

Wanted impartial inquiry

The recently slaying of police inspector Douglas Nimal and his wife was a dastardly crime. Those responsible for the crime should be brought to justice soon.

One wonders why the Police were in such a hurry to arrest IP Douglas on suspicion of complicity with drug peddlers on a mere submission made by a suspected criminal, who herself was under arrest for a drug related crime.

The big question is why would the Police be so willing to condemn one of their own men on the strength of a submission made by a criminal with a past record.

It was revealed that the slain IP, with the other allegedly victimised officers, was seeking to file HR cases against the higher-ups of the Police. The allegation made by the slain IP and the other police officers was that they were victimised for insubordination. But their threat of exposing Police top brass for colluding with drug barons needs the immediate attention of none other than the head of the country. After all, he pledged to fight corruption. And this is corruption of the highest order!

The credibility of the Police is at stake and it is the duty of the Inspector General Police to deploy an independ-



Scene of the crime where IP Douglas Nimal and his wife met with their deaths. (File photo)

ent team who would not yield to vested interests to investigate and report on the matter. Better still seek the help of a foreign team of investigators so that there will not be any adverse comments from any quarter when the case is concluded.

The President of the Police Inspectors' Association has a duty to

agitate to speed up the investigations on behalf of their members.

The media, too, has a bounden duty by the society to keep the matter alive until some meaningful action is taken by those in responsible places.

C. Dissanayake
Mt. Lavinia

Playing Scrabble

Results from rearranging of letters can be fascinating. Here are some examples I came across recently:

Astronomer: When you rearrange the letters, you get - *Moon starrer.*
Dormitory: When rearranged, you get - *Dirty Room.*
Presbyterian: When rearranged - *Best in Prayer.*

George Bush: When rearranged - *He bugs Gore.*
The Morse Code: When rearranged - *Here come dots...*
Election Results: When rearranged - *Lies, Let's Recount*
Mother-in-law: When rearranged you get - *Woman Hitler*
Snooze Alarms: Whenrearranged - *Alas! no more Z's.*

A Decimal Point: When you rearrange you get - *I'm a dot in place*
The Earthquakes: When rearranged - *That Queer Shake.* And for the Grand finale:
Eleven Plus Two: When the letters are rearranged you get - *Twelve Plus one.*

Dr. Terence Perera
Colombo

US Ambassador-designate, Sir, your logic is not understood

On June 15 another Sunday paper reported under the headline, 'US says negotiations only way out', that, US Ambassador designate for Sri Lanka and Maldives, Robert O. Blake had called upon the LTTE to give up terrorism and violence, to demonstrate respect for human rights. 'Tigers must give up terrorism in word and deed', he had added.

Having said so, Mr. Blake is reported to have stated that, 'Both the government and the LTTE should take steps to move forward towards a ceasefire and ultimately, a permanent peace'. We have heard this story umpteen times before, without any responsive action forthcoming.

Is it a fair assessment to put GoSL and LTTE in the same boat when the government had contributed more than enough towards a peaceful solution, while the LTTE scuttled such peace efforts by engaging in acts of violence, killing political leaders, security forces personnel and innocent civilians?

It would have been prudent had the new Ambassador-designate had tried to fathom the analysis of one his predecessors, Ashley Wills, who having gained first hand knowledge on the subject over the years, said: 'LTTE's weapons and armed cadre aren't protecting Tamil rights'.

They are prolonging the conflict and delaying the day when Tamils can live in truly peaceful conditions. LTTE's pursuit of an extreme separatist agenda by violent means had cost Sri Lanka's North and East and rest of the island, too, thousands of lives and twenty years of development.'

To name some acts of diabolical terrorism planned and executed by Tigers during recent times: Assassination of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgama, respected as a genial gentleman and a statesman, attempted assassination of Army Commander Sarath Fonseka, attempted sinking vessel Pearl Cruiser II with 715 security personnel on board, killing of 66 civilians and injuring about 100 more, among them a large number of small children and women in a claymore mine attack on a state bus at Kebithigollewa, a macabre crime customarily denied by Tigers, which US had correctly identified as having the whole mark of the LTTE' and attempted blowing up of eight ships berthed in Colombo port.

If the new Ambassador-designate is serious about his statement, 'to support the government and preserve the nation's territorial integrity, now is the time to take decisive action to crack down on Tiger terrorism. In the face of intensified violence, LTTE has not left any other option open.

His remarks that, 'the government should be willing to address legitimate Tamil grievances', is suggestive that LTTE is engaging in terrorist acts for the deliverance of the Tamil people, which is a distortion of facts. On the contrary, Tiger terrorism has become the greatest impediment in seeking a way out to achieve peace.

Eelam, the ultimate goal of the 'Tamil struggle', as professed by the LTTE, is meant to provide ultimate protection to Velupillai Prabhakaran, who should be hauled before the World Court of Justice for war crimes committed against the people of this country, according to Karuna, his one-time trusted Eastern commander.

LTTE has eliminated almost all Tamil political leaders to claim itself as 'the sole representative of the Tamil people', a claim rebuffed by the EU when proscribing the terrorist outfit.

