

Enemy's frustration indicates Our Success

JVP

The low level of throwing eggs at the NPP District Convention held at Kalagedihena in Gampaha District on the 30th shows the frustration of the enemy and the success of the NPP among the people states the JVP.

It was stated by the General Secretary of the JVP Comrade Tilvin Silva in response to a query made by 'Red Power' regarding the incident. Commenting further, Comrade Tilvin Silva pointed out that in the face of the government's ongoing failures and

the current crisis, the people are abandoning the government and the traditional opposition and are rallying around the NPP and the JVP.

He said that in the face of this situation, it had been revealed that the government had deployed its own mercenaries to attack

the convention and that the same group had also tried to throw eggs at the demonstration held in Colombo earlier.

"During the Kalagedihena incident, our members who were guarding the convention centre captured two attackers. One is Senadhipathy's bodyguard. They are clearly linked to Nissanka's Avantgarde security service. So it is obvious who planned the attack," emphasized

Comrade Tilvin Silva.

This attack cannot be taken lightly as the Avantgarde Defense Agency operates as a paramilitary force with retired soldiers serving it. In particular, its leader, Nissanka Senadhipathi, cannot escape responsibility for the attack because of recent statements made against the JVP and its leader, Comrade Anura Dissanayake. More serious things

could happen in the future, and if so, he is responsible pointed out the General Secretary of the JVP.

Comrade Tilvin Silva said that their party was paying more attention to the security of the party leaders, including that of Comrade Anura Dissanayake. He said they would take several measures to prevent such attacks. He said that the enemy could not carry out the attack in Gampaha as planned

due to the party's security arrangements.

He said that the JVP or the NPP could not be intimidated by such cowardly attacks and stressed that the NPP, together with the JVP, would act more rapidly to overthrow the evil regime and build a people's government that would not allow anyone who had harmed the country, the people and committed crimes to escape the law.



Withdraw pact to betray oil tank farm at Trincomalee to India - Agitation in Colombo 19.01.2022

Ignoring an attack by a gang of thugs who are a parallel force is dangerous

Comrade Tilvin Silva
General Secretary of the JVP



We have a serious issue regarding releasing two persons who carried out a thug attack on the Gampaha District Convention attended by the Leader of the NPP, Comrade Anura Dissanayake, without conducting investigations. At the time of the attack, we had a suspicion that the government was involved in this, and it was a group connected to the President. That suspicion has been confirmed due to the way the police are carrying out the investigations. If the government is not involved in this, the two suspects will not be sent home. It is a serious matter that the two suspects involved in the incident were released without being produced in court. It shows a connection to this incident from the level of the President.

If the attack had been

carried out by a few ordinary people in the area, the police would have carried out investigations and traced the rest of the gang. We are fully convinced that there is a high level of pressure applied to those who conduct investigations in this case. Therefore, we need to explain this incident to the people. We are told that the government is now composing a different story.

An attempt is being made to say that two people who had gone to see the conference were handed over to the police, stating they were involved in the attack. But Television media reported, with CCTV scenes, that the two were caught on the road. Two persons involved in the attack were arrested and handed over to the police. They came out with their names and stated that they were paid Rs. 5000

for the contract. Despite giving information about their statements, even when CCTV footage was available, and there was a police complaint, all that was ignored. The two persons were released clearly due to the pressure from the government. It is very clear that these people are members of a gang of Nissanka Senadhipathi affiliated with the government. It has been confirmed that Asitha Kumara and Ananda Bandara have been working for Avant-Garde before. Ananda Bandara has been deployed from the Avangard to the Munchee security service. Asitha Kumara is at Avangard security. It is clear from the photographs that he is in Nissanka Senadhipathi's security team. It is clear from the pictures that this person also came to protect Nissanka Senadhipathi when

he came to testify before the Presidential Commission. Will Nissanka Senadhipathi's bodyguards come to see our convention? They came and attacked but could not escape due to our security process. The two who were handed over to the police stated that 16 others had arrived. The police must find and arrest these people. However, even the two who were handed over to the police were also released.

We tell the people that the government is trying to cover up with political pressure is severe. Following this incident, medical students were also attacked by thugs at night. We condemn this incident as well. Medical students got together and seized a vehicle and one person. It was revealed that the vehicle belonged to the Coconut Development Board and that the person arrested was a private employee of Minister Arundika Fernando. The police found all this information. Why was the police unable to find information in our case? The avant-garde was not involved in the medical students' issue. We had avant-garde in the attack on us. In two similar cases, the police had to act differently. The police wanted to investigate but could not because of pressure from above. It is not a simple issue. If the law had been followed, we need not have carried this further. But the statements and actions of government ministers and MPs in the aftermath of the attack confirm that it cannot be ignored. These two cannot come here without the influence of Nissanka Senadhipathi and the government. It is clear that Nissanka Senadhipathi sent them with the understanding of the President.

