

HOT SPRING

Vol. 3

20th June 1993

No. 36

EXERCISE OF SELF - DETERMINATION
INEVITABLE

"The national solidarity and distinctive ardour of the Tamil people deserve better than artful temporizings and perverse fumbblings of their elite representatives The self-indulgence of some individuals must give way, sooner or later, to the right of self-determination of a whole people."

H. A. I. Goonetilleke -
Saturday Review of July 2nd 1984

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL EMISSARY
COMES TO JAFFNA

PARENTS MEET P-O-W

Brigadier Ananda Weerasekera arrived in Jaffna on Saturday, June 19, as President D. B. Wijetunge's special emissary to have discussions with the LTTE in regard to the thirty nine Sri Lankan Prisoners of war in LTTE's custody who have presently undertaken a fast unto death. Brigadier Weerasekera's visit closely follows the visit to Jaffna on Friday, June 18 of about 80 parents and relatives of the prisoners who had come to see their fasting sons or brothers.

Policemen and a soldier, all numbering 39, started a fast unto death on June 13, the beginning of the 4th year of captivity, demanding that the Government take meaningful steps to obtain their release. Earlier in January 1991 the

LTTE released one prisoner of war unconditionally on humanitarian grounds for medical reasons and handed him over to the ICRC. Again in January this year the LTTE released two more prisoners of war as a mark

of good-will when Colombo Bishop, Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando visited Jaffna.

The LTTE had earlier said that it would welcome the near relations of the prisoners to Jaffna if they wished to see the prisoners of war.

Though the LTTE offer was communicated to the Government of S. Lanka also, the Government refused to make the necessary arrangements, even though the Sinhalese parents requested the Government to make arrangements for their travel. It was in this situation that the prisoners of war undertook the fast and the Government Sri Lanka made arrangements after about a week of the beginning of the fast by the prisoners for the relatives to go to Jaffna.

The Sinhala parents and relatives who came under

ICRC escort arrived at Point Pedro harbour about 8.30 a.m on Friday, June 18. At Point Pedro they were welcomed by Mr. Ilamparithy, the Head of the Political wing of the Jaffna District LTTE. After being entertained for tea the visitors were driven to Jaffna under LTTE escort.

At Jaffna the visitors saw their fasting dear ones at 10.30 a.m. The meeting saw many scenes of emotional outbursts. One woman visitor burst out crying 'mage raththarang puththa' (my golden

(Continued on Page 4)



Relations seen talking to a fasting prisoner



Relations of prisoners arriving at Pt. Pedro harbour

Bombing at Murunkan
Nursery School Damaged

Sri Lankan Air Force planes dropped nine bombs in two spells at Parikarikandal, Murunkan in the Mannar District.

News from Mannar states that on Tuesday, June 15 at 10-00 a.m. two Puccara planes belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force dropped

five bombs in the village of Parikarikandal in Murunkan, Mannar District. A number of dwelling houses were damaged.

Again about 11-00 a.m. two other bombers were sighted. They also dropped four bombs in the same area. A nursery school was damaged.

AERIAL BOMBING AT
MANNAR FOR A SECOND DAY

Heavy bombing took place in Mannar District for a second day in one week, according to reports from Mannar.

The report says that on Thursday, June 17, certain areas of Mannar District were heavily bombed in three spells.

According to the reports the first attack took place at 6-00 a.m. at Mullikulam when two Puccara planes dropped two bombs.

Again at 8-00 a.m. two Sri Lankan bombers dropped 4 bombs at Maruthamadhu in Murunkan.

The third attack also took place in Murunkan at 10-00 a.m. Two bombers were engaged in the attack. Three bicycles were damaged.

The Mannar reports further say that all these bombings took place in residential areas. Details of damages caused have not been received.

13th Amendment: Lamentations Come to Light

The inadequacy of the 13th Amendment became very apparent over the past seven months during which period the elected North East Provincial Government made all attempts to implement it in practice. The experience of the Northeast Provincial government has been that even the meagre powers devolved by the 13th Amendment were systematically denied to the Province by the Administration of the Sri Lanka government. The 13th Amendment itself was being interpreted by the Sri Lankan government side to the disadvantage of the Tamils. Some of the glaring features of the Amendment, are that Appendices to the Provincial List, take away from the Province what had been devolved in the main text. In like manner, entries in the Concurrent List take away powers devolved by the Provincial list. The Sri Lankan government treats the Concurrent List as its own preserve like the Reserved List.

