

Hot Spring

GOD'S PROMISE

"...Once more I will plant them on their own soil and they shall never again be uprooted from the soil I have given them."

Amos 9:15

Vol. 4

20th February 1994

No. 19

Naval Attack on Fishermen At Mullaitivu

3 Bodies Washed Ashore-7 Missing

WHO ARE THE BETRAYERS AND DECEITFUL DODGERS?

"Every time the LTTE sent peace feelers, it was for personal gain..... it was no surprise the Prime Minister told the Church delegation on Monday about his fears of being **DECEIVED AND BETRAYED** once again..... President Wijetunge... expressed reservations as to whether the LTTE would honour any commitments it made. A justifiable reservation given the LTTE's record on peace talks so far We share the concern about the credibility and sincerity of the LTTE because it has broken so many promises and gone back on so many commitments."

The above are extracts from the Editorial of the Sunday Times of 6.2.94.

Well! Mr. Editor, Sunday Times, can you tell one promise or commitment given by the LTTE to your Sinhala leaders? If the LTTE did not give any, where was the need to break any?

The LTTE, now leading Tamil Eelam liberation battle is contemporary history. You cannot humbug. I challenge you once again to give one instance of promise or commitment given by the LTTE and later broken by it.

Lest you should forget who the betrayers and deceitful dodgers are, please see below:-

- (1) S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike — who abrogated the B. C. Pact.
- (2) Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranaike — who abrogated the gentlemen's agreement made between the SLFP and FP. just prior to July 1960 elections.
- (3) Dudley Senanayake — who abrogated the Dudley - Chelva Pact.

And that's disparaging! Isn't it? Utter Shame! All your most revered Sinhala leaders stand convicted of the political crimes of betrayal and deceit of the Tamils.

Mr. Editor, Sunday Times, if you care to go backwards, you will find that your Sinhala leaders betrayed even Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam in nineteen twenties.

You probably will not like to read the history of your leaders because it is so disgraceful, treacherous and deceitful.

I have given you three instances of betrayals and deceptions by the Bandaranaiques and Senanayakes - the most important political families among the Sinhalese.

I can give instances of betrayal and deceit by your other leaders too-Jayawardhenes, Premadasas etc.

The LTTE had talks with the late Mr. Premadasa. It was public knowledge. But the talks failed. Was there any other single instance of the LTTE having had any talks with any of your other leaders? The Premadasa - LTTE talks failed because of the activities of the Premadasa government. In politics, talks may succeed or fail but that is not betrayal or deceit. If talks succeed, there is peace-otherwise, war continues. That is all about 'talks' to resolve conflicts.

Betrayal and deceptions are what the Sinhala leaders of all hues practised on the Tamils.

When the facts convict the Sinhalese leadership of gross betrayal and deceit, propagandists cannot succeed in hitting the ball into the Tamil court by merely saying that the LTTE 'has broken so many promises and gone back on so many commitments.' When you cannot substantiate your verbosity even with one instance of a broken promise or broken commitment by the LTTE, you will have to admit, Mr. Editor, that the LTTE is today the legitimate successor to the Tamil leadership which has resisted Sinhala overlordship, betrayals and deceptions.

One other word Mr. Editor - You very altruistically speak of the Sinhalese 'majority' as a tree and the 'minorities' as branches - and concernedly for the Sinhala tree you 'don't want the minorities to be creepers or parasites!' Do you still want to be reminded that the Tamils do not regard themselves as 'minorities' but are cognisant of their true selves as a nation and they do not regard Sri Lanka as one country. There is Sinhala Rata and Tamil Eelam - two countries - within an island geographical entity. Please forget that you can ever convince anybody by any dirty propaganda to make believe that a solution to the Tamil-Sinhala conflict can ever be achieved within a 'unitary' constitution, as you say it.

— KATHIRAVAN.

The Sri Lankan Navy attacked fishermen at work at Mullaitivu on Friday, Feb. 18, morning about 6.00 a.m. Ten fishermen were feared dead.

