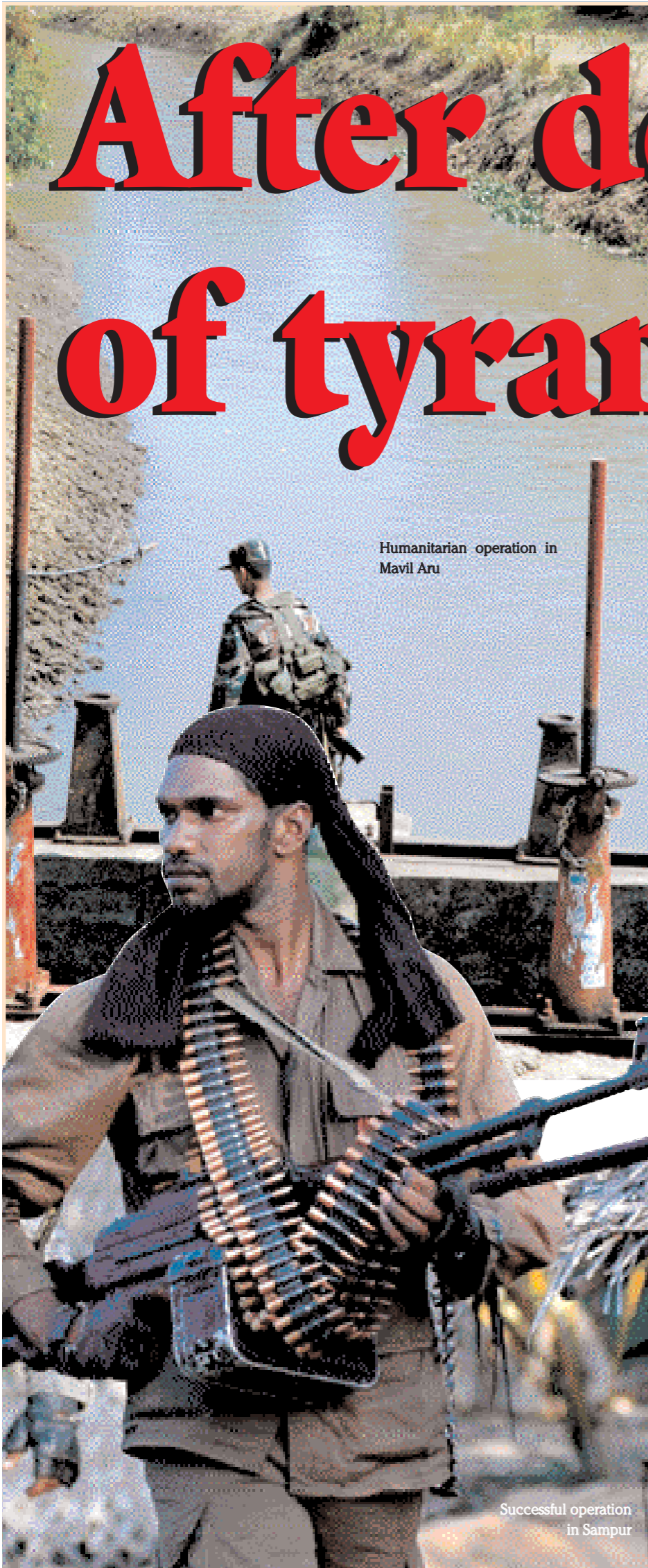


After decades of tyranny



President Mahinda Rajapaksa consoles a child in Vakarai



Humanitarian operation in Mavil Aru

The Security Forces liberated the entire Eastern Province from the jaws of the blood-thirsty Tigers and democracy was restored with the first ever election to the Eastern Provincial Council. The successful military operations in Mavil Aru, Sampur, Vakarai and Thoppigala have given true liberation to the Tamil civilians in those areas. It's completely different from the so-called 'liberation' professed by the LTTE.

The Government has not only liberated the East but also restored democracy in the area. Under the first phase, the Local Government elections were held in the Batticaloa District in March and the Eastern Provincial Council Election last week. What is most significant is that the Government has been able to convince the former LTTE cadres in the breakaway TMVP to rest faith in the ballot. That alone is a great victory for democracy and the peace-loving people of this country. Why did the Government embark on humanitarian operations in Mavil Aru, Sampur, Vakarai and Thoppigala? It was not merely to gain ground or any other purpose but to grant true liberation to the people living in the East. Eradicating terrorism from the Eastern Province is followed by massive development projects and resettlement programs which are in full swing. Though the liberation of the Eastern Province commenced with the Mavil Aru operation, the most acid test for the Government was at Sampur. When

innocent civilians were trapped and the Muslim population in Mutur was at the receiving end from Tiger terrorists, President Rajapaksa took a firm stand by unilaterally withdrawing from a meaningless Ceasefire Agreement (CFA).

