

Hold local Govt. election forthwith

The JVP demands the government to hold local government elections without delay. Over 2 years have passed since the term of the local government institutions was ended and dissolved. The government has postponed the elections pointing out issues in the elections system. However, now the issues related to the elections system have been resolved and there is no point in further delaying the elections, JVP said.

Local Authorities are responsible for providing essential services that are closely related to the lives of the people. Since there are no peoples' representatives in these local authorities at present

people have to face a lot of difficulties. The real reason for delaying the local government poll by the Maithri-Ranil Hybrid Government is its election phobia as the government is becoming rapidly

unpopular. Issues in the demarcation processes and elections system were used as an excuse to postpone the elections indefinitely.

However, now the Act related to Local Government Elections has been passed by the Parliament and there is no need to further postpone the election. The Chairman of the Election Commission has said that the election can be held 75 days after the Act is passed in the Parliament. As such, the JVP stressed that government should hold the election without claiming

false and unacceptable reasons as excuses.

"The government postponed the election to cover up its failure and claim various unacceptable reasons. The government is also attempting to postpone the Provincial Council Elections. All these clearly show that the government is scared about peoples' mandate. However, the government must hold the local government election within this year. The JVP is ready for any kind of election," Propaganda Secretary of the JVP Com. Vijitha Herath told the Red Power.

'Dhiriya Purawesi' Summit held at Anuradhapura



A Rational Land, a Just Society and a Liberated Human Being!

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Between the devil and the deep blue sea

At the moment Ranil – Maithri administration finds itself in a situation between the devil and the deep blue sea. The ‘unity’ government that was set up without any policy basis but mainly for the purpose of grabbing power is confronted with several internal crises. This is in addition to the conflict it has with the society.

The government has created conflicts with several social forces due to its short-sighted moves, its failure and neo-liberalist policies. Instead of taking measures to solve these issues the government and various ministers act in a manner that escalates issues. In addition to errors in the government policy, the arrogance, idiocy and greed of the heads of the government and its ministers have contributed to push the government towards this abyss.

At present university students, their parents, university teachers, doctors, political parties and other organizations are struggling against the government within the anti-SAITM struggle. The farmer community too has taken to the streets against the government. Currently, from employees of the Inland Revenue Department to the general public are preparing for a struggle against the government protesting against the new tax bill that further burdens the masses. Also, the people’s struggles against the Uma – Oya multi-destructive project and against the move to sell lands in Uva- Wellassa have flared up. The unemployed graduates have taken to the streets demanding employment. The fisher folk too are on the war path. As such, there is no force that is not fighting against the government. However, the government, instead of confronting them, is side stepping the issues. As such the ‘unity’ government is in a state of dilemma. It creates issues daily instead of solving them.

In addition to all this, the government is confronted with several internal crises. The two main parties of the government – the SLFP and the UNP- are at loggerheads. Despite being together to be in power, the two parties act in different ways. For, they have their own agendas.

The crises concealed in the UNP, the main party in the government, have started blowing up. Ravi Krunanayaka had to resign due to getting a house as a bribe for aiding the bond scam. Before the issue that brought discredit to the UNP subsided Wijedasa Rajapaksa’s issue came on stage. The real reason of the issue is not ‘failure to take legal action against thieves of Rajapaksa regime’ but because Wijedasa Rajapaksa was not submissive to UNP leadership and for having a close relationship with Mahinda faction. Finally, the UNP leadership had to come down to the level of writing a letter to the President asking Wijedasa Rajapaksa to be removed from his ministerial portfolios. What resulted was that Wijedasa lost his portfolios and became an enemy of the UNP.

The removal of Wijedasa Rajapaksa by the UNP leadership and the resignation of Ravi Karunanayaka are not examples for good governance though the UNP desires them to be considered so. Ravi resigned as all attempts to hide the theft failed. Wijedasa was removed due to personal conflicts. When Wijedasa Rajapaksa protected Avant Garde company the UNP leaders did not oppose him. Instead, Wijedasa was protected by the UNP. Now Wijedasa is rejected as he has chosen Mahinda instead of Ranil. However, ‘coming colours’ are not auspicious for the UNP. It is an instance of internal crises of the UNP filtering out to the society that would further weaken the UNP among the masses.

The conflicts in the Mahinda and Maithri factions in the SLFP too are aggravating. Mahinda, who was defeated at the presidential election and fearing that frauds and corruptions would be investigated immediately, refrained from clashing with Maithri and handed over the post of president of the party to him. However, realizing that he has no legal risk due to the agreements he reached with Ranil, Mahinda now says he still is the president of the SLFP. This internal conflict is very damaging to the SLFP.

Lately, the political ethics of the capitalist government and capitalist parties is at very low ebb. Crossovers, conspiracies, deals, secret relationships, thefts occur in abundance. This indicates not only the deterioration or weakness of the individuals involved in them but the collapse of the whole capitalist system.