According to the news from Mullaitivu in this connection, some fishermen were fishing in the Poonathodu-wai sea in the Mullaitivu District on the morning of Friday, February 18. About 6.00 a.m. S.L. Naval boats that came to the area started heavy fire on the fishermen.

Some people on the shore saw the Naval attack on the fishermen.

Towards evening of the same day, the dead bodies of these fishermen were washed ashore. The bodies were identified as those of A John Fernando (33), J. Nixon (20) and J. Santhakumar (23).

The following seven fishermen are missing A. Jacobpillai (40), father of Nixon whose body was washed (Continued to page 4)

Army will ensure Every one cast his vote It won't be the Indian Way

"The Army will pursue action against all those who boycott the forthcoming local elections on March 1. Those who stay at home without going to vote will be regarded as boycotts. The Army will take all necessary action to see that all go to the polling station but itself will refrain from getting directly involved in the election process." Brigadier Rohan Gunawardhene, Military Coordinating Officer is reported to have said so at a Conference held at the Batticaloa Kachcheri. Brig. Rohan Gunawardhene also told the conference that the Army would be manning the Polling Stations in Vakarai but Police will be posted to other polling stations. Brig. Rohan Gunawardhene also said that he would assure that the Sri Lankan Army would not conduct the elections in the same manner as the foreign forces did earlier.

Woman Injured By Navy Fire

A woman aged 50 was injured by Sri Lankan Navy cannon fire and was admitted to the Point Pedro hospital for emergency treatment.

At 10.10 a.m. on Friday, February 18, a Sri Lankan Navy 'Dvora' boat, sailing towards Kankesanthurai from Vetrilaikerni fired cannon shells along the Vadamarachy coast. At Viyaparimoolai, near Point Pedro, a woman (Continued to page 4)

All Day Aerial Bombing at Vali East

Certain villages in the Vali East came under heavy aerial bombardment on Thursday, February 17, from morning till evening.

Bombing started in the villages of Valalai, Idai-kadu and Paththameni around 9.30 a.m. and continued till evening.

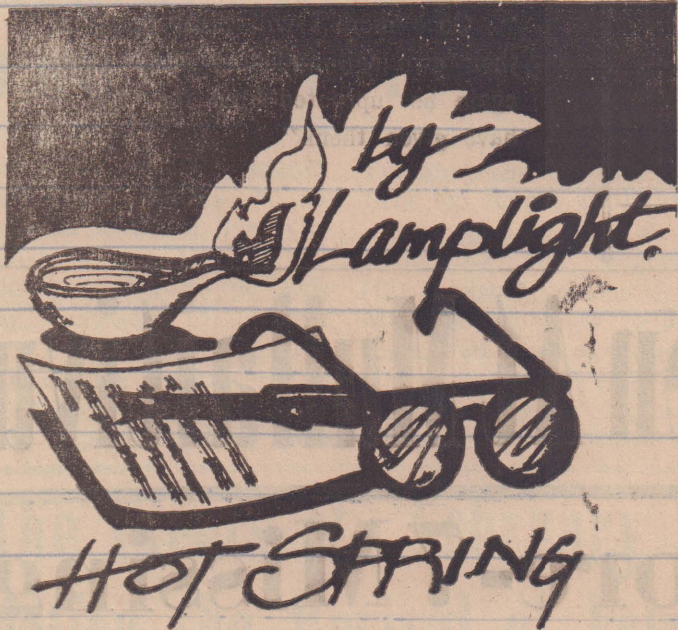
At the same time the

SHELL ATTACK On Thondamannaru

Three people were injured, when shells from the Palaly Sri Lankan Army hit residential areas of Thondamannaru. (Continued to page 4)

Eelanaatham Celebrates

Eelanaatham, the Jaffna daily newspaper, celebrated its fourth anniversary on 19.2.94. Hot Spring extends its best wishes to Eelanaatham and its staff and readers.



