

HOT SPRING

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Gain - Amiability
Loss - Holiness

When the righteous man turneth away from his righteousness that he hath committed and doeth that which is neither quite lawful nor quite right, he will generally be found to have gained in amiability what he lost in holiness.

- Samuel Butler -

Kanthalai Roads handed over to Inter Provincial set-up Inroads into Constitutional Provisions by Administrative Fiat

News from Trincomalee states that the Government has ordered that the roads in Kanthalai be handed over to an Inter-Provincial Set-up contrary to the provisions of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

The report further says that some top-ranking officials from Colombo visited Trincomalee towards the latter part of December 1992. A Conference was held there presided over by the Secretary to the Ministry of Lands. Various subjects were taken up for discussion and orders made.

One of the subjects that came under discussion was the maintenance of roads in Kanthalai. The Secretary to the Land Ministry has

ordered that the subject be assigned to an Inter-Provincial set-up and had ordered the officials at Trincomalee to send a list of such roads immediately to the Land Ministry.

Subsequently the Land Minister of the Premadasa government also visited Trincomalee in the first week of January this year. A conference was again held

with the Minister presiding. The second Conference was really a follow-up step. At this Conference the Land Minister has ratified his Secretary's order made at the Conference held in late December, 1992.

Knowledgeable circles said that the subject of roads

barring national highways linking different provinces was devolved on Provincial Councils. There is no institution called an 'Inter Provincial set-up' created by Constitutional provision. The order of the Secretary and its ratification by the Minister are both unconstitutional.

Aerial Bombardment at Palai

Three Sri Lankan Air Force bombers bombed Puthukkadu junction at Palai. According to news from Palai three Sri Lankan Air Force bombers hovered over the Palai area for about 15 minutes on Tuesday, March

23 about 8.30 am. and threw five bombs. Three bombs were dropped at the junction and two in another road branching off from the junction. Many coconut trees were broken. No death of persons was reported.

VISWAMADU BOMBED

Reports from Viswamadhu in Kilinochchi stated that a Sri Lankan Air Force bomber-Pukkara-threw two bombs near Thottilady in Viswamadhu. This incident occurred on Tuesday, March 23 at 8.15 am. No details of damage caused has been received.

S.L. Navy Fire Kills Medical Student Two Under Grads Injured

A student of the Medical faculty of Jaffna University was killed and two other students of the Arts Faculty of the same University were injured when cannon fire from a Naval boat hit them.

The news in this connection states that on Wednesday, March 24, evening about 6.00 some university students were standing in the Kilali

coast to take boat to cross the lagoon. Some students of the Jaffna University had to go to their home stations to draw the Mahapola awards from their respective Districts. So they set out accompanied by some fellow students.

On Wednesday, March 24 when they were waiting at

the Kilali coast to take boat, a Sri Lankan Naval Gun boat started cannon fire attack directed towards the University students waiting to take boat.

One student, Gnanasooriyar Wilson Nicholas of the Medical faculty, died on the spot as the cannon fire hit him. Two other students of the Arts Faculty, Xavier Don Bosco and S. Mohanadas, sustained injuries and

are admitted to the Jaffna Hospital.

Physician Arrested

A snake-bite physician from the 40th colony in Batticaloa named Sabanayagam was arrested by the Sri Lankan Army about 2 weeks ago. He was taken to the Sri Lankan Army camp in the 36th colony. He has not been released yet. He is the father of five children.

Annai Poopathy Commemoration Celebrations



Annai Poopathy Commemoration celebrations started all over Jaffna on March 19, Thursday.

Mrs. Poopathy Kanapathipillai, an elderly lady, started a fast on March 19, 1988 demanding that the Indian Army, then in occupation of Tamil Eelam, stop its

war against the LTTE and negotiate with the Liberation movement. She fasted for a month without the Indian Government in anyway responding to her peaceful efforts to get the Indian Army stop its war in Tamil Eelam Territory.

Mrs. Poopathy Kanapathipillai's fast went on for over a month and she finally passed away on April 19 at Mamaankam in Batticaloa, a heroine who challenged the Indian Government's military might by a peaceful fast after the fashion of Mahathma Gandhi.