The contradictions and consequent inadequacies within the 13th Amendment are clearly illustrated by the following points:

Law and Order

The Government of Sri Lankan had not established the Provincial Police though

TRO Constructs small houses in Mullaitivu

The Tamils' Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) has spent Rs. 250,000/- in constructing small houses for the shelterless in the Mullaitivu District.

According to information released by the TRO, the organisation has spent Rs: 244,385/- to construct small houses for 105 families at Dinesh Nagar and Komavil in Puthukudiyirippu and Utkal - Nedunkerny. This has been a longstanding need.

the Northeast Provincial government has been in existence for more than seven months.

Lands

Though the subject of land was said to be devolved,

The Northeast Provincial Council once run by the quislings of New Delhi is reported to have prepared a document in July 1989. The quislings were feigning to govern the Northeast under the 13th Amendment to the Baudha Sinhala Constitution but in fact were merely carrying pompous titles under the aegis of the Indian Army. The pathetic situation of the so-called Northeast Provincial government is borne out, if indeed any evidence is required, by the document which finds place in an article in the Sunday Island of 30th May, 1993 by Prabath Sahabandu.

The 13th Amendment has centralised it more than before.

District Administration

Most of the public servants working in the Province still come under the purview of the

central government. This included the Government Agents in charge of districts, AGAs in charge of Divisions and all officers working under them including Grama Seva Niladharis in charge of villages.

Transport Service:

The Provincial Government was not permitted to establish or manage bus transport service.

Highway:

Only minor roads on which buses do not ply had been

placed under the purview of the provincial Government.

Irrigation:

The devolution of powers granted to the Provincial Council did not give control over even 30 percent of the total irrigable land excluding the land falling within the Mahaweli Project.

Water Supply and Sewerage:

The Provincial Council had no control whatsoever over water supply and sewerage within the Province.

Electricity:

By retaining control over power grids the Central government had negated even the meagre devolution given by the 13th Amendment.

Education:

The Government of Sri Lanka was presently in the process of recruiting 25,000 teachers for the whole country. The recruitment was

being done under the pretext that training of teachers was a Central function. Thus the power of recruiting teachers had been denied to the Provincial Council.

Health:

Although this was a devolved subject, the appointment and transfer of medical officers had been denied to the Provincial Council.

Statutory Boards and Corporations

Statutory Boards and Corporations handling devolved subjects in the Province continued to be under the control of the Central Government. The Provincial Council was not permitted to exercise any supervision or control over them.

Food

Although supply and distribution of food was a completely devolved subject, the Government of Sri Lanka was unwilling to allow the Northeast Province the control over the basic necessities.

OUR READERS SAY

Dismay at Every Turn!

By act of providence or by accident I was born in the North Tamil Eelam and I am in early sixties. Like many other residents of this province, I am thoroughly fed up with the ill-treatment of the government. I am a pensioner and so is my ever loving wife. Before we retired, we pooled all our talents and calculated many a time, drawing a balance sheet and concluded that our pension was more than enough to maintain ourselves. Within an year of our retirement, we found that our pension was sufficient only for meeting our day to day expenses for fifteen days in a month. With the dawn of a war in June 1990, every thing became further unfavourable. By this time we had made in-roads into our little savings and now the only source of income is

our monthly pension. Alas! Our pension is not paid on the stipulated dates. We have not yet been paid our pensions for May'93 and the Local Government pensioners have not been paid from April 93. How on earth are these pensioners to maintain themselves? This appears to be nobody's concern. There is a Minister, a deputy, a Secretary, a Ministry Office and thousands of officials. They are all paid monthly salaries and fat allowances. I am sure that these officials will not tolerate a day's delay in the payment of their salaries. Poor pensioners are suffering in silence. What a pity - the affected people by the delay are all Tamils of the North-East. The actions of this government, justify the demand for a separate state. This is only one instance. My mission

will not be complete, if I fail to mention my other problems created by this cruel government. We were using an old gas cooker, gas was banned, this resulted in our using an electric cooker - supply of electricity was cut off completely. With greatest difficulty, we bought a kerosene cooker - what a pity - kerosene supply was restricted - one litre of kerosene per house for a month. Now we are forced to use firewood at heavy cost and inconvenience. Due to old age and under-nourishment we were, on medical advice taking some pills and tonics. Now these items too, are not available. By God's grace we are still alive. I use a

push bicycle for my transport. As it was not functioning properly, I sought the assistance of a bicycle repairer, who, on dismantling revealed that many vital parts should be replaced to put it on working condition. I went to many a spare parts dealer who stated that cycle parts are also banned items. Now I am on foot. I am not affluent enough to own a T.V., but I have an old 'SONY' radio. On account of the power cut and non-availability of batteries, it is gaining dust. In short, the government is annihilating the Tamils in slow process.