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PREVARICATIONS

Last week we quoted the famous English journalist, David Selbourne, as writing to say that one of the most difficult points for commentators to grasp was that the Sinhalese had no intention whatever of reaching a negotiated settlement with the Tamils.

The local Tamil dailies have quoted Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, Prime Minister, as saying at Kotmale that peace talks could only be held with Pirabakaran sans arms in the hands of the LTTE. In other words, the LTTE must surrender its arms! Mr. Ranil Wickremasingha's speech seems to confirm the observations of a foreign journalist about the Sinhala leaders' psyche.

When D. B. Wijetunge, the President, started saying that there was no 'ethnic' problem, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe expressed a seemingly different view to the effect that there was an 'ethnic' problem. Now when Mr. Wijetunge loosely speaks of talks, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe speaks of abandonment of arms - really meaning surrender of arms.

Abler men than Ranil Wickremasinghe and D. B. Wijetunge put together, tried the same thing earlier. We mean both J. R. Jayawardhene and R. Premadasa. And all their moves to disarm the LTTE only resulted in the LTTE building up its arsenal at the expense of the Sri Lankan Government.

It is most unreasonable to expect a fighting force to abandon (surrender here) arms while not only nothing has been done to alleviate the wrongs done to the Tamils but the same wrongs and more continue to be perpetrated by the Government of Sri Lanka.

It is not only the LTTE but the entire Tamil nation knows that it is the armed strength of the LTTE which bears out the deep-rooted nationalities problem in the island. But for that strength, the Tamils would have lost all chance of retaining their identity.

In this context, the speech of Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe again confirms Mr. David Selbourne's opinions. And Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe's speech coming on the heels of the visit by various peace seeking teams from Colombo suggests that the Government is over-anxious to see that no peace talks do ever take place.

In regard to peace talks it must be said to the credit of the LTTE that they have said the same thing over and over again for the last few years - viz unconditional talks whereas leaders of the Government have said various things at various times which confirms what Mr. David Selbourne said about the Sinhala leaders.

Prevarications are clear indication of dishonest intentions. And various leaders of the Sinhala Government seem quite artful in the game of prevarications

Prevarications have resulted in the letting of blood. The Tamils have made their position very clear. They do not want to be ruled by the Sinhalese. If Sinhala politicians persist in riding to power on Baudha-Sinhala chauvinism, not only David Selbourne the entire world will soon understand the Sinhala leaders' psyche.

Ceasefire and Lifting of Economic Embargo Necessary For Peace Talks to begin

-DR. ANTON BALASINGAM

"The LTTE is always ready to enter into talks to restore peace. It is necessary that a conducive atmosphere is built up to begin peace talks. A ceasefire and the lifting of the economic embargo are essential for such an atmosphere to be created." So said Dr. Anton Balasingam, the LTTE spokesman, at a Press Conference held on Friday, February 11.

Messrs. Karikalan Ilankumaran and Balakumaran were associated with Dr. Balasingam at the Press Conference.

Dr. Anton Balasingam further said that the LTTE was not laying any preconditions for talks with the Government but added that there should be the proper

atmosphere for peace talks by cessation of hostilities and lifting of the economic embargo. The LTTE can then have discussions with the Government. It is not possible to have peace talks, while the war continues and people suffer by the economic embargo. There cannot be free discussion under pressure. If the pro-

per atmosphere is created, discussions could be held at Jaffna.

Dr. Balasingam also told the Press Conference that the LTTE position had been explained to the Christian Goodwill Mission. He also said that the Goodwill Mission did not bring forward any peace proposals nor did the LTTE place any before them. Peace talks could only be held between the Government and the LTTE. Goodwill missions could help create normalcy necessary for peace talks.

Continuing Dr. Balasingam said that the speeches of Dr. D. B. Wijetunge, the President, work against peace. If the Government lifts the economic embargo to create the necessary atmosphere for peace, the LTTE is ready to release the prisoners of war. Dr. Balasingam also said that continued postponement of peace efforts will create the atmosphere for division.

