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ISSUE 1028

Suspect arrested in Kuganathan attack

By Hemantha Randunu and Norman Paliyawadana

A special police team on Sunday arrested a suspect who is alleged to have unleashed the brutal attack on the News Editor of the Jaffna based 'Uthayan' newspaper, Gnanasundaram Kuganathan, on July 29. The initial investigations have revealed that the assailant, a resident of Jaffna, had been given a contract by a lawyer to attack the journalist. The police said that the suspect was a notorious criminal and had committed over 50 robberies in the Kopai area. Investigations revealed that the criminal had been severely assaulted by residents

in a neighbourhood in Kopai after they caught him trying to burgle a house. He had been admitted to the Jaffna hospital and due to the seriousness of his injuries transferred to the Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila from where the police picked him up. The lawyer who had given him the contract had been a Tamil National Alliance supporter and had later supported the People's Alliance. "The Uthayan newspaper had been severely critical about the conduct of the lawyer and over this issue he had harboured a grudge against the News

Editor of the newspaper," the police said adding that the lawyer had given a contract to the suspect to attack the journalist. The lawyer had appeared in Court for the cases filed against the suspect and due to this connection he had agreed to attack Kuganathan with the help of some of his accomplices, free of charge. The law enforcement officers said that the arrest of the lawyer and two more suspects is imminent. The journalist was brutally assaulted by at least two unidentified persons when he was returning home after work, causing

serious head injuries. Certain elements attempted to link the government and security forces personnel to the attack. The suspect is alleged to have told the police that he was also attacked by an unknown gang after the attack on Gnanasundaram. He had been released from the Jaffna remanded prison recently. Under the interrogation, the suspect had apparently spilled the beans, implicating the lawyer.

Trail completes walk to Point Pedro

On the 27th of July, Trail - the Journey by the Living, for Life - a walk to raise funds for the development of a Pediatric Cancer Ward in Jaffna reached Point Pedro ending 27 days of walking from the south of Sri Lanka to the North. The journey which was 670 km, 27 days, 900,000 steps and 135 hours was a tremendous success. Over 30,000 participants walked throughout the 27 days and 100s and 1000s of people supported the walk as the Trail Blazers went through towns from the South to the North. Nathan Sivagananathan (CEO of MAS Design) and Sarinda Unamboowe (CEO

of MAS Linea Aqua) who initiated this walk were amongst the 13 trail blazers who walked the entire journey of 670 km. No easy task given the heat and humidity of Sri Lanka. But that didn't deter them. What they had foremost in their minds was the cause they were walking for. Reminiscing on the walk Nathan says "throughout those 27 days, when I woke up each day for a yet another day of walking with my sore and blistered feet and shin splint I wondered whether I will be able to trek 26 km for 5-6 hours. But then I would remember the cause we were walking for, the children suffering

from cancer and that would urge me on". Both Nathan and Sarinda agree that "it was a totally humbling experience to witness the incredible spirit of generosity throughout the journey". There was a spirit that was being formed that was not different in any city, town or village - the spirit of "Giving" by the warm hearts of Sri Lankans everywhere who came forward to give whatever they could.

Some of the most touching moments were of children who gave away their piggy banks to people walking up to the roads to give whatever they could to stories of individuals who gave from their means of livelihood by way of bread, bananas, biscuits, milk and drinks. The incredible 27 day journey saw the likes of Minister Namal Rajapakse, cricketers Mahela Jayawardena, Kumar



CEO of MAS Linea Aqua, Sarinda Unamboowe and Nathan Sivagananathan CEO of MAS Intimates - MAS Design and Director of the Colours of Courage Trust.

Sangakkara, Angelo Mathews, T M Dilshan and several celebrities taking part in the walk. Musicians Bhatiya and Santhush made their contribution to Trail with the theme song. Emotions ran high and there were tears of joy when Trail reached the end point on 27th July. Over 3000 people gathered to receive the walkers and join the walk to finish the journey. The walkers will have many wonderful and incredible memories which will be embedded in their hearts forever because TRAIL has ... See P19

'Sathyagraha' at Viharamahadevi Park



(DilyMirror.lk) - The 'Sathyagraha' organized by the reformist UNP MPs was held at the Viharamahadevi Park in Colombo. The protestors demanded the immediate resignation of the UNP leader Ranil Wickramasinghe. Pix by Pradeep Dilrukshana

COLOMBO COLUMN

By Reggie Fernando
King Cheerleader
Percy Abeyasekera
See p22



An apology

Unfortunately last week, due to a technical problem, we missed the most important pictures from the Miss Sri Lanka UK event, the contestants. Please see page 16

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38 Lankan students stranded after Fullham and Chelsea College closes down

By Sujeeva Nivunhella in London

(island.lk) The sudden closure of Fullham & Chelsea College in London has left 38 Sri Lankan students stranded. They had come to the UK early 2011 to study in this private educational institute.

One of the affected students, Bimsara Nadeeka Ranaweera has sought the assistance of the Sri Lankan High Commission in London after the closure of the college on July 29, 2011. Ranaweera has informed the High Commission that a team of Tier 4 students of Fulham & Chelsea College, Eden House, 59 Fullham High Street, SW6 3JJ have now been stranded due to its closure and sought help to find another college

to pursue their education.

Apparently, these students had paid over Rs. 1.5 million to agents of the college in Sri Lanka for enrolment. Two agents of this college in Sri Lanka are based in Colombo 3 and Negombo. The Sunday Island understands that Saman Ekanayake, Minister/Education & Culture in the Sri Lankan High Commission in London is in consultation with the British Accreditation Council to arrange an alternative college for these students or to try and get their tuition fees refunded.

Chaminda Kularatne, Minister/Consular in the High Commission said students in Sri Lanka should verify with the British High Commission in Sri Lanka the status of the college they opt for to pursue their higher studies, before they pay money to agents.

AG looks at seeking Sicille's extradition

by Suresh Perera

(island.lk) The Attorney General's Department is contemplating moving for the extradition of Mrs. Sicille Kotelawala, — a key suspect in the 26 billion rupee Golden Key (GK) scam — who has now been traced by the International Police (INTERPOL) in the United Kingdom.

"With confirmation that she is living in the UK, what we need to do initially is to file an application with the British crown prosecution seeking her extradition", a high-ranking AG's Department official said yesterday.

It is only after the application is made that the British court process could begin, he noted. "Of course, with a lot of logistics involved, it could be a time-consuming endeavor".

A judicial arrest warrant has been issued against Mrs. Sicille Kotelawala, wife of Ceylinco

Consolidated boss Lalith Kotelawala — a one-time powerful business magnate — in connection with the GK scandal, which saw thousands of depositors deprived of their holdings following the company's collapse in December 2008.

The suspect who left Sri Lanka shortly after the Ceylinco subsidiary crashed, was earlier believed to be in Singapore, but fresh evidence has now surfaced of her presence in the UK, officials said.

The move to extradite Mrs. Kotelawala will create legal history in Sri Lanka as it will be the first time that a suspect is being sought for a commercial crime, they explained.

"There are no templates where we can fill in the blanks. This means that we have to make an extradition plea with all supporting documentation including English translations of the indictments", the AG's Department official elaborated.

He said that extradition on charges of terrorism, money laundering or child abuse is considered relatively easy to handle within the British judicial system, but for a commercial matter of this nature, it could be long-drawn and cumbersome.

"We need to initiate the process by first filing the application with the crown prosecution and then move forward to get the suspect extradited to face the charges against her in Sri Lanka", he noted. He said that INTERPOL had tracked Mrs.

Kotelawala in the UK, where she is believed to be living with a close relative not far from the city of London. It has also been indicated that her visa is due to expire shortly and there is an open question whether it will be extended by the British. In terms of its mandate, INTERPOL will, on a request by the law enforcement authority of another country, use its resources to trace a 'wanted' person, but after the objective is achieved, the legal process of extradition should be worked out between the state players, the official said.

"As Sri Lanka does not have an extradition treaty with Great Britain, we will also have to look at the Commonwealth Treaty under which there are specific provisions for extradition on certain offences", he noted. "All this translates into a heavy workload for the AG's Department to get the extradition process moving in a clear direction", he said. "We will need at least five state counsel on the job".

The AG's Department recently indicted Lalith Kotelawala and eight others under 91 criminal charges for alleged conspiracy against the state by operating a finance company between 1999 and 2008 against the provisions of the Finance Companies Act, and thereby, inter alia, committing criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of funds in connection with the GK scam.

GK directors, Khavan Michael Perera (CEO/Deputy Chairman), Sicille Kotelawala, Padmini Karunanayake, Saradha Sumanasekera, Naranjan Fernando, Suramya Karunanayake, Padma Nandani Kumar and Shantha Ranasinghe, who served as the company's Financial Controller have been indicted in the Colombo District Court. Two other former GK directors, Daniel Jegasothy and Bandula Ranaweera, have been listed as witnesses on behalf of the prosecution.



Former MP remanded for removing Rukmani Devi statue

By S. Selvakumar

(nation.lk/2011/08/14) Negombo Police arrested a former parliamentarian and MMC Ananda Munasinghe and six others over an incident involving the removal of a memorial statue of the famous songstress and actress Rukmani Devi erected at the Negombo cemetery over 24 years ago.

Rukmani Devi died in 1977 in a car crash at Ja-Ela and her fans, fellow musicians and film veterans erected a statue in the Negombo public cemetery in memory of her and each year the death was commemorated.

On Thursday Police received information that the statue has been dislodged and the surroundings cleared. Acting HQI Negombo Chief Inspector Leslie Rukananda and a team of policemen rushed to the cemetery and arrested six people. The

leader of the group that was involved in dislodging the statue was later identified as former MP Munasinghe.

When produced before the Negombo Magistrate, his lawyer Nihara Rodrigo PC, said that his client on learning that the plot of land where the statue had been erected belonged to his family, had only dislodged the statue from its place and the evidence to his claim to the plot of land could be found in the National Archives.

CI Leslie Rukananda produced the suspects in court and the court remanded the suspects till tomorrow (15).

Meanwhile several artistes including popular musicians have organised a protest rally in Negombo today against the removal of Rukmani Devi's statue. The statue is now in the custody of the Negombo Police.

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(sundaytimes.lk/110814) Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa has directed that the proposed new development plan for Kandy be implemented soon after the conclusion of the Esala Perahera. The directive was given early this week when Mr. Rajapaksa met with officials in Kandy where the proposed plans were discussed in detail. According to the plan, directives were given to improve Kandy city in a manner similar to the way Colombo city was being developed. This includes the beautification of the city, removal of

unauthorised structures and providing additional facilities to the public. About 150 shops will be relocated within the city. Unauthorised houses too will be removed under this plan. Orders were given to the police to remove cut-outs and banners as well. Under the plan, orders were given to reduce congestion within the city by reducing the number of vehicles entering the city, while providing facilities for pedestrians to get about without hindrance. As per the plan, orders were given to widen pavements and repaint buildings. Officials

also told to ensure that the city's period architecture should be protected and maintained. Only long-distance buses will be permitted to remain halted for brief periods within the town, while all local services will have to drop the passengers and leave immediately. The area around the Kandy lake will be developed as a picnic area where people can walk around as well as relax. The project will come under the purview of the UDA, which is under the Defence Ministry.

Kandy to get new look under UDA programme

(sundaytimes.lk/110814) The Weeping Willow trees that have lined Independence Avenue for more than 25 years are to be chopped down to accommodate local Na-trees, considered our national tree, Colombo Municipal Council Commissioner Badrani Jayawardena told the Sunday Times. Ms. Jayawardena said the willows of foreign origin were to be replaced with Na-trees according to a plan of the Urban Development Authority (UDA). "A few Na-trees were planted three years

Who will weep for the willows?

ago but the willows absorbed most of the water and the Na-trees were deprived of sun light. The willows were trimmed but it was unsuccessful," she said. She said the UDA was in-charge of the city's landscape and architecture and the Independence Square area was under going a facelift. On Friday passers-by were horrified when they saw the familiar willow trees being chopped down. Some of them asked whether this was a case of extending a sense of misguided nationalism to trees too.



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Lady doctor falls from 40-foot cliff

By Prasanna Pathmasiri and Prasad Rukmal (dailymirror.lk) A lady doctor who was on a family trip to the Peessa waterfall in Lunugala was badly injured when she fell from a 40-foot cliff into a crevice while she was posing for photographs being taken by her husband.

