

\*SOFTWARE CAREERS\*



is recruiting.  
Visit [www.topjobs.lk/zone24x7](http://www.topjobs.lk/zone24x7)  
**topjobs.lk**  
recruitment made easy

# The Island

ARE YOU RECRUITING ?

- Get free job advertising
- Paperless e-recruitment
- From office, home, anywhere
- At a fixed annual fee
- Become a featured employer!

**www.topjobs.lk**  
recruitment made easy  
Hashani 0773918922, Naseef 0773832036

Vol. 27 No.108 Wednesday 7th May, 2008 32 Pages Rs. 20 Registered in Sri Lanka as a Newspaper

- Late City Edition

## The Island

Published by Upali Newspapers Ltd.  
223, Bloemendhal Road, Colombo 13.  
Tel: 2497574, Fax: 2448185 - 2497543  
E-mail: [prabath@unl.upali.lk](mailto:prabath@unl.upali.lk)  
Wednesday 7th May, 2008

### Disarm them all!

The campaign to have the TMVP stripped of its arms before the May 10 Eastern PC polls, has got into Over Drive mode. Some civil society members have, we are told, even resorted to legal action to achieve that objective. They deserve public support as the intimidatory presence of any armed group needs to be obviated prior to any electoral exercise, if it is to be free and fair.

But, is it only the TMVP that needs to be disarmed? In a democracy, only the armed forces, the police and other state agencies responsible for public security should be allowed to carry arms. If it is the protection of democracy that one seeks, it is imperative that one campaign for disarming all other armed groups. Unfortunately, some civil society and political activists are being selective in their efforts to protect democracy against violent elements. While baying for Pillaian's blood, they are molycoddling Prabhakaran and his killers thus making a mockery of their campaign for democracy.

If two armed thugs are holding people to ransom while fighting each other, disarming only one of them is not the way to set about solving the problem. Stripping one thug of his arms is tantamount to according monopolistic status to the other to help him continue his terror campaign far more effectively sans rivalry.

It is being asked in some quarters if the Eastern Province is fully under government control, why the TMVP should retain its arms. This is a very cogent argument. But, in all other parts of the country where the government writ effectively runs, there are armed groups such as Tamil politico-military organisations and private bodyguards of politicians. Even some peacemakers have had armed escorts! So, the question is why they, too, should not be disarmed.

It is heartening that those who committed election violence and went all out to sabotage elections through terrorism in the not so distant past have become ardent campaigners for free and fair elections and disarming the TMVP. The two main parties, the SLFP and the UNP are responsible for the present pass the country is in. Their history is tainted with violence and polls rigging. The JVP went on a killing spree to disrupt elections in the late 1980s. Its death squads killed hundreds of voters in cold blood for exercising their franchise. The JRJ government issued thousands of guns to both the ruling UNP and the Opposition. Most of those arms were never returned.

The SLFP, responsible for the Wayamba vote looting, is silent today as it is in power while others are condemning the very offences that they themselves once committed to their heart's content. However, their transmogrification into crusaders against election violence is salutary and needs to be admired!

The worst that can happen to a campaign for democracy is to allow it to be used by sinister elements as a Trojan horse to promote their hidden agendas. Most vociferous advocates of democracy, including some members of the international community, are mum on the situation in the LTTE-held areas. It looks as if they wanted only the other areas to be democratic so that the LTTE could operate therein freely while keeping the Wannu under its jackboot and trying to expand its shrinking dark empire.

The TMVP, in spite of all its sins, is an outfit struggling to wean itself away from terrorism and enter the democratic mainstream. Therefore, those who demand that it be disarmed—quite rightly so—must not lose sight of the fact that its violence is a corollary of the LTTE's terrorism. Both the effect and the cause of violence in the Eastern Province—as well as elsewhere for that matter—must be tackled simultaneously without the TMVP being thrown to Tigers.

## Piliyandala OIC's swift action caused arrest of bus bomber, Sinhala accomplice

# Controversy surrounds officer's transfer

by Shamindra Ferdinando

Controversy surrounds the Police Headquarters decision to remove Chief Inspector W. K. Lionel, the Officer-in-Charge of Piliyandala police, whose prompt action caused the arrest of the LTTE cadre who blew up an SLTB bus as it left

Piliyandala main bus stand for Kahapola on the evening of April 25. The blast claimed the lives of 26 civilians including a Buddhist monk and wounded over 70.

Within 24 hours of the blast the officer has received orders to report to Field Force Headquarters, Bambalapitiya. In fact, by the time,

the officer had received the transfer orders, two persons wanted in connection with the blast had been arrested.