Some Observations in English Teaching now

Our Readers Say

Helping a few students to learn English has been my hobby for nearly 21 years in Batticaloa and now, for 03 years here. I wish to place my observations during the past three years, through your esteemed journal, for the information of the reading public, especially the authorities concerned.

I. Hand writing: What most of the students write cannot be read. In this context I wish to recall what my English teacher, Rev. Fr. Mac Donald told the class one day. He posed the question "why do we write?," and without

waiting for our reply said, for it to be read. "So, write in reasonable hand writing." I wonder whether our teachers read what the students write. Some of them don't seem to.

II. Spelling: Some students seem to think that English is a phonetic language. They tend to write in the way they pronounce or, very often, mispronounce. Americans write Labor for labour and color for colour. Are we following their pattern?

III. Pronunciation: None of the students pronounce even simple words correctly. I asked them whether they read aloud in class and I was surprised to hear that

they don't. What pity if these students go out into the world and murder the English language!

Use of words: In the U.S.A. some words are used in a different way. For example: dirt means sandy soil. What we call gravel road, they call dirt road. Lavatory is not a latrine there but a place where you wash. I asked a student "did your teacher tell you this?" The answer was English is not taught by a teacher, it is a sir, implying teacher means a lady teacher.

The students referred to above are from five of the leading colleges in Vadamardchy. They are in grades 8, 9 & 10.

S. Ponnampalam.
Karaveddi.

Atrocities of the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamils

Recent utterances of the Executive President of Sri Lanka, Mr. D. B. Wijetunge, are confusing and contradictory. It appears that nobody is taking his thoughtless utterances seriously. At a meeting held at UdaNuwara very recently, he stated with temerity, that the Government is spending Rs. 530.6 millions to feed the Tamils of the Northern province, besides providing other facilities: electricity, water, employment and educational facilities. The tone of the speech was that the Tamils are being maintained by the people of the South, at heavy cost. This worthy should know that the Tamils are demanding self-rule and to achieve this, they have

taken up arms. If the contention of Mr. Wijetunge is correct, why on earth is he failing to grant the request of the Tamils and bring an end to the on-going war. Let the Tamils sink or swim it is their funeral.

Mr. Wijetunge is now giving a communal touch to his speeches, more or less, dancing to the tune of Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya, to become the next President with the votes of the Sinhalese. He should know that M/s K. M. P. Rajaratna, F. R. Jayasuriya, R. G. Senanayake and few others had similar ideas and today they are unheard and unsung. It is a pity that the President descended to the level of a petty politi-

cian by telling the unsuspecting ordinary Sinhalese people, that his Government is supplying this and that to the Tamils. Electricity was supplied to the Northern Province on payment. The Government was making a profit on this. The President should also know that electricity supply was cut off from June 1990. There was a central power station at Chunnakam, which was supplying Electricity on restricted basis for few hours. This central power station was bombed several times and the buildings and costly power plants were completely destroyed. The Northerners are suffering in silence, with-

(Continued to page 3)

Denial of efficient Postal Service is Torture

Centre for Better Society tells DBW

"Latest collection and earliest delivery" is the motto of the Postal Services. Principles and obligations as laid down in the contract entered into by Sri Lanka with the International Postal Union are laid aside in the case of letters to Jaffna. So states, a letter sent by the Centre For Better Society, Jaffna, in a memorandum addressed to Mr. D. B. Wijetunge, the President. The Society's letter reads as follows:—

This Centre, concerned with the uplift of Society and bettering the quality of life, wishes to bring to your kind notice the deterioration of the postal services to the Jaffna Peninsula to a deplorable level.

In the last instance, no mails were received here from outside after 16th Oct. 93 till Jan. 28, 1994. Even then, only part of the letters lying in Colombo had been despatched to Jaffna.

All letters were ripped open and clumsily pasted damaging parts of the contents. Many covers were received with letters of others. X'mas cards were torn and in some cases only the back flap was received. Musical cards were minus the musical gadgets. Such has been the treating of our letters both in frequency of despatch and tampering during the past 3½ years. When the world itself is being reduced

to a 'global village' by the vast strides in communication services, the people here are denied for months together even the minimum.

