

# Hate Incidents against Muslims: September – December 2013

*(Threats, attempted attacks, attacks, harassment, incitements and provocations directed at Muslims)*

1. **September 1, Media Interview:** Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) secretary Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara states in an interview to the Australia based Global Mail that “Any Muslims, they are very bad people here. They are creating all problems here.” According to the article the BBS members make unsupported claims, on scant evidence, that Muslims dominate Sri Lanka’s business community and provoke religious fundamentalism, and that Muslim doctors secretly sterilise Sinhalese women.

*The Global Mail:* <http://sri-lanka.theglobalmail.org/monks-army>, *Navamani – Page 1(Sept. 1)*

2. **September 2, Media Announcement:** Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) states that many banned goods are smuggled into Sri Lanka through a Muslim business channel. The JHU also alleges that there had been several instances where Muslims have tried to smuggle drugs into the country. These remarks were made by the national organizer of the JHU Mr Nishantha Sri Warnasinghe in a media announcement issued by him regarding the confiscation of a container which contained more than 250 KG of Brown sugar narcotic drugs concealed inside machine lubricant (grease) cans.

*Lanka C News -* <http://lankacnews.com/english/news/all-items-imported-from-pakistan-should-be-subjected-to-strict-scrutiny-jhu/>

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-09-06/south-asia/41833105\\_1\\_sri-lankan-heroin-karachi](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-09-06/south-asia/41833105_1_sri-lankan-heroin-karachi)

3. **September 4, Defence Seminar-2013:** Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa stated that the emergence of hard-line groups among the Sinhalese had caused further fragmentation of post-war Sri Lanka. He emphasised that the country was faced with the uphill task of tackling Sinhala hardliners as well as Muslim extremists. He was addressing the Defence Seminar in Colombo on September 3. The Defence Secretary said: "It has been observed that there are some foreign groups that wish to encourage Sri Lankan Muslims to identify themselves more with the global Muslim community, thereby reducing their integration with the rest of the population. It is a known fact that Muslim Fundamentalism is spreading all over the world and in this region. This is a situation that our law enforcement agencies and security forces are concerned about particularly as there have been instances where extremist elements have been in transit in Sri Lanka prior to arrest and handing over to appropriate authorities. The possibility that such extremist elements may try to promote Muslim extremism in Sri Lanka is a cause for concern."

*The Island - Page 1 (Sept. 4)*

<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130908/news/muslim-fundamentalism-gotabaya-and-hakeem-61321.html>

<https://www.google.lk/#q=Sinhala+Hardliners%2C+Muslim+Extremists+pose+great+threat%2C+Def.+Sec>

4. **September 4, Media Statement:** The Executive Committee of the Bodu Bala Sena hails remarks made by Secretary to the Ministry of Defence Gotabaya Rajapaksa at a Defence Seminar about the threat to Sri Lanka from rising Muslim Extremism as a courageous statement from a national leader and says it was an ‘important victory’ for the Bodu Bala Sena in its yearlong ideological battle. In a media statement BBS further stresses that it is the nation’s good fortune that Muslim extremism has been identified and exposed now before it could bring about another 30 years of war with devastating consequences in 20 years’ time.

*Colombo Telegraph -* <https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/gotas-statement-on-muslim-extremism-is-an-important-victory-bbs/>

5. **September 05, Media Conference:** In a media conference Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara charges that the Muslims are smugglers of contraceptive pills and drugs into the country. He blames Muslims for destroying the demand on the international tea trade. He states that all the Muslim women prisoners are drug offenders whereas the majority of the Sinhala and Tamil women prisoners are there because their crimes are related to family problems. He says that there are over 1,000 Pakistanis and Afghanis living in the Negombo area and requests an investigation as he finds their presence in a Sinhala Buddhist country to be suspicious. He accuses the Muslims for selling “Babul” (a narcotic containing ingredients such as tobacco, areca-nut, clove and betel leaf) to Sinhala students. He warns the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulema that the public will take the law unto their own hands if they continue with Halal Certification.

*Vidivelli – page 01 (Dec. 5)*

6. **September 10, Press Conference:** The Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara announced at a press conference in Kirillapone that an important Muslim minister and a leader of a Muslim organisation were having close contact with Yusuf al-Qaradawi who funds Islamic extremist organisations like al-Qaeda and Hamaz. He thanks the Secretary of Defence for acting based on the advice of BBS with regard to the Muslim extremism. He further stated that some Muslim extremist groups were creating religious polarisation among the people of this county. According to him there are more than ten Muslim extremist organisations functioning in Sri Lanka and they receive funds from Islamic countries. He also mentioned that the leader of Sri Lanka Muslim Congress Rauf Hakeem and Ameen of the Muslim Council of Sri Lanka secretly met Yusuf al-Qaradawi in Qatar, and they are maintaining a close relationship and that Yusuf al-Qaradawi is also trying to fund the Shura (consultation) Council which will control all the Ulama councils. The Rev. Gnanasara stated further that he is ready to reveal information related to these issues when the need arises.

*Thinakkural – Page 2 (Sept 11)*

7. **September 10, Devanagala, Mawanella, Kegalle District:** Rev. Magalkantha Sudhantha of Sinhala Ravaya and the secretary of the National Campaign to Protect Devanagala, Buddhika Dias stated at a media conference that the non- Buddhist community (Muslims) residing within the Devanagala historic sacred land should be removed. They stated that they wanted the 72 acres of land belonging to the Department of Archaeology to be surveyed in an appropriate manner by the government and the boundaries marked before the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. They threatened to commit suicide by leaping from the summit of the rock if the government failed to do so within the stipulated time. They further stated that the sacrifice of life was for the sake of “our nationality” and that the president and the government should take responsibility for the sacrifice. This communiqué was signed in the presence of media personnel and arrangements were made to deliver it to the president.

*Rivira - Page 12 (Sept 13)*

8. **September 11, Media Statement:** Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says that due to the activities of the Muslim extremism sale of drugs have increased in the country. He urges the government to take action against this phenomenon. He says “many Muslims are coming from various Muslim countries but no one here looks into who they are and what their background is”. He stated that drugs are brought to Sri Lanka from Afghanistan and Pakistan and are destroying the Sinhala and Tamil races.

