

By LAKSHMAN GUNATHILAKA

The Sunday Times photo-journalism department closely cooperates with editorial sections of the newspaper as photo requirements are met by us.

Our team follows instructions from the respective desks to ensure that required pictures are delivered while the photographers also go out on their own, for proactive photojournalism, looking for rare exclusive pictures of unusual events or situations.

Some of the assignments are known in advance and the photographers are prepared, but some are emergency situations where they have to respond fast and rush to the scene not knowing what to expect or what will happen.

During the past 25 years, some of the major coverages were terrorist attacks which required an emergency response and military operations which required not only travel to areas of conflict but elements of danger also.

Whether the assignments were in a con-

flict area or elsewhere it was important to get there in time to have the best opportunity for the best possible photographs. For this, at times we have travelled throughout the night to reach the destination.

In an emergency situation, the photojournalists rush out when a telephone call is received but keep in touch with the team members back in office to follow the latest developments.

There were numerous instances where our photojournalists have been obstructed or assaulted and their equipment damaged during their assignments.

Besides the photojournalism desk in the Sunday Times offices, we have a network of photographers based in the provinces. They coordinate with us to provide exclusive pictures of rare events besides covering provincial events assigned to them.

At the start, most of our photojournalists took pictures on normal cameras and we had to go to colour labs to develop the pictures. This was a long process. But today with digital cameras, it is almost instant photography and within minutes some major event is on the page.



Tsunami children of the East: Jan. 2, 2005



Pongu Tamil in the then LTTE-held areas in Vavuniya: Sept 24, 2003



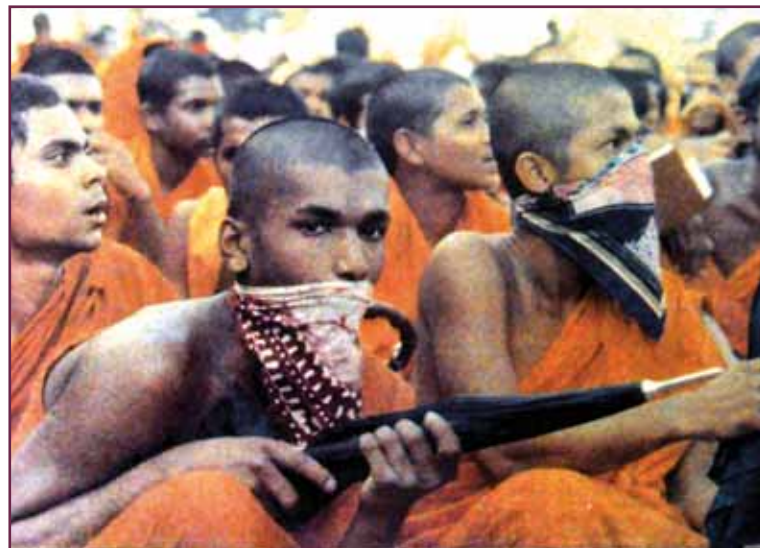
Town Hall bomb blast in which President Kumaratunga was injured in the eye: December 18, 1999



Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar with Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh: June 10, 2005



Mahanayakes shown the World Cup trophy: March 24, 1996



Buddhist monks at an anti-Govt. rally: July 30, 1989



LTTE suspects in military custody: June 7, 1987