Now, it would not be difficult for those who look at politics honestly and with wisdom to understand the ugliness and meanness of capitalist politics. The government that is ailing with numerous issues would move towards its end. The capitalist system too is marking time until it reaches its end. What is required now is the determination of the masses to bid farewell to capitalist parties and capitalist politics and turn towards a new path. The time has come for the masses to show their determination to move on a new political journey instead of becoming spectators of gimmicks, plots and manoeuvres of the capitalist government and capitalist political parties.

People should rally to establish government without fraud & corruption



Com. Anura Dissanayake said that the theatrical episode played by Minister Ravi Karunanayake today to say that he doesn’t know about the purchase of a luxury house is identical to the episodes played by Yoshitha Rajapaksa, Namal Rajapaksa and Wimal Weerawansa, the members of Rajapaksa gang of thieves in the past. This country has been governed so far by gangs of thieves who have stolen state properties and the people should understand this, he stressed.

Com. Dissanayake was addressing a press conference on 11 August at JVP head office to explain the view of the JVP on Minister Ravi Karunanayake’s resignation.

“After the resignation of Minister Ravi Karunanayake a new dialogue has started on fraud and corruption. The Ravi Karunanayake fraction argues that this is a feature of good governance while the fraction of defeated Rajapaksa regime interprets and celebrates it as their own victory.

A criminal cannot become innocent once he changes his clothes that he was wearing at the time he committed the offence. Ravi Karunanayake cannot become innocent just by changing his Finance Ministerial Portfolio he held when the fraud was committed to External Affairs. He cannot become innocent by changing his clothes from Finance to External Affairs. It is not a punishment for the offence. Minister Karunanayake has obtained Rs.14.5 million per month for rent from the accused of the Bond Scam and it is a bribe.

Minister Karunanayake had requested money from former CB Governor Arjun Mahendran in an undated letter. The particular letter was only with Arjun Mahendran and there were no official copies in the files. Therefore it is evidence that Karunanayake had used his ministerial portfolio to defend Arjun Aloysius. Karunanayake had also purchased the house he had rented for Rs.165 million. The money used for this purchase was just kept at a safe locker in a bank without any

document. There was not even a receipt of the deposit in a safe bank locker. There is no doubt that this was black money. Now, Ravi Karunanayake can be charged with two offences, under the Bribery Act and Money Laundering Act.

People of this country should have recognized what these thieves are stealing. No beds or medicines at hospitals when your child is admitted to a government hospital. No water or sanitary facilities in schools. No system to remove garbage. No roads. Without means of income, you have become helpless. These culprits are stealing the money that is meant to provide facilities for the people.

Therefore embracing those culprits is not the thing that our people have to do. People should stand and raise their voices against this political culture of defending thieves that plunder public funds. We need a new political culture of struggling against fraud, corruption and corrupted politicians. People should come forward to change this political culture.

What stinks, the capitalist government or the capitalist system?

The capitalist politics in Sri Lanka has fallen to a state of a stinking cess pit. The crisis in capitalism has deteriorated beyond the point of economic crisis, towards a political crisis and has dwindled to a social and cultural degeneration. There is nothing 'sacred' within capitalism in Sri Lanka. All that was veiled with sacredness has been defiled. The 'collective responsibility of the cabinet', 'the conduct of people's representatives', 'monetary policies', discipline, 'ethics' that were taught in schools in connection with 'democracy' in capitalism have become only concepts. Frauds, corruption and theft have become so rampant that it is difficult to find a single politician among the ruling classes that is not linked to frauds, corruption and theft. All filmy garbs of political ethics of 'good governance' have been shed. Politicos of the ruling class are exposing themselves and the stink of the deteriorating capitalism has begun to repulse everybody.

However, the fight carried out by various capitalist groups for power and the ownership of the cesspit of capitalism, despite it is enwrapped in crisis after crisis and has degenerated, has not ended. They come up with various strategies, make various statements and present various definitions to be in power or to grab power by deceiving people over and over again.

According to Mahinda Rajapaksa clique, the stink of the deteriorating capitalism is nothing but the stink of the present 'unity' government. According to them the past two years were 'wretched' years; Ravi is a thief. They could unashamedly say, "No such thing happened during our term." Ravi Karunanayaka is called a thief by thieves who are not second to him. The fight between the present government and the 'joint

opposition' of Mahinda is similar to a war between two underworld gangs. We have seen underworld gangs fighting with each other to grab the monopoly of rackets and committing crimes. As there are betrayals, desertions, killing each other, conspiracies, underhand deals within these wars, the war between the government and Rajapaksa clique too is full of such manoeuvres. Despite making onlookers thrilled, these wars are carried out to protect one class and a social system. It is to protect capitalism and the capitalist ruling class. This is the truth the people should realize.

What is felt now is not only the stink of the rotting 'unity' government but the stench of politics in Sri Lanka that has been made to rot by capitalist governments for 69 years. From the viewpoint of the

masses, not only the last two years of the 'unity' government but the whole history of the capitalist administration has been wretched, deceptive and destructive. All capitalist administrations are nothing but rules of hoodlums. The tragedy of this country is the inability of the people to recognize this catastrophe.

