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RED POWER

'20' to the people to end executive dictatorship

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

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Floods, Disaster Management and the Government

People in several provinces have been affected by floods due to torrential rains received in the last several days. As a result, several people died, many people remain displaced and have lost their properties.

For last several years now people in the districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Rathnapura etc. have been facing the threat of floods mostly in the months of May and June. According to the explanations of Meteorological Department this situation occurs with the activation of South-Western Monsoon period which creates a low-pressure zone in the Bay of Bengal region. If it is so, then the floods are not an accident. It is not an unpredictable menace. It is an annual phenomena due to weather conditions. A government with a proper plan is not incapable of facing such a situation. Yet, what happens in our country? What do we experience annually?

Meteorological Department forecasts rain when only the sky is full of rainy clouds and it is about to rain. Then the Ministry of Disaster Management in a hurry issues a warning message and requests people to be vigilant regarding disaster situations. Several other organizations also wake up and send messages of warning about floods and earth slips and advise people to move to safe places. However, people in dangerous zones never know where to move. After all, people not knowing where to go and being unable to abandon valuable property they have earned with difficulties remain in their houses. If a disaster takes place the government washes its hands by telling that it had warned the people in advance. This vigadama (tragicomedy) takes place annually without any alteration in this country.

On the other hand, after the floods have caused all havocs and the people are displaced, the government announces to media that it has allocated funds to be utilized to “provide relief” for the victims. However, the truth is that the government does not have a mechanism to provide immediate relief for the people. Therefore, the flood relief doesn’t reach the needy people on time. May be people receive relief only after the floods have receded. When this inability of the government creates a vacuum several other parties, TV channels, different organizations etc. appear and implement relief campaigns; collect several items and distribute them. Now this process has become a tradition, a pattern. It is almost akin to organizing “Dansal” or free food stalls during the Wesak season. Rather than blaming the government always, it is good to help people in trouble using whatever possible means one can find. “The Red Star” relief providing force of the JVP also actively works during disaster periods providing various assistance to victims and it considers its service as a humanitarian effort and an explication of humanity towards fellow human beings.

However, what really needs to happen? Should the provision of relief continue, when it is certain that people must annually face disasters? Or else, don’t we need to implement long term strategies to control natural disasters? Really, the responsibility of the government is to implement long term measures which can prevent disasters. Distribution of “packets of cooked rice” (bath packets) for the victims of floods is not at all the solution for floods. Disaster management is not that, but what really happens is the same.

Has the government ever planned a long-term policy of resettling people located in vulnerable places such as slopes of mountains or areas alongside rivers etc? Not really. Has the government been working on long term policies to remove those unscientifically and informally built constructions which cause for rain waters to accumulate and obstruct the recede of floods? Not really. Does the government have plans to stop activities which cause earth slips, such as removing the forest cover on high mountain slopes, mining of soil and granite from mountains etc. or to reforest high mountain zones? Not really. This is the existing reality. In this situation, the government remains in a state which is far behind the state of voluntary organizations distributing flood relief. Therefore, the responsibility of the government is not really to provide relief when the problem comes, but to act on a scientific basis to control disasters annually suffered by people because of a weather induced phenomena. However, “the misfortune” of the people is that such a government, a government which can face natural disasters has not come into being in this country; and the people are not concerned of creating such a government as well.

Finally, we have got is a government which only acts in panic distributing relief and issuing warning messages etc. when a disaster takes place and a people who have got used to depend on relief. Unless the people are ready to change this situation (because the government won’t change) this tragedy will continue to unfold further.

JVP condemns brutal attack on Palestinian civilians by Israel soldiers



JVP has issued a statement condemning the brutal attack on Palestinian civilians by Israel soldiers.

