



Butchers slaughtered

- P'karan, son, Pottu Amman, Soosai, Nadesan, Pulithevan et al killed
- UAV used in frantic search for fleeing ambulance carrying terrorists
- LTTE sacrifices over 100 cadres to facilitate leaders' 'escape'

Long march to victory
See pages 6, 7



Prabhakaran Pottu Amman Soosai Nadeshan Anthony Ramesh Pulithevan

Promotions for Army, Navy, Air Force Chiefs



Army Commander General Sarath Fonseka cuts a cake while President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Ratanasiri Wickremanayake, Air Force Commander Air Chief Marshal Roshan Goonatilake, Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Chief of Defence Staff Air Chief Marshal Donald Perera, Navy Commander Admiral Wasantha Karanagoda, IGP Jayantha Wickremaratne and Civil Defence Force Chief Rear Admiral (Retd.) Sarath Weerasakera look on. Army Chief Sarath Fonseka previously held the rank of Lt. General, Air Force Chief Roshan Goonatilake that of Air Marshal and Navy Commander Wasantha Karanagoda that of Vice Admiral.

(Picture by Sudath Silva)

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A monster laid to rest

So, in the end the holy-toity Big Tiger died a 'fraidy cat'. Having killed thousands of people and driven a similar number of his own brainwashed cadres to suicide in vain, Prabhakaran the self-defied warlord together with a group of his trusted lieutenants including his son died a violent death at the hands of the army, while fleeing the battlefield. That he was a coward of the first order was no secret but hardly anyone expected him to die in such a shameless manner.

Prabhakaran's downfall had to do with his hubris, racial hatred and unspeakable cruelty. Blunders of successive pusillanimous and glibble governments stood him in good stead. Ill-planned military operations halfheartedly carried out to deal with terrorism, political battles, bitter infighting and corruption in the defence establishment kept him going for thirty long years. Peace processes only gave him succour and strength to emerge stronger.

Prabhakaran's 'kingdom' had a foundation of well advertised myths. Various individuals and organisations floated stories about its invincibility. But, a professional military led by a government determined to defeat terrorism with might and main took less than three years to wipe it out!

At least now those who supported the LTTE for whatever reason should realise that the outfit they backed consisted of a pack of gender-confused hyenas and not 'Tigers' as such. No liberation movement, they need to be told, harms innocent men, women and children. Prabhakaran by robbing, torturing and killing the voiceless civilians and forcibly recruiting their children as cannon fodder, while his family and those of other LTTE leaders were living in clover, proved that he was no liberator but a homicidal maniac masquerading as a messiah. He shed so much of blood and squandered billions of US dollars on a mindless war to boost his sick ego. The place reserved for such monsters is the dustbin of history.

There may still be some depraved elements seeking to resurrect the LTTE but there will be a Sisyphean task. The Eelam project is dead!

This country is too small to be divided along ethnic lines but certainly large enough for all communities to live in together as one. Now that the LTTE is a thing of the past at long last, let a concerted national effort be made to put the conflict behind us by eliminating the causative factors.

That is the best way to honour the valiant personnel of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the police and the Civil Defence Force who sacrificed their life and limb to rid this land of terrorism.

by Shamindra Ferdinando

The Sri Lanka Army in the early hours of yesterday (May 18) thwarted an attempt by LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, his son Charles Anthony and several other senior cadres to escape in two vehicles, including a seized army ambulance, killing them all.

The army had fired at the speeding vehicles, military sources said. Among the dead were LTTE Intelligence Wing leader Pottu Amman, Sea Tiger leader Soosai, S. Pulidevan, head of the so called Peace Secretariat, Nadesan, political wing leader and Ramesh.

The daring escape bid was made amid a two-pronged assault LTTE suicide cadres launched on the 53 and 59 Divisions at 1.30 a.m. on Sunday. Authoritative sources said that as the army battled the lagoon borne attackers, the LTTE leaders had slipped into the government held area and seized the vehicles. The LTTE had sacrificed about 100 cadres to facilitate Prabhakaran's escape.

But, the army had acted swiftly to block all escape routes. Sources said that the SIAF had deployed an Israeli built Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to help track down the vehicle. During yesterday's chaos, the SIAF had checked with the Navy after detecting a cluster of small boats operating in close proximity to the Jordanian ship Farah III run aground off Karaymullivaikkal. The detection fuelled speculation whether the LTTE was making an attempt to evacuate its leaders.

Sources said that the escape bid was made after the Army had reduced the area under LTTE control to about 800 sq. metres in the Mullaitivu district. Contrary to reports that suggested Charles Anthony had escaped through the naval cordon and reached Malaysia and Prabhakaran had two submarines especially built to use in an emergency, the entire leader-

ship had been trapped on the ground.

Although the Army had the opportunity to mount a heavy artillery barrage and call in the Jet Squadrons to zero in on the LTTE-held area, the ground commanders had favoured a ground assault. The LTTE had left several small groups to face the Army as the leaders attempted to reach the dense Mullaitivu jungles.

'Colonel' Ramesh killed along with several other seniors had been with Karuna Amman before the then Battacaloo commander had quit the organisation in March 2004 over differences with Prabhakaran. Ramesh succeeded Karuna subsequently but was later

recalled to Kilinochchi.

Exp-politician, Nadesan, who headed the 'Tamilaleam police' replaced LTTE political wing leader Thamilselvan killed in an SLAF strike in November 2007. Troops had also recovered the body of Nadesan's Sinhala wife.

The Army said that following operations carried out on Sunday, the area held by the LTTE had been reduced to about 1,000 sq. metres. Well informed sources said that at least four LTTE groups had been trapped in the area cleared by yesterday.

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Congress plots new path after election win

NEW DELHI (AP) - India's Congress party began putting together a new Cabinet on Monday amid euphoria over a definitive electoral victory that will give the government a free hand to pursue economic reforms. The country's stock market surged over 17 percent when it opened Monday for the first time since the

election results were announced. The rise was so dramatic it forced an end to the day's trading.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh chaired the last meeting of his outgoing Cabinet on Monday as party leaders surveyed the new political landscape. The near-collapse of India's once-powerful communist parties

will allow Singh, who will return for a second term, to pursue key reforms in insurance, pension funds, banking and retail.

The Congress-led coalition captured 281 seats in India's 543-seat Parliament, far more than most

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After Prabhakaran's death

India sounds alert in TN, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh

by S Venkat Narayan
Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 18: India today refrained from officially reacting to the death of LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. However, as soon as the news of his death trickled in,

central security agencies sounded an alert in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh.

This is in the wake of intelligence inputs suggesting that cadres of the Sri Lankan separatist outfit who could have slipped into the country

may try to create disturbances in this country.

Security for Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul and daughter Priyanka was further tightened as they were

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Exceptional gains on CSE

The main price indices of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) recorded exceptional gains during trading on Monday, the CSE said in a new release.

The All Share Price Index (ASPI) gained 123.2 points (6.5%) to close the day at 2,030.9 while the 25 stock Milanaka Price Index (MPI) recorded an increase of 162.0 points (7.8%) during the day's trading to close at 2,230.2.

This is the sixth highest daily percentage growth recorded by the ASPI in CSE history, surpassing 5.95% growth recorded by the index in November 2003.

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