MEESALAIYAN

A First in many things!

This island is a tiny dot in the map of the World. It is one of the poorest of Poor and a Beggar depending on all affluent Nations for help in cash and kind for anything and everything - Developmental and Destructive. Even for the maintenance of its trunk roads the Govt. has to be helped by someone. Such a govt. spends a hellish lot of money in waging a senseless war with people whom it claims to be its own. Besides it diverts most of the foreign aid in purchasing war materials like bombers, helicopters, naval ships etc.

to commit naked Genocide of the Tamil people who are subjected to serious strangulation in the form of blockade of essential items like food, petroleum products, cooking gas, medicines, electricity and various other items to Match stick. It boasts its constitution is a Democratic one but it is more correctly a "Baudha Sinhala Chauvinistocracy" ruled by a President, almost a Dictator, on the advice of Mahanaykas of the different sects of Buddhist Clergy, ninety nine percent of whom are ultra-chauvinists. I could

(Continued on page 3)

NEWS IN BRIEF

June 6th Sunday

Sri Lankan navy on patrol in the sea at Valvettiturai opened fire towards the coastal areas about 8 p.m.

Since the naval gun boats were patrolling the seas near the coastal areas and resorting to firing towards the coastal areas, fishermen in Vadamadachy and Vadamadachy East could not go fishing.

June 7th Monday

Sri Lankan army camp at Kalmunai in the Poonkari area opened fire towards Ariyalai around 7 a.m. Fishermen in the area who were engaged in fishing in the area, had to abandon their operations and return home.

Ten Artillery shells were also fired from the army camp at Palaly towards residential areas in Vadamadachy around midnight the same day.

June 10th Thursday

During military operations which started beyond Valachenai in the Batticaloa district, three Sri Lankan soldiers were reported killed and several others injured, while five LTTE fighters and one LTTE supporter were killed.

June 11th Friday

Artillery shells fired from Palalay army camp directed towards adjoining villages in the night.

"The powers of the Provincial Councils are much restricted. The Central government has devoured the various powers conferred on the P. Cs. This is made possible because of the ambiguity of the provisions of the 13th Amendment to the

Sinhalese - owned press whipped up communalism to the maximum, saying that the country had been sold to the Tamils. The protest was of such a huge dimension that J. R. Jayewardene was forced to come out saying privately that the P. Cs do not enjoy

system? The EPRLF who knew very well the lack of powers of the P. Cs accepted the same, having been urged by the Indian government to do so. After sometime they too said that there was nothing for them to administer.

No Finance

Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva goes on to say that powers like police administration, powers to provide public utility services etc have not been statutorily conferred on the P. Cs. Even regards allocation of finance, P. Cs do not have the necessary control. The Central government has withheld and is keeping in its control

was no devolution of power, even though powers and functions of the P. Cs were categorised as coming under the Provincial Council list, Reserved list, and the Concurrent list. The experience of the North East Provincial Council has been that even the meagre powers given to it by the 13th Amendment, were systematically denied by the Centre. When a power said to have been devolved on to a Provincial Council is denied, that means that the said power has not been devolved on to the said P.C. Many a learned and so - called intelligentsia confused the two

tation of the separate state of the Tamils, seemed to have been satisfied with the decentralised powers bestowed on the District Councils. A speech by A. Amirthalingam made in Parliament on 29 - 04 - 82 clearly indicated that what was given to the District Councils to administer, was decentralised powers. In his speech addressed to His Excellency the President, Mr. Amirthalingam said His Excellency's government had bestowed into the hands of the people powers to a certain extent through the District Councils and to decentralise those powers, District Councils have been established. In this context, he went on to beg the government to grant powers and opportunity to the Jaffna District Council to secure and restore the Capital City of Nallur. A perusal of this speech which has been incorporated in the Historical Introduction written by Dr. S. K. Sittampalam in the book, 'Kingdom of Jaffna' (Yalpana Iracciam) page L.11, clearly indicated the meaning of the word "decentralisation." There was no devolution of power. If power had been devolved, there was no necessity for Mr. Amirthalingam to request power to secure and restore the old Capital City of Nallur.

