

LTTE hit-teams moving into Batticaloa?

By Leon Berenger

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are moving "hit teams" into Batticaloa with the aim of destabilising the region during the forthcoming Provincial Council elections, a senior official with police intelligence told "The Island" yesterday.

He said according to intelligence reports received both by the police

and the security forces, the LTTE activists were moving into Batticaloa from Jaffna.

It appears that the LTTE was planning to launch surprise attacks with the aim of destabilising the civil administration in that district, the official said. Police suspicions were further fuelled on Tuesday, after a parcel bomb was found in the Batticaloa market square.

According to police sources the bomb weighing nearly three kilograms was defused by army experts after the authorities were alerted by a shop keeper. The bomb which had a timing device was found neatly packed in a shopping bag camouflaged at the top with several bundles of green leaves, the sources said.

Meanwhile, in a sepa-

rate development on Monday, a Tamil youth described as a hard-core LTTE terrorist was arrested by police in a lodging house in Kotahena. Investigators have found out that the suspect had moved into the city several months ago from Trincomalee. The man was handed over to the Trincomalee police for further interrogation.