

**Attack on the Convoy of Pakistan High Commissioner  
in Sri Lanka on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2006.**

On 14.08.2006 at about 1310 hrs. the Pakistan High Commissioner, His Excellency Bazeer Vali Mohammed was on his way to Hotel Galadari for a luncheon invitation with his wife and daughter in the back seat of vehicle No. 98 - 9217, which was driven by one Rumi and Sgt. Ajith of the Army Commando Unit occupying the front seat. The car was escorted from behind by 05 Army Commandos, including the driver in a Land Rover Jeep bearing No. WP KE 7607. The two vehicles were travelling along Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha towards Galle Road and at a point located about 50 meters away from Liberty Roundabout towards Green Path, there was an explosion and the back-up vehicle took the full brunt. The High Commissioner and his family members escaped unhurt. Eight persons including 04 Army Commandos in the jeep died and scores received injuries. In addition, 17 vehicles which were using the said road at that time and some parked along the road were either burnt and/or damaged.

Investigations revealed that the explosion had originated from a claymore mine fitted to a three-wheeler parked on a private road with its back facing Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha. A thorough search at the scene of the crime and scientific comparisons, established WPJX 9328 as the registration number of the ill-fated three-wheeler. Record check with RMV's office revealed the owner of the three-wheeler as one Ube Halilu Rahuman of C/2/3, Temple Road, Colombo 10. On being questioned Halilu Rahuman stated that on 20.05.2006 he sold the three-wheeler to one Balasundaram Manoharan for Rs. 244,000/= and Balasundaram was introduced to him by his cousin Mohammed Cader and a broker whom he came to know later as Sundaraj Kumaravel.

Sunderaj Kumaravel, on being questioned stated that Manoharan is from Kilinochchi and is used to visiting Colombo very often to buy motorcycle and three-wheeler spare parts and that he is known to him for the last 3 years. At the request of Manoharan, he had looked for the purchase of a three-wheeler and through Cader, he finally came in contact with Rahuman and arranged the transaction. He was given Rs. 2000/- by Manoharan for this deal. He further stated that Manoharan used to work in garages owned by LTTE in Kilinochchi and he had seen him wearing the LTTE Works Unit uniform. He denies any involvement or knowledge of the explosion.

Inquiries revealed that this particular three-wheeler is generally parked at the parking lot near Sugathadasa Stadium. The records of the parking attendant confirmed that this three-wheeler entered the parking lot at 2130 hrs. on 20.05.2006 and had left at 1038 hrs. on 23.05.2006. However, attendant does not maintain any record of the drivers of the vehicles.

In this connection, a suspect named Sundaraj Kumaravel who acted as the broker to purchase the three-wheeler was arrested and presently is under Detention Order. Facts of this case have been reported in Magistrates Court Fort Case No. 10300/2006 and case was to be called on 16.05.2007.

The cellular phone of Sundaraj Kumaravel was checked and revealed that suspect Manoharan had contacted Kumaravel through mobile phone No. 0779-917226. Subsequent inquiries revealed that this phone is registered in the name of P. Sarojani of Sinnakinniya,

(P.T.O.)

Kinniya. This address was checked and learnt that the inhabitants had moved to Trincomalee, vacating this house and their present address is not known to the neighbourhood. Inquiries are in progress to locate P. Sarojani, with the assistance of Grama Seva Niladaris of Kinniya and Trincomalee. It also revealed that the above mobile telephone has not been used after 08.07.2006.

According to the transfer papers of the three-wheeler, the address of the suspect Manoharan is given as Unguchchi Place, Colombo 11. Inquiries conducted in this regard revealed that he had furnished a fictitious address.

The Government Analyst is of the opinion that the explosion has been triggered off by a remote control device.

Due to escalation of LTTE violence in the country, especially in the city of Colombo, a new Division named Diplomatic Security Division was established to enhance the security for the Foreign Missions in Sri Lanka and Diplomats. In addition, one-way traffic system and no parking of vehicles on the road sides have been introduced to prevent recurrence of such attacks.

Further inquiries are being continued to trace Manoharan and to ascertain the details of the attack.