Powerless

Constitution." This is not a central committee statement issued by the LTTE. This has come out of the mouth of Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva, the Attorney - at - law for the opposition parties in the North Western and Southern P. C.s. He is not only an Attorney-at-law but also a Member of Parliament belonging to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. He is uttering this statement, as if he had studied the law on this matter for the first time. He was aware of these shortcomings of the P. Cs and their lack of power long ago. But in spite of this knowledge, he was one of the leaders in the S.L.F.P. who cried out loud that by the creation of the PCs, the UNP paved the way for the division of the country and that it had sold Sinhala rata to the Tamils. A clear example of intellectual dishonesty.

UNP Regime

A Sinhalese journalist, Vinnie Hettigoda too had commented that the P.C. system supposed to have been created for the purpose of solving the problems that had arisen in the North East and bring democracy at district level, had failed to achieve its purpose. He further says that only after coming to grips with the actual set - up that all people have begun to realise the limits of the power of the P. Cs. He says that this was because up to now, the P. Cs were administered by the ruling UNP regime. They did not want P. Cs nor were they interested in its administration. They were only interested in portfolios, Pajeros and the fringe economic benefits arising out of this system.

The chief opponents of the provisions of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution were the SLFP, the Buddhist clergy and the Sinhala-owned press. In fact, on this account the SLFP even boycotted the first elections to the P. Cs. One of the spokesmen for the SLFP at that time was Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva, who now says that the P. Cs are devoid of power. Then, why did they oppose them saying that the Tamils have been given more powers? The Buddhist clergy went to the extent of coming on to the road in protest. Many lives were lost. The

even the powers of the former village committees.

LTTE Vindicated

The LTTE now stands vindicated because they opposed the Provincial Council system from the inception

and said that it was an eye - wash to defeat Tamil nationalism and that there was no devolution of power involved at all. At that time, the charge against the Tigers both by Sri Lanka and India was that they were an insatiable lot.

They were some among the Tamils too, who criticised the LTTE for not accepting the Provincial Council set - up. Some of them even said that they should accept what was being given then and thereafter fight for the balance. But was there anything given to the Tamils through the P.C.

the power either to curtail or increase the necessary funds to the P. Cs. At least now the critics of the LTTE should realise the correctness of the stand of the LTTE

S. THIAGARAJAH

with regard to the non - acceptance of the Provincial Councils.

No devolution

However much, the proponents of the P.C. system may argue what was ultimately created was a system which had powers only over some decentralised matters. There

Provincial Councils

Agricultural Training Course by TEEDOR

An Agricultural Training Course was conducted by the Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR) from April 24th. for trainees specially selected through the Rural Producers' Committees in the Jaffna District.

The training course lasted for 17 days at the end of which certificates were awarded

to the trainees at a special function by the Principal of the Training College, Mrs. Kandasamy.

The Jaffna District Coordinator of TEEDOR exhorted the trainees to put to good use the knowledge they had gained in the course of their training in advancing economic self - reliance.

A First ...

(Continuation from Page 2)

boldly say that there are Buddhist temples, Shrines, Retreats everywhere in Sri Lanka, but what you cannot find anywhere in Sri Lanka is **Buddhism**. Even the Clergy are 99% Non - vegetarian and Chauvinists. Baudha Sinhala chauvinism has secured for Sri Lanka a first place in the Guinness Book Records for:

1. Highest number of desertions in its Offensive Forces. I do not like to call the Forces, Defence Forces, because they are not defend-

ing the country against any external aggression, nor there is any country which has any designs of aggression against Sri Lanka. Compared to the Cadre of the Forces the desertions is a world record (percentage).

2. It takes the first place in the number of Human Rights violations compared to the size and population of Sri Lanka.

3. It also takes the first place in the number of persons missing. (Taken away killed and disposed of by the Offensive Forces)

4. It ranks first in the number of suicides compared to the size and population.

5. The infamous **Crawl** of massive combined forces from Vettalaikerni to Elephant Pass, a distance of 9 k. m. It took 24 days to crawl the distance. The defenders were a few hundred boys and girls with small

arms, whereas the combined forces consisted of five Navy ships, 30 Gun - boats, Barges to unload heavy vehicles. 10,000 troops, 300 Tractors enough number of Armoured cars, covered vehicles, and bulldozers with about twelve bombers, helicopters etc. giving **Air Cover** throughout the 24 hours of the day and night.

