

NEWS

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out of his house and gunned him down.

Motorbike-riding gunmen shot and killed Sinnamani Tharmarajah, 28, as he was travelling in Kopay, Jaffna.

A mother and her two children were injured when a SLA truck travelling at high speed collided with a privately owned passenger van, trapping and injuring the three riding a bicycle in Kopay, Jaffna. The driver of the SLA truck lost control of the vehicle and hit the van travelling in the opposite direction, local witnesses said. Ms Raveendra Sivagankai, 32, Sambavan, 7, and Sambavi, 5, from Kopay North, were seriously injured in the incident.

A young woman, identified as Murukaiah Sukirtha, 25, a mother of one from Naatholai, Ilavalai, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen, riding a motorbike, in front of Nathan cinema in Jaffna town centre. SLA troops cordoned off the area and conducted a search, but no arrests were made.

Two Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) were fired into the house of Batticaloa MP for the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), Mr. S. Jeyanthamoorthy. The parliamentarian, his wife, two children and their relatives, narrowly escaped the attack that caused damage to the roof of the house located in Batticaloa town. A policeman providing security was wounded in the attack.

20 July

Nadarajah Ravindrakumar, 29, from Ilavalai, the owner of a saloon in Inuvil, Jaffna, was shot and seriously injured by men riding a motorbike while he was opening his shop. He succumbed to his injuries at Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

Krishnapillai Srikrishnan, 22,

was shot and killed by armed men, at Irupalai, Jaffna, by men on motorbikes. Civilians alleged that the killers were paramilitaries collaborating with the SLA.

Four civilians were injured when SLA soldiers fired at random following a grenade blast in Nallur, Jaffna. The injured were identified as K. Vasanth, 18, N. Gnanasekaram, 34, S. Yasithan, 25, and S. Sivanesalingam, 58. The troops opened fire after unidentified armed men hurled a grenade at the troops.

Motorbike riding gunmen shot and killed a shop owner in Kokkuvil, Jaffna, inside a SLA HSZ. Local residents blamed paramilitaries collaborating with the SLA for the killing. Sinnathurai Mangaleswaran, 47, who was seriously injured in the incident, succumbed to his injuries at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

Unknown gunmen shot dead Selvar Yogan, 60, a supporter of the paramilitary EPDP, in Atchuvily, Jaffna. The gunmen requested Mr Yogan to come out the house and shot him at point blank range before escaping from the area. Mr Yogan was an EPDP candidate in the 1998 local council elections and was an elected member of a Pradeshya Sabha.

A man, believed to be a local resident, was killed when SLA soldiers opened fire indiscriminately after two unknown assailants hurled a hand grenade into the SLA sentry located near St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. The alleged assailants escaped after throwing the grenade.

Seven civilians, including a foreign woman married to a Sri Lankan, were injured when a bus carrying sailors in a SLN convoy crashed into their multi-passenger vehicle. The convoy was travelling from Colombo to the Trincomalee naval headquarters located

inside the Dockyard. The damaged vehicle, belonging to a Christian society, was parked on the roadside on the orders of the personnel providing security to the convoy until the convoy passed through the road. However one of the buses in the convoy, which was being driven at high speed, suddenly swerved onto the side of the road and crashed into the parked vehicle.

Paramilitary cadres abducted 2 youths, Loganathan Kajan, 20, and Muththurasu Prabakaran, 27, from the villages in Valaichenai, Batticaloa. Parents of the abducted, gripped by fear and insecurity, did not complain to the police.

Three Tamil Eelam auxiliaries who were patrolling in LTTE-controlled Semamadu, Vavuniya district, were wounded in a claymore blast carried out by a SLA DPU. One of the three wounded was reported to be in a serious state. They had been on a regular road clearing patrol.

Three officials of the World Bank funded North-East Irrigated Agriculture Project (NEIAP) and the driver of their pickup, belonging to Mannar District Secretariat, were wounded in a claymore attack by a SLA DPU in Kokupadaiyan, Mannar. The vehicle was heavily damaged in the attack, but the officials narrowly escaped with minor wounds. A civilian motorcycle rider narrowly escaped another claymore explosion 200 meters from the spot.