Avantgarde has a state-of-the-art arsenal of weapons in Sri Lanka and is trained in handling those weapons. Many retirees from the Armed Forces work here. Any crime can be committed. No one is responsible. Failure to investigate an attack by a gang of thugs who are an

armed paramilitary force is a danger. If the government tries to leave them without investigation, more serious things could happen in the future. There are still no people responsible for the many murders committed when Gotabaya Rajapaksa was the Secretary to the Ministry of Defense. Many crimes have been committed, including the murder of Thajudeen, the murder of Lasantha Wickrematunge, the disappearance of Eknaligoda and the disappearance of Lalith and Kugan in Jaffna. If those responsible for a crime were not found, it is because there is a connection to the government in power at that time. There was a repressive black past when Gotabaya Rajapaksa was the Defense Secretary. Nissanka Senadhipathi has become his best aide. He is furious about the JVP. The attack on the convention by a group linked to a person who said that Rs. 500 million would be spent to defeat the JVP was a serious one. If the police fail to conduct investigations even when two of his thugs are caught by the public and handed over to police is a serious problem. So this cannot be ignored. All those who value democracy have a responsibility to act against such situations. It is not an issue of the JVP only.

They chose to attack us despite the President having powers increased by the 20th Amendment and a 2/3 majority in Parliament because their power is melting like an iceberg. Therefore, the challenge they have to face is the National People's Power. They are trying to stop the National People's Power by intimidation. With this attack, they have admitted that they are weakening, and the National People's Power is getting stronger and stronger. The attackers said there were people to rescue if they encountered any problem.

If this happens after a gang of thugs deployed by an arms company is caught and handed over to the police, how

Crisis of capitalism & a government seeking solutions from knuckleheads

Sri Lanka's economic crisis is now at its peak. It is now becoming a social crisis and a political crisis. In a word, the capitalist economy of Sri Lanka is now dead. Its production lines are not effective. They are without the creation of assets. The debt-dependent economy has breathed its last. What is happening in Sri Lanka now? Commodity prices increase daily. There is a shortage of goods. People often line up in long queues. There is a danger that the country will not get the fuel it needs. Power cuts occur frequently. The country's foreign assets have sunk to the bottom. Agriculture has collapsed, and food shortages are looming. People are now in a state of uncertainty about the future.

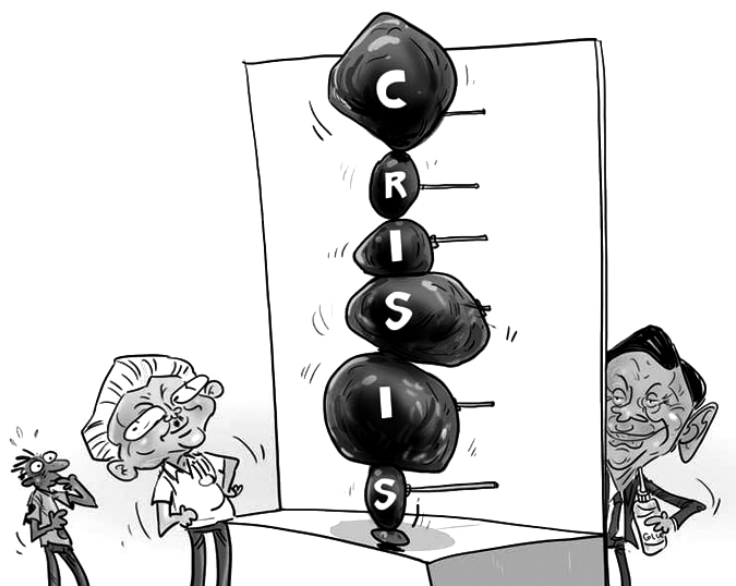
This deep crisis did not occur overnight. It was due to the neglect and the policy of selling the means of production followed by the rulers of this country for decades, their dependence on debt and the destruction of that debt by fraud, corruption and waste and the imposition of a debt burden on the country. Even today, the governing bodies recognize this situation and go their way instead of correcting it. Instead of recovering, they follow the same path leading to the abyss. That is the tragedy we face today.

It is an obvious fact that capitalist governments have no solution to the crisis of capitalism. But the rulers of some capitalist countries take measures to at least attempt

to manage the crisis. But the Sri Lankan ruling party is different. The government, especially the executive president, has no idea how severe this crisis is. There is no need to understand it either. So on the brink of crisis, they play various comedies, come out with cock and bull stories, Make stupid decisions. Whatever is lacking in the country, there is no shortage of jokes from the rulers.