The prestigious Indian newspaper *The Hindu*, condemning the massacre of innocent villagers in Kebithigollewa stated, "The LTTE has shown, on countless occasions, that it revels in violence and terrorism as a 'political strategy'".

"Against the Sinhalese, the Tigers use violence again and again, hoping to provoke the majority community into unleashing an ogre of revenge attacks on Tamils. The LTTE awaits such an opportunity to justify its own existence and Pol Polish methods." (*THE HINDU* editorial comment quoted in 19 June *THE ISLAND*).

US President had said, 'Either you are with us or with the terrorists', which means that, there cannot be 'half-way houses' (*ambalamas*) for terrorism. Curbing Tiger terrorism should take precedence over all other matters if, as envisaged by US, Sri Lanka's territorial integrity and democracy are to be protected against Prabhakaran's grand designs of forming his dream of Tamil Eelam.

Stanley Weerasinghe
Pannipitiya

Loudspeaker nuisance

The haphazard use of loudspeakers is uncontrolled and rampant. There isn't a single town or locality that the nuisance of loudspeakers has spared. For whatever reason and at all times of the day and night, the wailing, chanting or *kollopan* takes place without any consideration for other people's discomfort. On many occasions the use of loudspeakers hides behind a religious facade. I wonder who is responsible for the control of decibel levels of nuisance and pollution levels.

Any noise level of 85dBA and above is damaging.

One can compare the sound pollution that's all around us. This is basically due to lack of awareness and respect for others and, more importantly, the absence of enforcement of the law.

To cite an example, in the hamlet of Korawalalla, in Moratuwa, a self-proclaimed '*sami*' or religious man has constructed a small 'shrine,' unauthorised, of course, and

accepts collections with a blatant cacophonous assault on his prey with a blast of undecipherable chants well over the decibel level of a chain saw, between the hours of 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. and 4.00 am to 6.00 am, the timings obviously varying with the accuracy of his clock.

I have experienced this scenario in other towns, and a place that comes to mind is Nuwara Eliya. Religious fervour need not be imposed in this fashion. Sound pollution is damaging and the nuisance is unbearable.

I am made to understand that in the state of Tamilnadu, the use of loudspeakers is banned. Living in Sri Lanka, where things are 'banned' for whimsical reasons, banning loudspeakers may signal an approach to sanity.

May I invite all those who have suffered in "silence" to stand up be counted against his social menace.

Mohan Balasuriya
Moratuwa

Visa fees

I totally agree with S. R. Balachandran's letter published on 23rd June in *The Island*.

Exorbitant visa fees are charged by Western embassies and then at the end of the day, if the application is rejected, the applicant has to go empty handed with pain of mind and loss of hard earned money paid as an unreasonable Visa Fee. The visa fee charged may be a small amount in western countries; currencies, but when converted in Sri Lanka rupees, it is a large amount.

Last year, I applied for a visa to go to Canada to see my siblings. The Canadian embassy refused me visa on the grounds of travel history. The Visa Officer, who, incidentally, by the way, was a Sri Lankan, questioned me several times as to why I thought of visiting my siblings only now. Although I told her that it was only now that I could afford to visit my siblings abroad, my visa was refused. Isn't there always a first time in visiting a country?

Although my husband and I, both hold managerial positions in well reputed organisations in Sri Lanka, she was may have presumed that I would be a prospective illegal immigrant and not return to Sri Lanka, even though I was going all by myself on vacation, leaving behind my husband and children who were not keen to join me on a vacation.

To add fuel to fire, when I appealed against this decision with another letter from my employer certifying that they would guarantee my return to Sri Lanka, I was asked to re-apply, which meant a visa fee of another Rs. 6,000.

Although I was determined to fight this case to its logical ends, my presence at my workplace was required during the particular month in which I intended travelling. However, I was told by many others who have had experience of Visa Officers of Western embassies that these individuals operate on their mood mode at the time of the interview. Official and domestic problems colour their mood at the given time. They also people-pleasers wanting to impress their employers.

I fully agree with Council Member of the National Chamber of Commerce, who has suggested that the Government of Sri Lanka should make representations regarding the charging of visa fees i.e. charging a fee only when the applicant is successful in obtaining an Entry Permit and not when making the application. Furthermore, these embassies should realise that Sri Lanka is still a developing country and charge affordable Visa Fees. Hope this letter catches the eye of the Foreign Ministry.

A disgrusted citizen
of Sri Lanka

21st Death Anniversary of Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike falls today

A brilliant lawyer and politician

The twenty first death anniversary of Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike falls today. One of most brilliant among lawyers and politicians of yesteryear, Felix was born in 1930 and his entry into politics in 1960 with Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike was also an event that marked a new era not only in his life, but also the political life of this country.

Even at the youthful age of 18, when he entered the University of Colombo, he became well known as a student who had original ideas. He also had a persuasive but forthright style of conversation always making a point, which most of his peers were slow to realise.

Felix was a man stood above the height of the average person, but more than his height his intellectual standing often awed the lesser politicians who soon became envious of him. Yet soon after his entry into politics, he had a large following in the SLFP who knew he was a man who could be trusted even among politicians who are generally believed to be an untrustworthy tribe.