Dr. Malisha Mallawarachchi (30) was serving at the Nikaweratiya Hospital and had gone on this outing accompanied by her doctor husband, their child and parents. Attempts by family members and villagers to rescue her failed and the Lunugala police and members of the Badulla Municipal Council life saving unit had finally rescued her after about two hours. The lady doctor was rushed to the Badulla General Hospital.

UN expects 'something further' on SL

Says panel report could still go to UNHRC
By Sunil Jayasiri

(dailymirror.lk) Claiming that the Expert Panel report on Sri Lanka known as the Darusman report has not been formally submitted to the Human Rights Council yet, the UN said it expected to see that concerned Member States would "take it up and push for something further."

UN Chief's Acting Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq however told the media that the report could be sent to the HRC in the near future.

The next session of the HRC is to be held from September 18 to 30. However, the HRC is yet to release the agenda for the next session. It is also learnt that the United States is pushing to have 'interactive talks' on the Sri Lankan issue at the next HRC session. A highly placed government official meanwhile told the Daily Mirror that Sri Lanka did not expect that member states would take up the issue at the next session as the issue was irrelevant.

(Contd: on P6)

Seat belt law from Oct 1

(sundaytimes.lk/110814) Seats belts will be mandatory for drivers and front seat passengers of motor vehicles from October 1. The regulations will also apply to lorries and coaches that are registered after October 1, according to the Motor Traffic (Seat Belts) regulations gazetted by Transport Minister Kumar Welgama.

Once the regulations come into operation, no person will be allowed to sell or offer for sale or have in his/her possession for sale, any vehicle which is not fitted with a body restraining seat belt.

Those exempted from wearing seat belts will include persons whose height does not exceed 1.5 metres as well as those with permanent disabilities. Such persons are required to obtain a medical certificate to prove they are unable to wear a seat belt.

Man, woman die hanging from single rope

(nation.lk/2011/08/14) Bodies of a middle-aged man and a young woman were discovered by Police hanging from a single rope tied to a bent palmyrah palm in Kopay West at Wellawaikal. According to the Police the 43 year old man was a father of four while the 24 year old woman was a mother of two children. Postmortem reports of the deceased conducted by the Jaffna Judicial Officer have revealed that the deceased have been assaulted to death elsewhere and the bodies brought to the scene and hanged. According to initial Police investigations it was thought that they had jointly committed suicide or had been killed elsewhere and their bodies brought to the scene and hung. Police also suspect that it was not possible to hang themselves in the manner the bodies were discovered especially by hanging from the same piece of coir rope.

Police also said there were several complaints earlier by the spouses of both deceased that they had been having a clandestine affair. Police had summoned them and warned them on more than one occasion to live with their spouses but had continued the affair.

The man's bicycle, some medical reports, clothes and a wrist watch were discovered at a distance of about 100 meters from the scene of the discovery. The deceased woman had been discharged from Hospital only the previous day having undergone treatment for an attack on her chest, Police said. Acting Jaffna Magistrate M. Thirunavukarasu visited the scene and directed the Police to dispatch the bodies to the Jaffna Hospital for a postmortem. Kopay Police were investigating into the incident and recorded statements of family members and neighbours of both deceased. (SS)

SLN denies interfering with Kinniya hospital, fresh trouble at Puttur

(island.lk) Additional troops are now deployed in Kinniya to meet any eventuality. Navy headquarters strengthened its isolated detachment in the wake of Monday's clashes triggered by a large group of unruly residents in a bid to compel the government to shift the base. Military sources said that the SLN detachment would not be pulled out under any circumstances. Responding to a query by The Island, SLN spokesman alleged that an attempt was being made to trigger protests against those deployed at Kinniya by an interested party. Dismissing allegations that SLN personnel had fired in the air and also disrupted services at the Kinniya hospital, the spokesman said that security forces and police acted with restraint, though being provoked by rowdy crowds. Meanwhile, villagers launched a protest yesterday targeting police post at Puttur, Batticaloa citing the presence of two 'greased yakkas' at the post. Villagers alleged the police were acting in a suspicious manner, a charge strongly denied by SP Ravindra Karavita, the senior officer in charge of the area.

Dr Ariyaratne receives Basavashree Award in India

(dailynews.lk/2011/08/17) Shivamurthy Murughaswamy of Murugharajendra Math conferred the prestigious Basavashree Award on Sarvodaya Movement Head A.T. Ariyaratne, in India on Monday. The award instituted by the Math was presented to Dr. Ariyaratne in recognition of his contribution to eradicate poverty in Sri Lanka.



Shivamurthy Murughaswamy of Murugharajendra Math in conversation with Dr A T Ariyaratne at the Basavashree Award ceremony in Chitradurga, India on Monday.

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A people-friendly community police soon - Defence Secretary

Dharma SRI ABEYRATNE

(dailynews.lk/2011/08/13) The Police service will be changed to a people-friendly community police, Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa said.

The Defence Secretary was addressing a gathering at a ceremony organized to present certificates to 20 officers of the Police Life Saving Unit. The Police officers had successfully completed Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training jointly conducted by the World Health Organization and a private organization named MEDI Limited.

The MEDI training institute is the only institute in Sri Lanka accredited by the American Safety and Health Institute and the Australasian Registry of Emergence Technicians (AREMT).

Defence Secretary Rajapaksa said that Sri Lanka police have been engaged in anti-terrorism activities for nearly three decades.

"As a result, policemen in Sri Lanka received

training in weapon handling" he said.

"Though the main service of police is to maintain law and order, Sri Lanka policemen had to engage in anti-terrorism activities including providing

protection to people. Therefore, policemen will receive training aiming to convert a community police which is bound to carry out duties in the police service" he added.

The Defence Secretary said that the police have to provide the people with a better service. "It has been reported that public confidence on police is deteriorating. Building confidence is the responsibility of the police. The police have to make an effort to strengthen confidence among the people," he said.

He said that the public who take

the law into their hands will be subjected to the civil law in the country. Speaking about the grease yaka incidents, he said that no one has a right to go beyond the country's law.

The police officers who received certificates have undergone a professional training on lifesaving.



Gotabhaya Rajapaksa

Railway line from Galle to Induruwa closed from September

Irangika RANGE

(dailynews.lk/2011/08/13) The Transport Ministry will close the Southern coastal railway line from Galle to Induruwa from September 1, 2011.

The rail track will be closed for six months up to February 29, 2012, a Sri Lanka Railways spokesman told the Daily News.

The 53-kilometre rail track will be closed for upgrading under the second phase of the high-speed southern railway renovation project. The

spokesman said the Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON) which handles the construction work on the Southern coastal railway track, has agreed with the Transport Ministry to complete the construction during the stipulated time frame.

The railway lines from Galle to Bentara will be removed and will be replaced with the high-speed railway line.

The trains beginning their journey from Colombo

Fort will ply only upto Aluthgama while trains beginning their journey from Matara will ply upto Galle during the construction period. Meanwhile, the Transport Ministry will operate a joint rail-bus service from Galle to Aluthgama during the time the railway track is closed. The reconstructed Galle-Matara segment was opened recently for high-speed passenger train transport. The Indian government has pledged US\$ 167.4 million for the entire Matara-Colombo railway renovation project.

Nearly 60,000 widows in N&E

(island.lk) Child Development and Women's Welfare Minister Tissa Karalliyadda told Parliament Friday that at the end of the North East Conflict the two provinces had 59,501 widows.

He said that his ministry had launched a project to collect details of widows countrywide and propose measures to uplift their welfare and economic improvement.

Responding to questions raised by UNP Hambantota District MP Sajith Premadasa, the minister said for the widows in the North and East his ministry was conducting counseling and guidance services and several ministries have come forward to provide welfare and economic assistance for them.

Rizana's release this month?

By S. Selvakumar

(nation.lk/2011/08/14) The chances for release of Rizana Nafeek, the Sri Lankan house maid condemned to death in Saudi Arabia, allegedly for causing the death of a four-month-old infant while she was bottle feeding him, looks very bright especially in this holy month of Ramadan.

Minister of Foreign Employment and Welfare, Dilan Perera who went to Saudi Arabia last week with the Chairman of the Foreign Employment Bureau Kingsley Ranawaka told The Nation that by all probability Rizana would be released in this most holy month of Ramadan in the Islamic calendar.

The Minister who did not want to discuss any other details on moves that were initiated by him while in Saudi Arabia only said that the chances of Rizana being released looked very favourable.

Rizana was sentenced to death by a Saudi Court in 2005 under the Sharia Law for causing the death of the infant. Earlier, following an appeal made by President Mahinda Rajapaksa to the King of Saudi Arabia, the death sentence was suspended. Cabinet spokesman Minister Keheliya Rambukwella addressing a post Cabinet press

briefing last month said that the Government was willing to pay the blood money to the child's parents if they were willing to accept same in lieu of a pardon for the condemned girl. It was in the aftermath of all these happenings that Minister Dilan Perera undertook a trip to the Saudi capital Riyadh but he was tight lipped on negotiations he had with Saudi authorities and its outcome.

"I hope you are a responsible journalist and should know where to draw the line", he said when asked about the details of the discussions he had during his Saudi visit.

The Minister's statement implied that it was such a sensitive matter where even the King of Saudi Arabia cannot pardon a person punished under the Sharia Law.

Rizana, the daughter of a poor Muslim couple from Muttur was sent to Saudi Arabia when she was merely 17 years of age by an unscrupulous foreign employment agent who altered her birth certificate to indicate an older age, obtained a passport and dispatched her for a job as a house maid in Saudi Arabia. The incident concerning the death of the infant occurred just two weeks after she obtained employment in the Saudi household.

Mistaken for 'grease yakkas'

Two killed at Thotulagala Estate

By S. Selvakumar

(nation.lk/2011/08/14) Two men suspected to be controversial grease men were killed by estate workers at Thotulagala Estate when they allegedly jumped on two women while they were plucking tea leaves. When the women raised cries, men working in a nearby field surrounded the two suspected grease men and set upon them.

The two injured had died when being taken to hospital. According to the estate workers on the scene, six men had been seen approaching the women but four of them had escaped when the others were assaulted.

However Police said six men from an adjoining village happened to pass through the tea estate and the women had raised cries and the men had assaulted them. Estate workers who gathered at the Hospital premises had later pelted stones at other villagers who had gathered to see the two deceased.

Following this incident tension prevailed in Haputale and all shops in town put up shutters while Police arrested four suspects responsible for the assault. Meanwhile work in all estates in Haputale came to a grinding halt following the incident and Police were conducting inquiries.

Police said the two men killed were not grease yakkas and the assault had taken place due to mistaken identity IGP N. K. Illangakoon addressing the press at the Police headquarters appealed to the public not to fear the so-called grease yakkas. He said investigations by Police had revealed most of these grease yakkas were underworld characters and men wanted by Police for various offences. He said some of them taken into custody were criminals and so far 47 such men have been arrested. In Haputale, Police have strengthened security and mobile patrols have been deployed. The situation there is said to be returning to normalcy.

UN expects from P4

However, he said that steps were being taken to prevent the issue from being discussed at the session with the help of powerful friendly nations including China and Russia.

"It (the report) has not been formally submitted to the Human Rights Council by the Secretary-General at this stage, although that could still happen in the future. Right now, what we expect and hope to see is that concerned Member States who are now appraised of the contents of that report will take it up and push for something further. As you know, the report has a number of recommendations, including for further investigation and for further efforts towards accountability. And we believe that they need to be taken up very seriously," UN Chief's Deputy spokesperson said. He also said the Secretary-General, acting on his own authority, did create a Panel of Experts under the leadership of Marzuki Darusman, that came out with a report which to this day was one that we believe was worthy of

study and further action by Member States. "We do believe that there are many issues on which the Member Governments of the United Nations themselves need to take action. But on cases where they have not done so, as you know, the Secretary-General has taken it upon himself, as in Sri Lanka, and indeed as in his own good office efforts in Myanmar," he said.

Police awareness programmes in vicinity of expressway

By Gamini Mahadura

(sundaytimes.lk/110814) The Traffic Police Division has commenced a series of awareness programmes for villagers around the Southern Expressway on how to avoid accidents. The picture above shows police personnel demonstrating a simulated accident, at the Pinnaduwa access road in Galle, to educate the public.