The president has become a 'baby'. The president who came to bring strict control to the country has now given up control of the country as well as price control. He lives in a dream world he has created for himself. In that dream world, 'green agriculture' evolves day by day. Farmers who apply organic fertilizers reap plentiful harvests (!) The Minister of Agriculture is not second to him. He says the 'weight' of paddy has increased this season. That is because of the organic fertilizer. (Do not laugh) Therefore, farmers are instructed to apply organic fertilizer. On top of that, while agriculture is declining, rice grown with chemical fertilizers is imported from China and Myanmar. It is why we see that the solutions sought by the government in the face of the current crisis are that of a knucklehead.

Now the country is facing a power crisis. That, too, was due to the decisions of the knucklehead type. The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) has been able to maximize hydropower generation due to the recent decline in oil



A ruler leading the ruling party, who has no knowledge or understanding of any subject and cannot see what happens in a few years but even within two weeks, can only give this country red-eyed jokes.

imports and the CPC restricting the supply of fuel to the CEB. Accordingly, more water from the reservoirs that were filled with rain was used to generate more hydropower. The result was the rapid depletion of reservoirs. Now the rain has stopped too. Hydropower generation has been reduced

due to the lack of water in the reservoirs.

Meanwhile, one generator at the Norochcholai coal power plant has broken down. (It breaks down from the day it was installed.) In this situation, when there is a high electricity demand, the electricity generated by diesel or fuel oil power plants is not enough. In addition, power plants such as Kelanitissa have to be shut down frequently due to the CPC stopping the supply of fuel to power plants from time to time. The result here is a power cut.

What steps will the government take for this? The president recently issued an order to the Treasury. He has asked the Treasury to make available Rs. Ninety-three billion to Ceylon Electricity Board to pay its debts to the CPC. But that does not solve the problem because the CPC had to restrict oil import for want of dollars. Instead of finding dollars for the CPC to import oil, paying the CEB debt in treasury money is not the solution. It has already

obtained a US \$ 500 million loan from India to buy oil. The oil will also have to be bought from India. Doing other things without finding a solution to the problem of not having dollars in the country will not solve the problem. It is a big mistake for the CEB to empty the reservoirs quickly. Even though all the diesel power plants are operational now that they have received oil, there is a situation where they are unable to supply power during the hours of high power consumption.

Meanwhile, the president's renewable energy is limited to speeches. Now the government is trying to justify the handing over of the Yugadanavi nuclear power plant to the United States by pointing out this power crisis. Meanwhile, media reports state that the president has asked the government to resolve the issue without cutting off electricity. This is a wonderful country. We do not understand how the president's order to solve the problem could be carried out without cutting off power when the power generation is low.

Meanwhile, the Public Utilities Commission has stated that electricity could not be cut off without their permission. When power demand peaks in the evening, power generation reaches its maximum, but when that is not enough, the board has no choice but to cut the electricity. It happens with or without the permission of the Public Utilities Commission.

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Trinco oil tanks

A casualty of the regional power games

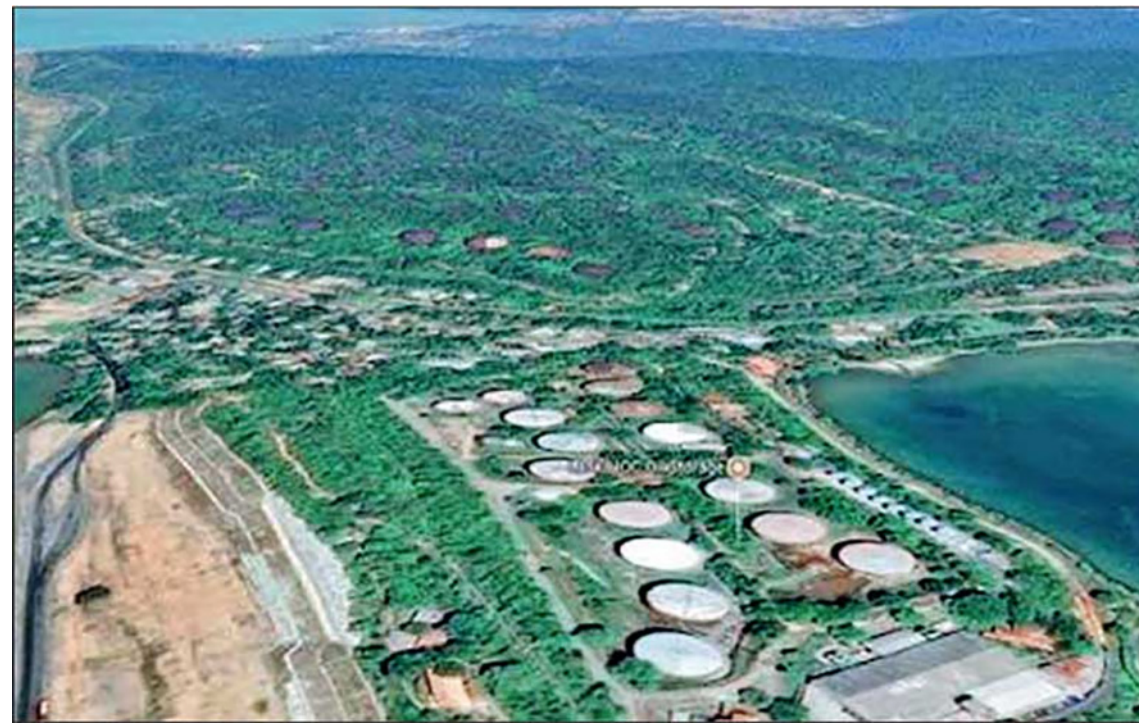
There is a renewed discussion in the society about the Trincomalee Oil Tank Complex, with the government taking steps to sign an agreement with India regarding the allocation of tanks. With this deprivation of energy rights, suspicion has been aroused that the sovereignty, security and future survival of Sri Lanka would be handed over to India. This note highlights the importance of this oil tank complex.

