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Alleged plot to assassinate TNA Parliamentarian M. A. Sumanthiran

A 5th suspect has been arrested in connection with the alleged plot to assassinate Tamil National Alliance (TNA) Parliamentarian M. A. Sumanthiran, the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) told a court in Kilinochchi on Monday. Vijayan, Vijayan from Mannar is the fifth suspect to be arrested in the case. The interrogation of four ex-LTTE cadres arrested earlier this month in connection with the case and further inquiries had led to Vijayan's arrest. The TID informed the Kilinochchi magistrate court that the five were being held on drug charges and in connection with plotting to assassinate a politician. The TID filed three reports in court, including a request to have the suspects' mobile telephones sent for decryption and analysis. The four rehabilitated LTTE cadres - Gnanasekaralingam Rajmathan from Trincomalee, Louis Mariyampillai from Maruthankery and Murugaiyah



TNA MP M. A. Sumanthiran

Thavendran and Karalasingham Kulendran from Kilinochchi were arrested on 14 January. The TID had also discovered a claymore mine, detonators and large quantities of Kerala marijuana in the ex-cadres' homes, the anti-terrorism police unit told court on 20 January. The claymore mine, an explosive often used to blast unarmed vehicles and convoys during the war, was recovered at the home of Rajmathan. The Hindu newspaper had reported that the Prime Minister's office sent a message to the TNA Parliamentarian about a "serious security threat" to his life that Sumanthiran needed to be aware of. A well-placed source in the Government, on

condition of anonymity, told The Hindu that "such a message was delivered to Sumanthiran". The message, said to have been based on high-level intelligence reports, was passed on around the time when four men, who are former LTTE cadres, were arrested in the North earlier this month. When contacted, the police officer in charge of the police station in Kilinochchi where two of the arrests were made, has told The Hindu the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) was handling the case. The TID was not available for comment. A lawyer appearing for the arrested persons, who also did not want to be named, said the police told a magistrate court that the arrested men were in possession of claymore mines and detonators. Confirming that he received a security threat, Sumanthiran told the Indian newspaper the Government informed him about it, sharing some specific details. On January 13, the parliamentarian, who was to be in Jaffna to participate in an event, cancelled his trip at the last minute. Asked if it was related to the security threat, Sumanthiran said: "I cancelled my trip not on account of a security threat, but for some other

reason. But I learnt later that four persons were arrested on suspicion that they had been ready with an assassination attempt for the 13th [of January] when I was supposed to be there as per the original plan." On the alleged link of the former LTTE cadre to the assassination plot, Sumanthiran said that most rehabilitated cadres were struggling to make a living. "We too have asked the government to initiate a programme for livelihood assistance to them. In the absence of such support, they are easy targets for exploitation by people with political motives." Following the arrests of the two former LTTE members in Kilinochchi, TNA MP S. Shriratharan, from Kilinochchi, recently told Parliament that the government continued targeting former LTTE cadres who had been rehabilitated. Speaking to The Hindu on Friday, he said: "They are still viewed with suspicion. With no jobs, they struggle to make ends meet."

Festival of Cricket 2017
 FOC 2017 has been confirmed & will take place on Sunday 9th July 2017 at the Hainault Recreation Ground, Forest Road, Hainault, Essex, IG6 3HX.
 For any more information, please call President of FOC 2017, Ravi Raveendran on 07723 312 422.
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Dr. Ranga Dias(left) & Prof. Isaac Silvera produce metallic hydrogen



Sri Lankan young scientist Ranga Dias a postdoctoral fellow, Lyman Laboratory of Physics, Department of Physics, Harvard University has contributed to a major scientific breakthrough in Physics. Isaac Silvera, Cabot professor of the natural sciences and Ranga Dias have produced metallic hydrogen, which has been just a theory for more

than eight decades. Scientists have been working on metallic hydrogen for decades. According to Harvard Gazette, nearly a century after it was theorized, Harvard scientists report they have succeed

ed in creating the rarest material on the planet, which could eventually develop into one of its most valuable. In their experiments, Silvera

and Dias squeezed a tiny hydrogen sample at 495 gigapascal (GPa), or more than 71.7 million pounds per square inch, ... SEE P2

BRISLA in SL



Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, FM & Dr. Zimar Sivardeen, BRISLA

MR slams Govt. on corruption

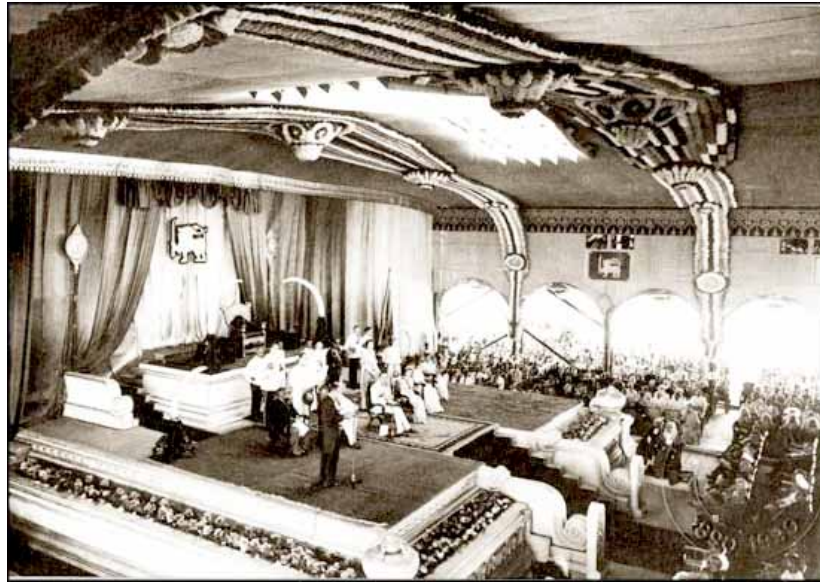


Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa greets his supporters as Joint Opposition members look on at last Friday's rally in Nugegoda. Pic by Shehan Gunasekara

SEE P10 FOR MORE ON THE JO RALLY. RANIL REPLIES P12

4th February 2017 - 69th Independence Day

The Sri Lankan independence movement was a peaceful political movement which aimed at achieving independence and self-rule for Sri Lanka, then Ceylon, from the British Empire. It was initiated around the turn of the 20th century and led mostly by the educated middle class. It succeeded when, on February 4, 1948, Ceylon was granted independence as the Dominion of Ceylon. Dominion status within the British Commonwealth was retained for the next 24 years until May 22, 1972 when it became a republic and was renamed the Republic of Sri Lanka.



The formal ceremony marking the start of self-rule, with the opening of the first parliament at Independence Square by Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester in the presence of Rt Hon D.S. Senanayake as first Prime Minister of Ceylon.

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