*Virakesari – Page 5 (Sept. 11)*

9. **September 11, Media Conference:** Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) Leader Ven. Omalpe Sobhitha commended the Defence Secretary’s recent speech highlighting the existence of Muslim Extremism in Sri Lanka. He criticized Muslim ministers Rauf Hakeem and Rishad Bathiudeen for asking in Parliament for further clarifications about the speech and asked if they

either defended these elements of extremism or feared that the defence secretary's statement would lead to the revelation of hitherto hidden information. The Ven. thero went on to state that the political activities of Muslim leaders who worked closely with the LTTE have not been forgotten by the people, that the people do not need to be reminded of the fact that Muslim leaders sent wreaths to LTTE deputy head Tamil Chelvam's funeral, and that they took measures to topple the government at crucial times during the war with the LTTE. The thero further stated that there was Islamic extremism spreading all over the world disturbing the peaceful existence of people.

*Ceylon Today*, page 3 - <http://www.ceylontoday.lk/e-paper.html>

<https://soundcloud.com/bodu-bala-sena-sri-lanka/bbs-media-conference-10-09>

- 10. September 12 – Dambulla, Matale District:** Mr Ahamed Lebbe, the president of the Dambulla Jumma Mosque trustee board revealed to Thinakural the plan of the authorities to expedite the process of acquiring the mosque land. According to Mr. Lebbe the Road Development Authorities and Surveyors from Matale entered the mosque premises at 11.30 a.m. on September 11 and surveyed until 2.20 p.m. and demarcated the area that is to come under the acquisition plan. The trustees of the mosque fear that according to the new plan the mosque will be removed from the present location. They also blamed the Muslim politicians for not doing much to save the mosque.

*Thinakkural - Page 1 (Sept. 12)*

- 11. September 14, Devanagala, Mawanella, Kegalle District:** The Sinhala Ravaya Organization stated at a press conference today that the meat stall at Devanagala sacred area has been removed with the intervention of the Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse. The beef stall has been operating under the license issued by the Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha. Participating in a media conference at Devanagala, the National Organizer of Sinhala Ravaya Rev. Magalkande Sudantha said “we came here to take a historical decision. We were here to start a protest to death. There is a meat stall started at the sacred area without permission. We made the Defence Ministry aware of this. Nothing was done by the provincial council members to stop this. We were personally informed by the Defence Secretary that this will be closed”. This beef stall was run by a Muslim and the Sinhala Ravaya claims that the land where the stall is, comes under the ‘Temple and Devala’ Act.

*Ada – Page 6 (Sept 13), Rivira -Page 12 (Sept 13) Nawamani – Page 10 (Sept 22), Lank C*

*News* <http://lankacnews.com/english/news/the-meat-stall-at-devanagala-scared-area-removed-as-per-gotas-order/>

- 12. September 15, Press Statement:** The Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) threatened to resume its campaign against the ‘Halal certification’ process on the basis that the Government had failed to keep to its promises on this issue. Bodu Bala Sena Secretary stated that he hoped to meet Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapakse soon and thereafter would take a decision on the re-launch of the campaign against the Halal certification process. He further stated that Bodu Bala Sena intended to start a fast-unto-death campaign in Kandy at the end of September. It was in Kandy that BBS stopped the campaign against Halal certification after assurances from the Government.

*The Sunday Times* - <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130915/news/bbs-threatens-to-resume-anti-halal-campaign-62480.html>

- 13. September 15, Pulmoddai, Trincomalee District:** More than 1,500 acres of land belonging to Muslims and the state have been surveyed and will be acquired for the purpose of constructing a Buddhist temple, establishing a sacred zone, for archaeological exploration, and for expanding the camps of the security forces. Arisi Malai, 13<sup>th</sup> Mile Post, Ponmalikuda are the areas that come under the survey.

*Virakesari - Page 1 (Sept 15)*

**14. September 16, Thoppur, Trincomalee District:** According to former parliamentarian M Mahroof 50 acres of land was “grabbed” to construct a Buddhist vihara at Thoppur or Akkarai, a Muslim village in Chelva Nagar GS division. Residents alleged that the divisional secretary of Seruwila has instructed the village (GS) officer to acquire and hand over the lands evicting 60 Muslim families living on the said lands. They said at the beginning six acres of lands were allocated but later the extent of land has been increased. There are no Buddhists in the above village; Muslims have been living there for generations.

*Thinakkural – Page 3*

<http://www.eelamnation.net/elem/newsdetails.php?newsId=8091>

**15. September 16, Viyangala, Agalawatta, Kalutara District:** More than ten Buddhist Monks surrounded the Viyangala abattoir in the Agalawatta Pradeshiya Sabha on the morning of September 16th. There was no slaughtering of any cattle but the butchers and others started calling the Colombo politicians for help. On hearing of the incident the local police rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control. Although the neighbouring Mattugama Pradeshiya Sabha has banned cattle slaughtering in its jurisdiction such activities remained legal within the Agalawatta Pradhiya Sabha. The local parliamentarian who arrived there at that time has told the butchers that he is with them and to continue their business. No one has rights to interrupt a legally functioning business, the politician stated.

*Nawamani – Page 4 (Sept 22)*

**16. September 17, Bulathsinhala, Egaloya, Kalutara District:** A large gathering of Buddhist Monks, patrons and donors to the local temple held a protest walk on 16<sup>th</sup> against the burning of the Paramitha Vishwa Samadhi Dharmayathanaya situated in Egaloya, Bulthsinhala. According to the National organiser of the Maha Sanga Sabha Ven Pahiyangala Ananda Sagara, a group had thrown a party to celebrate the burning of the Dharmayathanaya. President of the Sinhala Ravaya Rev. Akmeemana Dayartana says “today Muslim mosques are being constructed, praying halls are being constructed, restaurants and brothels are being constructed but nobody takes steps to burn them, yet there are groups to burn the Buddhist Temples”. He urged the authorities to find the people responsible for the incident

*Mowbima – 17 (Sept 17)*

Lanka C News - <http://lankacnews.com/english/news/after-a-dharmayathanaya-was-burnt-a-party-had-been-thrown/>

**17. September 19, Hirimpura, Galle District:** Muslims of the Joseph Estate in Hirimpura were attacked on September 13<sup>th</sup> around 1.30 a.m. by a group of people carrying weapons including iron-rods and swords. The mob was using provocative language for Muslims to retaliate, but Muslims neither responded nor came out of their houses instead they called the police. Then the angry mob damaged the houses. The tense situation prevailed until the police came to the scene by 2.30 a.m. and brought the situation under control. According to the newspaper the Muslim people of the area continue to live in fear and asked the police to provide security.