Streets of Jaffna are gaily decorated and pictures of Annai Poopathy exhibited at various temporary sheds for people to pay homage.

ARMY INVASION FEAR PEOPLE ABANDON HOUSES AT NIGHT

Sri Lankan Army fired a large number of shells from their positions in Mathagal which resulted in large numbers of people in adjoining free areas having to abandon their dwellings in fear.

The reports in this connection said that on Saturday, March 20 in the early hours of the morning at 3.30 Sri Lankan soldiers in Mathagal coastal area fired a number of shells towards inhabited villages in the neighbourhood. Also shots were being fired from guns. Sounds of vehicle movement were also heard.

This caused people to fear that the Sri Lankan Army

was trying to move and people from the villages of Chulipuram, Paralai, Kampanai, Kallaivembadi, Kudakkanai, Kattupulam, Raththalady, Pannakam and Vadaliyadaippu left their homes in fear of army

invasion into [their villages]. The persons who thus left their homes, in the night were seen collected at various places in adjoining areas. They all returned to their homes when prospects of Sri Lankan Army invasion dwindled.

CANNON FIRE AND SHELL ATTACK

Cannon fire from Naval Gun Boats at Kilali sea and artillery shell attack from the Sri Lankan Army Camp at Elephant Pass were directed towards the villages of Kilali and Pandithar Kudi

Iruppu on the night of Monday, March 22.

The residents of these two villages left their homes in the night itself because of the intensity of the attack. They returned the following morning.

Thanthai Chelva - The Visionary



An icy, precise mind and a translucent personal integrity possessed by Thanthai S. J. V. Chelvanayakam enabled him to establish the Tamil Eelam Nation. Prior to him, the Tamil leaders spoke of how the Tamil people could live and work together with the Sinhalese and the other communities in a United Ceylon. But Thanthai Chelva, the prophet, realised that this was not possible. And so he proceeded to place on a solid foundation the Eelam Tamil nation that he created, separate and distinct. He did not achieve a politically independent sovereign state of Tamil Eelam. But as a first step, he made the Tamil people regard themselves as a nation. No other Tamil leader either before or after independence was able to achieve, what at first seemed an objective impossible to accomplish.

Thanthai Chelva was the founder of a nation, the Eelam Tamil nation, which he revived and resurrected after the destruction of the Tamil Kingdom in the North of Ceylon by the Portuguese invaders in 1618. Under British occupation, Sinhalese, Tamils, Indian Tamils and Burghers were all considered parts of an island nation. Under British occupation and during the post-independence phase of the United National Party rule, from 1947 to 1956, the Tamil people of Ceylon were divided - Jaffna Tamils, Mannar Tamils, Vanni Tamils, Trincomalee Tamils,

Batticaloa Tamils, Colombo Tamils and Indian Tamils. Under Thanthai Chelva's leadership, all these segments of the Tamil population were welded into a composite whole. Thanthai Chelva founded a nation, a new nation, a modern Eelam Tamil nation which was thereafter to be distinct from the Sinhala nation. That was his greatest

and he conceived of a political solution which at that time seemed impossible of achievement.

He wanted to protect the language, culture and territory of the Tamil people in a

March 31 is the 95th Birth Anniversary of Thanthai S. J. V. Chelvanayakam. This article, largely an adaptation from a memorial lecture delivered by Prof. A. J. Wilson, is being published in memory of the man who first propounded the theory of a state for the Tamils in the island of Ceylon and who in his feeble but firm voice vowed to restore and reconstitute the sovereign and independent state of Tamil Eelam - though difficult the task shall be.

achievement, his most signal contribution to the recent history of the Tamil people. Thanthai Chelva claimed that his Federal Party had been able to unite the Tamil people under one leadership, to point out to them their destination and to persuade them that there could be no other path to self-respect, nationhood. Language and territory, he convinced them in the end, are one and indivisible.