The Highway is due to be opened next month.

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Cardinal's intention was to help the poor; no hidden agenda – Archbishop's Secretariat

(island.lk) Archbishop's Secretariat issued a statement to clear certain misconceptions spread by unscrupulous individuals and parties to the detriment of Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith. The full statement is as follows:
"It has been reported to His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo that over the national media reports have appeared distorting facts concerning a meeting attended by him at St. James Church, Colombo 15 on 3rd August 2011, in order to sort out a worrying situation that was arising among the lower income house dwellers in the Colombo North area. The said meeting was organised as a result of representations made to His Eminence by the Parish Priests in the area to whom the concerned people had complained that the Government was making plans to evict them

from their homes and relocate them in distant areas disrupting their lives and livelihood. The Cardinal then made representations to His Excellency the President on this matter and personally informed him of the negative effects of such a move. His Excellency the President on his part informed the Cardinal that the Government was not going to relocate such people and would never do so against their will. His Eminence then requested the President to send Officers of the Urban Development Authority and some Political representatives to explain to the people the true nature of the project. This was done in order to provide greater clarification to everybody on concerns and needs of the people and to seek an amicable and acceptable solution. The meeting was attended by the Officers of the Urban Development Authority, Hon. Duminda Silva MP, nominated by His Excellency the President, the Catholic Priests of Colombo North and the representatives of the people affected. The Cardinal, too, participated in this event as a sign of his concern for these people.

At the said meeting the Government Representative responded to the questions of the people and explained matters to them. The people were assured that the government would not relocate the people in any areas other than Colombo North and that would be done only after appropriate housing units were put up, with better facilities. They would remain within their own areas if they wished to do so.

His Eminence the Cardinal appreciated the Government's interest in providing those residents with houses suitable for human habitation but at the same time insisted that the people should not be removed from those areas in which their children go to school their livelihood activities are exercised and social and human fraternity is built up. It must be clearly stated that the involvement of His Eminence and the Catholic Priests in this issue was purely out of a concern for the dignity of the people affected and not for the realisation of any hidden political agenda, as some political forces and media institutions have tried to portray.

Court to order the defendants to pay damages to him. Jayantha de Silva is the instructing Attorney in the plaint.

Bandula sues MTV for Rs. 100 mn

By Chitra Weeraratne
(island.lk) Education Minister Bandula Gunewardene yesterday filed a defamatory suit against MTV Channel (Pvt) Limited and its News Director, Sangeetha Kalubowila, claiming Rs. 100,000,000 in damages. The plaintiff said that the news item 'Wimarshana', on Sirasa TV, telecast on March 16, 2011 in Sinhala at 7.00 p.m. and its repeat telecast at 10.00 p.m. was defamatory of him. The news item referred to an alms giving, organized by the plaintiff, at a newly built school in Homagama. The petition alleged that the defendants were involved in a malicious campaign against politicians who encourage the Buddhist way of life. The Plaintiff said that the news item was malicious and injurious to his good reputation and requested the

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Launch of Voice Against Corruption website



(dailymirror.lk) Former Chief Justice Sarath N. Silva chats with JVP MP Sunil Hadunnetti before addressing the gathering at the official website launching ceremony of the Voice Against Corruption Organization, at the National Library and Documentation Service Board Auditorium. Pic. By Kusan Pathiraja.

AGM of Colombo University Alumni

(island.lk) The 15th anniversary and get-together of the Colombo University Alumni Association will be held on Sunday August 28 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute commencing at 8.00 a.m. At the end of the first session some of the alumni who have excelled themselves in the State Service would be felicitated under the patronage of the Vice Chancellor of the University Prof Shanika Hirimburegama. Among those who will be felicitated are Supreme Court Judge Priyasad Dep, Secretary, Minister of Finance and Economic Development Dr. P. B. Jayasundara, Vice President of the Asian Olympic Committee and Secretary, Posts and Telecommunications Ministry Hemasiri Fernando, General Manager of the Bank of Ceylon, W. A. Nalani, Chief Government Valuer P. W. Senaratne. This felicitation ceremony which will include a special lecture by Dr. Jayasundara and a cultural extravaganza, will conclude with sports activities for member families followed by lunch. The members of the Alumni as well as those who studied at the University are invited.

Full scale LLRC probe into second C-4 video

Chaminda PERERA
(dailynews.lk/2011/08/13) The Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) has begun a full scale probe into the second video telecast by British Channel 4 titled "Killing fields of Sri Lanka". According to LLRC spokesman, Lakshman Wickramasinghe, the Commission has completed the investigation into the first Channel 4 video and the second video is being examined by the Commission members. He said the opinion of the Commission over the Channel 4 video would be incorporated in the final report which would be handed over to the President before the deadline. Wickremesinghe added that the commissioners have already started writing the final report which will include details about the Commission's investigation into the Channel 4 videos and their views at length.

LG polls: SLMC to contest alone

By Riffthi Ali
(dailymirror.lk) Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) which is a coalition party of the United Freedom People Alliance (UPFA) government is likely to contest the elections for the remaining 23 Local Government bodies on its own under its Tree symbol, SLMC source said. A spokesman from SLMC said that his party will contest under the Tree symbol though the government leaders had suggested them to contest under the UPFA's Betel symbol. The High Command of the SLMC, however is to take the final decision next week. SLMC will anyway go solo in Kalmunai and Colombo Municipal Council areas under the Tree symbol even if it would have to give in to Government requests in some areas, because Colombo and Kalmunai are areas wherein the SLMC can show its strength, the sources said. SLMC is to conduct interviews to select the candidates on August 18 and 19 in Colombo, he said. He further said that the interviews would be conducted by Party Chairman, Secretary and area organizers.

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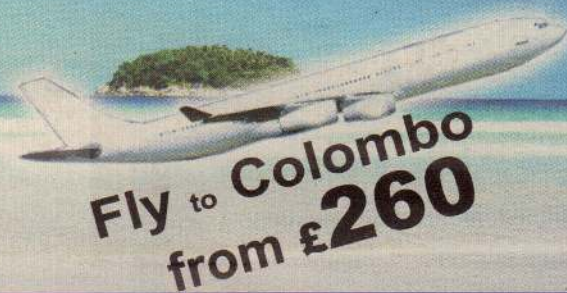
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LG polls: SLMC campaign on track

'Pottuvil clash won't upset strategy'

By Shamindra Ferdinando

(island.lk) In spite of recent clashes at Pottuvil, which claimed the life of an SLMC supporter, the party is going ahead with its campaign for the forthcoming LG polls.

SLMC leader Rauf Hakeem was in Kalmunai yesterday to pick his team to contest the Kalmunai Municipal Council. Nominations will be accepted beginning Aug. 18 till Aug. 25th.

An SLMC spokesman told The Island yesterday that the SLMC would contest Kalmunai MC and Colombo MC on its own at the third and last phase of the LG polls. Responding to a query, the official said that SLMC leader Hakeem would explore the possibility of fielding SLMC candidates on the UPFA ticket in the Colombo district (6 LG bodies), Gampaha (1), Kandy (3), Matale (1), Nuwara Eliya (1), Galle (1), Digamadulla (1), Kurunegala 91) and Badulla (1).

Minister Hakeem on Saturday flew to Pottuvil along with several other ruling party politicians after the army fired at a rampaging mob the previous day killing an SLMC activist. Although the shooting was initially blamed on Pottuvil police, subsequent inquiries revealed the alleged involvement of the army.

Trouble erupted after villagers attacked troops and Wildlife personnel conducting an elephant census alleging they were 'grease devils.'

A senior police official told The Island that the police had to rely on the support of the army and the STF to control the mob. The official alleged that a section of the print and electronic media had caused chaos by propagating 'grease devils' targeting women in the provinces.

The SLMC alleged that a section of media had

made an attempt to target SLMC leader Hakeem in the aftermath of his visit to Pottuvil on Saturday. An aide to the SLMC leader told The Island that there was absolutely no truth in claims that Minister Hakeem's Pottuvil visit was opposed by those gathered at the Grand Jumma Mosque. Responding to a query, the aide said that people had urged the minister to intervene on their behalf to secure the release of those arrested by the police following Friday's incidents, whereas a section of the media went to the extent of asserting the public wanted the minister to keep out of Pottuvil.



Hakeem

Meanwhile, Director General Government Information Department Prof. Ariyaratne Athugala yesterday said that there was no basis for the story propagated of the presence of 'grease devils' in the provinces. Ariyaratne, in a statement issued yesterday quoted IGP N. K. Illangakoon as having said that the police hadn't so far arrested anyone, who had applied grease on his body nor had the public handed any such person to the police.

Ariyaratne urged the media to desist from using the term 'Grease devils,' or 'grease yakka.' Police headquarters spokesman SP Prishantha Jayakody said that those taking the law into their hands against 'grease devils' would have to face the consequences.

An SLMC spokesman told The Island that President Rajapaksa, during his meeting with Minister Hakeem in the early hours of Saturday had asserted that the so-called 'grease devils' story could be a plot against him and his government.

The President alleged that an attempt was being made to undermine his government.

'Resettled families doing well':

Vavuniya GA refutes Tamil media reports

by P. Krishnaswamy

(sundayobserver.lk/2011/08/14) Vavuniya GA P.S.M. Charles has strongly refuted reports in some sections of the Tamil media alleging that the health of a large number of families who have been resettled in the Wanni is in a precarious condition and are facing the threat of death, after the Government's relief assistance was discontinued. She told the Sunday Observer that this report is totally incorrect and misleading because no such situation was brought to her notice nor have any complaints been received either in her office or in any of the Divisional Secretariats in the district.

The news report, in question, said that "relief assistance has been discontinued in respect of a large number of families who have been resettled in the Wanni and as a result, those among them

who are living below the poverty line are facing the threat of death due to malnutrition". The GA said that a large majority of the resettled families continue to receive relief assistance

which is being extended to nine months instead of the originally specified six months.

The families are also engaged in agriculture and other traditional professions, she said.

The Yala paddy cultivation was a hundred percent success in the region and they are now getting ready for the Maha season, she said.

She said that if there are families who do not have working members or only disabled members and need special assistance to eke out a

living, they should apply to the District Secretariat, through the Divisional Secretary's offices so that their requests can be considered.

WFP Project Director R.H.W.A. Kumarasiri of the Ministry of Economic Development who also denied the reports said that 112,405 persons received relief assistance this month and this number almost corresponds to the figure in last April. Therefore, the allegations that relief assistance to a large number of families has been discontinued is unfounded, he said.

He said that WFP relief assistance has been extended for another nine months or even beyond that in the case of deserving families. Dry rations under the 'Work for Food' program of the WFP are provided after the nine-month relief assistance, he said.



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By Yohan Perera

(dailymirror.lk) The TNA is expected to support the Democratic Peoples Front (DPF) which is contesting several local government bodies in the Colombo District including the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC).

The DPF is to contest the Dehiwela - Mount Lavinia, Moratuwa and Negombo Municipal Councils and the Kolonnawa UC on its own. In the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC), its leader Mano Ganesan is to be its mayoral candidate.

DPF general secretary Dr. Nalliah

Kumaraguruparan said the party expected the

UNP reformists to hold big demo at Srikotha

By Yohan Perera

(dailymirror.lk) The deepening crisis in the United National Party (UNP) is bound to reach a climax on Wednesday if the reformist group carries out its plan to hold a demonstration at UNP headquarters 'Srikotha' with the participation of a large number of supporters to demand a change in the party leadership.

A reformist MP said his group had requested local councillors to come to Srikotha in large numbers and agitate for a leadership change but was unable to comment on reports that about 10,000 UNP supporters were being brought to the party headquarters.

"I am only aware that local councillors of the party have been asked to come to Srikotha for Wednesday's working committee meeting," he said.

Daily Mirror learns that the local councillors will head towards Srikotha after a meeting with the reformist group leaders including UNP Co Deputy Leader Sajith Premadasa who is expected to explain to them the present situation of the party.

Mr. Premadasa is expected to convince these members of the need for a leadership change. Meanwhile, the others had also managed to woo a section of the local councillors and are expected to hold a news conference today and pledge their support to the present leadership.