*Vidivelli – Page 1 (Sept 19)*

**18. September 19, Media Conference:** Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says in a press conference held in the Buddhist Centre, Kirillapone that the headquarters of the Islamic Wahhabi and Salafi movements operate in the east to spread the philosophy of Yusuf al-Qaradawi. He stated that he plans to destroy the Muslim extremism that is spreading in the east and that very soon the BBS will enter Akkaraipattu and Tirukkovil area at the request of the people. He said that he plans to bring all the Buddhist movements together under a two year plan and fight against Muslim extremism. He also warned that everyone will be affected if the youth attracted by the Wahhabi and Salafi ideologies start fighting among themselves.

*Vidivelli - Page 1 (Sept 19)*

- 19. September 19, Press Release:** Brigadier Ruwan Wanigasooriya sent an email to media personnel with the subject line 'We are not alone in the current dialogue'. Contained in the email was an article that appeared in the UK based Independent newspaper about the on-going debate in Britain about the Muslim dress code. The article relates to race relations in the UK after a judge asked a veiled woman to remove her burqa in order to give evidence at a trial. The "current dialogue" in Sri Lanka with regards to the Muslim dress is led openly by the anti-Muslim Bodu Bala Sena and other hard line organisations and is seen as part of the groups' on-going campaign of intolerance against the country's Muslim minority community.
- Colombo Telegraph* - <https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/sri-lankas-defence-establishment-promotes-islamophobia/>
- 20. September 22, Twitter Message:** Bodu Bala Sena in its twitter message immediately after the Northern Provincial Council election results were out, conveys the need to finish off with Muslims first as they are the real threat and then deal with Tamil National Alliance. It states that the Sinhalese Buddhists must now realise why it (the BBS) opposed Northern Provincial Council Elections. The message further says that 2015 will be the year for Buddhists not for Muslims. *(Sinhalese Buddhists must now realised why we opposed #NWP Elections. This is absurd how they (TNA) want to rule our land on their own. But still we want to finish off with Muslims first as they are our real threat. Remember, 2015 will be the year of Buddhists not for Muslims).*
- BoduBalaSena\_@BoduBalaSena
- 21. September 27, Dambulla, Matale District:** The residents (Hindus and Muslims) of Dambulla Buddhist sacred area were issued letters by the Urban Development Authority (UDA) on 27 September and were asked to leave the area by the end of September. They were promised alternate lands on Kandalama Road, in the Pollwatha area. Some Muslim families living on this land which is deemed to be a sacred area had lived here for over 100 years.
- Ceylon Today* - <http://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-13879-news-detail-muslim-mps-to-discuss- eviction-of-dambulla-residents.html>
- 22. October 2, Dambulla, Matale District:** Hindus and Muslims evicted from Dambulla on the grounds that they were occupying land sacred to the Buddhists, say that they are still waiting for alternative accommodation as promised by Prime Minister D. M. Jayarante during his visit to the area prior to the recently concluded Provincial Council Elections. Prime Minister Jayaratne had visited the place and assured the Chief Priest of the Hindu Temple and the evicted Muslims from their lands more than a year before, that they would be resettled in Polwatte, Dambulla.
- The Island* - [http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article- details&code\\_title=89374 Lets put in a list of dates referencing other reporting from Dambulla- something like. Please see report from September 27<sup>th</sup> 2013 etc.](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article- details&code_title=89374 Lets put in a list of dates referencing other reporting from Dambulla- something like. Please see report from September 27<sup>th</sup> 2013 etc.)
- 23. October 3, Kuragala, Balangoda, Ratnapura District:** Jailanee including the Mosque and the surrounding area have been declared as an archaeological site and all buildings except the Mosque have been demolished by the civil defence force. The imam's (priest) room and the office were removed last week. Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) had previously vowed to remove the mosque from Kuragala.
- Vidivelli – Page 1 (Oct 3)*
- 24. October 5, Anuradhapura, Anuradhapura District:** 'The time has come to show who the rightful race of this country is'. This was a statement made by Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara of the Bodu Bala Sena at the Rajarata Conference of the Bodu Bala Sena held at the Salgado Stadium in Anuradhapura. He further mentioned 'Rauf Hakeem wants the East, Vigneswaran wants the North and in a few days they will say that Colombo is ours. Tamils say the North is theirs the Muslims extremists claim that the east is theirs. Now it is time for us to show who the rightful owners of Sri Lanka are and who are foreign. Before we build roads and the tallest tower

in Asia we should show who the historic nationals of this country are' he stated. He also stated that when different missionaries visit your homes, it is no use informing the police. The police cannot do anything about it, as these are not mentioned in the law books, 'We have to make our own laws' he said, when such things happen we should use the broom. 'This is the alternative' he said.

*Ada - Page 7 (Oct 7)*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv3OmxNzAro>

- 25. October 12, Valaichchenai, Batticaloa District:** A Buddha statue was planted in a private land at Kumburumoolai Division on Pasikuda Road, Valaichchenai that belongs to a retired Muslim teacher Hayathu Muhamadu Muhamadu Ibrahim on 4<sup>th</sup> October, without prior consent of the owner. However this statue was removed from the place on 11<sup>th</sup> October. According to newspaper reports the same statue had been placed for a few days and then removed from several places in the area, allegedly by the Buddhist Monk attached to the Valaichchenai Sri Buddha Jayanthi Temple.

*Thinakural - Page 4 (Oct 12)*

- 26. October 12, Kurundugahahethakma, Elpitiya, Galle District:** Rev. Akmeemana Dayarathana of Sinhala Ravaya, a group of around 1,000 residents of the area, as well as members of the Sinhala Ravaya staged a protest against a Muslim businessman who was to open a gold jewellery shop in the town. The Muslim businessman had leased the shop from a Sinhalese businessman, paying Rs 500,000. Minister of Resettlement, Mr Gunaratne Weerakoon intervened and has ordered the Sinhala Ravaya, out from Kurundugahahethakma. The monk had allegedly abused the minister in lewd language when the latter had pleaded with the prelate not to whip up racial disharmony. The incident was triggered off by the Chairman of the Kurundugahahethakma Pradeshiya Sabha, Gamini Amarawansa, who had joined the procession and said, "We have won today" implying that the battle to get the Muslim businessman out of the vicinity had succeeded. The Minister had lodged a complaint with the Elpitiya Police.