This denial of a basic human need is real torture inflicted on the people most of whom have their kith and kin outside the North and in foreign lands.

Educationally and employmentwise too they are handicapped by the denial of regular flow of periodicals or other materials and advertisements or gazettes. Many, denied of the means of earning their livelihood here and depending on remittances from abroad are affected.

All citizens are entitled to have their letters delivered at the first possible opportunity. "Latest collection and earliest delivery" is and has to be the motto in the postal services. According to the contract entered into by Sri Lanka with UPU, all mail posted in member countries have to be treated in the prescribed manner as if the postage was paid to Sri

the Mandaitivu army camp. Declaration of safety zones has no meaning. This is the nature of medical facilities enjoyed by the Northerners, at the mercy of Mr. Wijetunga.

Further, shortage of drugs in government hospitals, is always there. Nobody is bothered about this. Hospitals are full of injured people, consequent to bombings, shellings and rocket attack.

The President also said that he is giving employment facilities to the Tamils. Is he not aware that in 1989 forty candidates were selected to the Sri Lanka Administrative Service? - There wasn't a single Tamil among the forty. There were more than one thousand employees at the Northern Saltern at Elephant Pass. They were displaced on account of the on going war. They have not been paid their Salaries for the full year-1993. They are roaming the streets like beggars. This is how this worthy is providing employment facilities.

The Sri Lankan President is also the Minister of Finance. As the President has very wide powers-no legal action can be taken against him. His handling the Ministry of Finance, is not a healthy practice and nowhere in the world, has such a practice been so far adopted.

—Mavadian
Chavakachcheri,

In war, there could be occasional dislocation of services, but such repeated and prolonged sabotage is considered here as done out of spite or revenge on a people crying for their basic human rights.

We wish to remind you that such treatment makes people to conclude that you treat us here as aliens.

We therefore wish to request you to personally intervene and order all available mails to be sent by every ship leaving to Jaffna. Solliciting your personal and immediate attention.

Conducive Atmosphere

Media View

To some extent voices are continuously heard for the past two years that a peaceful solution of the nationalities' problem be achieved. Although such demands had come from within the island of Ceylon as well as from the world outside, yet it is explicit that none of these demands was strong enough nor capable of compelling the Sri Lankan State to find a peaceful solution.

In the meantime, even though the Sri Lankan Government made mere utterances regarding a political solution as an eyewash, yet its actions clearly showed that it had no faith in a political approach to the problem. Furthermore, from time to time Sri Lankan political leaders as well as the military generals were at variance with one another, regarding the conduct of peace talks and the resolution of the nationalities' problem. But it does not appear that any party amongst them is initiating any moves, to conduct talks to reach a peaceful resolution of the Nationalities' problem. Even when, they speak of a political settlement, their talks do not, however, contribute towards the building up of confidence in the minds of the Tamil people. While throttling the throats of the Tamil people, they are attempting simultaneously to talk of peace as well. But this attitude will never create an atmosphere, for peace talks. Further, even if negotiations were to take place in such an atmosphere, it would not end up in finding a reasonable solution to the issue.

The Tamil Nation has a long history of having conducted several negotiations with the political leaders amongst the Sinhalese in the past. At times, some of these talks were disrupted by the Sinhalese leaders themselves, while the talks were in progress. At other times, pacts were abrogated, after agreements had been reached. In these circumstances, if the Tamils are

to conduct talks with the Sinhalese leaders in the future, such talks must be conducted in a manner so as to create trust in the minds of the Tamil people that they stand to benefit by such negotiations.

But the policies adopted by the Sinhalese politicians remain quite contrary. They do not create a conducive atmosphere of trust towards negotiations. In contrast, they appear to be threats against the Tamils by way of grabbing their lands and their very lives. In this context, how can the Tamil people have any trust in peace efforts?