The history of the oil tanks

The construction of the Trinco oil tanks started in 1924 and was completed in 1930. The tanks were built at an equal distance over 850 acres adjacent to the port. British engineers constructed the tanks during British rule. A yard with 101 large tanks has been constructed. The tanks were built using the best technology available at the time and were made of strong steel sheets about two inches thick. The structure is made of solid steel, connected using rivets to minimise damage in a war situation and protect against salty sea winds. On April 9, 1942, one tank was destroyed in a Japanese suicide plane crash during World War II. It was reported to have been on fire for seven days. In 1960, a British Royal Aircraft crashed due to a mishap and destroyed another tank. Thus far there are 99 tanks left.

The condition of the oil tanks

It has a very advanced and efficient piping system and two pumping stations. Although the pumping stations are still equipped with facilities that are considered modern, much valuable equipment has been stolen by thieves. The complex consists of three compounds, filtering and draining valves, a drainage system, and a wide range of associated infrastructure. (01) low level near the sea (Lower tank farm) 14 tanks (02) middle level (Intermediate



tank farm) (03) higher level (Upper tank Farm) (04) two pumping stations attached to the lower tank farm (One pumping station was used as a jetty to unload and supply oil to ships, while the other pumping station was used to supply oil to the upper yards and to supply oil for oil mixing (05) railroad Upper Tank Farm extending from China Port Railway Station (Equipped with equipment and tools to supplying oil transport tanks) (06) fire extinguisher system with highly advanced equipment)

The capacity of one tank is 12,000 metric tons, and the total capacity of the remaining tank complex is 11,88,000 metric tons, approximately 12 million metric tons. This tank yard will facilitate the systematic and efficient transportation of fuel to the oil depots by trains throughout the country along the railway line adjacent to the Upper Tank Farm. The regional depots for Oil storage in Sri Lanka are located along the railways.

Ownership of the oil tank complex

The oil tank complex was controlled by the British Navy and the 677 acres of land were leased by the government of Sri Lanka to the commissioners of the High Admiral Lord of the British government for a period of 99 years. By the Petroleum Act No. 28 of 1961, the Petroleum monopoly was taken over by the government of Ceylon and the importation, distribution, sale and blending of oil was entrusted to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation. With the establishment of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation in 1961 through this Act, the special importance of the Trincomalee China Port Oil Tank Complex for the systematic and efficient operation of oil storage, unloading, and distribution was recognised. Accordingly, in 1963 the British government was paid 250,000 pounds in cash and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation took over its entire administration and management. With this

acquisition, it became a national asset of Sri Lanka.

Indian Oil Corporation and the oil tanks

In 2002, the UNP government, at the time, decided to lease the oil tank complex to the Indian Oil Corporation as part of the state enterprise reform. The terms of the agreement stipulated USD 1000 per tank and a fee of \$ 99,000 per year was paid to the Treasury for 99 tanks. In addition, \$ 1000 was paid to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation. However, the legal issue regarding the ownership of the land arose at the time of signing the agreement. The problem is that although the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation paid 250,000 pounds and released the land and the tank complex, the ownership was transferred to the Sri Lankan government. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation did not take over the ownership. Accordingly, the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation had no right to lease to the Indian

Oil Corporation. Due to this, the lease agreement included a condition that the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation must take over the Trincomalee Oil Tank Complex within 06 months from the date of the agreement and the lease agreement was to be effective for a period of 35 years from that point onwards.