Thanthai Chelva was a charismatic leader living in two worlds, the world of his imagination and the world of reality with others. To him the world of imagination was always more real. It is this aspect in his character and style of leadership which led some of his contemporaries to look on him as a visionary. But there were in him a certainty that he had in his perspective of things, in his world view, so to speak, a dream, a vision, a political solution which to many seemed detached from reality, but to him was something definitely relevant to reality. This was in the good year 1949. He was the dreamer, the visionary

Tamil state within the framework of a federal union of Ceylon then. Language and territory, he constantly harped, were one and indivisible. What was a heresy in 1949 is being hawked around as a political orthodoxy in present day Sri Lanka.

It was this certainty of vision that made Thanthai Chelva refuse or budge from

the position he had taken. There were to be no compromises, no give and take, no bribery with even key ministerial portfolios. For him it was a question of all or nothing. Interim adjustments there might be, such as Bandaranayake - Chelvanayakam Pact but it was to be only one step in the long march to the Promised Land. The Dudley-Chelva Pact of 1965 was no different. In an interview with the 'Sun' newspaper he boldly declared that he was using the Pact to secure a little now and more later. It was this constancy of vision that made him refuse to be seduced by the offer of ministerial office. Thanthai Chelva did not wish to be deflected from his objectives.

Nor was he deterred by misfortune. When he was

VENTHAN

almost laid low by the punitive costs that Justice K. D. de Silva awarded against him in the Natesan Election petition case, everyone thought he would be crushed. But his response was far from pessimistic, when he told his friends that good generalship shows itself at its best in times of adversity. Nor would ill-health deter him from playing the role, he felt he had to in the Tamil National Movement. His voice was the most valuable asset that he required as a Tamil leader. But his

vocal chords had given way with the dreaded Parkinson's disease. His voice has been reduced to a whisper. Nevertheless Thanthai Chelva felt that he should soldier on. When he was asked what steps he could possibly take to halt the inexorable progress of Sinhala colonisation of the traditional homelands of the Tamil people and when cautioned that in time there would be no Tamil homelands left, his answer was characteristic of the man. Thanthai Chelva's reply was that on three occasions large parts of Poland were grabbed by its aggressive neighbours. On the third occasion, Poland had been wiped off the map of Europe. It has ceased to be a nation. Yet after World War I, Poland was re-constituted as a sovereign state and continues to be one to this day. Why should, therefore, the Tamil people despair?, he had asked.

The significance of all this campaigning on the part of Thanthai Chelva for the rights of the Tamils of Eelam is that for the first time in their history, since the first settlement of Tamil people in Ceylon which goes back to the hoary mists of antiquity, every Tamil grouping - the hill country Tamils, the Tamils of the Sinhala Provinces, the Tamils of the

(Continued on Page 3)

Cricket Matches

In the 89th encounter, Jaffna Central College were held to an exciting draw by St. John's College. Batting first, Jaffna Central rattled up 354 for 9. St. John's were skittled out for 106 in the First innings. Following on, defeat stared starkly in their face but a gallant rear guard action by Sanjeev and Sriharan added 110 runs for the ninth wicket. At the end the Johnians were 198 for 8.

In the 76th Battle of the Golds which was played at Vaddukoddai, Jaffna College having first lease scored 221 runs but the Patricians declared their first innings closed at 127 for 9 and bundled out Jaffna College for a bare 98 runs. In the Second innings, St. Patrick's were 130 for 5 when time intervened. Skipper Eric scored a half century.

- Vijayakumar

Tigers Kill 3 S. L. Police in Mannar

The Tigers carried out an attack on Sri Lankan Policemen on patrol duty within the island of Mannar claimed by Sri Lankan Government to be under its control, killing three policemen and recovering their arms and ammunitions.

The report in this connection states that on Monday, March 15, the LTTE attacked policemen on foot-patrol at Vankalaipaadu between Periyakaraisal and Sruthoppu within the island of Mannar. Six policemen were on duty.

Three were killed. The other three escaped.

The Tigers also recovered the arms and ammunitions

of the killed policemen. There was no casualty on the Tiger side. The attack lasted only for one minute.

Planes Bomb Vavunia

News from Vavunia said that on Wednesday, March 17, a Sri Lankan Air Force plane - Argentinian-made Pukara - bombed the jungles adjoining E. chankulam in the Vavunia District. No details of damages were reported.