Peoples’ Liberation Front of Sri Lanka condemns brutal attack on Palestine people carried out on the occasion of the opening of a USA’s embassy in Jerusalem

According to the latest reports, 52 people including several children and a paramedic have died and more than 2400 have been injured in attacks by Israel armed forces that fired on Palestinian people who protested against the opening of the embassy in the city of Jerusalem on Monday. We express our deepest condolences to the relatives of the victims and to the people of Palestine and expect a fast recovery for the injured.

We strongly condemn the brutal attack by Israeli forces and the provocative action of the USA administration. Our party in an earlier statement on US president’s decision to move the embassy of USA to Jerusalem expressed its alarm regarding the possibility of eruption of another bloodbath due to president Trump’s disgraceful decision. Now the occupying forces of Israeli have proved that they are ready to kill any number of civilians to please their war hungry masters in Israel and in the USA.

When the President of the USA declared his intention of opening an embassy in Jerusalem at the end of last year, strong protests erupted all over the world. In the United Nations, an absolute majority of nations completely opposed the unjust, baseless decision of the USA

and defeated it by an overwhelming majority. The USA administration, particularly the current president, is continuing its imperialist agenda and delaying the establishment of world peace, at a time when greater collaboration and global peace are essential to solve grave issues faced by the mankind.

We expect that democratic leaders of the world will act to restrain disastrous undertakings of the USA administration in the future.

We, with people of Sri Lanka, extend our warm hands and hearts to the people of Palestine at this very difficult moment.

We are sure the oppressor and its imperialist masters will never be able to stop the just struggle of people of Palestine being carried out for a Sovereign Palestine State. The Palestinian people and its friends of all countries will fight until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over the mountains of East Jerusalem.

Irrespective of the mightiness of the Empires it has been proved in the history of mankind that the final victors will be the people!

We condemn the US President’s decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel!

We condemn the cruel, shameful mass killing by Israeli government!

Long live free Palestine!

On behalf of the Department of International Relations of the JVP in Sri Lanka

Bimal Rathnayake MP

National Organizer

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna

(People’s Liberation Front – JVP)

Old capitalism looking for new faces...

We have repeatedly discussed that Sri Lanka, at present, has been subjected to a serious socio-economic-political-cultural crisis and is unable to break loose from it. The view that the whole social system in Sri Lanka is in a crisis that cannot be salvaged is not a fabrication or a myth but an objective reality.

In a nutshell, the economy in the country has broken down. The country is confronted with a gigantic financial crisis as the productive processes have not been productive and also due to the inability to introduce new production processes to the country. As a result the existence of the economy of the country has to depend on loans, fines and taxes. It is evident that debt is not a source of income but a source of interest added expenditure. As a result of unavailability of production sources there is no income for the country as well as for the government. This would encourage the government to increase the tax burden. The prices of gas, fuel, milk powder have massively increased due to the increase in taxes. The income absorbed by levying various taxes and burdening the masses is destroyed due to the waste,



fraud and corruption of the government. The masses are made destitute. There is also a political crisis linked to this. The contradictions within the government have taken the country towards anarchy. There is no rule in the country. Meanwhile, capitalist political parties have fractionalized and their inner crises have surfaced. There are crises within the UNP. The SLFP that had been divided into two factions, that of Maithri and Mahinda,

has three factions now. This is with the creation of the 'clique of 16'. Capitalist political leaders display their 'musical chairs' antics and drift from one party to another.

Furthermore, the country has deteriorated into an undisciplined, uncultured state where morality has dwindled. In essence, capitalism in Sri Lanka is entangled in an unrecoverable crisis. This is the abyss the UNP and

the SLFP including their 'joint' administrations have pushed the country towards. This is none other than the demonstration of the incapacity of capitalism and capitalist political parties as a social system.

Capitalism has bogged down in a crisis not only locally but also in a global scale. The 500-year old capitalism has reached its demise. Despite being on its deathbed, it still torments masses. As Lenin emphasized once, the capitalist class or the capitalist system cannot emancipate itself from the capitalist crisis just like 'a person is not capable of lifting himself up by his own bootstraps'.