Former Minister of Finance Ravi Karunanayaka had to relinquish his portfolio due to public outcry as it was revealed he had accepted a house worth Rs. 160 million as a bribe for aiding in the bond scam. Ravi has this house but he is not aware how it was bought and who gave him money to buy it. It is not only Ravi who has such houses. Basil Rajapaksa too is fortunate to have such houses. Basil Rajapaksa disowned the house and land worth Rs.250 million at Malwana as he could

not explain how he earned the money he bought the house with. Basil had to abandon a land at Matara due to the same reason. However, no legal action is taken against Ravi or Basil despite it is known they owned the houses.

Cases have been filed by the Bribery Commission against Rohitha Abeygunawardena, Mahindananda Aluthgamage and Sachin Vaas Gunawardene, who were ministers of the Mahinda Rajapaksa regime, as they could not explain how they earned vast amounts of assets and money they possess. On the other hand, it is not only Ravi Karunanayaka who was involved in the Central Bank bond scam. Several more ministers were involved in the scam. Also, the bond scam was not the only fraud that has been committed during this administration. Vehicles have been smuggled

out of the harbour without paying due taxes. There are many other small and large rackets such as the areca nut racket, sand racket etc. committed and being committed by stalwarts of the government.

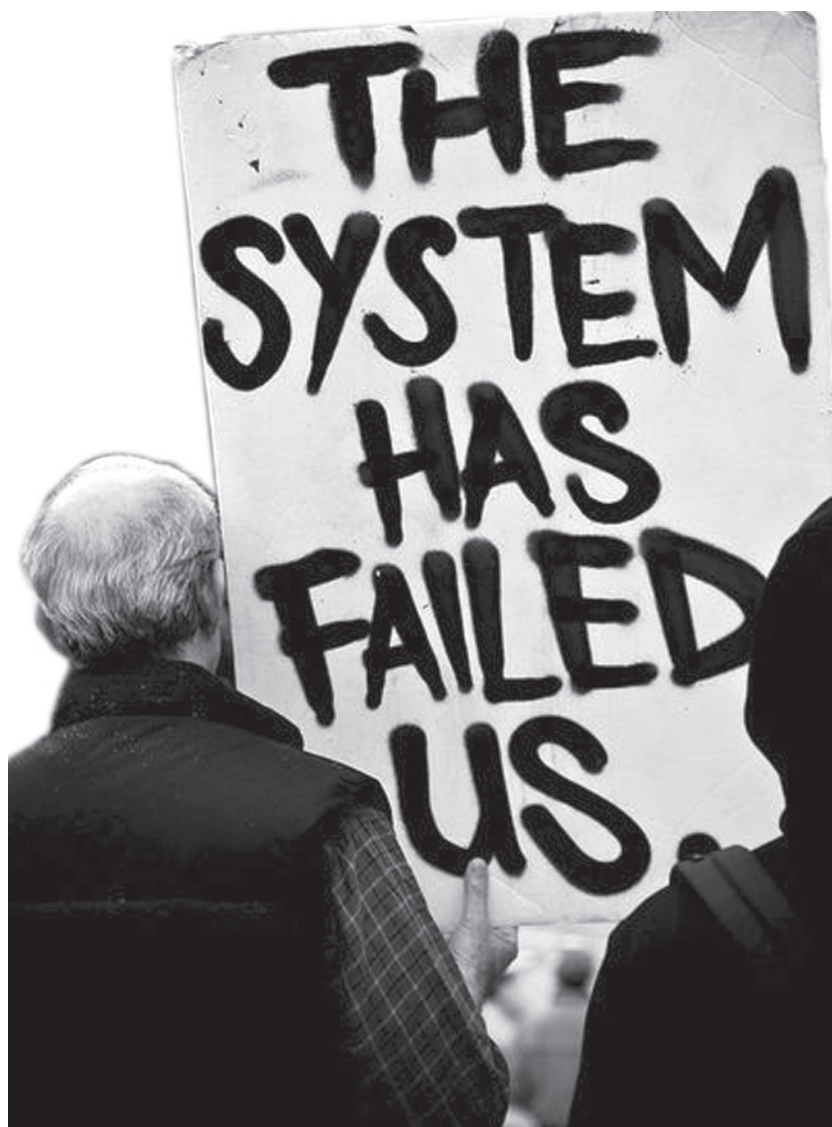
Was the period of Rajapaksa regime different from the present administration? No, then too stealing, fraud, corruption and waste were committed on a large scale. Crimes were committed. 'Siriliya' fraud, distribution of houses in the Ministry of Housing, irregular use of vehicles, Krish deal, MIG deal, CSN channel deal, the murder of Thajudeen were some of the crimes committed during the period. However, no one has been punished. While old thieves accuse new thieves of stealing, the new thieves accuse

the old thieves. However, both sets of thieves carry on regardless and also strive to grab power again to steal in a new round. This is the level of deterioration in politics in Sri Lanka at present.

The culture that kills for property and privileges, without being limited to politics, has now reached temples, churches and kovils as well. For, under capitalism, no institution is spared by the intense longing for more and more wealth. One such example is the clash for the key that occurred recently between the chief priest and the care taker of the Katharagama Maha Devalaya. It is the politicians who administer the country that took the 'war' for wealth to the temples, churches and kovils.