Another report said that on Friday, March 19, Mahilankulam, a village also in the Vavunia District came under heavy bombing. According to this report three planes dropped eight bombs in the area. However the report did not give details of damage

Bombing on either side of lagoon

Reports from Kilali said that on Friday, March 19, a Sri Lankan plane dropped two bombs on the coast of Allipalai and another on the coast of Kilali. These two places are on either side of the Jaffna lagoon also known as Kilali sea. No damages were reported.

Thanthai Chelva

*Ten and six years have quickly elapsed
Since Thanthai Chelva for Tamils sake collapsed;
But the memory of his sincere dedication
Continues to inspire our cause for self determination.*

*Thanthai Chelva, a humble man of integrity,
Taught that none should flirt with popularity,
Nor desire promoting self interests or of your "relation",
Ever affirming that the Tamil people are a distinct nation.*

*May that inner compulsion constantly intervene,
For the perishing Tamilians loosing much haemoglobin.
Found much readily in Thanthai, "our selvam",
Continue to keep us awake until in hands is Tamil Eelam.*

Dr. Henry Victor

One Man Committee Report on Araly Point Incident

Mr. I. M. Ismail, Retired Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in his one - man Committee report on the death of 10 army and navy personnel at Araly Point in Kayts on 8th August, 1992 gives interesting details of the lethargic attitude of the government in the pursuance of its investigations in this matter. This reference is dated 11.8.92. The judge in order to expedite the inquiry, after having made arrangements with the necessary authorities, went to Ratmalana airport early in the morning i.e. 5.50 a.m. on 13.8.92. How the government was keen in carrying out this investigation, swiftly can be seen from the fact that the learned judge, his secretary and stenographer were kept waiting at the airport till even after 10 a.m. and were later told that because of functional defects in the plane, the flight was impossible. The judge and his party were told that the flight was scheduled for 6.30 a.m. It is strange that no alternate air arrangement was made for such an important matter for the judge to visit the scene of the explosion where the supposed to be national heroes succumbed to their fate, after making full arrangements to invade Jaffna from Araly point which is the closest place in Kayts Island to the Jaffna Peninsula.

NO GOVERNMENT ANALYST

Another matter the judge has pointed out also is the amount of interest the government and the Joint Operations Command had evinced

in this respect. It shows the inefficiency or the lack of interest of the hierarchy of the armed forces. No one thought of taking the Government Analyst to the scene of the explosion so that expert opinion could be obtained. In his report, the Judge remarks, "During the time I was making observations, I was made aware that the services of the Government Analyst had not been availed of by anybody in order to determine the

S. THIAGARAJAH

cause of the blast and the type of device that caused the explosion. I felt that for completeness of the investigation, the Government Analyst should have been summoned promptly". Mind you, the explosion was on 8.8.92, the Judge was making his first hand observation on 15.8.92. Up to that time for nearly a week, the Government Analyst was not summoned to make his own observation and give expert evidence.

Newspapers, both supporting and opposing the government though they gave details, as it suited them regarding this fatal explosion, have not commented on these vital discrepancies, not to mention the total lack of interest.

The way with these newspapers are same in every respect. There was a big picture published in the Sunday Observer of 7.3.93. The picture is about several armed army personnel traversing a paddy field ready for harvesting. The story is that they were guarding the paddy fields from the Tigers who plunder the paddy from the poor farmers in the Batticaloa Amparai Districts. A good look at the picture will reveal that the armed personnel there were actually an invading army.

KILLING FIELDS

It is a tradition among both Tamils and Sinhalese

not to enter a paddy field or cultivated land even in slippers. But in the picture published, the army wearing boots were actually trampling the crops. If they wanted to protect the farmers from being robbed of their harvest they need not be inside the paddy fields. They could perform their task from outside or on the ridges. In this connection, if one could compare this picture with the story in the 'Hot Spring' of

21.3.93, about the plight of the Tamils in the Batticaloa Amparai districts, one can easily discern the truth of the matter. That pathetic story reveals in what circumstances these poor peasants are living in and always at the mercy of the Sinhala army fearing death and destruction and looting of their properties. These districts are the killing fields of the chauvinist Sinhala army.