The issue is capitalism that is in crisis would never accept its impotency and leave the stage of history. It would always make use of various gimmicks to deceive the masses to stay in power even for one more day. The people do not mind getting duped by the tricks of capitalism. This is the tragedy.

What do we see when we look at politics in this country? The people, instead of toppling capitalism that has been demonstrating its incapacity for 70 long years to move towards a new social system, are hell-bent on finding a new ruler. Instead of finding the genuine solution through a social transformation, the people are attempting to find a new face (a new thief) while capitalism continues to hoodwink them. In other words, capitalism wants to hide capitalist political parties and the capitalist system and put forward various characters to continue their existence at least for some time. This is the real political challenge that is before the country at present.

Within capitalism, there is a tendency to reject incapability and failures of capitalist ideology and its teachings and instead to

attribute them to political parties and individuals in a bid to defend capitalist system. Then the individuals are rejected by the masses so that the capitalist system is protected.

Since 1947 capitalism in Sri Lanka has come to the fore making use of the capitalist political party as well as the individual. In the beginning, the UNP claimed only it can build the country, presented its first leader Mr D.S. Senanayaka as the 'father of the Nation' and pave the way for Dudley, his son, to become the Prime Minister after the death of Mr D.S. Senanayaka. Next, the SLFP that was an offshoot of the UNP and led by the Bandaranayakes came to power displaying a left-leaning.

By 1970, when UNP failed as a political party and was weakened, the crisis in capitalism and the incapacity of the party were submerged with an individual factor. In 1977 the same old party came to power under the leadership of Mr J.R. Jayawardene (a new leadership?). The SLFP was beaten. It was rejected by the masses. However, the SLFP got the opportunity, using the 14 years of UNP destructive rule, to be 'baptized' as 'People's Alliance', to get a 'new' leadership of Chandrika Kumaratunga and come to power. When people rejected Chandrika's rule Mahinda was prepared to take the baton.

When this political process is studied, it is not difficult to understand how the existing, deteriorated old and impotent social system is defended by overhauling the old political parties and the looks of old leadership and heaping old sins on the previous leadership. The biggest tragedy is that a majority of the people in the country are duped by the political gamble and the gimmicks. Instead of the productive

[Comrade Ogust Emmanuel Eliassen is a Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Sweden. He participated in the May Day Demonstration and the Red May Rally of the JVP representing his party. Here are excerpts from an interview he had with Red Power.]



People in both our countries have a common enemy

Comrade Ogust Emmanuel Eliassen

Red Power: How do you analyze the present stage of imperialism?

Comrade Ogust Emmanuel Eliassen:

This is the deteriorating stage of imperialism. It has completely decayed. Imperialism has already started disintegrating. I do not say that imperialism is no longer perilous. It has now turned into a very hazardous process. Its invasiveness has increased.

The leader of the imperialist power is the USA. However, the USA is in the process of breaking down economically and socially today.

Meanwhile, a new power centre is developing. Especially, countries like China and Russia are becoming world powers. Unheeding of being capitalist or Socialist, these countries are developing into world powers. Especially, Russia is becoming an imperialist country. We can see that it is developing to be a threat

to USA dominance.

The US imperialism attempts to prevent these states from developing into world powers. As a result, the world has become a place full of conflicts. We can see how the USA carries out its invasive interfering policy against China and Russia. This doesn't mean that Russia is good. Russia is attempting to protect its position internationally.

In this environment, they have started fighting among themselves. Of course, they are still not at each other's throats. But confrontations take place in other ways. This would lead the world towards a war situation.

Red Power: What aspect would the political tendencies that are developing in Europe and particularly in your country at present take?