The degree of deterioration in politics and the society in the country could be measured not only with the thefts and crimes committed by the rulers of the country but also with the amount of people who amass to protect the perpetrators, garland them and cheer them. The society has so degenerated that there are people who shout "We want our thief!" When people are seen surrounding Ravi Karunanayaka, kissing his hands and kneeling down before him and 'Maha Sangha' tying 'pirith' thread around the wrists of this person who had to relinquish his ministerial portfolio due to a fraud he had committed, the degeneration of the political culture in Sri Lanka could be understood. The same cowardly behaviour was observed when Shiranthi Rajapaksa came to the CID to give a statement, when Wimal Weerawansa, Mahindananda Aluthgamage and Namal Rajapaksa were taken to the remand prison. What does this indicate? Just as a set of thieves and criminals have ruled this country for the last 69 years, they

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Old thieves, as well as new thieves, should be defeated

Comrade Sunil Handunneththi
Member of the Political Bureau of the JVP



Red Power: The present 'yahapalana' government came to power putting forward the slogan against frauds and corruption of the former Rajapaksa regime. However, as soon as they came to power they started defrauding public money. Could you analyze this politically?

Comrade Handunneththi: In short the administration that came to power after defeating Rajapaksa corrupt administration is not one that doesn't plunder public money. It was not a transformation that changed the existing system. The present corrupt administration used the desire of the people that existed then (and still exists) against fraud, corruption and waste of Rajapaksa regime as a bridge to come to power.

In other words, the Ranil – Maithri partnership asked the masses only to topple Rajapaksa corrupt administration. Despite the people's desire being to topple the corrupt regime and establish an uncorrupt administration, the rulers who used people's aspirations to come to power did not have such a desire. For, it would not have been possible to give ministerial portfolios to thieves who were in Mahinda Rajapaksa's administration if the present rulers had such a desire. Today, old thieves ask whether there is a mechanism to catch the new thieves.

This system has been established for power and privileges. During Mahinda Rajapaksa regime they took loans to steal from airlines, ports, airports and expressways. As such, they say they stole after carrying out various developments with loans obtained. They say they stole but they carried out developments. The new thieves sell what old thieves constructed with loans they obtained. They steal from these funds as they are unable to steal from loans obtained. This is the system of the new thieves. There is no difference between the old thieves and the new ones. However, it is the people who have to pay for what is stolen by both sets of thieves.

Red Power: The political dialogue on frauds and corruption has got hot up again. As the Chairman of the Committee On Public Enterprises (COPE), how do you assess the effect of the bond scam?

Comrade Handunneththi: The bond scam affects not only the economy of the country but the political changes that are taking place also show that it has made a big impact on the political life span of the government. The financial loss the country has been subjected to due to the bond scam is only one side to it. However, what is more serious is the harm done to the Social-economic-political system of the country due to the cussed

was committed in the Central Bank which is the centre of the economy and the banking system of the country. The 'bond scam' is a reflection of the deterioration of the decaying capitalist political culture.

The Prime Minister of the government, who was also the subject minister and under whose purview the Central Bank functioned, attempted to conceal the fraud of the Governor of Central Bank Arjun Mahendran and his son-in-law Arjun Aloysius. After the fraud was exposed there were many attempts to sweep under the carpet or distort the investigation carried out by COPE appointed by the Parliament. UNP MP Velukumar who was a member of the committee was made to resign and Sujeewa Senasinghe, who had publicly come forward to protect the fraudsters, was brought in. However, with our interference, the attempt was defeated. Then the 'foot-note clique' attempted to distort the report. This is how those who now say "We also helped to catch the bond thieves" helped. It has been revealed now that the Minister of Finance at the time too had taken a bribe from the bond fraudsters. Ravi Karunanayaka had to resign as a consequence

whole capitalist politics are exposed.

The direct effect on the economy was that the interest rate resulting from the auction was much higher than the rate indicated by the Central Bank to the primary dealers before the auction and the country has quite arbitrarily been landed with sustaining a very large debt at an unnecessarily high rate of interest. The rate of interest that was 9.4% at the time increased to about 11.7%. On the other hand as a result of accepting Rs 10 billion at the auction instead of Rs.1 billion that had been announced the loss of the country would not end in one or two years but would continue for 30 years. Our people will have to endure the loss of this crime for 30 years.

Red Power: As a result of a sequel of the bond scam former Minister of Finance had to resign. This resignation is defined as a victory by certain quarters of the opposition while some in the government were too hasty to say it's the result of 'good governance'. How does the JVP look at this episode?

Comrade Sunil Handunneththi: Both these views are wrong.

because they contributed to expose the bond thieves. They consider it a victory as they think they could sweep their crimes under the carpet. They could also have an idiotic satisfaction of pointing their fingers at the government stating "Not only us, but government ministers too are thieves." However, old thieves would not get an opportunity to hide using the thefts of the new thieves of the government. We would never allow both kinds of thieves to hide from the people.

