

COMMUTERS : CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO DEVILS

Travelling has become a nightmare, for passengers using public transport.

The high cost of the train and bus fares, as well as, the risk of travelling due to bomb explosions, are part of their lives, at present.

PASSENGER DEATHS IN THE YEAR 2008

Nearly 135 passengers were killed and over 400 were injured, due to bomb explosions, in public transport services during 2008, while government forces continued their operations, to liberate the LTTE controlled Vanni.

Date	Bomb explosions	Killed	Injured
June 6	: Bus bomb explosion - Polgolla	2	18
June 6	: Bus bomb explosion - Katubedda	24	60
May 31	: Railway track bomb explosion - Wellawatte	2	15
May 26	: Train bomb explosion - Dehiwala	8	70
April 25	: Bus bomb explosion - Piliyandala	26	40
Feb 4	: Bus bomb explosion - Janakapura	15	14
Feb 3	: Railway station bomb explosion - Fort	12	100
Feb 2	: Bus bomb explosion - Damubulla,	18	30
Jan 16	: Bus bomb explosion - Buttala	28	67



PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARE HIKES 2008

Bus fares increased several times this year, while train fares increased last month, marking the biggest ever increase in the public transport history in the country, burdening the already affected public.

Bus fare

Government granted permission to increase bus fare hikes twice, following the crude oil price hike, within six months, during this year.

- Feb 01: Private bus fare increase by 4.6%. Minimum bus fare was revised from Rs.5 to Rs.6
- May 25: Private bus fare was increased by 27.2 % and CTB bus fare was increased by 17%. Minimum fare was revised from Rs.6 to Rs.7.

Train fare

- June 1: Government raised train fares by 60% - 150% , a week after it raised bus fares. With this increase, the minimum railway fare increased from Rs. 5 to Rs.10.