Comrade Ogust Emmanuel Eliassen: Currently, in Sweden as well as throughout Europe the rise of populist right groups

and ultra-rightist groups could be seen. The extremist communalist party in Sweden is Sweden Democrat Party. At the last election, it won 14% of the vote. This figure could increase in the future. Capitalists use communalism as an instrument to divide the people. It is used to create disunity among the working class.

The national questions in Sri Lanka as well as in Sweden are different from each other. The national question in Sri Lanka is one that has historically developed. It has a long history. Sweden doesn't have such type of a national question. In Sweden, the situation has come up due to the immigration issue. As a result of imperialist wars and the poverty that is developed by capitalism created an immigration issue in our country. Sweden is the country which has the most number of immigrants in Europe.

The effect of this

situation is felt by our economy and the working masses in the country. This has brought about a risk of losing their jobs. There are issues about housing, salaries. There are also security issues.

It is not the immigrants who are responsible for this situation. This is a part of the capitalist crisis. However, people blame the immigrants for the situation. As a result, they tend to vote for anti-immigrant, ultra-rightist, rightist and populist right political parties.

The traditional capitalist political parties have no solutions for these issues. As the left movement, we have a very difficult task before us. We have to make the people the working class aware of the true situation. We have to win them towards the left movement.

Red Power: What do you think is the common issue the working classes in both our countries are confronted with?

Comrade Ogust Emmanuel Eliassen:

The people in both our countries have a common enemy. We must never forget that capitalism and imperialism

is an international phenomenon; an international system. As such the common enemy of both of our countries is imperialism.

When I came to Sri Lanka I got the opportunity to meet leaders of your party and the trade unions affiliated to your party. We discussed issues that affect both our countries. I realized that people of both our countries are confronted with are similar.

Our two countries are at two different economic developments. Sweden is a developed imperialist country. Sri Lanka is a country that has not developed economically. However, we are confronted with similar issues that are at two different levels.

Today, working masses in both countries are confronted with the issue of job security. Also, issues such as increasing cost of living, unemployment are common to both countries. In addition, working masses in both countries are faced with the issue of denial of their rights they have won after many struggles. Hence, both our countries have a common struggle.

Red Power: You participated in the May

Demonstration and the Red May Rally of the JVP representing the Communist Party of Sweden. What are your experiences?

Comrade Ogust Emmanuel Eliassen: I participated in the May Day Demonstration and the Red May Rally for the first time. It was a very valuable experience. I'm very happy that I was able to enjoy the experience with you.

I saw that a large crowd participated in the demonstration representing trade unions and working masses. It was well organized. There was tremendous discipline.

The May Day Rally was a gigantic one. I didn't understand what the speakers said. However, I knew the speeches are good from the response of the crowd. The crowd stood up for the speakers and warmly responded.

This experience is very valuable. It created in me a great belief regarding our struggle. It gave me new hope. I also got a clear understanding of your party, its organizational strength and discipline.

I'm very thankful to your party for giving me this opportunity to have such a rich experience.

USA: futile raid against Iran



On 8th May US President Donald Trump pulled the US out of the international accord and threatened to impose the "highest level of economic sanctions" on Iran.

This decision by Trump created a shock wave in the Middle Eastern region and many countries in the world condemned the act. In the Middle East region this idiotic act was approved only by Israel, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry releasing a statement condemning the act states it "violates the rules of coexistence between states and can have serious consequences for the stability and security of the Middle East." It also called on the United Nations Security Council to fulfill its responsibility to preserve international

peace and security, and demanded the fulfillment of UN resolution 2231 on the Iranian nuclear issue, which was unanimously approved by the council.

The Iran nuclear deal framework – officially the "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action" – was a historic agreement reached in 2015 by Iran, the USA, the UK, Russia, China, France and Germany. With the signing of the agreement Iran's nuclear programme was totally abandoned. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has stated that Iran is adhering to the restrictions imposed on its nuclear program under a 2015 agreement. Also, in a confidential report IAEA states that Iran's stockpiles of enriched uranium have not exceeded the agreed limit of 300 kilograms. IAEA also reported

that its inspectors were able to gain access to any sites they tried to visit. As such, Trump comes to the decision to withdraw from the 'deal' unilaterally and without any basis. However, all other countries that signed the agreement have stated they would stick by the agreement.