Atchuvely Kavadivelan

S. L. Navy Boat Ablaze

A Sri Lankan Naval speed boat was burnt and two Sea Tigers died in heavy fighting that lasted for two hours in the Kilali Sea.

The news in this connection states that on Friday, June 11, heavy fighting broke out

(Continued on Page 4)

Voice it Loudly !

Write it forthrightly

And voice it loudly

Particularly, when Isaac is blind
And technically, he is ignorant

Let neither your silence

Nor your inaudible communications

Make it easier, for avariciously ambitious Rebecca
And her weak - kneed unproductive son Jacob

Else, Rebecca and Jacob will implement what they
foresaw

And strip off the care-free and sportive Esau
Of not only the privileges bestowed freely from above
But also the latter's fundamental human rights

Dr. Henry Victor

HOT SPRING

VOL: 3 Sunday 20th June 1993 ISSUE: 36

Signs of Crisis

There was some news that the Parliament in Colombo passed a motion resolving that youths should be provided compulsory military training - some papers said to Sinhala youths. We are not sure.

After all the Government of Sri Lanka itself is not keen that its news should reach Tamil Eelam. And why should Tamil Eelam be bothered about the events in Sri Lanka? Suffice for our purposes to know the general trends in Sri Lanka.

According to our information the parliamentary motion in this regard has been introduced by the Opposition and the Government side has agreed to the motion - a repeat performance of the motion on the appointment of a Parliamentary Select Committee to work out a solution to the 'ethnic problem'.

It is also said that a Minister speaking on the motion mentioned that the youth constituted a third of the population and that compulsory military training to such a large number would tax the financial resources of the Government.

Never mind that. The Government has announced a price rise in kerosene, flour, rice etc. Well, there are the beasts of burden otherwise called 'mahajanaya' (people) on whom all the burdens can be heaped.

Sometimes we hear the Government of Sri Lanka making many promises to find a political solution to the Northeast war. The promises sound like oaths too, especially about the time some donor countries meet to decide the quantum of loans and aid to be given to Sri Lanka. But the promises and oaths are soon forgotten - like so many solemn Sinhala promises made to the Tamils - and we find the Sinhala political and military leaders promising military conquest of Tamil Eelam.

The passage of the motion in Colombo parliament resolving to provide compulsory military training to youths supported both by Govt. and Opposition should open the eyes of the world to the empty promises of Baudha Sinhala imperialism. It is clear that Baudha Sinhala imperialism is only bent on a military solution to the war in Northeast. It is not at all interested in coming to a settlement with the Tamils of Eelam.

And to achieve their military objective the Government will not hesitate to tax the Sinhala people themselves.

There was a time when the Sinhala people rose in token opposition against the increase in price of rice by 50 cents a measure which forced the Prime Minister of the day to develop 'stomach upset' and go into voluntary political exile. We are referring to the August 12 Hartal of 1953 and Mr. Dudley Senanayake's resignation from the Prime Ministership.

But things have drastically and dramatically changed since then. Price hikes and fresh taxation can just be implemented by notifications hastily published at midnight in the Government Gazettes and the weary people who break sleep in the morning will have no alternative but to comply. So much for the parliamentary democracy and the right of parliament only to levy taxes from the people in Sri Lanka.

Some analysts including UNP are reported to have said that the UNP lost the Western Provincial Councils elections because of the high cost of living. Now, if the people have to pay more for providing compulsory military training, as enunciated by the Opposition and supported by the Government, these people affected by the high cost of living shall have no choice between the Government and Opposition and are doomed for ever.

But we are not that pessimistic. The sufferings of the Sinhala people are caused by their rulers who want to rule Tamil Eelam against the wish of the Tamil Eelam people. That is why they have to have such a big military build-up and spend millions and millions in a war against Tamil Eelam which never is against Sinhala Rata or its people. Least of all does Tamil Eelam desire to rule the Sinhalese.

In short, the attempt at militarization of a so-called Buddhist nation and increasing the burdens on their own people are signs of crisis facing Sinhala imperialism. Imperialism is bound to be caught up in a series of crises. Even world history shows that imperialism cannot be sustained for all time.

It is time that the Sinhala people tell their political leaders to restrict their lust for power and leave Tamil Eelam severely alone so that all may co-exist in peace and prosperity.

2 New Tamil Eelam Police Stations

Two New Tamil Eelam Police Stations were opened during the course of last week.