*Mawbima Page 12, Ada Page 14, Ceylon Today - <http://www.ceylontoday.lk/16-44909-news-detail-sihala-ravaya-ordered-out.html>*

- 27. October 15, Kottikawatta, Colombo District:** A W M Sihan, United National Party Member of the Kottikawatta Pradeshiya Sabha says that Bodu Bala Sena has taken away 11 cattle by force that were brought for the Hajj animal sacrifice (qurban) on 14<sup>th</sup> mid-night. Out of 11 cattle the Pradeshiya Sabha has given approval for five and the rest were awaiting approval. Sihan also said the cattle traders were also attacked by the Bodu Bala Sena. He further stated that these incidents happened even after the chief Minister of the Western Province had warned the Pradeshiya Sabha chairman not to disturb qurban activities.

*Vidivelli (Oct 17)*

- 28. October 15, Statement:** The National Organizer of the Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), Rev. Vitharandeniya Nanda, says the halal struggle that was deflected and halted, will resume on 22 October. Though the Defence Secretary and the Mahanayake Theras had intervened and stated that the dispute would be resolved, no measures had been taken so far in this regard, while the BBS had become a victim of deceit, the monk said. He also said a motorcade will start from Colombo and proceed to the Dalada Maligawa in Kandy on 22 October and after paying homage to the Maligawa, action will be initiated to boycott products labelled as halal.

*Lakbima – Page 1 (Oct 15, Ceylon Today - <http://www.ceylontoday.lk/16-44955-news-detail-bbs-to-resume-anti-halal-agitation.html>*

- 29. October 16, Kandy, Kandy District:** Swarnamali Vidyalaya in Kandy closed school on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October due to a teachers development program and made up for this day by opening school

on the 16th of October, on the day the Haj festival was celebrated by Muslims. Some of the staff and parents had protested against the school functioning on Haj festival day. Principal of the school stated that the school functioning on the 16th was with the consent of the Zonal Education Director.

*Dinamina- Page 7 (Oct 17)*

- 30. October 16 - Kannathotta, Kegalle District:** Muslims in this area were prevented from performing the animal sacrifice (qurban) until the day of the Haj festival. In spite of early requests made by the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council member and the president of Kannathotta Jumma mosque Nihal Faruk, the Pradeshiya Sabha, the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector delayed the issue of permits due to pressure from extremist elements. It was only after the people of the area contacted Mr Basil Rajapaksha (The minister of Economic Development and the President's brother) the permit was issued, that too on the day of the Haj festival

*Vidivelli – Page 2*

- 31. October 16, Ruwanwella, Kegalle District:** Qurban ritual to be held in celebration of the Hajj festival in Ruwanwella yesterday, by the Kannattota and Bulathkohupitiya mosques, had to be cancelled due to the Ruwanwella Pradeshiya Sabha failing to issue a permit on time to slaughter 41 cattle. Opposition Leader of the Pradeshiya Sabha, Mohommad Shiyam, said they had sought a licence since it involves a religious practice. When inquiries were made by Ceylon Today, Ruwanwella Police Officer- In-Charge said, Ven. Badalkumbura Wimalaratane of Lenagala Rajamaha Viharaya had lodged a complaint against the planned cattle slaughter.

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-45103-news-detail-hajj-ritual-interrupted.html>

- 32. October 20, Statement:** Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara of the Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) alleges that the controversial 'Halal' logo was once again being printed on certain products and released to the market and accused the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) of going back on its earlier promise to ensure that no new products were released to the market with the logo. Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara claims that new products released to the market also carry the Halal logo. Thus the BBS will once again take up its fight against the Halal issue. However the ACJU official commented that after discussions it was decided that the Halal logo was optional and it was up to the companies to decide if their products should carry the Halal logo.

*The Nation - <http://www.nation.lk/edition/news-online/item/22095-halal-logo-re-emerges-bbs-alleges.html>*

- 33. October 21, Dambulla, Matale District:** S Y M Saleem, Member of the Board of Trustees of Dambulla Mosque told Sudaroli Newspaper that around 10.30 p.m. a mob had thrown pig meat into the mosque compound and lit crackers. Even though the mosque is provided police protection such activities continue to take place, he stated. According to Mr Saleem this is the second such incident in recent days. He also mentioned pig's blood has been sprayed on the mosque premises recently. As a result, the Muslim residents of the area live in fear

*Sudar Oli - Page 1, Lakbima - Page 8*

- 34. October 22, Procession:** The Bodu Bala Sena monks led group re-launches its anti-Halal campaign with a motorcade that left Colombo for Kandy on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October. A special religious ceremony was held before the Sacred Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, to invoke blessings for the campaign. The BBS motorcade departed for Kandy from the Buddhist Centre in Kirulapone. The contingent from Colombo was joined by a number of vehicles at Ambepussa and Kegalle. They held a public rally at Kegalle, chanted anti-minority slogans and made hate speeches against the Muslim community, before heading off to Kandy. Kegalle is home to a significant Muslim population. The BBS claims that thousands of people and hundreds of vehicles joined and that the campaign was successful.

*Divaina - Page 1 (Oct 23), Lakkima – Page 3 (Oct 23), Ceylon Today, Daily FT -*  
<http://www.ft.lk/2013/10/23/bbs-re-launches-anti-halal-campaign/>

- 35. October 22, Press Interview:** The Bodu Bala Sena believes its anti-Halal agitation is far more important than taking up the Government's move to create casino zones in the capital Colombo, the group's Chief Executive Officer Dilantha Withanage tells the media. Withanage also criticized the letter released by Governor of the Western Province Alavi Moulana requesting all the heads of the local governments in the province to cooperate and assist with the annual Hajj cattle sacrifice (qurban). He pointed to the fact that the letter was written on a letterhead that features the Dharma Chakra, a Buddhist symbol.