Meanwhile, USA states Iran must stop its ballistic missile programme and its support to Hezbollah guerrillas. However, this complaint doesn't seem to have anything to do with the Iran nuclear deal.

However, this decision by the USA could make vital changes in the Middle East region and the international politics. With this decision of the USA the military action in the region could intensify. The risk of flaring up a war between Iran and Israel at any moment has become

very high.

Within the Middle East region Iran is the main enemy of the USA, Israel and Saudi Arabia. As such, one of the main targets of these countries is to weaken Iran and change its administration. The mediation of Iran in Syrian crisis and the Iraqi crisis was disadvantageous to the USA and Israel. As such, their aim is to every means to weaken Iran.

When the threat of war in the region intensifies every country in the region will have to increase their military expenditure. This would be advantageous to the USA. For, it would increase the demand for US made weapons.

This decision of the USA would definitely be economically disadvantageous to European countries including Germany and France that have a

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Venezuela: People's wall against imperialism

Nicolás Maduro was reelected as the President of Venezuela. At the election held on the 19th May, Maduro received 5.8 million votes (67.7%) and was elected for the period 2.19 – 2025. His opponent Henry Falken could get only 1.6 million (21.1%) votes. Venezuela's opposition rejected the election result though leaders of many countries congratulated Maduro.

Maduro was able to get the election victory despite the US imperialists imposed sanctions on Venezuela, while the rightist opposition in Venezuela created a scarcity of essential items, created clashes and attempted to topple the government. Maduro's win was not only a victory for the progressive, anti-imperialist masses in Latin America but also a defeat for US imperialism.

Nepal: Left united

The two major leftist parties in Nepal the Communist Party Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) CPN-UML and Communist Party Nepal (Maoist Center) became a single party on 17th May. It is now known as Nepal Communist Party.

The Central Committees of both parties were dissolved and a central committee made up of 441 members that will include 241 members from CPN – UML and 200 members from CPN Maoist Centre.

With the unification, the Nepal Communist Party will have a 2/3rd majority in Parliament of Nepal. It is a significant event not only for the left movement in Nepal but for the left movements in the South Asian region.

USA: igniting 'fire' in the Middle East

The USA opened its embassy in Jerusalem on 15th May amidst severe opposition internationally. Palestinians who opposed the move were shot by Israeli forces. 61 Palestinians were killed in the clashes and more than 2800 people were injured.

Until then, the USA embassy for Israel was at Tel Aviv where all embassies of other countries are situated. However, changing this stance US President Donald Trump said on 6th December that the US embassy would be located in Jerusalem. Bringing US embassy to Jerusalem coincided with the 70th national day of Israel.

The UE Ambassador for Israel opposing the move boycotted participating in the opening ceremony. Analysts say the move to relocate the US embassy in Jerusalem would be another crossroad in the Israel – Palestine issue.

Rally to defeat the destructive Kotalawala defence university bill



The John Kotalawala National Defence University Bill to be presented in Parliament is far more dangerous than the White Paper on education that was brought before the country in 1981 to destroy free education. This is the gravest bill presented in the 21st century to privatize education. The bill gives provisions to privatize state universities and to establish private universities spending public money and there has not been given any room for dialogue. Hence we, as the JVP and the Socialist Students' Union (SSU) emphasize that all organizations that represent free education that includes mass organizations, students' movement, medical unions, university students' parents' associations and the whole Nation should rally to defeat this sinister move," says the National Organizer of the JVP Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka MP.

The Member of the Central Committee of the JVP Comrade Dr Nalinda Jayatissa and the National Organizer of the Socialist Students' Union Comrade Rangana Devapriya were also present at the press conference held at the head office of the JVP.

