

**E1-04 : EXCEPTIONAL HEAVY RAIN IN COLOMBO**

**4TH AND 5TH JUNE 1992**

*P M Jayatilake Banda*

*Dept. of Meteorology, Colombo.*

During the 24 hours which ended at 8.30 a.m. on June 5, 1992, heavy rain was experienced, particularly in the Western province. Colombo Meteorological Department recorded an extremely heavy rainfall of 493.7 mm which is the highest 24 hour rainfall ever recorded in Colombo. This amount is 233% of the average

rainfall for the month of June and 50% of the total average rainfall for the 5-month Southwest monsoon season.

Very heavy rain that was experienced on the 4th night was mainly confined to the Greater Colombo area and its suburbs. A rainfall of over 400 mm was experienced in the Greater Colombo area. Three spells of intense rain occurred during the night causing floods in the low lying areas of Colombo city and suburbs.

This exceptional heavy rain was due to a Mid Tropospheric Circulation (MTC) which was located in the vicinity of Sri Lanka on the 4th. It formed in the West - East oriented trough axis at 700 hPa level, which was located across the Island. Enhanced convergence, in the southwesterly air stream in association with the MIC caused this exceptional downpour in Colombo area.