*Virakesari – Page 1 (29<sup>th</sup> October) Lanka – Page 1 (27<sup>th</sup> October), Colombo Telegraph -*  
<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/anti-halal-campaign-more-important-than-casinos-bbs/>

- 36. October 23, Statement:** Dilantha Withanage the CEO of Bodu Bala Sena says that the BBS has declared the oncoming year starting from October 23rd as the "Anti-Halal year". The members of the BBS have made vows yesterday (October 22) before the sacred tooth relic that they are going to fight with their lives against the spreading of the Halal concept.

*Sudar Oli Page 1 (Oct 24), The Independent -* <http://www.theindependent.lk/news2/1616-bbs-declares-anti-halal-year>

- 37. October 25, Statement:** Who gave authority to All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) to issue halal certificate, who are these Ulama, asked Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara of the Bodu Bala Sena. According to the report featured in the Tamil language Virakesari Newspaper Rev. Gnanasara vowed to fight continuously if the ACJU doesn't completely withdraw Halal certification. He blamed the ACJU for cheating some Buddhist monks and feeding Halal food to Sinhala Buddhists. Sri Lanka is a Buddhist country, they cannot cheat us always, he stated. Our motorcade protest to Kandy which was meant to raise awareness among the Sinhalese was a success, the Rev. Monk stated.

*Virakesari – Page 9, (Oct 25)*

- 38. October 30, Press Interview:** We also have a right to boycott what is certified as halal, Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says in an interview with Ceylon Today. He further says that the halal issue has divided society and many people felt hurt, directly or indirectly. The halal process is a part of the Sharia law, which is not a part of the legal system of this country, he stated. He goes on to say that the Muslims in Akurana speak the Arabic language, but the Sri Lankan Muslims do not traditionally speak Arabic. He suspects that later the Muslims will want the Arabic language also recognized as an official language. The halal issue is like a monster and it is more serious than casinos, he said, and vowed to continue the fight against the halal certification.

*Ceylon Today:* <http://www.ceylontoday.lk/59-46149-news-detail-halal-is-my-priority.html>

- 39. October 31, Colombo, Colombo District:** The members of the Bodu Bala Sena descended upon the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs in large numbers today and blamed the ministry for not taking action against the unethical conversion in the country. The Ven. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara told the secretary to the Ministry that the Christian and Muslim Fundamentalisms are increasing in the country and the Buddhist and Hindus are brainwashed and forcefully converted to their religions. He stated the domination of the Muslims and Christians has been increased in the country; particularly the Muslim fundamentalism has become stronger. He queried why the Ministry is not doing anything to stop these developments. He further said that the Muslims have only 600 years history in this country and able to establish 58 Quadi courts around the country, but there is not a single court for the Buddha Sasana and also more than 400 organisations are functioning against Buddhists.



Virakesari –Page 1 (Nov 1), Daily Mirror - <http://www.dailymirror.lk/caption-story/37966-bbs-accuses-buddha-sasana-ministry.html>

<http://lankacnews.com/english/news/bodu-bala-sena-raids-the-buddha-sasana-ministry-to-chase-evil-spirits-had-chanted-pirith/>

<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/bbs-to-surround-ministry-of-buddha-sasana-soon/>

- 40. November 4, Dompe, Gampaha District:** Dompe Pradeshiya Sabha decided to close all beef stalls in the Dompe electorate. The proposal to close the beef stalls was brought by Member of UPFA Aminda Rajapaksa. Nine voted for the closure while five voted against it. The butchers and the owners of the beef stalls who are Muslims lose their business, while the people who want to eat beef are deprived.

*Thinakaran – Page 4, Lanka C News* <http://lankacnews.com/english/news/to-close-all-beef-stalls-in-dompe-electorate-a-voting-was-held-at-pc/>

- 41. November 6, Akkarai, Thoppor, Trincomalee District:** While a farmer was preparing his land for cultivation a group of people from the Majority community have arrived there with a surveyor and started surveying his and the neighbouring lands without the owners' permission. When the farmer tried to stop them surveying his land there was an altercation. The Seruvila Police arrived on the scene shortly thereafter and resolved the quarrel and requested the group to temporarily stop surveying the land. Local Muslims claimed that Buddhists of the neighbouring areas were trying to acquire land owned by Muslims to build Buddhist temples. Muslims have ownership documents to their lands but still feel that the very existence of their village is threatened.

*Thinakural, Page 2 (Nov 8)*

- 42. November 6, Kirillapone, Media Conference:** the General Secretary of Bodu Bala Sena, Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara said at a press conference that they protested against both halal and casinos but they consider Halal a greater threat. He said, Halal makes divisions within the society and it affects the country in more serious ways than the casinos. Rev. Gnanasara wants Halal to be banned immediately. During the Tsunami Sinhalese gave food packs to Muslims and no one was bothered about halal or haram, he stated. According to him Halal is a myth created by the Jamiyyathul Ulama. "Recently we organised a motorcade to oppose the Halal. We met with the Chamber of Commerce and they assured us that they would find a reasonable solution. If there is no proper response from the Chamber we will go to court to find a solution" he said.

*Vidivelli – Page 1 (Nov 7)*

- 43. November 8, Colombo.** The Registrar General A M Gunasekera has instructed all the Muslim Registrars around the country not to register any marriages between foreign Muslims and local Muslims. In his circular the Registrar General elaborates that there is no provision in the Muslim personal law to register foreigners. Therefore do not register any marriage involving foreigners. If both parties are Muslims, their marriage cannot also be registered under the normal marriage law or upcountry marriage law.

*Navamani Page 7 (Nov 8)*

- 44. November 8, Izzadeen Town, Matara.** The Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs cancelled the registration of the Issadeen Town Masjid Al-Taqwa (Mosque). The director of the above ministry informed the Wakf Board about the cancellation of the registration. In his letter he points out that the chief monk of the Issadeen Town Ashokarama Temple Rev. Dr Kanathakoda Satharaja, registrar of the Matara Sasana, and the chief inspector of Matara claim that the mosque is a threat to local peace as there are three mosques in the 1.5 sq. km area where a large number of Buddhists live.

*Nawamani Page 9 (Nov 8)*

- 45. November 17, Kekkirawa, Anuradhapura District:** A Jummah Mosque situated on the A9 Main Road in the Kekkirawa Police Division came under attack by an unidentified gang. Trustees of the Mosque say glass panes of the Mosque have been shattered in the course of attack.