The Manager of Manthai South Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society (MPCS) branch in Uyilankulam, Mannar, was gunned down by SLA troopers at Manatkulam Junction, while he was returning home. Police said that the MPCS manager was hit when SLA troopers opened fire after a grenade attack on the checkpoint. Sindathurai Christy Anton, 40, a family



A Muslim youth carries a picture of Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden during a demonstration in Colombo 21 July to protest the Israeli bombardment campaign over Lebanon. Hundreds of Muslims participated at several demonstration in Colombo and the eastern province. Sri Lanka's Muslim parties have avoided comment on the Mid-East. Photo Sanka Vidanagama/AFP/Getty Images

man, was returning home to Puthukkamam from the MPCS shop in Uyilankulam.

19 July

A SLA Captain, a Lieutenant and a Lance Corporal were killed and 11 other troopers wounded when a bus carrying the troopers

was ambushed with a claymore near Maruthanarmadam Junction, Jaffna. Five of the eleven SLA troopers wounded in the ambush, were in serious condition. The soldiers opened fire indiscriminately for fifteen minutes and beat up the civilians in the area after the attack, resulting in three civilians being rushed to Jaffna hospital. The wounded troopers, 1 officer, 8 SLA troopers and 2 policemen, were rushed to Palaly military hospital and three were airlifted to Colombo. Three civilians, V. Kajanthan, 21, K. Thurairajah, 62, both from Uduvil, Chunnakam, and D. Sabaratnayakam, 68, from Veemankamam, Tellippalai, were wounded when SLA troopers opened fire for 15 minutes after the attack. The bus was carrying 15 troopers, from Uduvil SLA camp going on leave to their homes in South.

Gunmen riding a motorbike without licence plates and allegedly associated with the SLA, shot three youths who emerged from a playground in front of Kopay Teachers Training College and then escaped. Gunasekaram Matheswaran, 21, from Kondavil and Navaratnam Dinesh, 23, from Irupalai, were rushed to hospital. Rasaratnam Parthipan, 30, had escaped from the site and was later admitted to Jaffna hospital. Residents allege the attackers were SLA operated paramilitary cadres.

Satkunam Suthaharan, 26, and Murugesu Sivakumar, 23, were found shot dead in Paalameenmadu, Batticaloa. They had been

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Programmes to boost troops' morale



JVP propaganda Secretary Wimal Weerawansa runs to an Air Force helicopter after addressing troops in Jaffna last week. Photo Sunday Times

Sinha Ratnatunga
Gulf News

COLOMBO: A patriotic front has stepped forward to raise the morale of soldiers, their families and villagers living in vulnerable areas in the wake of an escalation of violence by the Tamil Tigers.

The National Patriotic Movement (NPM) is carrying out a programme with the backing of the Marxist JVP, which has many members of the NPM on it.

As part of the programme NPM members travelled to the northern Jaffna peninsula Thursday where they visited front line soldiers.

Weeklong programmes have been launched to raise the morale of the soldiers fighting the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(LTTE) and to collect funds for the families of the soldiers who have been killed in battle.

Part of the programme to collect funds for them will be through the sale of stickers and badges while the business community is also expected to fund their programme.

The programme is the first of this nature since a similar programme organised by a former minister of the Chandrika Kumaratunga government came to an abrupt end after a suicide bomber exploded himself killing the minister and several others during a fund-raising march.

The programme, which was halted suddenly in the late 1990s, was aimed at firing up the country at a time when the LTTE had stepped up its attacks in the north and east.

The new programme known as

'Manel Mal Movement' started off on Monday with the first flag being sold to President Mahinda Rajapakse and other Sri Lankan officials.

President Rajapakse called on all to appreciate the contribution of the Armed Forces which have valiantly defended the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"All should realise that others can live safely in other areas because of the sacrifices made by these noble men and women," the President said.

"All communities should stand up as one to appreciate the contribution of our Armed Forces," he told the gathering.

The programme comes at a time when the government is trying to recruit more soldiers to the security forces.

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