On the other hand, how could this become a victory of the 'good governance' of the government? Is resigning after being caught stealing 'good governance'? Getting the culprit to resign after stealing too is not good governance. 'Good governance' is not stealing. It is not resigning after being caught stealing to avoid legal action being taken. Ravi Karunanayaka had to resign as he could not prove that he had not taken the bribe and he was definite that he would lose the no-confidence motion. His resignation is not a result of 'good governance'.

The government cannot and would not catch thieves. For,

show they would go after thieves to carry on their own stealing.

Wijedasa Rajapaksa was made the scapegoat merely to avoid the people's opposition that was surfacing for protecting thieves instead of arresting them. There was no intention to arrest old and new thieves despite appointing a new Minister of Justice. We have to understand that the inability of the government to catch thieves and bring them before the law is not an issue of an individual but a genetic issue of the feeble capitalist system.

Red Power: As the JVP and Voice Against Corruption several complaints against frauds and corruption were handed over to governmental institutions that implement the law. However, people don't see relevant investigations being carried out sufficiently. Why was it so?

Comrade Sunil Handunneththi: The investigations relevant to the complaints do not go further not because of any issue of those institutions or the officers in them. Those who have complaints against them

The United States took measures to impose embargoes and sanctions against several countries. Main among such countries were Venezuela, Russia and Iran. Also, several countries in the Middle East including Saudi Arabia imposed sanctions against Qatar. The UNO too imposed sanctions against North Korea again.

Some of the reasons cited for imposing sanctions are many. Some of them are very justifiable looking 'democracy', 'supporting terrorism'; nuclear threats have been put forward. However, the real reasons for these sanctions are not the announced ones. Also, sanctions are imposed not only against the countries that have been named. They are implemented against all directions. Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, the European Union, US fuel companies and other companies have become the prey of these sanctions.

However, these sanctions also show the struggle being carried out between various centres of power for the political and trade domination in the world.

Against Iran...

At the beginning of August the sanctions, US congress proposed to impose were mainly targeted Iran and Russia. As against Iran, it was stated that sanctions would be imposed against parties that trade weapons with Iran (selling and buying weapons, providing services). Despite it mentions Iran, this sanction has targeted Russia as well.

As soon as Obama administration and the European Union withdrew sanctions against Iran in January 2016, Russia began discussions regarding selling weapons worth US\$10 billion to Iran.

Accordingly, Russia was

USA: the blunted sanctions weapon



able to sell S - 300 missile protection system, one of the world's most advanced air defence systems, to Iran that would alter the balance of power in the Middle East. In imposing sanctions against Iran the USA believes it could thwart the close military, the economic and political relationship that is building between Russia and Iran.

Against Russia...

Sanctions against Russia are aimed at its intelligence, energy, defence, mining, railway industries and any company involved in power export pipe lines, repairs and services. Especially, the natural gas lines being built from Vyborg in Russia to Greifswald in Germany bypassing Ukraine. The reasons the US presents to oppose the pipe line known as 'Nord Stream 2' stating it would increase Russia's dominance of Europe's energy supply, making energy a geopolitical tool and putting the Kremlin in greater control and hinder U.S. natural gas production and rising U.S. liquefied natural gas exports to Europe. Russia currently

supplies a third of Europe's natural gas. With the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, that could increase to more than 40%. Russia exports 55 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year to Europe. With 'Nord Stream 2' this will increase to 110 billion cubic meters per annum. However, due to sanctions imposed by the European Union on Russia only 22.2 million cubic meters from the first stage of the pipe line would be utilized.

The US has also imposed sanctions on Russia's energy and metals sectors and rail lines. Russia is one of the biggest exporters of natural gas and the European Union is a massive market for natural gas. The gas pipeline systems that are being laid from Russia to Europe are important not only to Russia but to the European Union as well. Not only Russia but all companies that are connected with the project, especially companies in Germany and Austria, would be seriously affected if the sanctions close down laying of Nord Stream 2. The scheme of the USA is to take

over the natural gas market in the European Union or to get its allies Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emir and Kuwait to deny Russia of the natural gas market in Europe.

Turkish stream....

Meanwhile, Russia has intensified laying of a planned natural gas pipeline running from Russkaya compressor station near Anapa in the Southern Russian Krasnodar Region, across the Black Sea to Kiyiköy on the Turkish Thrace coast. It is expected to complete the first stage of the project in March 2018 and the second stage in March 2019. Turkey's intention is to become the centre of supplying natural gas to Europe.

According to regulations of the European Union, Russian companies are not allowed to lay pipe lines or maintain them within the European Union. The 'Turkish Stream' pipe line terminates near Turkish – Bulgarian border and Turkish – Greece border. Any country in the European Union that needs Russian natural gas could lay its own pipeline from this centre. Already, Bulgaria, Serbia and Hungary have signed agreements to buy natural gas through the Turkish Stream.

The situation has influenced the balance of power in global politics. Especially, Hungary, Czech Republic, Bulgaria are turning, instead of the European Union, towards Eurasia being built with the leadership of Russia and China.