HOMAGE TO THANTHAI CHELVA

The Jaffna Christian Union announces that a Thanksgiving Service for the Life and Work of Thanthai S. J. V. Chelvanayakam in commemoration of his 95th birth anniversary will take place at the Chundikuli, St. John's Baptist Church on Wednesday, 31st. March, 1993 at 4.00 p.m. The C. S. I. Bishop of Jaffna will bear witness to the Life and Work of Thanthai Chelva towards the emancipation of his people, while Roman Cat-

holic, Vicar - General Rev. Fr. S. J. Emmanuel will deliver the Homily.

Avro Bombs Mannar

An Avro plane belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force bombed Periyamadhu in the Mannar District on Saturday, March 20, morning about 8.30.

Though the bombs were thrown in inhabited areas fortunately there was no injury to person.

Shell Attack Towards City's Coast

Artillery shells were launched towards the coastal areas of Jaffna city from the Mandaitivu Sri Lankan Army Camp on Friday, March 19 morning about 9.45. About 3 shells exploded in coasts of the city.

Residents of Gurnagar and Small Bazaar areas left their dwellings in fear. They returned to their homes sometime after the shell attack stopped. As all three shells exploded almost close to the sea-shore there was no loss of life.

All Night Artillery Shell Attack

The Sri Lankan Army encamped at Kattai kadu carried out an all night artillery shell attack, directed towards the villages of Vadamarachy East.

night till the morning of March 19, Friday for fifteen hours. Heavy explosion of bombs was also heard. Details of damage caused have not been received.

at 9.00 p.m. and lasted for an hour. Over 15 shells exploded in these areas. Details of damages caused have not been received.

AND FROM PALALY

The news in this connection states that the Sri Lankan Army encamped at Kattai kadu started artillery shell attack directed towards villages of Vadamarachy East in the evening of Thursday, March 18. The attack continued throughout the

Another report from Valikamam East says that the Sri Lankan Army encamped at Palaly, started shell attacks directed towards Thondamanaru, Paththameni and Valalai. This attack started

S. L. Planes Bomb Navaly

Two Sri Lankan Air Force planes and a helicopter attacked the village of Navaly on Saturday, March 20.

Four bombs were thrown by the bombers. Some plantations were damaged. Fortunately there was no loss to any person.

Two bodies washed ashore

Unidentified bodies of two males were washed ashore at Kitati on Friday, March 19. It is believed that these are bodies of some of the people who crossed the Kitati sea and were attacked by Sri Lankan Navy.

Thanthai..

(Continuation from Page 2)

North East of Ceylon - had agreed to merge as one, the Tamil Eelam nation. This Tamil Eelam nation now, at the behest of Thanthai Chelva, declared that its ultimate goal would be the establishment of a separate Tamil Sovereign State of Eelam. Thanthai Chelva had thus set in motion a process of thinking which

began to make the Tamil people regard themselves as a separate sovereign entity. The Eelam Tamil question now, far from being a matter of internal conflict and debate or for that matter an issue in the geo-politics of neighbouring India, had become internationalised. Thanthai Chelva died on April 26th, 1977 but the liberation movement he had started in 1949, had reached its zenith at the very moment of his departure.

A New Song

1. Woman! Put up a valiant fight,
Indefatigable is thy right,
Guarding thy virtue and modesty,
Adds to thy charm and majesty;
Isn't thy patience boundless,
Who are thy oppressors ruthless,
Prove to the world thou art truthful.
Thy words and deeds sound cheerful,
Thy Plight is the same as that of a foot ball,
Go in quest of the dawn's call.
2. Trials and tribulations torment thy life,
Thy thoughts and words make thee thrive,
Combs and mirrors are left behind,
In arid preaching emancipation was found,
There is no freedom on earth,
And none to reckon woman's worth.
3. Has house hold drudgery,
Diminished thy intellect towering,
Is thy life buffered by Sorrows and sufferings,
Awaken and see that these wrongs are banished,
False beliefs and crude concepts vanish.
4. Thou art still an object of smile,
When women in the world,
Declare themselves free,
Are you destitute of sentiments fine,
Right through ages as a slave you pine.
Woman!
Open your eyes and find,
You are bound behind.
5. This is the age,
When women from their cage,
Fly far and wide,
Eyeing the new world order,
Women who yearn for long,
To remedy the wrongs,
Must throng and sing a new song.