Speaking further Comrade

Bimal Rathnayaka said, "The whole Nation has joined to agitate against SAIMT that was maintained to create substandard doctors and in a bid to privatize education in the country. The government, in November last year, promised to abolish SAIMT. In such an environment all those who were in the struggle against SAIMT accepted on humanitarian grounds that students who were studying in SAIMT should not be penalized. Accordingly, it was agreed to get SAIMT students who had necessary qualifications stipulated by the Medical Council to study in state universities temporarily. A committee too was appointed for the process. While this committee is carrying on its activities the government has resorted to illicit moves and has brought this bill.

Sir John Kotalawala Defence University was set up under the Sir John Kotalawala Defence University Act No 68 of 1981. according to his last will, Sir John Kotalawala wanted his properties to be used for the benefit of security forces to pursue higher education and training. However, the government is trying to bring in a new bill to intensify privatization of

education. The new bill will violate the provisions of the University Act of 1978 so that public funds could be utilized. It will enable foreign and local educational institutes to enter into agreements with the John Kotalawala Defence University and send their students for university education. It will also enable private tuition institutes also to do so. There will be no need for a student to get through the GCE Advanced AL and secure a high Z Score to get a degree from such institutes. Anyone can get a substandard degree from such 'degree shops' if they have money. It is a situation that exists in countries such as India and the USA where the degree has no standard.

We saw how the likes of Maithripala Sirisena, Ranil Wickremesinghe and Lakshman Kiriella shed crocodile tears for SAIMT students. They said they would not allow any injustice to those students. Now, these rulers are making use of SAIMT students to set up private universities in a different model.

For this, the security forces are deployed and an institute that comes under rules and regulations affecting security forces is to be established and the bill gives provision to destroy education in the country

in a manner that has never happened in this country before.

To go before the Supreme Court against this bill it has to be presented in Parliament and the Leader of the House should read its preamble. However, last Friday the copies of the bill were kept on MP's table so that we lose the opportunity to go to Court.

Now, we hear that the government wants to withdraw the bill in the face of protests by Anti-SAITM People's Wall, students' movements and other organizations. What this government has done is to violate the last will of Sir John Kotalawala and use it to privatize education. Normally, in a civilized society, the last will of a person is respected and valued. This government is not concerned about such values but has come down to the low level of defrauding a person's last will.

The university enforced by the bill would be established under the Ministry of Defense. Until now, Kotalawala Faculty was for the higher education affairs of the security forces. However, for the first time in the world children of civilians are to be educated in an institute established under a defence ministry. This is why 'education shops' are to be established violating Sir John Kotalawala's last will. This institute will be under military rule in addition to the rules and regulations that cover civil organizations. The institute will also have the ability to evade University Act 16 of 1978 so that they can have their own way of admission, examinations results and awarding degrees. As such, even those without qualifications could be admitted and anyone can get degrees, postgraduate degrees and diplomas etc.

In our country, there are various institutes established to examine professionalism of doctors, engineers, lawyers etc. A good example is the Sri Lanka Medical Council that decides the standard of doctors and their education in our country. Those who come back with a

foreign medical degree, as well as, students who complete the medical degree in this country have to fulfil determinants of the SLMC. However, according to this bill, Kotalawala academy doesn't come under any such standard as it is given special privileges. However, universities under the UGC would not get such opportunities. If this Bill is implemented people's money could be used for private enterprises. Also, the bill would be utilized to establish militarized universities. A defense university should present degrees relevant to the defense. However, Kotalawala academy would have a large number of students studying various private courses and a large amount of funds would be used on behalf of them which students in state universities would not get.