*Thinakural Page 1 (Nov 19)*

- 46. November 20, Ninthavur, Ampara District:** Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara requested a presidential intervention to settle the Ninthavur unrest. He says the area became tense after a gang of thieves, who were apprehended and handed over to the police, were released without any action. It appears that the thieves were members of the Special Task Force (Police). They had burgled houses in this area for some time. One day the people remained alert and apprehended them and handed them over to the police. Ninthavur is a Muslim village. (See report from Nov. 21 below)

*Daily Mirror – Page 2 (Nov 20), Mawbima Page 3 (Nov 20)*

- 47. November 21, Press Release:** the Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) spokesman accuses in his press statement that a Sri Lanka Muslim Congress politician was behind the tense situation in Ninthavur. He alleges that the SLMC Eastern Provincial Council Politician gave leadership to the 36 hours protest, which was finally dispersed by the anti-riot squad.

*Ada – Page 3 (Nov 22), Lakbima – Page 12 (Nov 22), Sudar Oli – Page 2 (Nov 26)*

- 48. November 25, Press Interview:** Minister Champika Ranawak of Jathika Hela Urmaya in an interview to Daily Mirror tells the Muslims not to create social segregation the way Prabakharan of LTTE did. The way the Muslims dress, eat and act are the reasons for their segregation, he stressed. He says that no Muslim leaders have ever asked their youth to join the forces to defeat the LTTE despite the harassment of LTTE for the Muslim community, but now they are talking about the harassment of Bodu Bala Sena. He also warned the people about the Muslim expansionism and existence of Wahabism in the country.

*Daily Mirror – Page 1 (Nov 25)*

- 49. November 26, Twitter Message:** Bodu Bala Sena in its Twitter message welcomes the opening of the first Buddhist temple in Israel. The message reads “*First Buddhist temple opened in Israel is a blessing for the Buddhist in Sri Lanka to suppress the Muslims*”.

[BoduBalaSena @BoduBalaSena](#) 26 Nov

- 50. November 28, Dewanagala, Mawanella, Kegalle District:** The Ven. Magalkande Sudantha, the Convenor of the Sinhala Ravaya and four other Monks have begun a fast unto death campaign near the clock tower in Mawanella since the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. These Monks are urging the archaeological department to survey the land around the Dewanagala Raja Maha Viharaya (Buddhist Temple). According to these Buddhist monks, intruders (Muslims) are carrying out illegal mining and construction activities in the area. They claim that this is a security risk to the religious site and that it also damages the archaeological value of the location. Hundreds of Muslim families are living in approximately 72 acres of this land and the priests called upon the department to remove these Muslims from this area and takeover the land. The fast unto death was begun by the Monks claiming that the survey was being delayed.

*Ada – Page 5 (Nov 29) Mawbima – page 1 (Nov 29), Page 4 (Nov) Lakbima – Page 1 (Nov 30), <http://www.hirunews.lk/72280/update-six-buddhist-monks-stage-protest-in-mawanella>*

- 51. December 1, University of Moratuwa, Colombo District:** The Moratuwa university says it has banned Muslim students from wearing the face veil (Niqab) owing to security concerns. The Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. A.K.W. Jayawardane stated that the students were informed that the face veil cannot be worn as there are concerns that unknown elements may

enter the university with their faces covered and that could raise a security issue. Fathima Sahar, (not her real name) a first year student at the Faculty of Architecture of the above University is the first victim of the ban. In an article published in the journalism website Groundviews, Sahar claimed that the niqab was previously never an issue for the University of Moratuwa. She was not the first student to wear it. A few years ago the University had its first niqabi enrol and complete her studies and graduated without hindrance. One other student who is affected by this decision started wearing it in September 2011. She has been banned from wearing the niqab after two years of wearing it in university. Sahar wonders why this is happening now. The Higher Education Ministry has said that there is no rule or regulations that prevent female Muslim students from covering their faces.

*Ada – Page 5 (Dec 2), Virakesari – Page 8 (Dec 2) Daily Mirror – Page 1 (Dec 2) Sunday Leader – Page 09 (Dec 8)*

<http://groundviews.org/2013/12/09/the-niqab-and-the-university-of-moratuwa/>

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/39642-face-veil-no-issue.html>

<http://colombogazette.com/2013/12/01/moratuwa-uni-bans-face-veil/>

- 52. December 3, Dewanagala, Mawanella, Kegalle District:** Surveying the controversial land of Dewanagala commenced today (December 3). The Department of Archaeology has informed nearly 100 Muslim families to vacate the Dewanagala area in Mawanella. These families were living here for over 200 years and they have necessary documents in their possessions to prove that they are lawful owners of the lands they live in. These families were asked to leave reportedly due to the pressure from the Sinhala Ravaya, the extremist Buddhist group which has been agitating to chase the Muslims away from this area. The Sinhala Ravaya launched many campaigns including staging a fast unto death (see November 25) to make Dewanagala a Buddhist Sacred area sans minorities. In August 23, 2013 the Presidential motorcade was brought to a halt by the Sinhala Ravaya in Mawanella while President Mahinda Rajapaksa was returning after attending a ceremony in Mawanella. They handed over a petition to the President urging him to take steps immediately to protect the sacred land of Dewangala. They alleged that the area has been encroached by Muslims. The President assured that he would order an inquiry into the matter and take appropriate action. However, the reason given by the Department of Archaeology ordering the Muslims to leave from there is that they have earmarked the land surrounding the Dewanagala rock for Archaeological excavation. In the meantime Ven. Anuradhapura Amitha Dhamma who was present at the site aggravated the already tense situation. The monk wanted the archaeological site to be extended beyond the 400 meters as currently planned and have all houses and mosques in the vicinity demolished. He allegedly claimed that he had destroyed the mosques in Anuradhapura, and vowed that he would destroy the ones in Kegalle in the same way.

*Virakesari – Page 12 (Dec 8), Nawamani – Page 4 (Dec 6), Thinakural – Page 3 (Dec 5) Thinakkural – Page 1 (Dec 24)*

<http://33000news.blogspot.com/2013/12/news-for-dewanagala.html>

<http://www.virakesari.lk/?q=node/359740>

<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130825/columns/president-talks-of-ghost-stories-59531.html>

- 53. December 7, Morawak Watte, Thagaspittiya, Ridigama, Kurunegala District:** The Land Reform Commission takes measurers to transfer the ownership of 6.5 acres of private land in Thagaspittiya Morawak watte to the Paththiny Devalaya (Temple) in Kandy. This land belongs to 40 Muslim families and 2 Sinhala families. The Muslims are highly disturbed due to the fact that these lands were given to them officially in 1976 by the government under the rural development scheme and they have built their own houses and established livelihoods. They were asked to leave their lands without any prior notice, compensation or provision of an alternative land.

