

Extreme weather is a taste of the coming Age of Stupid

Page 5

No peace talks

Midweek Review

# Troops enter Puthukuduyiruppu

by Harisanchandra Gunaratna

A midst fierce resistance from the LTTE the Army yesterday entered Puthukuduyiruppu, the last township held by the Tigers.

Military Spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said troops of the 53 Division from the north east and the 58 Division and Task Force - IV moving from the West had reached the area and fierce fighting was on.

Troops had breached the 3.5 km long LTTE Forward Defence Line (FLD) after a seven hour battle beginning Monday night the sources said.

With the troops advancing into Puthukuduyiruppu the area held by the LTTE had shrunken to 66 sq kilometers consisting mainly of jungle, he said. Some Tigers had infiltrated the No War Zone and were mingling with civilians to avoid detection, the military said.

Military sources said that at least 40

Tiger cadres were killed in confrontations with the army and they were using all their resources to prevent the troops capturing the township.

Puthukuduyiruppu is 48 km from Paranthan on the A-35 road from Paranthan to Mullaitivu.

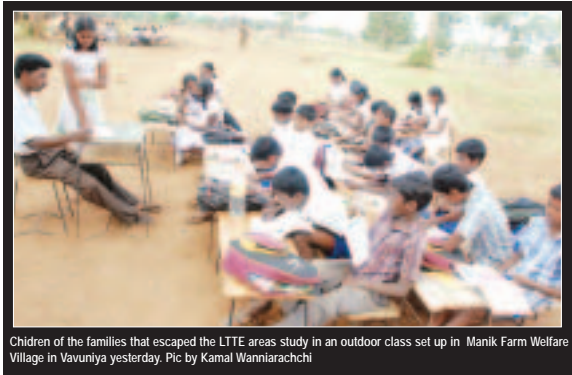
"Tigers were attacking the troops from three fronts, mobilising all the cadres at their disposal but it will be only a matter of time before the army captured the entire township," Nanayakkara said.

Tigers had suffered heavy losses in their bid to defend their last stronghold, he said.

Troops came across double cabs and other vehicles left behind by the Tigers in retreat.

Sixteen LTTE cadres who had tried to infiltrate Mullaitivu area from the coastal belt were shot dead. Later the troops on a

Continued on page 2



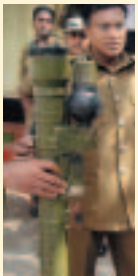
Children of the families that escaped the LTTE areas study in an outdoor class set up in Manik Farm Welfare Village in Vavuniya yesterday. Pic by Kamal Wanniarachchi

SL Red Cross with Govt.

If there is any conspiracy against the country, the Sri Red Cross will be with the government, its President Jagath Abeyasinghe said.

See Page 9

## SAM found at Thoppigala



by Harisanchandra Gunaratna

Trincemalee police Monday recovered a SAM 14 anti aircraft missile from the Thoppigala jungles on a tip off.

According to Military Spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, the missile had been buried in the eastern jungles by the fleeing Tigers when the army moved in.

"Though the batteries were dead the surface to air missile could still be used, he said. Asked why the LTTE didn't use it during the eastern battle where SLAF aircraft

Continued on page 2

## WPC polls nominations close tomorrow

by Ranil Dharmasena

Nominations for the Western Provincial Council polls will close at 12 noon tomorrow (26). Returning Officers in Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara District secretariats will accept nominations.

After nominations close a period of one hour,

from 12 noon to 1 pm, would be allowed for objections. Thereafter, the returning officers will declare the names of parties and candidates accepted or rejected.

The date of the elections is to be announced by the Elections Secretariat after the conclusion of the nominations.

## UPFA to submit list today

by Anura Balasuriya

The United People's Freedom Alliance will submit its nominations for the upcoming Western Provincial Council election today (25).

General Secretary, Minister Susil Premajayantha and the District leaders will hand over nominations to the Returning Officers. Former Provincial Minister Sunil Jayamani, former Chief Minister

Reginald Cooray and Prasanna Ranatunga have been named as leaders in the Colombo, Kalutara and Gampaha Districts respectively. In addition Jagath Angage, Sunil Wijeratne and Nauzer Fowzie have been appointed deputy leaders in the UPFA campaign for the Province.

The UPFA had not named a chief ministerial candidate for the WPC and would keep that post open, party seniors said.

## ... and UNP tomorrow

by Piyasena Dissanayake

The United National Party will submit its list of nominations for the Western Provincial Council elections to the District Returning Officers tomorrow (26).

Signing nominations lists commenced yesterday

(24) and this was expected to be completed by today (25) evening, party sources said.

Senior Party officials led by General Secretary Tissa Attanayake will hand over the nominations to the Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara District Secretariats.

Continued on page 2

## Refusal to contest WPC polls

# Some Colombo District UNP organizers to resign?

by Dasun Edirisinghe

Several UNP organizers in the Colombo District who turned down a request from the party leadership to contest the Western Provincial Council elections are likely to resign from their posts shortly, according to sources.

They had refrained from contesting PC polls as they considered it infra dig to do so, sources said. They may also have been influenced by the defeat of Naranjan Wijeratne in the Central Province at the recently concluded PC polls. He had entered the fray against his will, as he could not turn down the UNP leader's request.

Although the party had not officially asked organizers to contest or



Bodhi Kodituwakku Rosie

resign, an indication to that effect had been given, sources said.

Among the prominent UNP organizers not contesting the PC polls are Dr. Karunasena Kodituwakku (Kolonnawa), Rosie Senanayake (Colombo West) and Bodhi Ranasinghe (Colombo East).

Former minister Dr. Kodituwakku, contacted for comment, said the question of his resignation did not arise,

as the party had made no decision to remove organizers who did not contest PC polls. "Some misunderstanding may have led to that kind of speculation," he said.

Ms Senanayake told The Island that it was not mandatory for organizers to contest PC polls and therefore she had not entered the fray. She said there were many UNP organizers who did not contest PC elections.

UNP stalwart Bodhi Ranasinghe said he would not contest. He had duly informed the party leadership of his decision. If the party made it mandatory for organizer to contest PC polls, he said, he would resign.

"I will announce my decision after the nominations are over," Ranasinghe said.

# Cyclonic winds sweep Ratnapura

by U. Asitha Indika, Ratnapura Corr

Cyclonic winds swept across the Ratnapura town and its suburbs yesterday evening causing damage to houses, shops and property, bringing with it heavy rains which lashed the entire district ending a month-long drought.

Hailstorms were reported from Batugedera Tirivanaketiya and Pahala Hakkamawwa.

People in the affected areas said a thick fog had accompanied the cyclonic winds that lasted for about 15 minutes. About 25 houses in Batugedera, Tirivanaketiya, Pahala Hakkamawwa and Ratnapura city area were damaged.



House damaged in Tirivanaketiya

# If city canals not cleaned CMC warns LRD of legal action

by Emanthi Marambe

The Public Health Department of the Colombo Municipal Council has warned the Land Reclamation Department of legal action if the city canals are not cleaned within one week. Negligence has caused the spread of dengue during the months of January and February

Continued on page 2



Get M3 High Speed Internet with the widest coverage for your laptop or PC

www.lankacom.lk

Tel: 011 261 1111

www.lankacom.lk

M3