It is in such an inhospitable political climate, several peace missions have visited Jaffna and left. There is no information as to whether these peace missions brought with them any peace plans for the resolution of the nationalities' problem. But, at the same time, it cannot be denied that these missions had at heart a desire to find a peaceful resolution to the ongoing nationalities problem.

But there is no reassuring indication giving the Tamils the extent to which the Government is welcoming the efforts of these missions. It is also learnt that these missions had contacted Sinhala politicians and army commanders and had discussions with them. Even so, unavoidably doubts do arise as regards the extent to which the peace efforts will bear fruit.

In these circumstances, it is necessary for those who attempt to bring about peace to satisfy themselves from the Sri Lankan government, the extent to which their efforts will be fruitful. At the same time, an atmosphere should be created wherein the two parties concerned with the problem would be able to conduct negotiations from positions of equality and without any duress or pressure. This is an important and complicated subject for those who attempt to bring about peace.

It may not be very fruitful to act purely on false signals given by the Sri Lankan government.

Editorial:
Eelanatham of 7. 2. 94

Business Malpractices - IDO Warns

The Industrial Development Organisation (IDO) has warned that it has become aware of instances in Tamil Eelam where glucose, baking powder and washing blue are being sold in packets with fake labels of leading producers of the said stuffs.

The IDO has called upon all who indulge in such business malpractices to forthwith stop such activities on pain of severe punishment.

The IDO has also called upon the people to let it know such malpractices.

Atrocities of—

(Continued from page 2)

out electricity, gas, petrol, diesel etc. This government has banned a common item like torch light batteries too. The northerners are cut off from society. They can't operate a T.V. nor a radio. The only solution the Tamils can think of is nothing but separation.

There is no public transport in the North-C. T. B. and the Railway. Kondavil C. T. B. Depot was bombed several times and destroyed. All the railway stations from Omantai to Kankesanthurai were bombed and destroyed. This Mathan Mutha is telling the Sinhalese that he is providing educational facilities to the Tamils. Several schools were bombed and children killed. How is it possible for the students to concentrate on their studies, when bombings and shellings and rocket attack is undertaken at all odd hours? Children under such circumstances spend their valuable time in the bunkers. Examinations are not held in the North on the fixed dates, children can't study in the nights for want of light. During examinations, bombings and shellings were undertaken on examination centres and in the surroundings. Under such circumstances can anybody expect the students to fare well in the examinations? Even if they do

well in the examinations in spite of these hazards, admissions to the Universities are restricted on very flimsy grounds.

It is an open secret that Mr. Wijetunga was a dummy in the administration of late Mr. R. Premadasa. This duffer is saying that he is providing medical facilities to the North. When the Northern Province was subjected to cholera epidemic, operation Yarl Devi was undertaken with the blessings of Mr. Wijetunga, Chief of all the armed forces. The worst enemy would not have launched such an attack in such circumstances. In last November and December, Northern Province experienced heavy rains. This resulted in the people abandoning their houses and staying in schools, temples and churches. Lot of people fell sick, food was not available babies were without milk foods, lighting facilities were not available and they had no clothes to cover themselves to withstand the bad weather. During this period, bombings shellings and rocket attack were resorted to, resulting in churches, temples, Jaffna secretariat, houses, hospitals being damaged and several people being killed and maimed. Doctors are reluctant to serve in Jaffna hospitals on account of indiscriminate shellings from

AERIAL BOMBING AT NACHCHIKUDAH 4 KILLED, 10 INJURED

Two Sri Lankan Air Force Puccaro planes carried out aerial bombing on residential areas of Nachchikudah in the Mannar district at 10.00 a. m. on Tuesday, February 15, killing three people on the spot and causing severe injuries to another eight persons.

A report reaching here

from Mannar states that two Puccaro planes dropped more than ten bombs in the area. Sinnarajah (60), Saraswathy (50) and Manogina (18) displaced persons from Mathagal who were residing there, were killed on the spot.