However, a few months after signing the agreement, the government headed by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe changed, and the terms of the agreement were not implemented. Accordingly, the agreement should have been inactive within 06 months from the date of signing. But the Lanka Indian Oil Corporation remained and continued using the oil tanks. Although the acquisition was improper when the agreement was inactive, the fees were continuously paid. The payment of fees was also an issue when the agreement was void. The Lanka Indian Oil Corporation and the Government of India wanted to resolve the legal issue in the agreement, and on several occasions, the Indian Oil Corporation and the Government of India intervened to that end. As a result, a proposal was made in 2017 to transfer a certain number of oil tanks to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and a certain number of oil tanks to the Lanka Indian Oil Corporation and the rest to the oil tank company. This was strongly opposed at the trade union level, disrupting oil supplies and sparking a strike throughout the island. This caused the process to be temporarily reversed. However, in restructuring the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, which began



Government and Ministers are not there to tell their problems to the people but to find answers to people's issues

Comrade Vijitha Herath
Propaganda Secretary of the JVP

"The government has no answers to these questions. What they are doing is telling people the problem. Minister Gammanpila says, "If you walk, there are lights. If you go in a car, you have to stay in the dark." Minister Gammanpila, Minister Gamini Lokuge and the Electricity Board are coming out with various stories. Ministers are needed to resolve crises through discussions in the cabinet. Maintaining ministerial posts with public money is not to tell the people the problem. It is their responsibility to take

decisions collectively and solve problems and make people comfortable. But now the problem is that the whole country is going astray," says Information Secretary of the JVP Comrade Vijitha Herath.

He was speaking at a media briefing held at the JVP head office.

He said, "Today there is a serious energy crisis. It has been stated that the power supply will not be cut off till the 27th. No one knows what will happen next. Despite the explanations given by the CEB, the people are in a state of uncertainty.

Government ministers come out with various stories. Recently, there was no oil to run power plants. Ships did not unload oil as there were no dollars to pay. Gammanpila says he will give oil if he is given dollars. Lokuge says if oil is given they will give lights. Today there is a fuel crisis and Sapugaskanda power plant cannot function. There is also a coal crisis and thermal power plants are in danger of being shut down. There is also information that the Kelanitissa power plant has oil only for three and a half days.

According to a Cabinet decision, dollars have been released for unloading oil from ships. If oil power plants are allowed to run, there will be no fuel for vehicles. The supply of oil to other factories is also a crisis. The fuel in Kolonnawa is running out. An oil tanker will return on February 05 or 06. The crude oil ship will arrive on January 30th. These ships take five to six days to unload. That shows that no one knows what will happen tomorrow. The statements made by the CEB are changing rapidly. The CEB initially

said that the power would be cut off for an hour to four hours. They then said they would not make a cut. On the other hand, the Public Utilities Commission said that the power would not be turned off until the 27th. Even if dollars are found somehow to buy oil, the problem of no water for hydropower generation has seriously arisen.

Due to the increase in the generation of hydropower plants in the past, the reservoirs dried up rapidly and now the supply is around 30%. According to the Electricity Board, the generation was expected to decline by mid-March. But the water levels in reservoirs have already gone down. As a result hydropower generation will inevitably go into crisis. Lack of oil, lack of dollars has led to a crisis in power generation and a shortage of water has led to a crisis in the supply of electricity. The government has no answers to these questions. What they are doing is telling people the problem. Minister Gammanpila says, "If you walk, there

are lights. If you go in a car, you have to stay in the dark." Minister Gammanpila, Minister Gamini Lokuge and the Electricity Board are saying various different things. Ministers need to discuss in the cabinet and resolve crises. Maintaining ministerial posts with public money is not about telling the people the problem. It is their responsibility to make decisions collectively, to solve problems and to make the people's lives comfortable.

But now the problem is that the whole country is going astray. There may also be planned conspiracies behind the energy crisis. The people of this country have that distrust and suspicion. How can Cabraal find dollars immediately after the former president talks to him? We have spent US \$ 374 million to import fruits and vegetables in 11 months of 2020. In the 11 months of 2021, US \$ 415 million has been spent on this. There are dollars to import vegetables and fruits. They say there are no dollars to bring the oil. It is clear that there is a big conspiracy here.

A report released by the Public Utilities Commission on March 31, 2016, clearly stated that the annual demand for electricity will increase by 5.5%. It was pointed out that it would increase further if there were more active situations. Accordingly, the government should have had a plan to start new power plants. But no government has taken precautionary measures to meet the electricity demand. Recently, **Page 07 >>>**



Cuba: Wins world trust in vaccine product

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) has provided a U.S. \$ 46.7 million loan to Cuba to produce 200 million covid 19 vaccines. It is the first time that this bank in Honduras has given a loan to Cuba. It is hoped that the loan will enable the development and strengthening the production of covid 19 vaccine, medical equipment and pharmaceutical production in Cuba.

