

# President's visit to Vakarai

President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Saturday undertook a historic visit to Vakarai following its liberation from the LTTE by the Armed Forces. This was the first time that a Head of State visited an area regained by the Security Forces. It is significant that he visited Vakarai almost immediately after the military's humanitarian mission, in spite of security concerns. The President met the civilians liberated from the grip of the LTTE and addressed the valiant troops who entered Vakarai without causing any civilian casualties. Addressing the civilians and troops, President Rajapaksa called for peace in the country and urged the LTTE to restart negotiations.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa greets a toddler among the civilians who gathered to meet him.



The President inspects anti-personnel mines recovered and defused by troops.



Civilians greeting the President.



President Rajapaksa addressing the troops who liberated Vakarai.



The President participating in Hindu religious observances.



Army Commander Sarath Fonseka and field commanders escort the President to Vakarai town.

Pictures by  
Sudath Silva



The President meets policemen newly stationed in Vakarai.