On the other hand the government, through this bill, attempt to deploy security forces to privatize education. It is the government that has to directly confront struggles to protect free education and against SAIMT. However, if this bill is implemented there is the possibility of directly deploying security forces against such struggles. For, in such instances, students' opposition would be directly against security forces. What the government knavishly attempts is to deploy security forces for its project of privatization of state universities, the attempt the government has failed so far. Hence, the JVP would rally people's forces in order to defeat this sinister move of the government. We call upon the masses to rally to defeat the destructive bill. The forces such as university teachers' organizations, students' movements, parents associations and all other forces should come together to defeat this draconian bill. We could assure all that the JVP and the Socialist Students' Union (SSU) would be in the forefront of the struggle."

'20' to the people... >>> Page 01

With the handing over of the draft of the 20th amendment to the Constitution to the Secretary-General of the Parliament by the JVP as a private members motion, it became a public document and is enjoying a tremendous interest among the masses silencing those who attempt to throw insult at it.

The JVP decided to create a broad dialogue on the draft despite a few who partial to the dictatorial vulgarity attempts to create a false alarm regarding the amendment. Accordingly, the JVP intends having discussions with religious leaders, journalists, university teachers, scholars, artists, professionals, working masses and all social forces regarding the proposed 20th amendment.

At a press conference held at the head office of the JVP the Leader Comrade Anura Dissanayaka emphasized that the party would dedicate itself to make successful the move taken towards strengthening democracy by bringing in and paving the way for a broad dialogue on the proposal for the 20th amendment.

The main proposal of the amendment is to elect a president by parliament instead of people voting to elect a president. The president thus elected will have limited powers and he or she would be the head of the state. According to the amendment, many powers the president had would be distributed among the prime minister, cabinet and the Constitutional Council of the Parliament.

The amendment has been so compiled that the powers of the President relevant to the 13th amendment would not change while special proposals have been added to prevent instability in Parliament. Especially, provisions have been added to prevent MPs from crossing

over contrary to the decision of the party.

According to the amendment, the President has the power to release any offender but the cabinet should approve the decision. At present, the President can appoint members to his staff without any limit and also there is no limit for their salaries, allowances and vehicles. However, according to the amendment, the staff of the President will be decided by the cabinet.

According to the amendment the President should appoint ministers on recommendations of the Prime Minister. The power of the President to dissolve or prorogue Parliament has been abolished.

Also, according to the amendment the President can appoint a new Auditor General only if it is recommended that the Auditor General is unable to carry out his or her duties.

Speaking at the press conference Comrade Anura Dissanayaka said 20th amendment will not be able to take away all the deteriorated conditions that have been piled up in the political culture in the country. He said, "There is a view being taken up that a president wanted by traders would be appointed as there are MPs who get themselves traded for money. Answers to such issues cannot be found from the Constitution alone. There should be a development in the country's political culture. If MPs get sold which would lead to instability, the people have a responsibility of not electing such MPs. Also, we do not believe that the 20th amendment will be the answer for the socio-economic-political crises the country is confronted with at present. We have another political struggle to find solutions for such issues. Meanwhile, there is an opportunity to strengthen democracy in the country," he emphasized.

Old capitalism...

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task of building a new society to replace the old society, the people always fall prey to (they continue to do so) the stratagem of finding a new leadership that would not be productive at all. This process continues at present as well.

Currently, capitalism is in crisis and has fallen to a deep abyss from which it would rise come up. The two capitalist political parties too are in crisis, incapacitated and are displaying its impotency. Both these capitalist political parties have lost their integrity, prestige and trust and have deteriorated politically due to crossovers, fragmenting, the formation of cliques and 'joint rules'. There is no capitalist political party that has won the trust of the people to take capitalism forward. Both capitalist parties in the country have deteriorated. If so, the masses should look for an alternative system. However, the preparation is to bring to the stage the usual tragicomedy.