The UNP working committee is expected to focus on the next local council elections in addition to the crisis that has rocked the party. The working committee will decide on the nomination board comprising Chief Opposition Whip John Amarasinghe and Deputy Leader Karu Jayasuriya among others to select the party's candidates.

Curfew in Pottuvil

One Killed in Clashes

By Supun Dias

(dailymirror.lk) Police imposed a dusk to dawn curfew in the Pottuvil area after clashes between civilians and law enforcement authorities intensified leaving one dead and five injured.

The tense situation erupted in Pottuvil as a result of people mistaking officers engaged in elephant census hiding in jungles as 'Grease Devils', robbers and army deserters.

The victim who died of gunshot injuries was identified as a Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) candidate in Pottuvil.

A police curfew was placed from 8pm last night till 6am today.

Panic stricken civilians have allegedly beaten up census officers on Thursday night in the Urani area following which army and police had used force to rescue the officers from villagers.

Justice Minister and SLMC Leader Rauff Hakeem yesterday had spoken to President Mahinda Rajapaksa who is in China and discussed the situation.

Minister Hakeem said the President had regretted the loss of life and assured he would take action to bring normalcy in the area.

Mr. Hakeem had also spoken to the Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa and IGP NK Illangakoon about the situation. He had requested the Defence Secretary to deploy the Special Task Force (STF) in Pottuvil to quell the situation. He said that he was to meet and discuss the matter with the President early this morning at the Katunayake International Airport when the President returned home.

Ministers Hakeem and A. H. M. Fowzie are to fly to Pottuvil this morning along with several Muslim MPs.

Several police teams with the assistance of the army have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order.

The villagers held a demonstration against the police in the Pottuvil town demanding the police to release several suspects arrested for allegedly assaulting census officers. The police used tear gas to disperse the protesters.

In Thirukkivil, police used tear gas to disperse people who demanded to hand them two suspects who were earlier handed over to the police by them with the two men identified as 'Grease Devils'.

Commenting on the lack of awareness among the public on census, wildlife officers maintained that all Grama Niladarai's were notified about the census through Government Agents, but the public had however not been properly informed which led to the mistaken identity.

The census which began on Thursday will continue for 48 hours and the counting process is mostly done in the evenings as the elephants come out of the jungles looking for water after dusk.

A Wildlife Department official said they would go ahead with the planned census. The Wildlife Conservation Department had planned to conduct a census of the elephant population in Sri Lankan forests this year.

The last census of elephants taken in 1993 had not covered the North.

President promulgates Emergency Regulations for dissolved local bodies

By Chandani Kirinde

(sundaytimes.lk/110814) President Mahinda Rajapaksa has promulgated Emergency Regulations to bring the administrations of 15 Municipal Councils (MCs), two Urban Councils (UCs) and five Pradeshiya Sabhas (PSs), to which elections are to be held in October, under the Divisional Secretaries of the respective areas. The term of the elected officials of these local authorities ceased to exist with effect from last Wednesday, under the Emergency (Administration of Local Authorities) Regulations. However, the Dehiwela-Mt. Lavinia MC, the Matale MC, the Kandy MC, the Hambantota UC and the Kandy Gravets and Gangawata Korale PS will be administered by the Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of Local Government of the respective provinces.

Among the MCs, to which elections will be held in the third phase of the Local Authorities polls, will

be the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC), to which elections were last held in 2006, and have since been mostly under the administration of a Special Commissioner. Colombo returns the largest numbers of members of a Local Authority, numbering 59 - 53 elected, six nominated.

The Dehiwela-Mt. Lavinia, Kotte and Moratuwa MCs too will elect new representatives, along with local authorities in 12 others districts. Nominations in respect of these elections will commence on August 18 and close on August 25. Elections Department officials said the date of the poll will be announced after nominations close.

Meanwhile, the Elections Department has announced the deposit to be paid as by those seeking to contest the elections. Those contesting Colombo will pay the highest in deposit of Rs. 14,750, while the lowest amount of Rs 1,750 will be paid by those contesting for the Suriyawewa PS in the Hambantota District, which returns only seven members.

TNA expected to support DPF

support of the TNA as his party had backed the latter in the second phase of the local government elections held on July 23 this year. It was reported that DPF had made an official request to TNA to support it at the coming elections.

TNA Spokesman Suresh Premachandran said his party would make the final decision after its leader R. Sampanthan returned from abroad. Mr. Sampanthan is expected back from Chennai this week.

However Dr. Kumaraguruparan said leading TNA MPs had promised their support to the DPF in their private capacities.

Meanwhile the DPF faulted the UNP for its decision to go it alone, stating that the latter should take the blame for the disunity of the Opposition. "We are very much a part of the Opposition in this government. Opposition disunity is a fact. The UNP as the major Opposition party has to take the blame for this disunity in the Opposition ranks," he said. Dr. Kumaraguruparan also said that the party was currently having talks with N SSP and certain other parties. Therefore, he said, an official announcement would be made in a few days.

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MOB RULE OR RULE BY THE MOB

Ancient Rome

In ancient Rome military did not exist that could have dealt with a revolt. City then consisted of around 200,000 civilians. Weapons used were crude not sophisticated and somewhat primitive. There was constant need to feed the people. Due to hardships and sufferings mobs emerged, when the Government is ineffective it lost the power and credibility.

Anarchy

Mob rule is anarchy. Today Governments maintain credibility based on reputation. News spread worldwide instantaneously with a click of a mouse as a result of modern IT and technology. Middle East Mob Rule was ignited initially by a young man and few others using cyber language which led to the Cyber Revolution that has spread to the major part of the Middle East. Today it has gone completely out of control in the Middle East. One wonders whether the agitators know what they are clamouring for. They do not know whether they are agitating for Western democracy, democratic rights, freedom, liberation, anti government or regime change. But the fact remains that there are invisible forces behind the entire process of igniting the masses for uprising against dictatorial rulers in the Middle East which has united different ethnic

groups.

Mob rule is dangerous

Mob rule is dangerous, unfair and unpredictable. It is difficult to locate the source and to find the leader as in a mob rule decisions are taken spontaneously.

Mob rule is difficult to understand as the demands and aspirations of the agitators are unclear.

Apparently they have become pawns of invisible forces awaiting to grab the natural resources which are available only in this part of the world. West is only interested in the oil rich countries with other natural resources. They directly or indirectly encourage and direct the mob with the intention of regime changes for their benefit.

Mob Rule in the United Kingdom

Mob rule in the United Kingdom is an explosion of a time bomb. One should keep their own house in order before finding solutions and reforms for others. Our sympathies and thoughts are always with the right thinking, traditional British people who are kind gentle and gentlemen of the first order. Today unfortunately situation in the United Kingdom has changed for a peaceful reputed world power to a battle field. United Kingdom is no longer a world power though wish to cling into the world body which decides the destiny of the

mankind and the small countries.

World has become an unsafe, unsteady, unpredictable place. There is tension in Europe including Greece, Italy and many States in the region. Unrest in the Middle East is growing faster with the famine in the Africa and economic downturn in the USA with disturbances in Iraq and Afghanistan for which USA is responsible for.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka experienced mob rules in 1971, 1983, 1988 and between 1983 and 2008. Today things have changed to the extent that there is no room whatsoever for another 1983 riots or mob rule for decades. Today Sri Lanka is one of the most stable and secured countries in the world with no possibilities at all of reemergence of the bitter past. In Sri Lanka peace is completely dawned, peace is completely done and sealed for the next few decades.

Mob rule should be condemned

Mob Rule in any form anywhere should be condemned and clammed down. Self appointed world leaders use the existing international framework to bring about regime changes with

ulterior motives by instigating States and peoples. To effect regime changes the world situation and the society must be protected. There is imminent danger of world being infected in tendency for disturbances. The only solution to remedy the situation is to spread the word of impartiality and equality, equal protection, equal rights and equal treatment to everybody considering the world as a family. This could be initiated by the countries and regions espousing peace and exercising peaceful

co-existence. To the credit of the South Asian countries in the region is calm and the countries are safe with model democracies. It is time the South Asian Nations and the region as a whole

initiate a dialogue with the warring and disturbing groups to bring about settlements based on the breeding and the conduct of great cultures and religions such as Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Buddhism which has become part and parcel of the South Asian Culture. South Asia and the SAARC Regional Organization could be one of the best vehicles to launch this project to make the world a pleasant place to live with peace and peaceful co-existence full of loving kindness.

By Sarath Wijesinghe

LL.M (London)
Solicitor-Attorney-at-Law



Lankan sapphire in world's priciest perfume

(dailynews.lk/2011/08/17) A sapphire from Sri Lanka has been included in the world's most expensive fragrance bottle.

A 7.18 carat Sri Lankan Oval Cabochon Sapphire is in DKNY Golden Delicious bottle priced at US \$ one million.

The bottle is made from 14-carat yellow and white gold, featuring almost 3,000 precious stones sourced from all over the world. The fragrance will be showcased around the world before being sold to benefit the Action Against Hunger charity. The blue Sapphires from Sri Lanka gained world attention, after Prince William presented



Kate Middleton with his mother's

engagement ring with an oval shaped blue sapphire from Sri Lanka surrounded by 14 diamonds set in 18 carat white gold.

The gem and jewellery industry takes a foremost place in bringing foreign revenue to Sri Lanka.

The country is among the biggest sources of gems and precious stones and is ranked among the top gem-bearing nations in the world.

Over 40 of around 60 varieties on the market are found here, many from the Ratnapura region. Sri Lanka's gemstones were formed during the pre-

Cambrian age, and almost every one is guaranteed to be over 800 million years. Blue sapphire, Star sapphire, Ruby and Cat's Eye are among the Sri Lankan gemstones which are in high demand. news.lk

Janahanda foundation met Mr. Virendra Sharma MP

By Sugath Seneviratna

A delegation from Hounslow Janahanda foundation met Mr. Virendra Sharma MP for Ealing and Southall with the purpose of lobbying representatives of House of Common in the UK. The delegation wanted to register the displeasure of Srilankan community living in the UK over the repercussions likely to take place subsequent to broadcast of "Srilanka's killing field" by channel 4.

The delegation pointed out to MP Sharma about the polarisation that had created between Srilankan Sinhala and Tamil communities living in the UK after the defeat of LTTE in Srilanka. The broadcasting of this type of film that contained shocking images of alleged war crimes in the final phase of war between Srilankan Government forces and LTTE. These images could attribute to ignite communal riots between these two communities in the UK. MP Sharma pledged to extend his support in order to form a bridge to narrow down differences. He further emphasised the necessity of forming a common platform to address the issue as a precautionary measure. MP Sharma promised to arrange a meeting with Tamil community leaders



and to lobby this message to other members of the House of Common. This delegation was led by Srilal Dias, the President of the Janahanda Foundation while Sugath seneviratna, the patron of the foundation introduced the objectives of the delegation.

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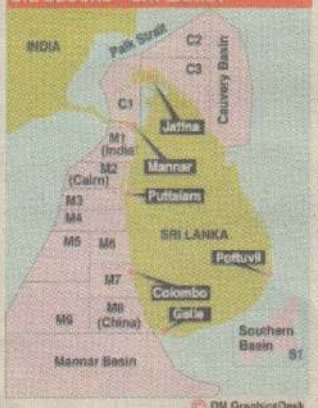
Russia to explore for oil in Sri Lanka

• Visiting Gazprom delegation hold discussions with Govt.

(dailymirror.lk) The Russian Oil and Natural Gas giant Gazprom is exploring means to enter oil exploration in the Mannar and Cauvery basin and the natural gas market in the country. An eight member delegation of Gazprom headed by its Managing Director Gulev Veleriy who are in the country at the moment met Petroleum Minister Susil Premajayantha and External Affairs Minister G.L. Peiris yesterday.

Gazprom is one of the world's largest energy companies. Its major business lines are

geologic al exploration, production, transportation, storage, processing and marketing of hydrocarbons as well as generation and marketing of heat and electric power. The External Affairs Ministry said Minister Peiris discussed with the visiting delegation issues connected with Russian cooperation in such fields as oil exploration in the Mannar Basin and the Cauvery Basin, the procurement of liquid natural gas and technical expertise in respect of refineries. The Minister underlined the need for economic projects of major magnitude to strengthen strong relationships between Sri Lanka and the Russian Federation. The visiting delegation said Gazprom would be happy to bear the expenses of training a team of Sri Lankans in one of Russia's leading institutions in the field of oil and gas technology.



