

LTTE cuts down plans for polls

The LTTE has overturned plans to hold the Presidential election in LTTE-controlled areas in the North and is insisting on a ceasefire before further talks are held.

The Government had originally planned to hold the Presidential election in the LTTE-controlled areas and instructions had gone out to state officials to make arrangements for the polls. But with the cancellation of the second round of peace talks, following the bomb explosion in Colombo, the

LTTE had issued instructions that state officials should not get involved in election work.

Elections Commissioner Chandrananda de Silva confirmed that the government was planning to hold elections in the entire Northern Province. However, a senior Police spokesman said that the government would be able to conduct elections only in the areas under Army control, although announcements had been made that the election could be held in other

areas as well.

Deputy Inspector General Ignatius Canagaratnam told *The Sunday Times* that 450 policemen had been sent to the North for election duty.

The LTTE had announced in the North that in view of the cancellation of the second round of peace talks, it would not allow elections to be held in LTTE-controlled areas. It said the polls would have been allowed, if the talks were continued as scheduled.

A government spokes-

man said a decision about the continuation of the peace talks would be taken after the Presidential election, on Wednesday.

The Government has said it is awaiting the results of the investigations into the explosion in Colombo before proceeding with the talks. It said it would have to take a fresh look at the talks, if there was conclusive evidence that the LTTE was involved in the assassination of Gamini Disanayake.