As a result of the USA and countries in Western Europe relinquishing their attention on nuclear power, Russia has

become a leader in exporting nuclear technology. Already, Russia has grabbed more than 60% of the nuclear technology market in the world. Areva, the French multinational group specializing in nuclear power and renewable energy headquartered in Paris has not been able to enter into a new foreign agreement since 2007. Westinghouse nuclear company in the USA is getting bankrupt. It filed for bankruptcy protection in March this year.

However, Russia, during the past few years, has signed agreements to build 34 nuclear power stations in 13 countries. Among these countries are Hungary, Check Republic and Turkey.

Meanwhile, Turkey, a country associated with NATO is preparing, despite opposition from the USA and NATO, to buy Russian S-400 Air Defense System instead of the US Patriot Missile Defense System.

The natural gas, nuclear energy and military agreements Hungary, Check Republic, Serbia, Bulgaria and Turkey are entering with Russia makes the USA uneasy. Also, it is a signal that a collective headed by Russia and China would be built in the Baltic region. It should be noted that Chinese and Russian warships practised together in the Baltic Sea in July this year in the first joint naval exercise the two countries have held in the area.

In our previous edition, we discussed the Qatar issue with the title 'Qatar heats up the Middle East'. From information surfaced then it is obvious that Qatar too would have stronger ties with Iran, Russia, China and Turkey. If this happens the USA would lose its influence in the region.

North Korea subjected to 7th set of sanctions

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted the seventh set of UN sanctions imposed on North Korea on 5th August. The US led resolution bans North Korean exports of coal, iron, iron ore, lead, lead ore and seafood. It also prohibits countries from starting new trade activities, new joint ventures, expanding the existing ones and any new investments in North Korea. This is the 7th set of sanctions imposed on North Korea since 2006. This would bring down North Korea's export income by 30%.

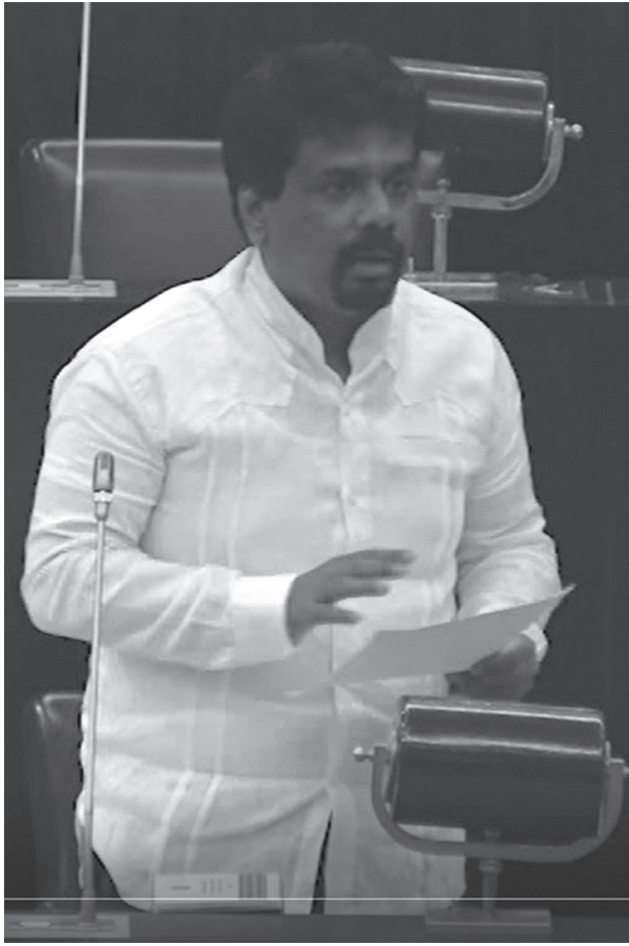
Despite Russia and China supported this sanction imposed on North Korea, it was on a different basis. Their view was that though North

Korean nuclear tests and the nuclear programme are not acceptable, North Koreans were compelled to carry out such a programme due to the military state that has surfaced in the region. They consider the deployment of U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) launchers in South Korea and the increase US activities in the South China Sea have made the region militarily sensitive. As such, they have agreed for sanctions on the basis that action should be taken to reverse the edgy environment in the region. It seems that imposing sanctions have affected not only North Korea but the activities of the USA in the region as well.

India-China: triggering off a border conflict

A conflict surfaced between China and India regarding a 100 sq. KM area in Doklam plateau where borders of China, India and Bhutan meet in the Himalayan region. The present conflict erupted two months ago but the issue regarding the ownership of Doklam plateau has a long history. Then it was a conflict between India under the British, Tibet and Chinese empire. Bhutan was then under India under the British. India is involved in the conflict using this ownership.

However, India and China, a few days ago, agreed to an "expeditious disengagement" of troops in the disputed border area. The Indian ministry has said that the two sides had agreed to defuse the crisis following diplomatic talks. Meanwhile, China said Indian troops had withdrawn from the remote area. Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Chinese troops would continue to patrol the Doklam region. The area is called Donglang in China.



JVP leader Anura Dissanayake disclosed in Parliament a threat of losing the Central Bank supervision of the National Payment system. He raised a question in parliament under the standing order 23/2. After this revelation, the CEO of the ICTA had to resign and the government had to stop the continuation of the process. The written question of the Com. Anura Dissanayake is as follows.