Opposition MPs to clamour for their legitimate allocations

Decentralised Budget Fund

By Damith Wickremasekera

(sundaytimes.lk/110814) The UNP and the DNA will stage a protest in Parliament later this month seeking the intervention of Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa to obtain speedily the amount due to their Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Decentralised Budget Fund. Each MP is entitled to five million rupees annually from the Decentralised Budget Fund to carry put development work in their respective districts but this year's allocations have not been made so far, UNP General Secretary Tissa Attanayaka said. "We usually receive the money by

April but this year no money has been allocated to our MPs," Mr. Attanayaka said. Instead Opposition members have received a letter from the Ministry of Economic Development asking them to forward details of the projects they wish to carry out in their areas prior to the money being allocated. DNA MP Anura Dissanayaka said that they had been assured that the monies would be given to them by this month but this has not happened. "Our privileges have been violated by this action. The Government is now trying to stifle our protests by making false promises about giving the money," he said.

Court stops Asath Ally from leaving the country

By Lakmal Sooriyagoda

(dailymirror.lk) The Colombo Fort Magistrate yesterday directed the Controller of Immigration and Emigration to prevent former Colombo's deputy mayor Azath Sally and another woman suspect from leaving the country in a case involving criminal breach of trust. A Health Ministry labourer had in a complaint to the Colombo Crimes Division alleged that Mr. Sally in the presence of the other suspect Fathima Riyana had obtained Rs.600,000 on the promise of getting him a promotion.

The labourer told the CCD that his sister had befriended Fathima Riyana who had introduced him to Mr. Sally. The labourer complained that the suspects who promised him a job promotion failed to do so or to return the money taken from him. The CCD asked Magistrate Lanka Jayaratne, for an order to prevent the two suspects were in hiding from leaving the country. The CCD said the two suspects were facing eight other Court cases on similar offences. The magisterial inquiry was put off for September 2.



Gazprom officials' meeting with President Mahinda Rajapaksa

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CB calls on public not to hoard coins

by Ananda KANNANGARA

(sundayobserver.lk/2011/08/14) The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) called upon the public and religious places countrywide to refrain from retaining low valued coins over a longer period to avoid the scarcity of coins needed for day-to-day transactions.

According to a survey carried out by the CBSL, millions of coins to the value of one, two and five rupees are retained by people, especially school children, to fill their tills and for religious purposes. The survey also indicates that a large number of such low valued coins are inserted into tills at major religious places in Kandy, Anuradhapura, Kataragama, Bellanwila, Kalutara, Talawila and the

Hindu Kovils in Jaffna everyday. CBSL, Currency Department, Supdt. E.P.A. Karunatilake told the Sunday Observer that although the CBSL has distributed adequate low valued coins among the public through financial institutions countrywide, it is the duty of people and the responsible officials of religious places to convert them into currency notes through banks. He said this is the only practice that should be adopted by people to stop the scarcity of low valued coins. It is also reported that boutique owners and bus conductors as well as cashiers in city banks, especially private banks refuse to give such coins to customers claiming that no coins are available with them.

Original lands for displaced people

by L.S. Ananda WEDAARACHCHI

(sundayobserver.lk/2011/08/14) The Government has decided to resettle displaced people in the North and the East in their original lands, said Lands and Lands Development Minister Janaka Bandara Tennekoon.

The minister said that some people had lost their land permits.

Documents in government institutions have been

destroyed and the ownership of some lands has been changed due to the influence of terrorist groups, the minister said.

He said that the Cabinet had taken a policy decision to look into the grievances of displaced people and relocate them in their original lands. People who left the country due to LTTE terror could also claim ownership of their lands by sending applications online to the Divisional Secretaries, the minister said.

Dearth of physicians, closure of clinics

Chest patients face crisis

By Carol Aloysius

(nation.lk/2011/08/14) Government hospitals across the country, including teaching hospitals in Colombo and Anuradhapura, and hospitals in Polonnaruwa, Matara, Embilipitiya and Batticaloa, are facing a severe shortage of chest specialists. At least one hospital has closed down its chest clinic due to there being no chest physician.

The chest clinic at the Anuradhapura Hospital, which is now a Teaching Hospital has been closed for the past six years due to the lack of a chest physician, Dr Keethi Gunewardene, Consultant Chest Physician, Colombo Chest Hospital, told The Nation in an exclusive interview, Friday.

"The present number of chest physicians in the country is 13 in the state sector. Another 17 have gone for training abroad. The private sector has maybe 4-5 retired chest consultants. Altogether we have only this very limited number of chest physicians attending to patients throughout the island," he said.

He noted regretfully that two leading Teaching

Hospitals in Colombo, the Kalubowila Teaching Hospital and Sri Jayawardenapura Teaching Hospital had no chest physicians.

"These hospitals are referral hospitals where patients are sent from different parts of the island. So they must have a chest physician, since many patients with serious chest diseases and problems including respiratory diseases and lung cancer are sent to these hospitals for examination and treatment", he emphasised.

Dr Gunewardene said that the country was now seeing a sharp rise in respiratory infections including TB. One fourth of the incidence of TB is in Colombo due to its overcrowding and poor sanitation. We see ten times more TB patients in Colombo than elsewhere. Yet there is only one clinic for TB at Welisara. We need at least three. Mulleriyawa is also a dense area for TB, and there should be a separate TB clinic set up there. Asthmatic patients are also on the rise, due to environmental pollution, smoking, etc. One tenth of the number of asthma patients have COPD

(Chronic Artery Pulmonary Disease) and need inhalers. Speaking on a personal matter, Dr Gunewardene said that due to the shortage of chest physicians for the past 8 years, he had been covering Badulla, Moneragala, Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Ratnapura while being based in Colombo since 2003. He had set up 22 clinics and 30 units equipping them with state-of-the-art equipment. However, due to a non specialist taking over his unit and equipment forcibly, he had refused to go outside Colombo and visit these units. Due to his absence which deprived the hospitals of a chest physician, he said patients are now being transferred to Kandy and Colombo.

"Unless this problem is resolved, with the non specialist being transferred, the poor patients will suffer. In my absence, they will not have a chest physician in hospitals close to their homes and have to be transferred to far away hospitals", he said.

Southern Highway will have emergency services, resting points and supermarkets

By Achalie Kumara and Madushika Gunawardane

(dailymirror.lk) Round the clock emergency services, resting points with sanitary facilities and supermarkets are to be set up for the convenience of passengers and drivers on the Southern Highway (Colombo to Galle) which will be declared open by President Mahinda Rajapaksa on September 2.

Speaking at the Southern Highway inspection tour, Claim Engineer Rukshan Rupasinghe said that the highway was designed in such a way that it will minimise accidents and enhance the safety of travellers.

"The highway will be safer for passengers compared to the normal roads for many reasons. The vehicles on the highway will travel at a constant speed, separate lanes being demarcated for overtaking and protection provided by the special fences on either side of the highway are a few of the many reasons. Maintaining lane discipline is essential when using the highway," he said. The speed limits for the highway has already been fixed at between 60 Km/hr and 100 Km/hr. He further said that



(ST) The expressway close to Kalutara

projects such as advertising campaigns and television documentary programmes had been launched to educate the people on the use of the highway.

The maintenance of the highway will be done on a daily basis to minimise road accidents and to ensure the safety of the travellers.

The Southern Highway, which is a 96 Km stretch from Kottawa to Pinnaduwa will be time effective as a traveller on the highway may reach Galle from Colombo within an hour.

The time span of the full project was almost 10 years, since it was started in 2001.

BoC slashes loan interest rate

Sandasen MARASINGHE

(dailynews.lk/2011/07/30) Bank of Ceylon (BoC) has taken measures to reduce the loan interest rate to nine percent from 12 percent from August 1 to provide relief to the public.

This is being done on the instructions of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Chairman Dr Gamini Wickramasinghe said.

He made this announcement at a ceremony to distribute appointment letters to 300 new management graduand recruits to the BoC. The ceremony was held at Temple Trees under President Rajapaksa's patronage. Dr Wickramasinghe said that the BoC decided to reduce loan interest rates from August 1, the day the BoC celebrates its 72nd anniversary, giving priority to the President's pledge in his last budget speech and on his instructions.

He added that this move would influence other banks as well to provide relief to loan applicants.

Dr Wickramasinghe also stated that out of the loans granted last year by the BoC, more than 25 percent was, granted to agriculture-related activities. The BoC also has taken this initiative to establish a farm to rear cattle for milk and a factory in Kilinochchi at

a cost of Rs 30,000 million which is a long felt need. He said that 300 appointees were selected to BoC out of 15,907 applicants after an examination held by the Examinations Department. He added that around 50 have been selected from the North and East.

Agriculture Minister Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana and Finance and Planning Deputy Minister Geethanjana Gunawardena also participated.



Dr Gamini Wickramasinghe



(dailynews.lk) President Mahinda Rajapaksa handing over an appointment letter to one of the three hundred new management graduands recruited to the Bank of Ceylon at a ceremony held at Temple Trees. Pix by Chandana Perera

Making Preethipura a safe place for a swim

By Sarath Chinthaka

(sundaytimes.lk/110814) Preethipura, a well-known beach resort in Hendala, on the south-east coast and north of Colombo, attracts hundreds every day, including families and tourists. The crowds peak during the weekends and during the holiday season. However, Preethipura, which lacks safety measures, such as trained lifeguards, is also notorious for drownings. At least two drownings are reported every year. Western Provincial Council member Dalton Janaka Suriyabandara has initiated the building of a breakwater so that people can safely swim or take a dip in the sea.

Western Provincial Council Minister Nimal Lanza has extended his support to make Preethipura a safe and attractive beach resort.



The breakwater (above) and (below) benches on the beach



Benches have been introduced to the Preethipura beach for the comfort of visitors.

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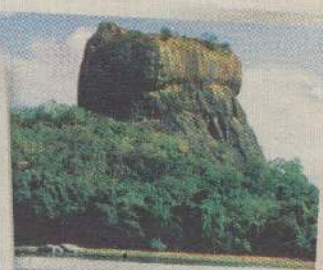
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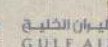
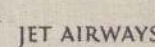
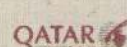
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A message from Founder/Joint President SLCA - Charmaine Jayatilleke

Dear Contestants, Parents and loyal supporters of SLCA

It has come to my attention that there are concerns of some contestants and parents who have complained about the Miss Sri Lanka UK event. Therefore, for the future credibility and viability of SLCA, it is essential that these concerns should be thoroughly investigated in an open, transparent and independent manner. I am deeply sad that the association is in this situation and that all the hard work of the past

is being undermined. I urge every committee member, individual or persons to step forward and reaffirm the immediate need to hold an independent and transparent inquiry to resolve this unpleasant state of affairs.

Charmaine Jayatilleke - Founder/Joint President

Help her hear

(island.lk) Fathima Zahra, aged four years, hailing from Ratnapura, suffers from a severe and profound sensoro-neural hearing loss in both ears from birth. Her parents are making a fervent appeal to philanthropists, charity organizations and other donors, during this "Holy month of Ramadan" to have mercy on their child and help her financially so that she could be healed by way of an operation. All generous donations could be credited to Account No- 317200130027759 at the City Branch of the People's Bank in Ratnapura.



Interested parties could contact her father, M. N. H. Hilmi, on mobile phone number-071-3069343 for further details.