He held a number of cabinet portfolios, Justice, Agriculture, Public Administration and Finance, which he handled with equal competence for a person who had come to the political arena later than most of his cabinet colleagues and opposition members of the time.

Just two years after the 1960 SLFP government came to power, some police, army and navy officers drawn out mostly from a dying generation of Anglophile conservative officers attempted an armed coup to overthrow the legally elected government. But the information was leaked to the government on that fateful day. When the plotters in their uniform thought they were storming Temple Trees to take

Premier Sirimavo Bandaranaike prisoner and establish their military dictatorship, Felix Dias Bandaranaike was already there waiting for them guarded by a loyal army guard.

He surprised the officers who included senior police, army and navy men who dropped their 'gun belts' and surrendered to the Army guard. He was already accompanied by senior Crown Counsels of the Attorney General's Department who immediately recorded the statements of the coup suspects. They were later tried by Special Court and were found guilty of attempting to "Overthrow Her Majesty's Government" and sentenced to long prison terms. If not for his foresight and his fearlessness in handling a very dangerous situation, the history of this country would have been different.

I met Felix Dias Bandaranaike much later in 1970s with a mutual friend, the potato expert Norman Gunatilleke. In the 1960s when potato cultivation was new to this country the Agriculture Department brought in experts to advice the local agriculturists about the methods of cultivating the crop. An expert from Germany had advised the department officials that potato could be grown only on higher elevations like Nuwara Eliya. But my friend Norman who was a locally trained agricultural expert knew the German expert had a vested interest in the potato crop. Norman successfully experimented with potato cultivation at Boralanda Agriculture farm, Welimada at a lower elevation than Nuwara Eliya but his crop soon became infected with the common but devastating disease, bacterial wilt. On investigation he was told that the workers looking after the

crop of the farm were given some liquid by the German Expert to be put on Norman's crop. Lab tests of the remaining samples of liquid proved the bacteria causing the disease had been introduced to it.

Soon there was an agriculture exhibition at Nuwara Eliya to be opened by the Agriculture Minister Felix Dias Bandaranaike and on his arrival he spotted Norman and in his inimitable style asked, "So, Norman how are you doing?" Norman of course was ready with his complaint armed with the samples of the infected liquid and labourers who were witnesses to the "crime."

As soon as Felix came to Colombo he summoned the German Ambassador and told him the German Expert should leave the country within the next 24 hours. The expert left but the potato crop remained thanks to Felix. It was then introduced to the farmers of Welimada, Dambulla and even Jaffna. Though only a handful of people may know the local potato we enjoy as a normal thing would never have been here if Felix did not support Norman's potato drive which became successful.

Another outstanding contribution he made to this country was the legal reforms, the most important one among them these the Conciliation Board now named Mediation Boards to relieve the people at grassroots level of the high cost of litigation in minor disputes. At the time these were introduced he had severe critics especially among the legal eagles but the country has immensely benefited from them.

Felix was also blamed for the left parties LSSP and CP leaving the 1970 United Front coalition government but he was in no way to blame and least of all never advised



Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike that she should ask the left political parties to leave the coalition government. The left political party leaders of the day called him 'Satan' believing him to be the force behind their misfortune. But a few of us who were close to that great lady leader knew it was the LSSP more than any other party that was responsible for their departure. At the time Anil Moonesinghe who was Chairman, CTB, was training a group named Hansa Regiment at the Kondachchi Cashew Farm owned by the Plantation Industry Ministry. I was one of the first persons to get the information that a former Air Force Non Commissioned Officer was giving weapons training to LSSP sympathizers who were employed by the CTB as Security Men. The information was checked by the NIB who found it correct and Mrs. Bandaranaike was informed. Felix Dias Bandaranaike came to know about it only after Mrs. Bandaranaike had decided the left political parties should quit.

Thank you Felix. You will remain in the annals of the political history of this country as a courageous and honest man who never stooped to things a man ought not to do.

Wijitha Nakkawita

Sudoku No. 246 - Medium

5								4
8				4	9	2		
	7		5	3				
			7	2		8		
	3	4	6					9
7								2
	2		4		5	9		
9								1
	1	5		7	6			

Solution to No. 245

9	7	4	8	6	2	3	5	1
2	6	1	3	5	4	9	8	7
5	3	8	1	9	7	4	6	2
8	9	2	5	7	1	6	3	4
6	1	5	4	2	3	7	9	8
3	4	7	6	8	9	1	2	5
1	5	6	9	4	8	2	7	3
7	8	3	2	1	6	5	4	9
4	2	9	7	3	5	8	1	6

No knowledge of arithmetic is required to enjoy this. All you need is a logical mind, a pencil and an eraser. Try it. Suffer its torture. Discover its ecstasy. It's a mind game you will solve with reasoning and logic. The rules are very simple. Fill in the grid with numbers so that every row, every column and every small 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9. Each number has its allotted place if you look hard enough. No number should be repeated in any row, column or 3x3 box. Every puzzle has only one correct answer. Here's an easy one to try - See the next issue of *The Island* for solution.