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HOT SPRING

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Usurpations - Expliciter

Our last week's lead news and editorial comments clearly laid before our readers the brazen manner in which Sinhala officials and ministers violate their own constitution and law to deprive the Tamils of their rights and appropriate Tamil lands and possessions for the Sinhalese to ensure the hegemonistic designs of Baudha Sinhala imperialism.

As stated in our editorial last week, land is a subject devolved on Provincial Councils - subject to the exception mentioned therein - and powers and functions in relation to the subject are exercisable by the Governor or a Province and Provincial officials - not by the Colombo Government Minister or his officials.

This week too we carry some news revealing the unlawful usurpation of power by an official and his Minister from Colombo. The pious reverence with which President Premadasa and his ministers and even the other Sinhala chauvinists feign to regard their constitution and law calls an editorial comment again to lay bare the Baudha - Sinhala hypocrisy of respect for constitution and law.

We shall comment on the order made by the Land Ministry (Colombo) Secretary on land alienation for 'landless' in the 'model' village of 'Sangama' created by the Premadasa Government. His first order in December 1992 was that land should be alienated to landless with the permission of the Land Ministry.

The subject of land alienation - except in the case of lands falling under major irrigation arising out of a river flowing in more than one Province - is a devolved subject. 'Sangama' model village is only a village expansion scheme under the Land Development Ordinance and therefore does not come under the exception for Colombo government ministry to make orders.

The Secretary's second order was that lands should be allocated on ethnic ratio. Except for lands under the Mahaweli in terms of the deservedly ill-fated Rajiv Gandhi - Jayawardhene Accord ethnic ratio was not a basis for land alienation coming under the purview of the provinces. But the Land Ministry Secretary not only makes an order which he has no power to make but makes an order which is not lawful because the claims for land within a Province is not dependent on ethnic ratio and the introduction of such a ratio may well deprive the claims of others who are entitled to preferential selection under the provisions of the Land Development Ordinance.

It is important to note that the land Ministry Secretary has made this order very cunningly. At first sight the order may sound reasonable - especially to an outsider who is not aware of the devious methods adopted by all Sinhala Governments to grab lands in the Tamil area for the Sinhalese.

In our issue of 12th May, 1991 we spotlighted another fraud of the Sinhala Government. The government passed a law providing for employment on an ethnic - ratio basis. The draft Bill contained a schedule giving employment entitlement for each race in each district based on 1981 census. For Trincomalee District Sinhalese were given 36.1 per cent and Tamils 32.5% i.e. 3.6% more for Sinhalese - though the Census figures for 1981 showed the Tamils to be still a majority over the Sinhalese! The fraudulent government and its officials and Ministers are not only making illegal but also unconstitutional orders.

Our lead news in this issue tells how Land Ministry Secretary, creates a new institution of Government unknown to and in contravention of their Constitution! Under the 13th Amendment to the Constitution all roads other than National Highways (i.e. those connecting different provinces) are devolved on Provincial Councils. Now the unconstitutional order has been made by the Land Ministry secretary that roads in Kanthalai should be handed over to an 'Inter Provincial Set Up' - created to take away functions already devolved on the Provinces back to the centralized Colombo government in camouflage.

The Secretary's orders have been confirmed by his Minister at the conference held in January 1993.

We also believe that all right thinking persons - whether within in the island or outside - will find in these, a confirmation also of the Tamil Eelam people's firm conviction that they can never trust the treacherous Sinhala government and that their salvation depends on the restoration and reconstitution of Tamil Eelam.

Land Ministry grabs Provincial Council Powers Order illegal & Unconstitutional say Tamils

The Land Ministry of the Premadasa Government is usurping the powers vested in the Northeast Provincial Council according to a report from Trincomalee.