The parents have also appealed to President Mahinda Rajapaksa, through the Ratnapura district UPFA Parliamentary Group leader and Minister W. D.J. Seneviratne for assistance from the President's Fund. M. N. H. Hilmi, Fathima Zahra's father, resides at 79/43 C Yalipadunagama, Mahawela Road, Ratnapura. He is employed as a cook. He says that Zahra is the third of four children and he and his wife have no

way of obtaining the money required for the Cochlear implant surgery, which doctors have said should be done as soon as possible. The father says that medial specialists had recommended that the child should undergo urgent surgery at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Hospital in Peradeniya and the estimated cost of the operation would be approximately between 1.7 and 2.5 million.(FRS)

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Richard Pieris Records 1st Quarter Turnover of Rs.7.2bn

Healthy Growth of 15% (adaderana.lk) The Richard Pieris Group recorded a Turnover of Rs. 7.2bn during the 1st quarter of 2011/12 which signifies a healthy growth of 15% when compared to the previous year. The Group's Retail Sector continued to grow with the opening of new Super Centres Island wide which enabled a Turnover growth of 27% and Plastics Sector recorded a turnover growth of 29%. The Group is well poised to achieve its targets during the year with plans underway for an aggressive expansion of its large format retail outlets and

diversification plans into the financial services sector. During the 1st quarter the Group reported an Operating Profit of Rs. 148m. The results were affected due to a wage increase in the Plantation Sector in June 2011. This comprised a gratuity provision of Rs. 469m and wage arrears of Rs. 158m which resulted the Group Reporting a Profit Before Tax of Rs. 3.4m. If not for this impact which had to be absorbed in the current quarter, the Group would have recorded an Operating Profit amounting to Rs.

775m and a Profit Before Tax of Rs. 630m for the three months ended on 30th June 2011. During the last 12 months Group Debt levels reduced from Rs. 4.8bn as at 30th June 2010 to Rs. 4.2bn by end June 2011. This reduction in debt levels and the increase in the overall profitability over the last two years have significantly reduced the level of Gearing of the Group. The resulting finance costs have reduced to Rs. 170m compared to Rs. 181m incurred in the three months ended on 30th June 2010.



Expressway toll fees to be gazetted

By Madushika Gunawardane Achalie Kumara

(dailymirror.lk) The toll fee on vehicles for the Southern Highway (Colombo-Galle) will be gazetted within this week, the Road Development Authority said.

Director Planning Division (UDA) G. Bandara said that the rates had already been finalized and will soon be announced to the public after the gazette procedure is completed. "Tickets will be issued at the entry point and the charges will be made at the exit" he said.

The toll proposed for light vehicles such as C1 C2 class will be charged a fee of Rupees three, Rs. seven for buses and Rs. nine for lorries and containers.

Sri Lanka's longest bridge was built on the Southern Expressway across the Bentara River. The bridge is located at the 128 km of the Southern expressway from Kottawa to Matara in the Aviththawa area of the Galle District," he said. The bridge is 695 metres in length, 17 metres in width had been built at a cost of Rs.1090 million. The 396 metre long and 10 metre wide Kinniya Bridge constructed across a lagoon in Kinniya in Trincomalee was Sri Lanka's longest bridge earlier. The Southern highway, which is a 96 Km stretch from Kottawa to Pinnaduwa will be time effective as a traveller on the highway may reach Galle from Colombo within an hour.

Tharanga and Malinga pilot Lanka to victory

Chinthana WASALA reporting from Sooriyawewa, Hambantota

(dailynews.lk/2011/08/17) A superb century by Upul Tharanga, who was involved in a massive partnership with Skipper Tillekeratne Dilshan and some classy bowling by Lasith Malinga helped Sri Lanka defeat Australia by 78 runs in the third ODI played at the picturesque Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium in Sooriyawewa, Hambantota last night.

The victory also put Sri Lanka in the second slot of the ICC ODI team rankings. Sri Lanka kept their hopes alive in the series with yesterday's victory but Australia still lead the series 2-1 with two more matches to be played.

Sri Lanka piled up a total of 286 for 9 when they

batted first after losing the toss on a pitch which was forecast to be batting friendly. In reply Australia could only make 208 runs all out in the 43rd over.

Lasith Malinga was the entertainer throughout the Sri Lankan reply with the ball and provided the breakthrough for Sri Lanka when his perfect lengthened delivery touched the face of Shane Watson's bat and went to the hands of Mahela Jayawardena.

But then it was the debutant Shaminda Eranga who provided the entertainment for the Lankan supporters as he bowled what was called by the commentators, the ball of the match, to clean bowl Brad Haddin for 5. Haddin failed to read the inswinger and the pacy delivery beat the bat and banged onto the off stump, giving Eranga his maiden wicket in ODIs in his very first over. A return catch given by Ricky Ponting was dropped by Kulasekera just before that and the former Aussie skipper took advantage of it, hammering four boundaries before new man Eranga struck again, taking a return catch to dismiss Ponting for 22. Australia were 3 for 52. After a 71 run partnership for the fourth wicket, between the next batsman Michael Hussey and Michael Clarke, the latter popped up a catch off a leading edge to Jayawardena who did not miss the easy chance offered by Clarke, adding another wicket to crowd-favourite Malinga's account.

David Hussey was bowled by Ajantha Mendis for 8 when the ball hit the inside edge and was pulled onto the off stump. Kulasekera took a rebound and ran out Steven Smith off his own bowling. Smith made 18.

Malinga struck once again to send Mike Hussey back to the pavilion when he tried to slash a fast wide yorker but went straight to the hands of substitute fielder Suraj Randiv. Kulasekera took the wicket of Mitchell Johnson in the next over, caught brilliantly by Dinesh Chandimal. Malinga delivered his own fierce yorker to clean bowl Doherty in the following over.

The required run rate was almost 14 runs when Malinga finished the game with a perfect delivery, which ripped off the middle stump to bowl Bollinger for 4, bagging his fourth five wicket haul, finishing the game with 46 balls to spare. Sri Lanka were put into bat first and they had the kind of a start they needed. Opening pair, Upul Tharanga and skipper Thillakaratne Dilshan laid the perfect foundation for their team, building a 139 run partnership.

Runs came flowing in for the home team in a slow but steady manner. Upul Tharanga was trying to hit the ball harder. Tharanga started the innings with a boundary, picked up a fuller delivery which pitched outside the off stump, and cut it over point. Scoring runs was no hard task for Tharanga as he punished almost every loose delivery. He had 79 runs for his name when Dilshan was out, trying to clear the deep mid wicket boundary, pulling hard off a loose delivery by Doug Bollinger halfway through the innings. Dilshan was out in the first delivery of the 26th over for 55.

Former skipper Kumar Sangakkara joined the run feast after Dilshan's dismissal, and he



Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga celebrating after taking the wicket of Australian Michael Clarke in the third One-Day International at Sooriyawewa. Picture by Kamal Jayamanne

made sure that everything worked out according to the game plan.

Sangakkara made an accelerated approach and played a 37 ball knock, including three boundaries and two sixes.

The first of his sixes came in when he lifted the ball over the fielder at long on, the same way that he got out in the previous match.

Sangakkara punished Xavier Doherty with a four and a six in the 36th over. The Tasmanian with an ODI Bowling average of over 43 runs, conceded 14 in his fifth over, thanks to Sangakkara's nicely placed sweep which found the backward squareleg boundary and the confident straight six which was hit over the umpire.

Sangakkara departed with one run short of his half century when he was given out, lbw off a straight one from Bollinger. The scoreboard read 224 for 3.

Next man in, Dinesh Chandimal only faced two deliveries, the first was driven straight to the boundary and the second, straight to Clarke's hands at first slip, in the same over by Bollinger. Tharanga departed in Bollinger's next over, failing to steer it to the third man boundary. Instead of that, the ball found the

gloves of wicketkeeper Bradd Haddin. Sri Lanka 230 for 4.

Chamara Silva was a failure once again. The experienced batsman occupied the crease for 16 deliveries but added 9 runs, a lot less than expected from him. Jeevan Mendis for 1 and Kulasekera for 4. But Mahela Jayawardena tried to add some more towards the end of the innings. He added three classic boundaries, followed by an unorthodox six, hit over the fineleg boundary off a full length ball which fell on the off side with an unusual sweep.

But Watson took both Jayawardena and new man Eranga in the same over when the innings finished at a comfortable 286 run mark for 9 wickets. Sri Lanka played with two changes, Chamara - Silva and new cap seaming allrounder Shaminda Eranga replaced injured Anjelo Mathews and Rangana Herath while the Aussie team was unchanged.



Sri Lanka's Upul Tharanga raises his bat to acknowledge the cheers of the crowd after reaching his century and is being congratulated by Kumar Sangakkara. Picture by Kamal Jayamanne.

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Tense situation at the Working Committee

(dailymirror.lk) A tense situation has arisen at the working committee meeting of the UNP which is currently underway at the Sirikotha. Sources told Daily Mirror online that heated arguments between the reformists and Ranil factions have erupted. Earlier the proposed Sathyagraha was to be held at the party headquarters at Sirikotha but was abandoned due to an injunction ordered by the Gangodawila magistrate. The roads around Pitakotte were also closed citing construction. The Sathyagraha was then shifted to Viharamaha Devi Park where all reformist leaders spoke to those present.

MP's Dayasiri Jayasekara, Budhdhika Pathirana, Ranjith Maddumabandara and Sajith Premadasa alleged that the UNP leader was on a contract by the government as there was no other way that the roads were to be "suddenly under construction". The Crowd gathered at the Opposition Leaders house are seen shouting slogans demanding the immediate resignation of UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe.

According to Premadasa, Deputy Leader Karu Jayasuriya will also join the protestors after the conclusion of the working committee meeting. (Fazal Mohamed)

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New BOC GM assumes duties

(news.lk) The Bank of Ceylon appointed Mrs. W.A. Nalini as the bank's 17th General Manager, today. A veteran in the Banking Sector W.A. Nalini has joined the Bank of Ceylon in the year 1975 and has functioned in several senior positions before she was elevated to the post of General Manager. She is the 3rd female to take up the post of General Manager of the Bank of Ceylon. Addressing the employees of the Bank after taking up the appointment this morning, she said that her primary aim would be to protect the existing customer base of the bank and also to attract new customers. BOC is



currently in the process of adopting new technology to ensure that the Bank remains competitive in the present day banking environment, she further added. W.A. Nalini who is a graduate from the Colombo University with a Bachelor of Arts Hons. Degree in Economics and a Bachelor of Philosophy in Economics, is a specialist in both Domestic and Corporate Banking. She had her primary and secondary education at Anula Vidyalaya, Nugegoda and Vishaka Vidyalaya, Bambalapitiya. BOC Chairman Dr. Gamini Wickramasinghe and several other senior officials were present at this occasion.

Large banks must merge - Sampath MD

Sanjeevi JAYASURIYA

(dailynews.lk/2011/08/17) It is time for a structural adjustment in the country's banking sector for it to become a regional player where local banks could benefit from the demand. There is a need to have large banks in the country. The larger banks should merge as it would then make them stable. The banks could capitalize on the country's development drive when there are large and stable banks,

Sampath Bank Managing Director Harris Premaratne told Daily News Business. "The country is in the process of development and requires mega projects. However, it has been difficult to fund them by borrowing within the country as local banks do not have the required capital being small banks. This could be overcome by merging banks and making them strong," he said. The way forward for the banking sector is to become regional players by meeting requirements

of these countries. The banks need to have large capital bases. For instance if a local bank is to enter the Indian banking sector it needs US \$ 100 million capital to have a 25 branch bank network.



Harris Premaratne

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TRAIL

Continued from P1

... been a lot of things to a lot of people. For Nathan Sivagananathan especially, the cause was a dear one having lost his sister to cancer 5 years ago. For Sarinda it was fulfilling a promise that he had made to walk the length of the country if the separatist war that plagued Sri Lanka came to an end, a mark of his commitment to peace. Together Nathan and Sarinda turned a dream into a unique fundraising initiative to support those suffering from cancer and so Trail was born and organized through the Colours of Courage Trust which was set up to help the National Cancer Institute, Maharagama. TRAIL has raised \$1.3mn in aid of the Pediatric Cancer Ward and on that momentous day laid the foundation stone for the unit. It also launched the Trail Auction on the website where tickets for the glamorous Victoria's Secret Fashion Show donated by Limited Brands USA, airline tickets courtesy of Etihad Airways and American Airlines and cricket memorabilia will be auctioned. Trail also aims to sell 100,000 bricks through the 'buy-

a-brick' campaign. Bid for the auction items or support the brick campaign by visiting <http://www.trails.lk.com/auction/> and <http://www.trails.lk.com/?page=brick>.

The walk is over but Trail is still determined to reach its target of US\$ 2 million through the auction and the buy-a-brick campaign and further donations. Overall Trail has been an incredible journey. It has been a nation uniting together to give a new and happy beginning for many children through the installation of the new cancer ward. It has been a nation uniting to help make

the future cancer free. Please visit www.trails.lk.com for information on how you can support.

