

Lalith killing: indictment soon

By Shelani de Silva

The Attorney General will soon indict an LTTE military wing member Kandiah Lingeswaran in connection with the murder of DUNF leader Lalith Athulathmudali.

Lingeswaran will be charged in the High Court with conspiracy to murder Mr. Athulathmudali and for aiding and abetting Ragunathan alias Romesh to commit the murder.

Kandiah Lingeswaran who is also known as 'Palan' and 'Kuna', as named by the military wing of the LTTE and the intelligence wing, had come to Colombo to assist Ragunathan on the advice of LTTE intelligence chief

Pottu Amman according to official evidence.

The body of Ragunathan alias Romesh who is alleged to have assassinated Mr. Athulathmudali was found a few yards away from the scene of the shooting.

Mr. Athulathmudali was gunned down in April last year when he was addressing a meeting at Kirulapone while campaigning for the DUNF at the Provincial Council Election. Lingeswaran was arrested on September 6, 1993 at a check point near Khan Clock Tower in Pettah.

He was travelling in a bus at the time of his arrest. The Navy personnel who were on a routine check took him to court

today since he could not produce a proper identity card.

When Lingeswaran was taken into the Navy vehicle one Navy officer ordered him to remove his shirt and suddenly Lingeswaran pulled out a pistol and fired at the sailors. But it missed the target. He was overpowered immediately and later handed over to the Crime Detection Bureau.

The CDB probed further and Lingeswaran was produced before the Chief Magistrate. On the basis of his confessions to the Chief Magistrate of Colombo, Lingeswaran would be indicted in the High Court, legal sources said.

Lingeswaran, at the

time of his arrest, was on another mission to hand over a weapon to another LTTE member to assault a top Tamil public officer.

The CDB has also arrested another person who allegedly wanted to join the DUNF in a bid to assassinate Gamini Disanayake.

The Tamil boy was first introduced to DUNF Secretary, G.M. Premachandra by a retired Education Officer. The boy has told Mr. Premachandra that he was interested in starting a Tamil newspaper.

LTTE had allegedly advised him to be friendly with the security staff of Mr. Disanayake in a bid to get his target.