World: Poverty globalized in the face of covid

The assets of the 10 richest people in the world have reportedly doubled between March 2020 and November 2021, during the covid 19 epidemic. According to a report released by the Oxfam Organization, their assets have increased from approximately U.S. \$ 700 million to U.S. \$ 1.5 trillion during this period, and the incomes of 99% of the world's population have fallen; More than 160 million people are living in poverty.

World: Nuclear disarmament – a mirage?

On January 3, the world's five major nuclear powers issued a joint statement declaring their readiness to prevent nuclear war and halt the production of new nuclear weapons. But they have not agreed to stop updating or upgrading existing nuclear weapons or to make the world a nuclear-free place.

The five main states that produce nuclear weapons are the United States, Britain, China, France and Russia. They are the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. In addition, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea produce nuclear weapons. Together, these nine countries have 13,080 nuclear weapons, 90% of which belong to Russia and the United States.



Britain: Forced to return Venezuela's gold

On January 13, several progressive anti-imperialist organizations staged a protest in front of the Bank of England demanding the immediate release of 31 tons of gold worth about \$ 2 billion belonging to the people of Venezuela held by the Bank of England.

Britain has been holding back gold from Venezuela in support of U.S. sanctions against Venezuela. The Venezuelan Central Bank has also taken legal action against it, but there has been no positive response so far.

Covid creates a wave of workers' struggles



2021 was a year full of workers' struggles in the United States. Last year was a year of unprecedented strikes and victories for U.S. workers, as well as a year of low-wage abandonment. It shows the growing situation, especially after the Covid 19 epidemic, in the United States, which has the world's largest economy and is considered the most powerful country in the world.

Covid 19 world epidemic, which has been raging since 2019, exposed the cruelty of capitalism to the workers around the world. During this epidemic, the mainstream media and politicians in the United States, making services "essential" and calling workers "heroes", got the workers to report for duties to revive the collapsing businesses. They had to work with lower wages and lower facilities, making extra sacrifices.

Throughout the epidemic, right-wing pundits and politicians have been shouting

about the labour shortage. It led to cuts in unemployment benefits during the epidemic. However, the reality was that a record number of workers had already left their jobs by the end of the year. It showed that workers were no longer prepared to work under low wages and hardship.

Moreover, the prices of essential commodities in the United States have risen rapidly in recent times. According to the Department of Labor, the consumer price index rose 0.5% in December compared to November 2021, and inflation rose to 7% in December 2021 compared to December 2020. It is the seventh consecutive month that inflation in the United States has risen above 5%. Meanwhile, a shortage of goods has developed in the country.

On the other hand, the largest US-owned companies in the world were able to make record profits during this period;

the wealthiest people expanded assets.

All of these conditions have forced U.S. workers to take action for their rights. Workers' struggles have taken place in every sector of the United States over the past year; Workers formed new unions, reformed unions, and given new leadership.

Trade unions

Last year, the first to win the right to form unions were New York's Starbucks employees. They won that right by defeating a huge number of measures taken by the rulers to prevent it. Last May, 17,000 higher education workers at the University of California won the right to organize as a union, forming the largest union in recent decades. The Newsguild Journalists' Association has grown its membership to 1542 from 26 institutions by 2021, recording its highest membership. Only 10% of workers are organized into trade unions in the United

States. Changing that, in 2021 alone, workers in 1,314 institutions in the private sector sought permission to form unions, of which 907 were allowed to do so. Out of these 571 new trade unions had been formed. It is a 68% increase, the highest in the United States since 1965.

Strikes

By the end of December 2021, there were 363 reported strikes across the United States. It's not just a quantitative increase. Compared to previous strikes, there has been an increase in the duration and extension of these strikes.

Last year, thousands of workers went on strike in the catering services, education, industrial products, food production and mining industries. The largest of these strikes was at Columbia University in New York City. About 3,000 graduate student workers went on strike for more than nine weeks,

Ignoring an attack...

From Page 02

can the security of the country's people be ensured? It is a serious problem if gangs of thugs and mercenaries are protected instead of protecting the people. Therefore, there is no alternative but to rally to defeat this situation. The National People's Power would be strengthened and would work to defeat this government at the first opportunity it gets. We will also continue this fight until the law takes action against these attackers.

We warn Gotabaya Rajapaksa that the President and the government should take responsibility if any harm to anyone affiliated with the National People's Power and the JVP is caused in the future. What exists is a signal that licenses have been issued to gangs. If the government is not involved in this, all those involved should be brought to justice. We urge the people not to condone such heinous acts. We urge all those who respect democracy to rally to defeat such situations.

Government and Ministers...