*Thinakural – Page 4 (Dec 7)*

**54. December 10, Media Conference:** Bodu Bala Sena has sought to bring to the Governments notice that some government institutions headed by Muslims recruit only Muslims for the highest positions and no opportunities were given to the Sinhalese, says the Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara of the Bodu Bala Sena in a media conference held in the Buddhist Centre in Kirullapone. He wants the government too to take responsibilities for the Muslim Fundamentalism that destroys the Sinhala Buddhists and Tamils. He asks the President, Prime Minister, Ministers and their advisors to learn the history and the culture of this country. The Rev. Gnanasara blames the government for not listening to the advice given by the BBS to not allow the extremists and separatists of the Middle East into the country. He goes on blaming the Government advisors who he thinks are introducing some culture that are not existing anywhere in the world. He expressed his anger over the letter issued by the governor of the western province to the local governments to allow the cattle slaughtering (sacrifice) during the Hajj festival. Muslim extremism increases and the birth rate of the Muslims are many times more than that of the Buddhists and Tamils in this country, he says.

*Thinakural – Page 2, Virakesari – Page 3. Nawamani – Page 3 (Dec 13) Lakbima – Page 2, Mowbima – page 8 (Dec 12)*

**55. December 12, Statement:** Those who slaughter animals cannot call it a sacrifice. There is no place for animal sacrifice and Muslim extremism in a Buddhist country, Bodu Bala Sena announces. In the name of religion animals are slaughtered in this country and the Muslims perform it in their festivals according to their religious belief, which we cannot accept as a sacrifice, Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says. He further says that sacrifice is the core principle of the Buddhist religion. He states that Sri Lanka is a Sinhala Buddhist country; it should be governed according to Buddhist principles. Rev. Gnanasara says, Muslims should not spread their policies in the areas where the Sinhalese and Tamils live and insult the Buddhist religion. If the Government doesn't take notice of these, we may have to destroy everything, he warns.

<http://www.virakesari.lk/?q=node/359865>

**56. December 13, Kohuwala, Dehiwala, Colombo District:** The Dehiwala Police orders the Mosque administration of the Dharus Safiee Mosque at Kadawatha Road in Kohuwala to stop conducting prayers and issuing the call to prayer five times a day. This mosque has been functioning for the last three years with the approval of the Department of the Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs and the Wakf Board. The Mount Lavinia Divisional Superintendent of Police at a meeting in his office on December 11 requested the Trustees of the Mosque to stop all activities until the Trustees obtain approval from the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs.

*Nawamani – Page 1 (December 13)*

**57. December 13, Kohuwala, Dehiwala, Colombo District:** A handbill has been circulated in the Kalubowila area stating that the activities of the Muslims of the area constitute a “public nuisance.” It further says that there will be a meeting on December 15 at the Sunantharama temple under the leadership of the General Secretary of Sinhala Ravaya, Rev. Akmeemana Dayarathana to discuss the problem.

*Nawamani – Page 1 (Dec 13)*

**58. December 15, Aththidiya, Dehiwala, Colombo District:** Police officers visited Aththidiya Masjid Ul Hifa (Mosque), Dehiwala and order the mosques Trustees to stop prayers services. This mosque has been facing threats since the Ramadan fasting period and the residents of the area believe that the Buddhist monk from the majority community works behind such activities.

**59. December 15, Dehiwala, Colombo District:** Police Officers entered the Darul Arkam (mosque) in Dehiwala and ordered the mosque trustees to stop prayers and the call to prayer five times a

day. The Muslims of the area expressed fear over such activities of the Police. It is the Buddhist Monk and some Buddhist people of the area who complained to the police about the Mosques being unauthorised, which led the police to take such action, the Muslims of the area alleged. Mosques come under the Wakuf Board, which has been established according to the law passed in the parliament and police cannot stop the activities of mosques, says Minister Rishard Bathiudeen who visited the mosques. "Why are the police targeting places of worship instead of the countless unauthorised buildings in the country?" people ask.

*Sudar Oli – Page 1 (Dec 18) Thinakkural – Page 1 (Dec 18) Virakesari – Page 1 (Dec 18)*

<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/mosque-in-dehiwala-visited-by-cops-stoned-a-muslim-owned-jewellery-store-torched-in-galle-last-night/>

<http://www.lankasrinews.com/view.php?2eYAIJca2dzYA242dOMoa2204mB43d4JBK400aoWA Ode2AA5d3c2cJOYe2>

- 60. December 17, Statement:** "Completely wipe out hijab from Sri Lanka," the BBS Executive Committee Member Dilantha Withanage says. Speaking of the regulation to obtain the new electronic National Identity Card, he stated that the Muslims should not be permitted to wear their traditional hat or hijab. According to him this country considers the hijab a dress that is used to smuggle drugs and commit robberies, therefore he stressed that it should be wiped out. He stated that he wanted people to stop pointing at the Buddhist monks unnecessarily on every issue and comparing the monks and their saffron robes with others. According to him the Buddhist priests are living peacefully in this country and he warns those who bring the Buddhist monks into every issue that they will have to face dire consequences

*Sudaroli – Page 1 (Dec 17)*

- 61. December 17, Kohuwala, Dehiwala, Colombo District:** The Masjidul As Shafiee at Kadawatha Road in Kohuwala was stoned on the night of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013. On 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013 the trustees of the Mosque were ordered by the Kohuwala police to stop all religious activities including issuing the call to prayer and conducting prayers on the premises. The police had arrived promptly to provide security, sources told.

<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/mosque-in-dehiwala-visited-by-cops-stoned-a-muslim-owned-jewellery-store-torched-in-galle-last-night/>

- 62. December 18, Kurandaga, Galle District:** A Muslim owned jewellery shop in Kurandaga in Karandeniya electorate in the Galle District was burnt late last night by an unidentified gang.