The eight others who were severely injured are - J. Gerard (9), S. Anushiya (16),

S. Tharsini (5), M. Jennitha (5), S. M. Anthonipillai (39), S. Doreen (16), A. Manickammah (49) and Ajantha (2). In addition to the death and injuries many residential houses were also damaged.

On the following day Wednesday, Nachchikudah was again bombed. One man Arumainayagam died on the spot and 2 were injured. Four houses and two shops were destroyed. Many others were damaged.

The Events of February 20th set in Motion the Revival of Eelam Tamil Nation

Thirty eight years ago on February 20th, 1956, the United National Party which was then in power, passed a resolution at its Kelaniya sessions to make Sinhala only, the Official Language of the island and precipitated the Sinhala - Tamil National problem.

Perhaps, at that time the UNP in power must have thought that it could get away with it at the next elections. So it dissolved parliament to get a mandate from the voters for its new policy on the Official Language. What an irony of fate! The party in power was not only defeated at the polls but secured only eight seats in Parliament. A former UNP Member of Parliament, George R. de Silva justified the rout of the UNP by posing the question that if the UNP wanted to follow Bandaranayake, why not the people?

On that February 20th, the Tamil people in the North-East observed their first country-wide (Eelam) Hattal. There was complete stoppage of work. Shops were closed. Transport was paralysed. Schools were boycotted by the students and black flags were hoisted all over Tamil territory. It was also observed as a Day of Prayer. All Tamil and Mus-

lim Members of Parliament who belonged to the UNP tendered their resignations and joined the Opposition. Even though many of them contested the next elections as independent candidates, they were all defeated and the Federal Party came into limelight in the politics of the island, as the accredited leaders of the Tamil Nation.

Anandan

Although the UNP government suffered its first defeat on its new language policy in 1956, the Sinhala chauvinists in the political parties failed to learn any lessons by that historical event. The Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) which came to power, forged ahead and utilised its parliamentary majority to pass the Sinhala Only Official Language Act. This resulted in the riots of 1956 and 1958. In 1959, the new Prime Minister, S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake was assassinated by a Buddhist monk.

To agitate against the introduction of Sinhala Only in the administration of the Courts, the Federal Party again launched a Satyagraha

Campaign in the North East on February 20th, 1961. The government countered the campaign by an economic embargo by refusing to issue the weekly rations to the people. This move by the government only helped the Satyagraha Campaign to escalate into a Civil Disobedience Movement and paralyse the whole government administration in the two Tamil Provinces for three months. A State of Emergency was declared and armed forces were moved permanently into these two Provinces to maintain law and order.

It is against these very forces, the Tamils are now waging an armed struggle to liberate themselves. The Sri Lankan armed forces then sent to the North-East to re-start the Civil Administration, are still continuing to shed their blood for the same purpose but to no avail. Thus the events of February 20th have helped a great deal in reviving Tamil nationalism and record those historical events for posterity - The Fall and Rise of a Nation called Tamil Eelam.

Teedor News

Loans to Poor Farmers

In an effort to help poor farmers undertake cultivation and become permanent farmers the Mullaitivu District branch of Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation has selected 100 poor farmers for each of whom assistance to the value of Rs: 6000/- is being given in four stages. The assistance is being given in the form of cash, fertilizers and insecticide. This assistance scheme has helped poor farmers undertake farming seriously. Last year also hundred poor farmers were thus helped.

Sewing Machines to Poor Families

The TEEDOR'S Village Production Committee has selected seven families with incomes below poverty line at Bharathipuram in Kili-nochchi and donated a sewing machine to each

family for the family to be engaged in self-employment.

Voluntary Social Service Activities

The TEEDOR'S Mullaitivu Branch carried out voluntary social service activities in the form of repairs to roads involving the people in the area also to provide free labour once a month and on special occasions such as Heroes' day, Black Tigers' Day, Dileepan Day. The total value of work done on this voluntary service basis last year is Rs: 2,500,000/-.