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Brief history of Justice of the Peace

(ft.lk) Justice of the Peace is the immediate person who comes to mind in the event there is a need for any document to be officially certified. The post of Justice of the Peace is an honorary title in Sri Lanka assigned to respectable personalities in recognition of their valuable service to the country. It is imperative to study the history as to how this responsible title came into effect.

The history of this reputable title Justice of the Peace goes as far back as 12th century. It was in 1195 this post of Justice of the Peace was created by Richard I in England widely became known as King's Peace. In 1327 it was introduced as a noble and legal post and later changed as Guard of Peace.

The Justice of the Peace was privileged to be present at the Court hearings chaired by the King in spite of its honorary status. Eventually in 1361 this post was decided to be introduced as Justice of the Peace during the rule of Edward III and has been consistently in use to date.

This position was upgraded in 1361 with powers equal to that of the magistrate. Later this position was categorised under Urban Law in terms of the Commonwealth Act.

Presently, Australia , Canada , Hong Kong, South Africa ,India, Belgium, Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, Singapore, USA operate the Justice of

the Peace system and powers of the Justice of Peace vary from country to country.

The British Empire systematically introduced the position of Justice of the Peace in its colonies with the intent of enactment of the English judicial procedure in a bid to attract the cooperation of the local society for expansion of their administrative powers.

The strategy of the British colonial masters for a smooth transition from Dutch administration to

British governance was the appointment of selected leaders of the country as the Justice of the Peace by a percentage rate in the first instance.

Alexander of Russia II introduced the Justice of the Peace to Russia under the Legal Reforms Act in

1864. This was mainly due to the influence of British system. However, this system was abolished in early the 1900s with the establishment of the Communist Soviet Union.

In certain countries it is believed that reputable personalities appointed as Justices of the Peace have been invested with judiciary powers to ease the heavy load of court hearings. Still the Justice of Peace posts are operated in some provinces of

Australia, Ireland, Belgium Wales and Scotland with certain judiciary powers.

The awarding of Justice of the Peace in Sri Lanka was commenced during the regime of Governor Sir Fredrick North in 1801 and this post was awarded to the people of the elite society of Sri Lanka with a hidden objective to get the high society support to administrate the country smoothly.

At the initial level the presentation was done through the churches.

In 1871, the power of the Justice of Peace was reformed. Today there are more than 100,000 Justices of the Peace in Sri Lanka who carry out their volunteer service to society.

The appointment of Justice of the Peace by the British rulers was to muster the support of the society for a peaceful administration convenient to the public in resolving their social issues with a spirit of mutual understanding and compromise. The Minister of Justice has already taken the initiative steps on the appointment intelligent persons of the area as Justices of the Peace in the Northern and Eastern Provinces in a bid to maintain peace and order in the region.

Justice of the Peace has become highly popular among the public for official certification of affidavits and documentation, an extraordinary service free of charge. The society extends its high regard to the Justice of the Peace for their remarkable contribution of service rendered to

the public at the moment of need. Some Justices of the Peace are legally authorised for all island service and some are limited to particular district only.

The National Congress of Justice of Peace proposed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Justice President Counsellor Suhada Gamalath will be established in near future with the objective of meeting the entire Justice of the Peace community at one union and promoting their welfare in recognition of a commendable service. The administration of Justice of the Peace will continue to function in the interest of the general public for many more years.

(The writer is a Media Consultant to the Ministry of Justice.)

Guest Column



By **Dulan Hettiarachchi**

Johnson's 6/31 wrecks Lanka

Dilanka MANNAKKARA reporting from Pallekelle

(dailynews.lk/2011/08/11) A much experienced and dominant Australian side stamped their class after thrashing a hapless Lankan side by seven wickets to record a crushing win in the first ODI at Pallekelle to take the lead in the five match ODI series 1-0. Sri Lanka were bowled out for a shocking 191 all out.

It was the Mitchell Johnson show as he did his best ever, by taking 6 for 31 in his 100th game for Australia.

Sri Lanka who won the toss and opted to bat first were off to a quick start after Upul Tharanga

coming back to the side after three months, hit a breezy 34 before he was bowled trying to cut Xavier Doherty. Dilshan who wasn't at his fluent best tried to lift David Hussey over mid-off but failed to clear the field and was caught for 29. Sri Lanka were in further trouble after Mahela Jayawardena pushed down to number four after opening in the T 20 games slashed at a wide ball outside off stump and was caught by Brad Haddin off Mitchell Johnson for just three runs. Then Johnson made further inroads to the Lankan batting line up by deceiving Sangakkara to a fullish slow delivery that drew him to play a drive for 16 runs. Chandimal batting in at number five departed for 12 off the bowling of Doug

Bollinger..

Another two wickets to Johnson came soon after, and Sri Lanka's pain was compounded. A quick yorker rattled the stumps of Jeevan Mendis for 2. Angelo Mathews had a brain-freeze and was caught at mid-off and Shane Watson took the catch and the score was on 117 for seven wickets. It was up to the pair of Suraj Randiv and Nuwan Kulasekara to rebuild the Lankan innings and they batted sensibly showing their much famed top order the way to go on a placid batting wicket. A 60-run crucial partnership from Suraj Randiv and Nuwan Kulasekara gave the crowd at Pallekelle something to cheer,

(Contd: on P24)

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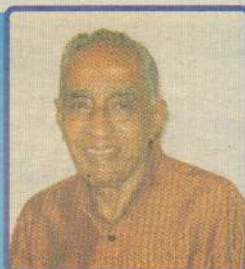
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With NEWSLANKA Editor -

REGGIE

FERNANDO

**Percy - How Lovely and Honourable it is to Cheer for One's Country;
People like you are not only a rare breed but a vanishing breed as well -
Keep it up, Percy, keep it up**

The basic idea of having a Sri Lankan Cricket cheerleader is to promote and uphold team spirit all around the grounds, to develop good sportsmanship by example, to support good relations among all the fans supporting both sides and between the two teams during matches. The organisational goal is to work in harmony with the team management and administration. i.e. officials of the visiting team and Sri Lankan Cricket. (SLC)

In Sri Lanka we have had one such personality and that is the one and only Percy Abeyasekera, my old friend from the days of the Oval (Tamil Union) off Borella where all the international matches were played in those grand old days and the 'greats' like Bradman, the three Ws of the Windies, Sobers, and many from England gave glorious exhibitions in every department of the game.

Percy who says his late parents showed him the way to what he's today is 75 and still batting. It will be remembered that Percy's father was almost a centurion when he passed away at 96 and his mum had a good innings too for she died at 81.



The birthday cake made in a shape of a cricket turf with batsman in action.

*Many Happy Returns Percy and
May your God go with you.*



Percy and his family



Mr. Daya Wahalathanthri (Director Exports of ACL Cables Plc, Mr. Deepal Perera, President Kalutara Town Club, Mr. Suren Madanayake, Managing Director ACL Cables PLC Group of Companies, The Birthday Boy Percy Abeysekera, Mr. R.K.S. Sureshchandra, Supreme Court Judge, Percy's close friends, and Champika Coomasaru Group Financial Controller ACL Cables.



Club President
Deepal Perera
addressing the
welcome speech.

Supreme Court Judge
Sureshchandra
addressing
the gathering.



Percy cuts the Birthday Cake



Percy shares the cake with his sister
Veteran Teacher Padmini Amarasinghe.



Shares with his daughter
Nadeesha Abeysekera



Some of the guests who graced the occasion.



Percy and Herbert



Percy sings a Baila Song.



Percy addressing
the guests.



Percy dances with the only living sister



We love you dear Percy
Happy Birthday
Cricket fans of Sri Lanka
CRICKET LOVERS of KALUTARA.



Percy dancing with his son
and his wife Rajitha



Percy in relax mood with his Daughter
Nadeesha, Grand Daughter Amaani
and Daughter in Law Rajitha Extreme left.



Percy with Australian Fast Bowler Mitchell
Johnson who took 6 for 31 and became the
Man of the Match and Australian Captain
Michael Clarke during the Awards Ceremony
after the first One Day match at Pallekele Stadium.

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ANOTHER PRESENTATION
BY
Palinda Samarasinghe

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Wesley and Seetha Devi clinch hockey C'ship

Text and pix by L.D. Chandrasiri,
Matale Corr.

(sundaytimes.lk/110814) Wesley College Colombo and Seetha Devi Girls' School Kandy annexed the boys' and girls' hockey titles respectively at the Sri Lanka Schools Hockey Championship 2011 for boys and girls Under-17 concluded last Sunday (7) at the Royal College ground in Colombo. The closely contested boys final between Wesley and last year champions Nalanda, Colombo saw Wesley scoring their winning goal through skipper and centre half Imadh Muzammil off a penalty corner in the first half to seal 1-0 victory. Indika Jayawardhane and M. Naushad controlled the final. Wesley beat St. Thomas' Matale 1-0 and

Nalanda beat St. Aloysius', Galle 2-1 in the semifinals. St. Thomas' Matale had the consolation of winning the boys third place by defeating St. Aloysius' by 3-1. For St. Thomas', Udara Abeykoon (2) and Charith Dissanayake scored while Nadumal Jayasinghe claimed the solitary goal for St. Aloysius'. Seetha Devi Girls' School beat home town rivals Pushpadana Girls' School Kandy 1-0 in the final to win the girls' title. Forward Ayesha Madushani netted the winning goal in the first half. Ajith Manjula and G.H. Ekanayake controlled the final. Seetha Devi beat Yasodhara, Colombo 3-1 on penalties after the game ended in a one-all draw. Samadara Chandrika claimed one

for Seetha Devi while Upekha Parthana netted one for Yasodhara Pushpadana Girls (Chathurika Ekanayake 2, Tinishia Jayasinghe 1) beat St. Anthony's Girls School Kandy (Dinushi Gunawardhane 1) by 3 goals to one in the girls' semifinal. In the girls consolation final St. Anthony's Girls' beat Yasodhara Colombo 1-0 with right inside Amila Fonseka scoring the winning goal. The most striking feature of this year's tournament was that the three leading hockey playing girls' schools in Kandy entering the semifinal stage and winning the first three places. The three-day tournament conducted by SLSHA together with Colombo Schools Hockey Committee saw fifty teams from Colombo, Kandy, Matale, Galle,



Girls Champions – Seetha Devi Girls School



Boys Champions – Wesley College

St. Peters' College Colombo, OBU (UK Branch)

Programme of Events

7th August
Annual Joe / Pete Cricket Match
Starting at 12 noon
Winchmore Hill C.C. London N21 3ER.
Entrance and Car parking - FREE !.

21st August
Annual Saints' Quadrangular Cricket Tournament
(St. Anthony's, St. Benedict's, St. Joseph's, St. Peter's)
Starting at 10 am
Winchmore Hill C.C. London N21 3ER.
Entrance and Car parking - FREE !.

28th August
Annual General Meeting
Starting at 4 pm
Prince of Ceylon Restaurant, London NW4 3JH

10th December
Christmas Party (Details to follow)
Members, friends and their families are cordially invited to attend and join in the fellowship that will follow the events on 7th, 21st and 28th August.
Brian (07710233469), Len (07904362900),
Claude (07528687041)

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Wennappuwa, Gampaha and Badulla educational regions taking part. Sumith Edirisinghe, Senior SSP, Matara and the president of SLHF graced the occasion as the chief guest. He distributed trophies and medals to winners along with the officials of Sri Lanka Schools Hockey Association.

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Touring Sri Lankan dies in Varanasi

LUCKNOW, Aug. 13: A Sri Lankan national, who was on a visit here with a group, died near Varanasi, police said.
 Hangalan Mudiyansele Bandula Kahawatte, died yesterday while he was going along with his wife and friends to Varanasi from Allahabad, police said. Mr. Kahawatte came to India on August 10 on a tourist visa along with a group via Chennai, they said.

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Aries (the Ram) 21st March - 20th April

Make those phone calls and pay your bills. It's time to reevaluate your own motives and make changes to yourself first. You are ready to blow up and your stress level has gone into over drive. Lucky day Sunday.

Taurus (the Bull) 21st April - 20th May

Make the necessary changes that will enable you to advance financially. Take the time to do your job correctly. Do not reveal personal information to those you feel may be untrustworthy. Lucky day Tuesday.

