Mylany;

Miss. Arulchelvi (18) of Uduvil Rajasekaram (68) and Rajakili (58) a house wife, of Koththiyawattai. All the injured had been hospitalized at Jaffna.

A Hindu Temple and several houses got badly damaged by being hit with shell firings.

Proposed Large Naval Base with Upto Date Modern Facilities at Kankasanturai

The Sri Lankan government has decided to build a large naval base with modern facilities at the Kankasanturai harbour. This naval base will be larger than the Karainagar naval base. Also this will be the largest naval base in the Northern Province.

The Kankasanturai Cement factory will be the focal point of the new naval base. The naval officers have taken steps to implement their new project.

Area Vacated By Sri Lankan Army

19.09.1993 Naruvilikulam, Mannar District certain Andries Santiago aged 24 stepped on a land mine and lost one of his legs. This is an area recently vacated by the Sri Lankan army. Before leaving the army laid waste to the land by blasting the houses, destroying valuable trees and mining the area. The said Santiago was a labourer engaged in repairing the ruined roads, when the said sad event took place. He is a man with a family to support.

Jaffna Situation - President Briefed

There had been a dialogue between the President and the Government Agent Jaffna on the present situation in Jaffna. G. A. is believed to have told the President about the aerial bombings, artillery shellings and the civilian casualties, which has become a day-to-day affair.

Photographs showing the damages caused to temples were also shown to the President. Government Agent had met General Hamilton Wanasinghe the Defence Secretary also.

Lightning Attacks by Liberation Tigers Recovery of Arms and Ammunitions

During the course of last week the Liberation Tigers made many daring attacks on the Sri Lankan Army and Police in different parts of Tamil Eelam. 19 men of the forces and 2 Rural Security men were killed. Many security men were severely injured. Large haul of arms and ammunition were recovered by the Tigers. 4 LTTE men lost their lives;

DIARY OF COMBAT:

25 - 09 - 1993

Tigers made a surprise attack on the Police post at the village called Kadduvanvil in the Batticaloa district. 7 cops were killed and many were severely injured. 4 Tigers too died. Details of arms and ammunitions recovered.

★ A. K. - L. M. G	1
★ It's Drum Magazine	1
★ Link with Rounds	100
★ Ultimax LMG	1
★ 40 mm Shell	9
★ A. K. Holster	22
★ A. K. L. M. G. Holster	4
★ 5. 56 mm Rounds	200
★ 40 mm Pistol (Singapore make)	1
★ T 56 - 1 Rifle	1
★ Ultimax additional barrel	1
★ Drum magazine	1
★ I. M. Rounds	725
★ Granade	4
★ Normal Kitbag	5
★ Water Cans	2
★ Camera	1
★ Walkman	1
★ Rain Coat	2

A confrontation took place between the Tigers and the Sinhala rural Security men in Sampankulam in Mullaitivu District.

Two Firewood Choppers Arrested

Two persons who had gone to chop firewood in Sinnavathai area in Batticaloa were arrested by the army. One of those arrested is A. Sankarappillai (51 years) a father of 3 children. Identity of the other is not known.

2 of the security men were killed and the following items were recovered from them.

303 RIFLES - 02
303 MAGAZINES - 03
303 ROUNDS - 17 KNIVES - 03
26. 09. 1993

Tigers made an attack on the Air force men from the Morawewa base who were on patrol duty. 3 Air force men were killed and 4 injured. Arms and ammunitions were recovered from them.

27. 09. 1993
Army men of the Vankalai base went out with an intent to cause genocide on innocent Tamils. Tigers attacked them and killed 6 soldiers. Many who received severe injuries retreated to their base. Following arms and ammunitions were recovered by the Tigers.

★ T 56 - 1 Rifle	1
★ Magazines	4
★ Rounds	120
★ Holster	1

28. 09. 1993:

Tigers made a lightning attack on a Police Station at Iluppaichcholai in Mutur, and destroyed it completely. 3 Sri Lankan policemen were killed and the rest escaped with injuries.

Following is the list of arms seized.

★ T 56 Rifle	01
★ Magazine	14
★ 303 Rifle	09
★ Rounds	09
★ S 84 Magazine	01
★ A K Holster	06
★ J R Grenade	06
★ Paralights	04
★ I M Rounds	2215
★ 303 Rounds	100
★ Generator	01
★ T - shirts	16
★ Raincoats	36
★ Uniforms	13
★ Knives	02
★ Oil can	01
★ Whistle	10
★ Police Uniform	27 pairs
★ Materials	17 lengths
★ Binocular	01
★ Camera	01
★ Communication set	01
★ Communcation buck charger	01
★ Military belt	11
★ Helmet	02
★ Military hats	09
★ Kitbags	01
★ Jeans	01
★ Military shoes	35 pairs
★ Civil shoes	21 "
★ Winter hats	21
★ Police hats	04
★ Tape set	01
★ Radio	01
★ Police baton	09
★ 203 shells	01
★ Cash Rs. 5, 565 cents	50.

Army Exhibits 13 Skeletons

Members of the public stated that 13 skeletons were seen at Kidarampotta Madhu in the Batticaloa district.

Two people who had gone to chop firewood were arrested by the army and taken to their camp to exhibit the skeleton and

warn them that, if they go to that area again the same fate would befall them.

These skeletons are believed to be those of 13 farmers who were engaged in harvesting their paddy in Navundaliya Madhu in March this year.

They were arrested by the army and enquiries made by their relatives through the Red Cross were of no avail.