In the past capitalism was kept in existence by

capitalist parties led by capitalist leaders. Now, the bankruptcy of the parties is so that the party factor is pushed to a side and the individual factor has been brought to the fore. This is why certain sections of the society attempt to 'baptize' Gotabhaya as a scholar. Those who are in Mahinda faction and are frustrated due to losing power and those who had been accused of crime, fraud and corruption are struggling to create a new leader that could deceive the country. Gotabhaya is brought to the fore as Mahinda is incapable of fulfilling this need. Meanwhile, the UNP is looking for the main actor to replace Ranil. This is the buffoonery the crisis in capitalism is creating for the society.

Karl Marx once said, "Hegel remarked somewhere that all great, world-historical facts and personages occur, as it were, twice. He forgot to add: the first time as tragedy, the second as farce!" In politics in our country, the

same things are repeated over and over again. Such political farces would certainly turn into tragedies. This is what we have to defeat.

The crisis that has surfaced globally as well as in Sri Lanka is not only a crisis of individual factors but a crisis in the capitalist system as well. Also, solutions for the crisis in capitalism cannot be found by changing faces. What could happen is that crises could be transformed into tragedies. Hence, instead of the politics of attempting to sponsor old, hollow, sinister, idiotic individuals who attempt to burst forth like the mythical Princes Diyasena is allowed to continue, the masses should be rallied to create a new political center that has a new vision, new programme and would achieve political power to bring genuine victories for the masses. This is the only alternative path that exists for those who expect to find genuine solutions for the crises that exist in our country.

futile raid...

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lot of trade deals with Iran. As a result of this, the possibility of contradictions developing between the USA and countries in the European Union such as Germany France is higher. French President Emmanuel Macron has asked the US to reconsider the decision. In the post-cold-war era, the interests of the USA and Europe did not always correspond with each other.

After the Iran Nuclear deal, many countries in Europe started trade transactions with Iran. France commenced exploring for natural gas in Iran. Siemens of Germany struck a deal to deliver locomotives while Total of France began a project to explore offshore natural gas. France's Airbus has signed an agreement to supply 100 new aircraft. Several Italian companies too have made several investments in Iran. Meanwhile, US wants to strictly enforce secondary sanctions against global companies trading with Iran.

The EU exported over €10.8 billion worth of goods to Iran in 2017. EU exports to Iran are

mainly machinery and transport equipment. Trade between Iran and European Union increased by US\$12.8 billion or by 1/3rd that year. If US sanctions are implemented Europe will have to stop all these transactions. Meanwhile, Germany's economy minister, Peter Altmaier has stated that his government was "ready to talk to all the companies concerned about what we can do to minimize the negative consequences and French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire has warned that "the international reach of U.S. sanctions makes the U.S. the economic policeman of the planet and that is not acceptable."

As such, the moves by the USA would develop inter-imperialist conflicts and contradictions. It would not be possible to get the expected results from the US decision. It would intensify international conflicts and would create a political orientation that is disadvantageous to the USA and Israel the US agent in the region.

RED POWER



Highlights of May Day demonstration



Comrade Vijitha Herath at 200th commemoration of Karl Marx's birthday held by CPC



Comrade Lankantha, PB member & Comrade Janaka Adikari, CC member at ILO summit



Comrade Tilvin Silva, General Secretary at programmes held by Nepal Communist Party to commemorate Karl Marx's 200th birthday

Venezuelan youths meet SYU

A programme to exchange experiences has been launched between Communist Youth of Venezuela (JCV) and the Socialist Youth Union (SYU) of the JVP.

The inaugural discussion between the two organizations was held at the head office of SYU on the 29th.

The 'Friendship programme' organized by SYU and was requested by the JCV is being held from 29th June to 3rd June and the programme will include

workshops to exchanging experiences, youth affairs and political discussions.

The National Organizer of JCV Comrade Hector Alenso and its International Affairs Secretary Comrade Gabriel participated on behalf of Communist Youth of Venezuela while SYU was represented by the National Organizer Comrade Eranga Gunasekera and the International Affairs Secretary Comrade Anjana Sampath Amarasinghe.