From Page 05

Minister Gammanpila had stated that oil is not required for power generation as the reservoirs were full. According to the Electricity Act No. 20 of 2009, the prerequisites that a holder of a power transmission license should have are very clearly stated. Section (b) of Article 24 states

that "efficient coordination must develop and maintain a reliable and economical transmission system. A licensee must also have the wholesale distribution of electricity to ensure a safe, reliable and economical supply of electricity to consumers."

Covid creates...

From Page 06

demanding fair wages and health care. A similar strike had taken place in Harvard earlier in October.

In addition, employees of the John Deer, Kellogg and Frito Lay were able to win their demands by participating in strikes and agitations. Workers in the fast-food and retail sector also went on strike against the extension of working hours, lower wages and lower facilities. Workers at a number of companies, from Mc Donald to Wendy and Walmart to Family Dollar, which provide millions of essential services, went on strike and won their demands.

Workers at United Metro Energy in New York City have been on strike since April, demanding fair wages, comprehensive health insurance, re-employment of workers fired during the strike and no disciplinary action against them. As many as 1,100 miners in Alabama's Warrior Met Coal Mines company are on strike, demanding a health insurance scheme they can afford, a halt to pay cuts and more leave. In July, 1,500 housewives in Pennsylvania won a historic pay rise. As many as 35,000 workers at the Keiser Permanente and Healthcare Network went on strike demanding a pay rise and reduced staff shortages. Had the strike taken place, it would have been the largest health care strike in history. The strike was called off after the management agreed to meet the demands after being notified of the strike. In addition, by 2021, U.S. workers were able to establish credible leadership within the unions and win a more democratic system of union elections.

The third year of the covid 19 epidemic has dawned. This wave of workers' struggles in the United States is likely to escalate further this year as regulators are unable to address the unprecedented rise in income inequality or the stagnant wage problem.

Crisis of capitalism...

From Page 03

These are awful jokes.

The same is true on other issues in the country as well. No one is responsible for anything. The rulers do not know or see the crisis or its causes. They have no understanding of these subjects. The president's statements cannot increase power generation. Then those statements become jokes. When Minister of Petroleum Gammanpila says that when most of the fuel imported to the country is given to the CEB, fuel cannot be supplied to vehicles, Minister Lokuge says that if fuel is not provided, electricity cannot be supplied. Now it is up to the people to make the final

decision. Are you prepared to stay in the dark and travel in your vehicles? Do you use electricity at home but park your vehicles at home and go on foot? Nothing more can be expected when problem solving is handed over to knuckleheads.

A ruler leading the ruling party, who has no knowledge or understanding of any subject and cannot see what happens in a few years but even within two weeks, can only give this country red-eyed jokes. He merely wanders in dream worlds thinks that the executive, the military, the power can generate electricity and even plant paddy pods in rice plants.

Do not be surprised if oil prices rise again shortly to "prevent people from going astray." That's how these rulers are.

Now, this crisis is raging. In this system, the leaders of the ruling parties that have ruled the country so far will not be able to save the country from this tragedy. It is why the people should rally for a new people's government instead of being angry at the jokes of the present regime. This can only be achieved through the control of a broad mass movement of leaders with scientific knowledge and commitment who recognize future challenges.

Trinco oil tanks...

From Page 04

under Ranil Wickremesinghe's government in 2002, all subsequent governments have been pushing the transfer to multinational corporations and giving up the state monopoly.

Power objectives and the oil tanks

The British imperialists in 1924 were well aware of the value of the port-bound territory militarily. With the rapid development of freight forwarding, exchange and reproduction for the mineral needs of the world, the regional powers too were aware that the extended maritime boundaries of Sri Lanka will inevitably become a unique hub in maritime transport. Consequently, the construction of the new port as a cargo hub and providing services targeting the maritime routes became a priority in India's economic plans. In line with their economic and military strategies, India clearly does not want other economic powers to use the port of Trincomalee. They want to retain long-term ownership of the China Bay Harbour oil tanks in Trincomalee for this geopolitical purpose.

In 1987, when President J.R. Jayawardene was starting discussions to hand over the oil tanks to America

before signing the Indo-Lanka Accord, India decided to expedite the Accord. The letters exchanged between J.R. Jayawardene and Rajiv Gandhi have been included as an annexure to the Indo-Lanka Accord, stating that such a course of action should not be pursued, which is an indication of India's interest in this regard.

Development strategy and the oil tanks

Clever sales tactics are of great importance in the supply of fuel to the shipping lanes across the Indian Ocean. If the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation supplies oil to international shipping companies by charging on the basis of the number of litres of oil that can be stored in the tanks, it would be a huge foreign exchange earner. Also, pumps and jetties can be used to supply fuel to ships (bunkering), and it is cheaper and more efficient to transport Petroleum products or crude oil by train. The Trincomalee Oil Tank Complex can also be used to transport oil by sea to Galle, Matara, Muthurajawela, Kolonnawa, Kankesanthurai and Batticaloa.