Urgent Protection Work at Muthu Iyan Kattu Kulam

The TEEDOR carried out urgent protection work to prevent breaches in the Muthu Iyan Kattukulam which was facing imminent breaches consequent to the heavy rains and floods at the end of last year. About 1000 people in the area joined in this work. The value of the work done amounts to Rs: 300,000/-.

Sri Lankan Army Actively Engaged in Electioneering

Reports, from areas where local government elections have been fixed for March 1 in Tamil Eelam territory occupied by the Sri Lankan forces, say that the Sri Lankan Armed Forces are doing a house to house visit threatening people to vote at the elections or face consequences. Those who do not go forward to vote will be regarded as LTTE and taken to task. This is also being announced over loud-speakers. The S. L. Army is also identifying the Government backed nominees for whom everyone must vote.

SHELL ATTACK AT VADAMARADCHY

Intensive artillery barrage was carried out on residential areas by the Sri Lankan Army encamped at Palaly on Sunday, February 13, at 5 a.m.

Although the shells were directed towards residential areas, most of them fell and exploded in open spaces and the sea and thus no heavy damages to buildings and injury to persons were reported.

Three artillery shells fell and exploded in Valvettiturai area. One fell and exploded in the coastal area of Thikkam. Fishermen who were engaged in their normal work at that time, had a narrow escape. Shells were also directed towards Karanavai.

After the artillery barrage had ceased, a helicopter was seen hovering over the area.

FISHERMEN FIRED AT

S. L. Army stationed at Valanthalai junction in Karainagar, fired 50 calibre guns at fishermen engaged in fishing in the Ponnalai sea on Saturday February 12 about 5.45 a. m. On the same day about 6.00 a.m. S.L. Navy who came

in a Naval Speed boat fired at fishermen fishing in Chulipuram - Thiruvadinilai sea. On the previous night, S.L. Army fired shells towards Ponnalai which exploded on bare land. There was no report of any injury to persons.

Bomber, Heli and Shell Attack at Eevinai

A helicopter and two bombers strafed Eevinai in Archuvely area on Sunday, February 13. Eight bombs were dropped there by the

bombers. Some vehicles were damaged. At the same time the area was subjected to shell attack from the Palaly S.L. Army Camp.

Bomber Attack-Vali North

The villages of Punnalaittuvan North and Eevinai were subjected to aerial bombing, helicopter fire and shell attacks for half an hour.

This happened about 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 15. The two bombers dropped more than five bombs. The damage caused was unknown.

Shell Attack on Ariyalai

Two shells were launched from the Mandaitivu, S. L. Army Camp directed towards Ariyalai. One shell which fell in a playground did not explode. Another hit a house which was damaged. Fortu-

nately the inmates of the house were sleeping on the other side of the house and thus escaped injury.

The incident occurred on Sunday, February 13 about 1.00 a. m. at midnight.

Woman...

(Continued from page 1)

named Balasingam Packiam (aged 50) who was at her house was severely injured by the cannon fire.

She was rushed to the Point Pedro hospital for treatment and emergency operations were undertaken at the hospital to save her life.

Shell-

(Continued from page 1) This happened on Sunday February 13 about 7.30 p.m.

Two of the injured T. Varnasingam (28) and T. Thuraisingam (32) are brothers. A girl named S. Chandrawathana (13) was also injured by explosion of another shell. The injured were admitted to the Point Pedro hospital for treatment.

NAVAL ATTACK...

(Continued from page 1) ashore, J. Jeya (18), brother of Santhakumar whose body was also washed ashore, G. Jesurajah (27), A. Jaya-seelan, M. Mariyaseelan (24), A. P. Marcellene (42) and Baba.

Five boats in which the fishermen had set out, later drifted close to the shore and were brought ashore by the residents of Poonaitoduwai. The boats were damaged and fishing nets valued at Rs: 200,000/- were also found damaged.

The news also said that these fishermen were displaced from Mullian - Kattikadu and living at Poonaitoduwai. Some others who had also gone fishing with the dead and missing, managed to escape ashore.

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