Well informed sources said a Sub Inspector attached to Police Garage at Narahenpita had informed the Chief Inspector of the sighting of two persons who had acted suspi-

ciously as they reached their boarding at Deltara. The Sub Inspector had simply passed on the information, he had received from a woman known to him, to the Chief Inspector. Despite having to tackle the crisis situation in the area, the Chief

Continued on page 6

## Basil defends prorogation of House

President Mahinda Rajapaksa prorogued Parliament for one month from midnight Tuesday.

Government sources said Parliament would meet again on June 5.

The Opposition criticized the decision asserting that it was a clear sign of weakness. Government sources said the result of the May 10 election to the Eastern Provincial Council would bring the UNP to its



Basil

knees. Basil Rajapaksa, MP, last night said there was absolutely no special reason for the prorogation of Parliament. The government thought the time was right to call a new session, Rajapaksa said,

rejecting the opposition assertion that it was a sign of weakness. According to him only three of four days would be missed due to prorogation.

## ...because Govt. is 'cocksure' of winning EPCE - Ameratunga

by Zacki Jabbar

The government has decided to prorogue parliament since it is "cocksure" of winning the May 10, Eastern Provincial Council Election and thereafter President Mahinda Rajapaksa could make his throne speech, the UNP's Vice President John Ameratunga said yesterday.

He told *The Island*, last night that the government was trying to force a victory by "hook or by crook", but the eastern people will reject it, in favour of the UNP-SLMC



John

combine. "I can understand the prorogation, if the East had been completely cleared of the LTTE and other armed groups. But the LTTE still remains a threat and the armed Pillaian group continues to terrorise the people. So what is there to celebrate?"

The eastern people are suffering due to the high cost of living. "The farmers and fisherman are struggling to make a living due to the security restrictions placed.

Continued on page 6



Family members and relations of late Minister Jeyaraj Fernandopulle yesterday gathered at the site of the bomb blast at Weliveriya for religious observances in commemoration of the first month of his death. The family decided to erect a statue of the late Minister at the site.

(Photo-Nishan S. Priyantha)

## SLAF officer indicted for abduction, extortion

by Priyalal Sirisena

The Attorney General's Department yesterday indicted retired Squadron Leader of the Sri Lanka Air Force Nishantha Gajanayake and four others on several counts of abduction of Tamils and extortion for their release. Gajanayake had been on the staff of Chief of Defence Staff Air Chief

Marshal Donald Perera.

Among the other accused were two police officers, Chamira Indika Daladawatta and Sampath Preethiviraj. K. A. Jayasiri Kodithuwakku and Prabhapillai Kandarasa are also alleged to have engaged in committing the offence.

Continued on page 6

## Six Ministers use 43 vehicles

Six ministers of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development and their staff were using 43 official vehicles. This was revealed in Parliament yesterday by Leader of the House Nimal Siripala de Silva

in reply to a question raise by JVP member Ranaweera Pathirana.

The annual expenditure incurred on fuel was Rs.209,280 for each vehicle. Some of these ministers and their staff were

using eight vehicles, he said.

One of the vehicles was obtained on lease and an annual rental of Rs.456,000 was being paid for it, while the annual expenditure on fuel was Rs.209,000.

## AC Judges miss welcome to new SC Judge

It was poor attendance by the Judges of the Court of Appeal at the ceremonial sitting of the Supreme Court held yesterday, to welcome Justice Sriparan, to the Supreme Court bench.

Out of the twelve Court of Appeal Judges only two had turned up. The two who were

present were Justice L. K. Wimalachandra and Justice Anil Gooneratne.

*The Island* reliably learns the judges who did not attend the ceremony went to Justice Sriparan's Chamber and felicitated him after the ceremony was over.

The Island [www.island.lk](http://www.island.lk)  
THE LEADER IN INTERNET SERVICES  
**LankaCom**  
Subsidiary of Singapore Telecom  
Phone: 011-2447740 | [info@lankacom.com](mailto:info@lankacom.com)

The Island on your **MOBILE/PDA**  
GPRS enabled  
<http://mobile.island.lk>  
Select: ■ Web ■ Web Address  
■ Type: <http://mobile.island.lk>  
Powered by Lanka.com

SEYLAN  
**5Star**  
FIXED DEPOSIT  
5 Year Fixed Deposit  
**22% p.a.** (At maturity)  
Annual Effective Rate: 15.59%  
In addition to the interest, we will contribute towards payment of your utility bills.  
Enhanced interest rate for Senior Citizens  
Hotline: 2456937  
**SEYLAN BANK PLC**

[www.mobitel.lk](http://www.mobitel.lk)

Any  
**8**

Keep 8 friends special!

All day (24 hrs)

- M2M Outgoing Voice / Video Call per minute
- Daily Rental Rs. 3/-

To activate the feature type: any8act#...#...#... and SMS to 7678.

\* All rates are subject to Government taxes and levies. Conditions apply.

**SMART**

Hotline:  
071 2 800 800

Sri Lanka  
**Telecom**  
**Mobitel**  
We Care. Always.