According to this report, the secretary to the Land Ministry at Colombo and a number of other officials came to Trincomalee in late December 1992. A Conference was held at Trincomalee with local officials. The Conference was chaired by the Secretary to the Lands Ministry.

It is learnt that the Secretary made order at the Conference that lands be alienated to landless persons in a village - created by the Premadasa government within Trincomalee District - with the consent of the land Ministry. The Secretary has further ordered that persons be selected on the ethnic ratio. The Land Ministry Secretary's order was ratified by the Land Minister within a week when he came to Trincomalee in the first week of January.

It is pointed out that the subject of land and land alienation within a Province is a subject devolved on Provincial Councils and that the Secretary or Minister of the Colombo government

cannot make lawful orders in respect of devolved subjects. The haste and hurry shown by Sinhala officials and ministers to subvert constitutional provisions are indicative of the Government's determination to achieve its goal of transforming Tamil areas into Sinhala - majority areas.

FISHERMAN ARRESTED BY ARMY

Sri Lankan Navy men have arrested a fisherman while he was fishing. He has not been released yet.

The news in this connection states that on Saturday, March 20, three fishermen from Gurunagar were out in the sea, fishing, in a small boat.

A Sri Lankan Naval Gun Boat which approached them shot at the fishermen's boat. Two of the fishermen jumped into the sea and escaped.

The third man was caught by the Sri Lankan Navy men and taken with the boat. The fisherman so arrested is John Abraham (44).

M. Kunam and M. Arulappu Devadas who escaped arrest and returned home related the happenings to newspaper reporters.

'PALIKKALAM' A Passion Play for Lent

The Centre for performing Arts (Thirumarai Kala Manram) has announced the staging of a Passion Play, titled 'Palikkalam' on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th of April, 1993 commencing daily at 6.45 p.m.

This play is in keeping with the Season of Lent and will be performed at the Head Office of the Manram at 238, Main Street, Jaffna.

2 hour Battle at Kilali Sea

Reports from Kilali said that the Sea Tigers and the Sri Lankan Navy were involved in a two - hour gun-fire battle in Kilali sea.

The reports in this connection said that on Saturday, March 20 about 6.30 p.m. four Sri Lankan Naval boats started firing at a Sea Tiger

boat. The fire was returned and a gun-fire battle ensued between the Tigers and Sri Lanka Navy for two hours.

At the end of two hours of battle the Sri Lankan Navy retreated to coast and after firing from there for a short time withdrew to camp. No casualty figures are known.

Palukamam Rounded - Up

The Sri Lankan Army rounded - up the village of Palukamam in the Batticaloa District on Tuesday, March 23.

Elders and children too were arrested by the Army. The arrested people were taken to the Army camp where they were presented before masked men for identification.

The report adds that all arrested persons were later released.

Shot Dead by S L Army

The Sri Lankan Army shot dead a civilian at Sampalathivu in the Trincomalee District.

This incident occurred on Wednesday March 17.

The victim has been identified as Rajaratnam (36) of Sampalathivu.

Fishermen Attacked at Nagarkovil Sea

Two brothers who were fishing near the sea at Nagarkovil were severely assaulted by Sri Lankan Navy men who threw the fishermen into the sea thereafter. The two brothers who are refugees from Palaly now living at Nagarkovil had gone out fishing on Wednesday, March

17. Sri Lankan Navy men who surrounded the fishermen damaged their implements, assaulted and finally threw them into the sea. The two brothers spent 24 hours in the sea even without boat and finally reached home fatigued and empty handed. The brothers are S. Raveendran and S. Soekan.

Eastern University Area Rounded - up Three Persons Arrested

The Sri Lankan Army rounded - up the village of Vantharumoolai including the Eastern University premises and Students' Residential halls and arrested a large number of people including students and staff of the Eastern University.

This incident, according to a report from Batticaloa,

happened on Tuesday, March 23. At 5.00 a.m. the S.L. Army is reported to have rounded - up the area and arrested a large number of persons and taken them to the S.L. Army Camp.

The report further adds that barring three persons others arrested and taken to the camp were released.