<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/mosque-in-dehiwala-visited-by-cops-stoned-a-muslim-owned-jewellery-store-torched-in-galle-last-night/>

<https://twitter.com/ACJUtco>

- 63. December 19, News:** According to the information from sources within the higher authorities of the Government, Muslims will not be allowed to wear caps and hijabs for the new electronic Identity Cards that will be issued in 2014. This misleading report has no base in mentioning that the Muslim extremists are requesting for caps, hijab and face cover for their ID pictures. The Muslims think that laws preventing Muslim men and women from wearing caps and hijabs (head cover) for their identity card photographs were signs of the government working against the Muslim community of the country.

*Divaina – Page 2 (Dec 20)*

- 64. December 20, Press Conference:** Bodu Bala Sena in a media conference at its headquarters stated that the government too is responsible for destroying Sinhala Buddhism and Tamils and spreading Muslim extremism in the country. The organisation further claimed that "in a day we can change the government and clean the country, but we follow just path in our fight because we are guided by Buddhism." Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says to the media that today

several try to promote the policies of the Muslim extremism at the cost of insulting Buddhist philosophy. He stated that from food items to every activity the Muslim policies are followed and that the country has transformed to an extent where it is ready to issue Halal certificate for drugs too. Rev. Gnanasara says that, today, the birth rates of the Muslims are many times more than that of Buddhists and Tamils and Muslim extremism is spreading. He also says that over thousand families have arrived from the Middle East with an objective of spreading their extremist ideologies among the Muslims in Sri Lanka and make them separatists. He advises the President to understand this situation and rule the country accordingly and not to rule the country to his whims and fancies.

*Virakesari – Page 3 (Dec 11), Virakesasi - <http://www.virakesari.lk/?q=node/360031>.*

- 65. December 23, Dewanagala, Mawanella, Kegalle District:** Sinhala Ravaya in posters have called on Sinhala youths to join “the first suicide army” to go to Dewanagala today. A group of persons (not locals) mobilised by Sinhala Ravaya entered Dewanagala and staged a protest creating fear among the Muslim residents. The group was asking the Muslims to leave the area immediately. In recent days the Sinhala Ravaya has staged several protests, claiming that Dewanagala is the traditional sacred land of the Sinhala Buddhists. Around 30% of the inhabitants are Muslims living there for centuries. Some of the inhabitants are in the possession of two hundred year old land deeds. Due to the extreme fear situation some Muslim politicians had to bring the attention of the President and defuse tensions. The organiser of Sinhala Ravaya Rev. Magalkantha Suthantha made a statement to media that if the unauthorized structures on the Dewanagala historic land are not demolished and the preparations to survey the land are not made within the next three months, the Sinhala Ravaya will undertake the responsibilities to do so. Although there is police to protect the Muslims the fear among the people remains heightened. (please refer Dec. 3)

*Thinakural – Page 1, Rivira – Page 5 (Dec 24)*

<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/devanagala-latest-in-the-racist-agenda-to-provoke-muslims/>

- 66. December 27, statement:** According to a report in the Virakesari Dilantha Withanage the CEO of the Bodu Bala Sena had stated that the Muslim leadership tries to get the sympathy votes of the Muslim community by showing that the Buddhists are separatists and majority extremists. “When we raise our voice to protect the policies of Sri Lanka and Buddhism this is what the Muslim leadership is showing to their people”, says Dilantha Withanage. He had asked everybody to keep in mind that certain important leaders were spreading extremism by keeping the Muslims hostage. According to him Middle East extremism is spreading here as well. He says it will not be allowed to make Sri Lanka a Muslim country by maintaining relationships with Middle East. He stated that the Bodu Bala Sena will never permit Sri Lanka to become a Muslim country. There is an effort by ministers like Rauf Hakeem to amalgamate north and east together and form Tamil Eelam.

*Virakesari – Page 9 (Dec 27)*

- 67. December 27 - Maligawatte, Colombo 10 - Colombo District:** Several Muslims in the Maligawatte area staged an agitation campaign against an allegedly illegal transfer of lands belonging to the Muslim burial ground in Maligawatte. The protestors claim that the 19 perch block of land was transferred with the help of governing party members in the area to a private company. They want the construction work on the site stopped and the land returned, otherwise the protests will continue until the authorities intervene and return the land belonging to the burial ground, to the mosque and the people, they said.

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/caption-story/40858-we-want-our-burial-grounds.html>

<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/news/42573.html>

[http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13B/Dec28\\_1388213070CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13B/Dec28_1388213070CH.php)

**68. December 27, Offensive Cartoon:** a cartoon depicting a handcuffed bearded Muslim man wearing a Muslim dress (male salwar kameez) and cap accompanied by a police officer was published in the “Ada” newspaper (Dec 27). The title of the cartoon is “measures are taken to bring the Pakistan drug suspect to Sri Lanka, News.” The police officer in the cartoon is asking the suspect “shall we go to look for weapons.”

*Ada – Page 4 (Dec 27)*

**69. December 30, News report:** According to the Daily Mirror, a request has been made by the Indian government in a letter written to Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs on December 26<sup>th</sup>, requesting him to enhance security given to Indian diplomatic offices in Sri Lanka to prevent an attack by Muslim extremist groups. India has expressed fears of a possible attack on the Indian mission in Colombo or consular offices in other parts of the country in the aftermath of the execution of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Qadir Mullah in Bangladesh. Abdul Qadir Mullah was sentenced to death by Bangladesh’s International war crimes Tribunal set up to investigate into the crimes committed during the 1971 liberation war. Mullah who was found guilty of the murders of 344 persons and dozens of other war crimes was hung on December 12.

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/40914-india-fears-muslim-militant-attacks-in-sl.html>

**70. December 31, Poojapitiya, Kandy District:** Mullegama Masjithul Falaḥq Mosque at Ambatenna in the Poojapitiya area came under sudden attack by an unidentified group. A group of people who arrived in a vehicle around 10 p.m. have pelted stones and caused heavy damage to the glass panes of the Mosque, the shocked area residents say. The attackers have entered the mosque by breaking the doors and caused further damage to the building as well. Sinhala and Muslim communities live peacefully in this village. Buddhist clergies and area politicians who visited the site immediately are stunned over the attack.

*Virakesari – Page 1 (Jan 2), Metro News – Page 3 (Jan 2)*

<http://www.lankasrinews.com/view.php?2034Y5Z2202OmBdc4eaymOIJ4caeC6AAaddccAMQAdacdJIOA0e425BmY3e024B5Ym23>