At Puthukudiyirippu in the Mullaitivu District a Tamil Eelam Police Station was opened on Monday, June 14 at 7-15 a. m. The Police Station was formerly declared open by the LTTE's military commander for Mullaitivu, Mr. Pandiyan. The Police

Flag was hoisted by Mr. P. Nadesan. The Puthukudiyirippu Police Station will serve the Mullaitivu District.

Another Tamil Eelam Police Station was opened at Puli-yankulam in the Vavuniya District on Wednesday, June

16 at 7-30 a. m. The Station was formerly declared open by Mr. Kapilan, LTTE military commander for Vavuniya. Mr. P. Nadesan hoisted the Police Flag.

Reports add that large numbers of the public participated in the functions held at Puthukudiyirippu and Puli-yankulam.

HUMAN SKELETONS IN WELL

A team of workers cleaning wells at Thalawai, a village in the Batticaloa District, found three human skeletons in an abandoned well.

The Red Cross Society was clearing wells in Thalawai to assist the Rehabilitation Ministry of the Sri Lankan government which had proposed to settle displaced persons from the village of Thalawai. It was during the course of this work that the workers came across the human skeletons in this abandoned well. The Red Cross Society has ordered the well to be closed where these human skeletons were found.

With the outbreak of the current war in June 1990, a number of persons were reported missing from this

area. The skeletons now found may be those of some Tamils who were reported missing from June, 1990.

School Damaged by Shell Attack

A school at Nallur in Poonakari was badly damaged by shell attack from the Elephant Pass Sri Lankan Army Camp.

The news in this connection states that early morning at 2-30 on Monday, June 14,

the Sri Lankan Army stationed at Elephant Pass launched artillery shell attacks directed towards Nallur in Poonakari.

As the shell attack took place about 2 - 30 a. m. there was no injury to children or teachers but the school was badly damaged.

Puccaro Planes bomb Eluthumadduval

Residential areas of Eluthumadduval were bombed on Tuesday, June 15th about 6 a. m. by two Puccara bombers of the Sri Lanka Air Force.

In all six bombs were dropped. According to reports, the first bomb fell inside the premises of Mrs. Anandarajah who is a displaced person from Valvetti, presently

residing at Eluthumadduval occupying a house on the Government Tamil Mixed School road.

"On hearing the noise, we were put up from our sleep and on finding the planes circling above our house, we sought refuge in the nearby St. Mary's Church just opposite our house along with other neighbours. When the zooming sound of the planes increased, we entered the nearby bunker. The next moment we heard an explosion. Then we heard the sound of falling trees. Coconuts and timber fell over the bunker as well. After half an hour, the planes left the place and we came out of the bunker. To our astonishment,

we found that the Church was missing", says Mrs. Anandarajah who had escaped death narrowly.

The second bomb fell in a coconut estate behind her compound and the explosion left a huge crater.

Even the third and fourth bombs fell on the adjoining coconut estates and exploded. The fifth bomb fell on the railway track. The sixth and the last one fell inside the premises of Thavaseelan adjoining the railway station at Eluthumadduval. The explosion filled a nearby well completely with sand but nine persons who had sought the safety of a bunker, escaped death by a hair's breath.

No one was killed in the incident, although some suffered injuries.

Sea Tigers...

(Continuation from Page 3)

between the Sea Tigers and Sri Lankan Navy at Kilali sea which lasted for two hours between 7.00 p. m. and 9.00 p. m.

Four Sri Lankan speed boats had stationed themselves on either side of the sea-route used by civilian passengers for travel across the Kilali sea and were waiting in readiness to attack boats carrying civilian passengers.

Sea Tigers who provide escort for the civilian passengers rushed to the spot and charged at the Sri Lankan Naval speed boats and battle ensued. The battle lasted for two hours. Two Sea Tigers were killed.

One Sri Lankan Naval speed boat caught fire and was seen burning.

New Era Publication, Lucksmi building, Dutch Rd. Kalviyankadu.

President's....

(Continuation from page 1)

son) as she saw her son and embraced him.

One of the visitors included a Buddhist priest whose brother is one of the prisoners of war. He said that neither the politicians nor the Buddhist Clerical hierarchy in Sri Lanka were helpful to them. They spoke from platforms but did nothing to obtain their relations'

freedom. He also said that they did not receive any meaningful response to their efforts to meet political leaders and heads of the Malwate and Asgiriya Chapters.

In the meantime, Brigadier Weerasekera who came to Jaffna entered into talks with LTTE leaders. At the time of going to the press the outcome of the talks was not known.