However, the estimates for the refurbishment and use of this oil tank complex were calculated using US dollars as

foreign exchange. The second factor is that all 99 tanks are calculated to be repaired at once. Both of these factors are two big misconceptions. These two misconceptions must be defeated. The repairs do not cost in foreign exchange. Among the main tasks include fixing the tap, fixing the valves, removing and replacing damaged steel plates, sandblasting, installing equipment and painting. Engineering and technical skills for this can be obtained from Kolonnawa Workshop, Refinery Workshop, and Private Mechanical Workshops in the country. Recently a tank of similar capacity was repaired at Kolonnawa and is currently in use. The construction started in 2018 and is now completed and in use. Also, four such tanks are currently under construction at Kolonnawa.

Accordingly, it is not economically or physically difficult for Sri Lanka to proceed with the project by systematically initiating repairs tank by tank and preparing for utilization. However, for the country to benefit from such an economically viable oil tank complex, a people's government must be established that makes such national resources a part of the development plan.

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Can IMF be the solution to the crisis?

Sri Lanka is currently facing a severe social, economic, political and cultural crisis. The current financial crisis it is facing is the biggest in the history of Sri Lanka. This crisis is expressed as a debt crisis and a lack of foreign assets. It can be understood as the logical end to more than seven decades of Sri Lankan capitalism and more than four decades of the open economy or neo-liberal economic strategy followed by our rulers. It is also a result of fraud, corruption, and waste of the ruling class.

According to the Central Bank, Sri Lanka's total public debt at the end of October 2021 was 17,344 billion rupees or 17.34 trillion. The assets plunged on January 18 this year with a US \$ 500 million sovereign bond loan payment. These days, the country is barely managed with US \$ 1.5 billion loans from China (in yuan) received in March to buy goods, US \$ 500 billion loan from India to buy oil, and a US \$ 1 billion loan to buy goods from India. As of last November, the country's foreign reserves stood at US \$ 1,587 million, or US \$ 1.5 billion.

About US \$ 6 billion will be needed this year to repay loan instalments, interest and maturity, and the loss in foreign trade could be as high as US \$ 6 or 7 billion as in the previous year. Then the government should earn at least US \$ 12 billion or US \$ 13 billion this year. But it is a goal that is hard even to imagine.

In this situation, the government will have to restrict or stop the import of essential commodities to the country. There is already a problem in bringing fuel to the country. The challenge now facing the government is to repay the debt or import the goods the country needs. The government, unable to even pay its debts, has failed to resolve the crisis.

The government is still trying its best to solve three key issues. It is to get rid of the inability to repay a due foreign loan, prevent the cancellation of a letter of credit (LC) issued, and prevent the country from not importing oil. But in the current state, a situation has arisen where they cannot be prevented continuously.

It is in this context that liberal capitalism is proposing that the government should now immediately turn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). There is a dialogue about this within the government as well. That is why it is crucial to have the right idea about this.

We know that the IMF is the ultimate destination for a capitalist state to get out of bankruptcy. Throughout history, capitalist countries have sought the help of the IMF in financial crises. Countries known as the Four Asian Tigers (South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong) and Malaysia turned to the IMF for help during the collapse, the financial crisis that began in the United States in 2008, and the subsequent financial crisis in Greece. But it did not have any benefit to the people. It has always happened that large-scale capitalists, billionaires have established their existence. There is no economic benefit to the people. In general, not a single country in the world has gone to the IMF and taken out a loan on its terms. What has always happened is that the crisis has been passed on to the general public, cutting public benefits and wages, reducing public spending.

The solution to our country's financial crisis is not in the IMF. The main problem in our country's economy is changing the policy of dependence on credit without earning assets and shifting to a productive economy that acquires assets and stops waste, theft, and managing assets. That is not what capitalist rulers can do now.

Even now, the government is wasting foreign currency on unnecessary and wrong decisions (such as the Prime Minister and other ministers going on holiday, paying compensation for a Chinese manure ship). On the other hand, they fail to get the foreign income that Sri Lanka can get. The best example of this is the declining remittance by foreign workers.

The US \$ 2 billion for seven months is a considerable amount. But the government has failed to get that money to the country. During the seven months from June to December 2021, remittances fell by the US \$ 2055 million, or approximately US \$ 2 billion, compared to the previous year. Also, the country's foreign exchange earnings have decreased due to the collapse of the country's tea industry and agriculture due to the organic fertilizer crisis.

When a government goes to the IMF, which is weakening the country's foreign exchange earnings, the general public will be further affected by the conditions proposed there. So it is not a solution. But we should not be surprised if the IMF is the ultimate choice for a weak government with no vision.



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Mahiyangana - To take a new breath!



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