

MINISTERS OF THE GREAT ASIAN MIRACLE



Sri Lanka has been named in various ways. 'Ceylan' was one; 'Serendib' was another. 'Taprobane' or 'Tambapanni' yet another. Our nationalists insist it was 'Sinhale' before all these. During the bad old days prior to 1983 it was affectionately known to its own citizens as 'Paradise' and the first Lanka-owned airline carried the slogan-"Sri Lanka.....paradise".

That was before a gentleman known as Prabhakaran decided to commence a 27 year-long brutal civil war to force the "Sinhalese government" to part with two-thirds of the island.



Shyamon Jayasinghe

Prabhakaran wreaked colossal damage to the country before he was miraculously defeated two years ago. Why I say 'miraculously' is because for the first time in world history one of history's most ruthless breeds of people was decimated without even an army commander.

My stupid friend, Diyakadulla, argued with me for putting it that way. He says that there was a man named General Sarath Fonseka who in fact led our army in the battlefield to victory. However, the government media has shown beyond all doubt that Diyakadulla is talking through his hat. The individual he mentions is really a pretender. This person who claimed to have been the commander is deservedly now

jailed and it has been made clear by the government that he had no real hand in the defeat of Prahakaran's Tigers. You might then argue that the real army commander was the Defence Secretary, Gotabhaya, so-named after the fearless legendary giant of the Dutugemunu era. On the other hand, to say this is like stating that our World-Cup winning cricket team had been guided to victory on the field by the Sri Lanka Cricket Board from

Colombo.

Government media is also known to have pointed out that General Fonseka was not in the island when the Tigers were defeated. Two courts martial have shown that Fonseka has taken part in politics and that he had purchased some batteries irregularly as Chairman of the Tender Board. The marks he has in his chest, it is alleged, are not the marks of bomb shrapnel as claimed

by this pretender but in fact marks like what beggars make all over their body to gain sympathy.

Thus it so happens that this

pretender is now under lock and key in a small prison cell with all-in-one facilities that includes a commode for urinating and defecating, a tin plate for consuming the prison meal, and a mattress for sleeping at times when he does not engage in hard labour. To ensure he has no more life left his pension and stripes have also been taken away.

We know that in Australia if someone forcefully gets another to strip naked he/she can be guilty of a jailable offence.

Lanka has had more world records in the recent past. We had Minister Dr Mervyn who demonstrated to the whole world how to punish a Public Servant without all the nonsense about natural justice that our

colonial masters had bequeathed to us and which our NGOs are propagating. A malfunctioning Samurdi Niladhari was tied down to a tree with ropes around his body. Good old Mervyn was videoed just by his side giving orders. My friend Diyakadulla stated that actually it was not Dr Merv who had tied the official but that the official tied himself to show the world how ashamed he was for being derelict in his duties. I accept that. Now this is yet another world-first for where in the whole world will a Public Official admit his mistakes and tie himself to a tree as self-punishment?

The injustice done to Dr Merv was corrected by the President and Merv was brought back as full cabinet Minister. By the way, Merv is now showing the world a unique technique of getting feedback about the administration from its citizens. He is to go in disguise to various government institutions to find out the status of the delivery of services.

Long before this event Dr Merv had shown the way by trying to bring officials under control by the use of muscle power. He entered the Rupavahini Corporation and got his aides to give the News Director a good beat-

enjoyed doing that and that in such a case it would have all been consensual. This is why these guys readily threw off their bras and pants and ran away.

I thought for awhile about what Diyakadulla stated and asked myself: Why would anybody want to have an offender stripped in order to punish him/her? Samson Heyyanmaruwa, my next door neighbour, was sure that the Minister would have wanted to see the boys and girls in their birthday suites. "No," I retorted, "SB is a good Buddhist."

"Who is not a good Buddhist these days? All our polities are good Buddhists. Premadasa gave sermons from Temple Trees; Mahinda does the same on Poya Days..."

"I think the most extreme act should have been to hand over the protesting students to the Police and lock them up." Samson got an idea.

Diyakadulla, who was silent all this time came and read another story from the Island Newspaper:

More MPs Sell their Car Permits



ing. My friend Diyakadulla says this was to save work for the law enforcing authorities who would otherwise have had to spend days and nights preparing charges and investigating the alleged offences.

Now we have another macho Minister doing even better than the one who tied the officer to a tree (or rather was witness to the officer tying himself to the tree). A news report stated:

"Here is what the Minister for Higher Education S.B. Dissanayaka said while speaking at a workshop on Preparing a Strategic Plan for Development of Skills, held in Colombo on 19th December, 2010.

"We assaulted the protesting students at the Dehiwala Higher Technical Institute and chased them away leaving them only with their underwear and, in Peradeniya, we stripped the fasting students naked and chased them away. It took only four minutes to slap two or three on their ears and chase them. They ran along the street in their underwear around 8 p.m." 'In Peradeniya there was a big fast. We went (there) around at 3 a.m. We stripped them naked and chased them away.' An alleged video recording of the Honourable Minister was also broadcast over the internet.

We know that in Australia if someone forcefully gets another to strip naked he/she can be guilty of a jailable offence. I told this to Diyakadulla who here again had a different viewpoint. (This guy always likes to be different.) Diyakadulla states that the boys and girls concerned who ran naked would have

Close on the heels of our expose that the majority of 60 newly elected Parliamentarians have sold their duty free vehicle permits (CIF value of US\$ 50,000) for as much as Rs. 12 to Rs. 17 million, it is revealed that five more MPs have sold their permits. They include two cabinet ministers.

Sources told The Island that one of the ministers had sold his duty free vehicle permit for Rs. 15 million and the other's permit had gone for Rs. 12.5 million.

The Island learns that 51 luxury vehicles have already been purchased and 65 duty free permits sold. Some 58 UPFA MPs have been given Toyota Prado worth Rs. 17.5 mn to supervise development work in their respective areas.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Sumedha Jayasena told The Island that she had not received any complaints regarding the sale of duty free permits. She said that 198 out of 225 MPs had been issued with duty free vehicle permits and each of them had been given a bank loan for Rs. 5 mn."

My friend Diyakadulla says that it is when perks like this are given that Opposition MPs can shift to the government in order to 'save the UNP."

Yes, I thought, you save money instead of going for an election to get a two-third majority. A jumping democracy-another world first in this land of miracles!

Left Party Leaders

