PS member remanded on bribery charge

by Harinandana Gunaratne

Bribery sleuths yesterday arrested a Pradeshiya Sabha member of Matara in connection with a Rs 100,000 bribe case.

According to SSP Dinasena Rathugamage, already investigations of the Commission to Inquire into Complaints of Bribery and Corruption (CICBC), the Matara Pradeshiya Sabha member identified as Gehan Kanchana, had solicited Rs 100,000 from a contractor, who had contracted a road way for the Pradeshiya Sabha, to get his field payment.

The contractor had delivered 100,000 rupees in cash, and the bribe was accepted by the Matara CICBC and SSP.

The suspect was produced before Chief Magistrate Matara, and was ordered to be remanded till June 14.

POLONNARUWA, - SRI LANKA: Relatives of a slain Sri Lankan worker grieve at his funeral in the village of Malithrappa in Polonnaruwa District, 31 May 2006. Bandara was shot dead 30 May, together with eleven fellow construction workers in the eastern Sri Lanka region of Welikanda in an execution style massacre. The government has blamed Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas, but the rebels denied involvement.

AFP

Release Cuban Five, LGSU urges US govt.

by Carl Wimalaasurdana

KANDY — Lanka General Services Union (LGSU), at a general meeting recently chaired by its Chairman Jayaratne Maliyagoda, expressed grave concern over the unjust and illegal detention of the Cuban Five since 1998.

The LGSU, which represents the workers of the Central Province, said that the government was committing a gross violation of the fundamental human rights of the detainees.

The LGSU, while condemning the arbitrary act of arresting the Cuban Five and holding them under inhuman conditions, registered its vehement protest and urged the US government that the Cuban Five be released forthwith.

The LGSU expresses solidarity with the Cuban government, the resolution added.

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Army-LTTE clash stops traffic on A-9 road

by Dinasa Rathnagamage

Exchanges of fire between the LTTE and the Army at Omatuna yesterday morning stopped all traffic on the A-9 road for nearly half an hour. The clash started when a group of LTTE cadres in hiding started shooting at Army forward defence positions. Army sources said traffic and movement of civilians came to a stop early in the morning yesterday at Kachchad, Jaffna when a group of LTTE cadres lobbed a grenade at some soldiers.

In another of the attacks no Army personnel were injured.