When the LTTE were chasing out innocent Muslims from the North and the East, President Mahinda Rajapaksa, as the Commander of the Armed Forces, embarked on a great humanitarian mission to rescue the people from the clutches of terrorism.

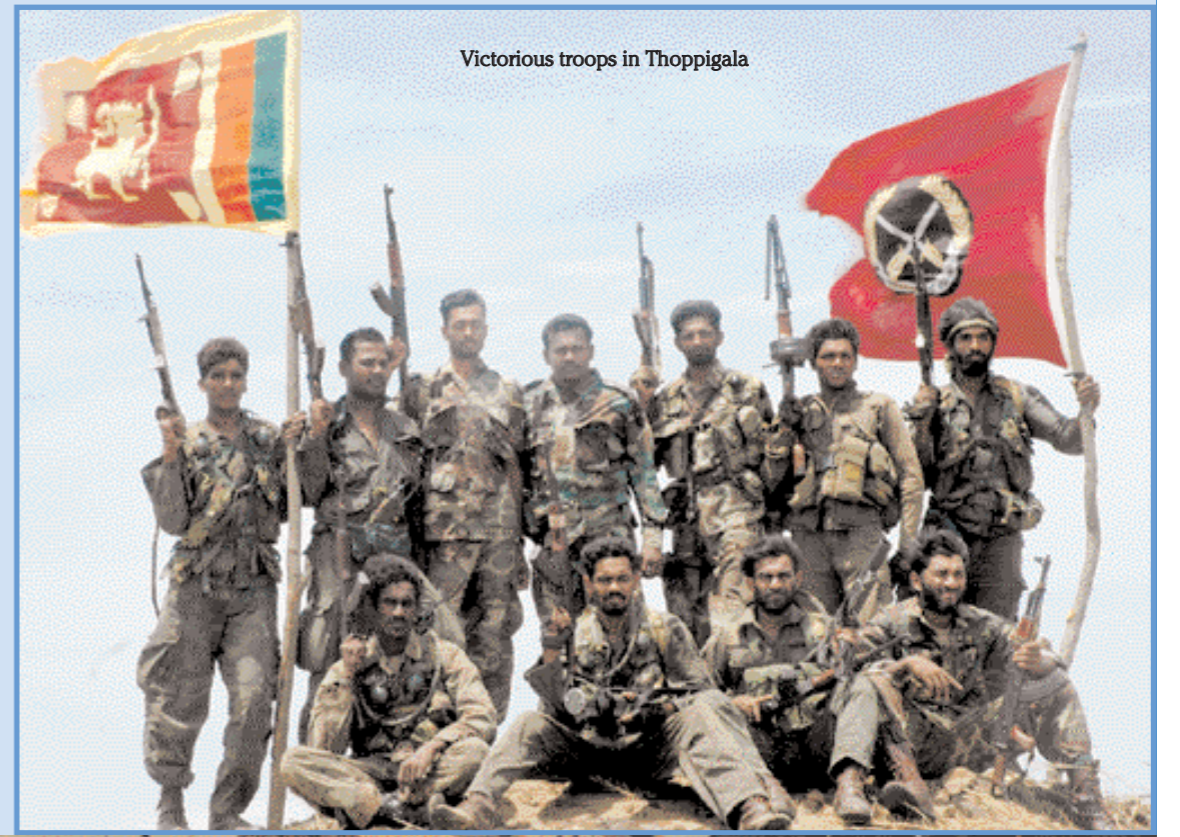
With the Government investing billions of rupees on infrastructure development in the province and people in the area becoming rich by marketing their products, the real 'Eastern Reawakening' would soon be a reality. Be they Sinhalese, Tamils or Muslims, all people living in the East are now enjoying real liberation and they are no longer subject to intimidation by Tiger terrorists.

People in the North too are looking forward the 'real liberation' while the Easterners are not willing to go back to those dread-

ful days when Velupillai Prabhakaran inflicted misery on their lives through his acts of terror.

It is because of these factors that the people in the East gave a clear mandate to the UPFA at the Eastern Provincial Council elections that would enable the Government to continue its good work.

It was not only be a mandate for the Government but would also be an inspiration for the Security Forces to intensify their progress in the North and liberate that province too.



Victorious troops in Thoppigala



Successful operation in Sampur



Democracy restored

New Chief Minister Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan alias Pillayan accepts his letter of appointment from President Rajapaksa



The child soldier-turned-Provincial Chief Minister



Innocent civilians enjoy true liberation