There is a threat of Central Bank losing the supervision authority of the electronic payment system and I would like to raise this issue for the attention of the Parliament.

There is an electronic transaction system combining all the banks and exchanging computerized information. At present, the Central Bank monitors this system and now there is an attempt to remove this authority from the CB and hand it over to a suspicious private company.

At present this system is operated by 'Lanka Clear' a company with shareholdings of commercial banks and CB supervision. According to the law of the country establishment of any transaction system should be done under the Payment and Settlement

Systems Act and Monetary Law Act and it should be established under CB supervision.

The first time the details were revealed in 2015 about the establishment of a National Payment Platform. CEO of the ICTA revealed that three private institutions had been proposed for the establishment of this National Payment Platform process.

However, this proposal was presented to the Cabinet in 2016. According to sources, a company called Total Pay has been selected for this and this company has been registered on 01.03.2016. What is suspicious is that three companies were short listed in 2015 but a company registered in 2016 was selected to award the contract. This Total Pay Company is publishing paper advertisements saying that it has received the authority of establishing this payment platform and ICTA has given the authority.

The serious concern here is how this authority was given to Total Pay without any experience in this subject. On the other hand, Lanka Clear is doing this service under CB supervision and why it should be handed over to a new suspicious company. A nonbanking third

party gets financial power and CB loses the supervision authority. This will pave the way for money laundering. On the other hand confidentiality of the customers will also be in danger.

Meanwhile, the director (transaction) of the CB has issued a letter to the CEOs of all commercial banks and informed that an Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) formed by Sri Lanka Customs Department, Bank of Ceylon and Peoples Bank will be extended to all commercial banks. Accordingly, it is clear that the above institutions have already left the National Payment Platform.

However, the former Finance Minister had informed commercial banks to contact Muhundan Kanage, the CEO of ICT regarding National Payment Platform. Also, the cabinet paper presented him said that the new payment platform will be under CB supervision.

According to the report of the committee appointed by the CEO of ICTA under the new proposed system, CB does not have the authority of supervision. This has also been pointed out by the Governor of CB in a letter sent to the former Finance Minister. Accordingly

this is a misleading of the Cabinet.

Although this suspicious operation has temporarily been halted after it was exposed by media, since the Company is announcing to the public that they have the authority of the National Payment Platform the risk is still there.

Under this circumstance I expect answers to following questions from the minister concern.

1. On what basis the power of digital national payment platform was handed over to the Total Pay?
2. Who are the directors of the company?
3. What are the other companies short listed in this process?
4. How many companies were considered from the beginning?
5. Whether Lanka Clear has been considered for this purpose? If not what are the reasons?
6. What is the capacity this selected company has to ensure confidentiality of the customers?
7. What are the conditions in the agreement signed between the company and the ICTA?

All offenders of the Bond Scam should be punished

Com.Vijitha Herath, Information Secretary of the JVP

Com.Vijitha Herath stressed that they do not allow the government to sweep the Bond Scam under the carpet just by getting a minister to resign. All the schemers and leaders of this scam should be exposed and punished, he said at a press conference held at JVP head office on 8 August.

"The main slogan of the President Maithripala Sirisena at 2015 presidential election and Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe at the general election was anti-corruption and good governance. They pledged that they would take stern action against those who were involved in corruption and

criminal acts immediately after they come to power. However, the government has broken this main pledge within a month after coming to power.

The largest bond scam in the history of the Central Bank was reported under this government. So far no action has been taken against the offenders. Not only that this government has failed to take any action against frauds, corruption and other criminal offences such as murder and abduction of journalists and shooting at peaceful demonstrations. Not only that the government has now joined hands with those offenders and offered them

ministerial portfolios.

Three ministers attempted to cover up the infamous Avant Guard fraud and we exposed them to the public. As a result Minister Thilak Marapana had to resign. After temporary measures to take time to forget the issue to the people he has been appointed as a minister again. No action has been taken against Avant Guard thieves and investigations are not going on satisfactorily. The case is being swept under the carpet. The government should establish separate courts to expedite investigations of these fraud and corruption cases. The former Minister of Justice has told that



to establish different courts the Constitution has to be amended. If this is true government can spare existing courts for these cases. Without this kind of intervention legal proceedings of these cases may get delayed for ages.

Actually, we feel that present government is involved in fraud

and corruption much more than the previous Rajapaksa regime. We cannot measure the size of fraud and corruption as small and large. Whether it is big or small the offences are the same and they have plundered public money. Therefore the offenders must be punished whatever their positions are.

JVP organizes masses against new tax bill

The JVP launched a leaflet campaign on the 29th August to demand the government to withdraw the new tax bill that has been presented to Parliament as it oppresses the masses. The campaign planned to be carried out throughout the island to make the masses aware of the ill effects of the bill was launched from Colombo Fort Railway station.

The JVP opposes the bill as any person employed in any vocation and earning more than Rs.50,000 a month will have to pay a tax for the government. The JVP asks the people to protest against the unfair tax proposals and let

the government know of their opposition to it.

The Member of the Political Bureau of the JVP Comrade Lal Kantha, Kalutara District parliamentarian Comrade Dr Nalinda Jayatissa, Western Provincial Councilor Attorney at Law Comrade Sunil Watagala, former Councilor of Dehiwela – Mt. Lavinia Municipality Comrade Samanmalee Gunasinghe were among comrades who participated in the campaign at Fort Railway station.

The campaign was carried out in many towns by members of the JVP.

JVP will build the broadest front to contest 2020 election



The JVP would build a broad front made up of people's forces to contest the 2020 election and if it was necessary would contest under a common symbol that would be acceptable to all these forces said the General Secretary of the JVP Comrade Tilvin Silva.

However, the 'bell' would remain the election symbol of the JVP said Comrade Tilvin Silva.

He said this when asked about the news that the JVP was contesting the 2020 election not with the 'bell' symbol but with another.

He said, "The two main parties that ruled our country alternatively for 70 years have proved they have been unsuccessful. Now, the UNP and the SLFP have jointly ruled for two years and have again proved they are unproductive. Ranil – Maithri administration is displaying its impotency."

Comrade Tilvin Silva said the disorder in 'yahapalana' government, turning politics into skirmishes between various sections of the government and failure to fulfil promises made to the people before coming to power have distanced the masses from the government. He said the government would not be able to go forward with its failed policies and the JVP would build the broadest people's front to contest the 2020 election.



Old thieves, as well as new thieves...

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hold ministerial portfolios in the government. They have directly pressurized the officers. There are many instances where attempts have been made to shelve the investigations. A good example is relieving the Commissioner of the Bribery Commission in an attempt to shelve complaints against Rajitha Senaratne.

Could we expect a government of pals who steal with thieves and protect old thieves to expedite investigations in connection with stealing and other crimes? What would happen if no voice is raised or no pressure is kept on against such crimes? People would be unaware that they had elected such thieves if we keep quiet. We file our complaints, not with the blind belief that the

capitalist governments that protect thieves would punish thieves who are from their own class. We want to reveal to the people how the rulers they elect plunder the assets of the people.

Red Power: When the two gangs of thieves clash not only the stealing is exposed but an important message too has been revealed. What could the people deduce from this message?

Comrade Sunil Handunneththi: That's what is important. Giving ruling power to thieves and expecting us, the JVP to catch the thieves would not be of any use. What is needed now is not a group that catches thieves or exposes them but an administration without

thieves. The people must elect an administration without thieves. How could such an administration be established in this country? Who is capable of and suitable for such an administration? People need to get this clarified now.

Our wish to create an administration without thieves would not be realized if the sympathizers of the SLFP and the UNP do not change their political allegiance. A righteous country cannot be created only with the wishes of the people if members of the SLFP and the UNP welcome thieves with garlands and kisses saying "We are for our thieves." It could be created only if people rally to create a broad people's centre with a genuine uncorrupt political movement.

What stinks...

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have also created a set of people who act as vassals. This is why the degeneration of capitalism has become so acute. It is this foul odour that engulfs the country at the moment.

What is the balance sheet or the harvest of the 69 years of capitalist administration in our country? A country crushed in debt, a broken down economy, suffering masses that are further burdened with massive taxes, an economic policy that sells resources of the country, an unrighteous administration billowing with theft, fraud and corruption, people dying of various diseases such as dengue, kidney heart failure etc., education, health and transport services that are subjected to destruction, a young generation that commit suicide, a land that has become a center for drugs, where rape, abuse, murders and other crimes are committed day by day. All those who ruled this country are responsible for this sordid situation that has befallen our country. Bringing them to administer the country, again and again, is a foolish and ridiculous act. It should be stopped now!

This is an era the masses should identify the stink that emits from the politics in the country as the stink of capitalism and find a new political path to get away from the stink; it is an era the masses should break loose from mental slavery and from the feudal thinking of worshipping aristocrats or the elite and think and take decisions as free people. People should be made aware of this. It is the era when all those who aspire for a righteous society should take the initiative to fulfil this obligatory task of taking the correct decision.

RED POWER

'Night of fire' organized by 'Anti-SAITM People's Wall'



Daughter of Che Guevara with 'Red Power'

The annual convention of the Youth Council of the AKEL party of Cyprus was held from 5-7 August and the representatives of the JVP Cyprus Committee were present at the occasion. Comrade Celia Guevara, the daughter of Com. Che Guevara also attended this occasion and she visited the JVP stall. The photograph shows Com. Celia Guevara at the stall with 'Red Power'.



'Dhiriya Purawesi' District Summit at Rathnapura



National Bhikkhu Front commemorates National Bhikkhu Day



Seminar held to condemn so-called US defense pact that subjugates Sri Lanka



The General Secretary of the JVP Comrade Tilvin Silva and the Member of the Central Committee Attorney-at Law Comrade Janaka Adhikari participated, on an invitation from the Communist Party of China, in a seminar and a workshop of South Asian left political parties held in China to mark the 100th anniversary of the Great October Revolution.