Gemini (the Twins) 21st May - 20th June

Attend trade shows that will allow you to look at new products. You will be your usual charming self and the partners you attract may be the adventurous type. Be careful that you don't overextend yourself. Lucky day Friday.

Cancer (the Crab) 21st June - 20th July

You may want to put everyone to work on a project that will keep them all too busy to complain. Your best efforts will come through investments concerning your home. You need to be inspired and have your spirits lifted. Lucky day Tuesday.

Leo (the Lion) 21st July - 19th / 22nd Aug

Include the whole family or those you love. Don't be too critical. Efforts made to improve yourself will turn out to your satisfaction. Home improvement projects will run smoothly. Lucky day Monday.

Virgo (the Virgin) 20th / 23rd Aug - 22nd Sept

Put your time and energy into travel, philosophy, and soul-searching. Leave things as they are for the moment and focus on reaching your highest potential at work. Your creative imagination will help you in coming up with unique ideas. Lucky day Monday.

Libra (the Scale) 23rd Sept - 22nd Oct

You can make money if you get involved in real estate deals. Reevaluate your motives. Spending too much time talking to friends or relatives could easily turn into a debate. Don't make any unreasonable promises. Lucky day Tuesday.

Scorpio (the Scorpion) 23rd Oct - 21st Nov

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunities that exist. Don't get involved in secret affairs or underhanded involvement's. Travel should be on your agenda. You may have difficulties with foreigners. Lucky day Sunday.

Sagittarius (the Archer) 22nd Nov - 20th Dec

Don't consume more than necessary. Talk to someone you trust in order to see the whole picture. Arguments could prevail. Ask family members for help and you will be able to complete the projects more quickly. Lucky day Tuesday.

Capricorn (the Goat) 21st Dec - 20th Jan

Try to be fair in your dealings with acquaintances. You should be able to get involved in an interesting proposition this week. You will be highly entertaining when in contact with your lover. Lucky day Sunday.

Aquarius (the Water Carrier) 21st Jan - 19th Feb

Tell them to get out of the mess they are in and then you'll consider getting together with them. Quarrels will erupt if you get into philosophical debates with friends. You will need to spend extra time sorting through your work. Concentrate on work. Lucky day Monday.

Pisces (the Fishes) 20th Feb - 20th March

You will learn a great deal about yourself if you go somewhere secluded. Problems with peers is apparent. Be honest if you wish to solve the problem. Try to be considerate in your personal obligations. Lucky day Tuesday.

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Johnson's from P21

and the team something to defend with the ball. Randiv tried to launch Johnson out of the ground only to be caught at long-off for an invaluable 41. Later in the same over, Johnson came around the wicket and knocked back the off stump of Ajantha Mendis to secure his first six-wicket haul in an ODI.
 The fightback quickly fizzled out when Kulasekara (34) pulled to deep midwicket where a good catch low to the ground from Michael Hussey gave Brett Lee his 350th one-day international wicket
 The Australians started the chase with a bang after Shane Watson dealt the pace attack of Nuwan Kulasekara and Suranga Lakmal by hammering them to all corners. He started off with some lovely boundaries and moved on to belting monstrous sixes before Ajantha Mendis was introduced to the attack. Watson hit the first ball he

faced from Mendis for a huge six and was dropped by Suranga Lakmal of the next ball. However Mendis yet again had the better of Brad Haddin who was bowled in the same over for 12 runs. Watson got to his fifty of 43 balls with a lovely six of Mendis over long on. Suraj Randiv was greeted by two giant sixes by Watson before he top edged to be caught by Mahela Jayawardena for a whirlwind 69 of 51 balls with five fours and six massive sixes.
 Captain Michael Clarke and Ricky Ponting steadied the innings and their 101 run partnership ensured that Sri Lanka were totally out of the game. Ponting reached a well made fifty in 65 balls with five fours. He was finally dismissed as he went for the sweep from outside off but was struck on the pad and the ball trickled in to the stumps to dislodge the bail with only 10 runs to win. Clarke then finished off the chase by hitting Randiv down the track and Australia won with 71 balls to spare.

University of Colombo clinches overall championship

(sundaytimes.lk/110814) This year 14 universities from across the island participated in the foremost sports competition in the university championship. They participated in 34 sports to reach the ultimate goal of attaining the coveted title becoming the overall champions. This year the games continued for 8 weeks with many sporting events being scattered across the island, from Jaffna, Colombo, Ruhuna, Moratuwa, Matara, Kelaniya, Sri Jayawardenapura to Oluvil.

The university of Colombo emerged victorious in this battle to become the leader of sport among the universities at the inter university championship

2011 and successfully defended their position at the pinnacle as the overall championships through spirited performances from both the men's and women's teams, proving that teamwork is the ingredient of their success. The overall champions maintained their stronghold by emerging victorious in the events of Cricket, Baseball Rowing (men and women), table tennis (men and women), Taekwondo women, Swimming women, tennis women, Netball and chess women.
 This has been the fourth consecutive year the university of Colombo has prevailed as the overall champions at inter university championship.

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Sunday 21st August 2011

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7.00 p.m - 8.00 p.m	"Advent of Lord Krishna" by Sri Mathan Mohan
8.00 p.m - 9.00 p.m	Nithya Pooja followed by Prasadam
9.30 p.m - 10.30p.m	Cultural Programme
10.30 p.m - 11.30p.m	Maha Abhishekam to Sri Krishna
11.30 p.m - 12 am	Cultural programme
12 am -	Sri Krishna Janana pooja followed by special 'Kaayam' served to devotees

Monday 22nd August 2011

6pm - 7pm	Abhishekam to Lord Krishna
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Old Peterites once again stole the show as they eased into a comfy victory at the UK Joe-Pete Big Match

Old Peterites in the UK played a show piece game of cricket spiced with fervour and grandeur as they beat their Big Match rival the Old Joes by 5 wickets, with Krishal Magage scoring a spectacular match winning 107 at the Joe-Pete Big Match held at Winchmore Hill Cricket Club Ground on Sunday, 7th August 2011.

Josephians won the toss and elected to bat first on a wicket that looked full of runs as they completed their inning with 234 for 6 wickets in 40 Overs. Josephians pressed hard to contain the Peterites, yet, Krishal Magage powered on to 107, off 56 balls and including 2 x 6's and 13 x 4's, and Kazan Ahmad added a useful 48 runs. Roshan Perera 8 runs and Sanjaya Rajapaksha played a storming innings contributing 29 runs to the total, and took the Peterites to victory with 5 overs and 5 wickets to spare. The bowling attack of the Peterites was led by Shifaz Ahmed 2, and Dilshan Pereira 2, Ramesh 1 and Shaluka 1.

Man of the Match and the Best Player of the Peterite Team was Krishal Magage and Best Player of the Josephian team was Chaturanga Kumara. Nelanka Peiris (St. Josephs) and Ramesh Subasinghe (St. Peter's) captained their respective teams.

The Peterite team consisted of many talented and professional players who currently play 1st class cricket in Sri Lanka and in cricket leagues in the UK. The star player of the day, Krishal Magage - a left-hand opening batsman and right-arm medium-fast bowler, also played for the Sri Lanka U-15s, Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC), and Moratuwa Sports Club. He is currently playing 1st class cricket for Saracens sports club, and was the Vice-captain of the team in 2010.. He is also presently playing in the Birmingham cricket league and is considered a brilliant all-rounder. The Captain Ramesh Subasinghe an excellent opening bowler, played for the Kurunegala Youth Cricket club and currently plays 1st class cricket for Nondescripts Cricket Club (NCC). He is a ECB qualified coach and has been playing English league cricket for the last 5 five years.. Kasan

Ahamed is a top order batsman playing for Middlesex cricket league, is also a talented Hockey and Rugby player who represented college and the Old Peterite Rugby team in past years. Sanjaya Rajapaksha is an experienced professional player. His 1st class cricket record includes playing for the Burgher Recreation Club, Moors Sports Club, Moratuwa Sports Club, Ragama Cricket Club, Sebastianites Cricket and Athletic Club, and Sri Lanka Air Force Sports Club. He is also an outstanding player in the Cornwall cricket league. Jehan Jayasuriya was named in the 'Peterite team of the decade 2000-2010'. He Captained St. Peter's 1st XI in 2002 and, the Sri Lanka U17 team to win the Asia cup. He also played for University of Colombo 2003 to 2006. Amman Samsudeen a former Nondescript's cricket club player, was a very good opening bowler in his prime.

The Josephian team, led by experienced Nilanka Peiris, consisted of many outstanding match winning players. Their new found talent Chaturanga Kumara, a promising young cricketer in the Sri Lankan cricket arena who could follow in the footsteps of Angelo Mathews, proved his talent again, by winning the Josephian's Man of the Match award, scoring a brilliant 54 runs, and taking 3 wickets for 36 runs in 8 overs. He has also established as a talented athlete when he came second in the 100 metres, 200 metres and long jump events at the popular Sir John Tarbat meet. Chaturanga was awarded a cricket scholarship to represent Southgate Cricket Club as their overseas amateur player in the Middlesex League for the 2011 season, enabling him to commence his cricket career in the English minor league.

Joe-Pete matches have produced exciting cricket, whilst fostering friendship among the old boys and their families in the United Kingdom. The riots nearby did not deter the enthusiasm of supporters of both sides who travelled from all over UK to meet old friends and watch a game of good cricket. It was a day of fun and enjoyment for all. Intermittent rain did not affect the quality of the game



The Champions of Joe-Pete 2011



The Peterite team and their supporters

and the excitement of the supporters. The gentlemen's game concluded with a determination of the Peterites to maintain this form for the Saints Quadrangular Tournament to be held at the same grounds on Sunday 21st August, 2011. After the presentation ceremony of trophies, fellowship

followed with music provided by DJ Susantha, and vocals by the ever popular Freddy Ferhard, Lal Perera and Nilanka Peiris. (SPC OBU UK Media Team Join the facebook group 'St. Peter's Old Boys in UK' for more updates)

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The Josephian team and their supporters



Shifaz Ahmed



Roshan Asanga Perera (wk) - son of a Old Pete



Joesph Gabriel



Jehan Jayasuriya



Len Ludwick

The Old Joes Team

The Old Peterite Team



Ramesh Subasinghe (Captain) Krishal Magage Kazan Ahamed



Shaluka Devinda Dilshan Pereira Sanjaya Rajapaksha Amman Samsodeen



Nelanka Peiris (Captain)

Buddika Attanayake

Dhanuka Hetiarachchi (Wkt)

Danushka Larsarus

Chaturanga Kumara

Dilan Wouterz

Dilshan Fernando

Sandeep Perera

Reshan Fernando

Rukshaan Warnakula

Dinesh Reid

Delikhan Gunawardana



The SPC OBU Team Captain Ramesh Subasinghe receiving the Fr. Le Goc Memorial Challenge Trophy from the President of SJC OBU



Krishal Magage receiving the Man of the Match trophy from Rohana Eliyatambi



The Best Player of SJC OBU Team Chaturanga Kumara receiving his trophy from the President



The Best Player of SPC OBU Team Krishal Magage receiving his trophy from the President



Win or Loose the War Goes on - The two Presidents addressing the gathering

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Ponting powers Aussies to victory

(dailynews.lk/2011/08/15) Ricky Ponting cracked an impressive 90 not out to steer Australia to an easy eight-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the second one-day international played at The Surinawewa Mahinda Rajapakse Cricket Stadium on Sunday. Ponting hit one six and eight fours in his 106-ball knock and skipper Michael Clarke made an unbeaten 58 as Australia surpassed Sri Lanka's total of 208 with more than 11 overs to spare for a 2-0 lead in the five-match series. The duo had also scored half-centuries in their team's seven-wicket win in the previous match. Fast bowler Doug Bollinger led Australia's disciplined attack with three wickets to restrict Sri Lanka to a modest total before Ponting and Clarke ensured victory with their 107-run stand. Clarke, playing his 200th one-day international, hit two sixes and four boundaries in his 67-ball knock.

Ponting also added 94 for the second wicket with in-form opener Shane Watson (43) after the early dismissal of Brad Haddin. Watson, who became the first batsman to complete 1,000 runs in one-dayers this year, was bowled by paceman Lasith Malinga after hitting one six and four boundaries in his 51-ball knock. Bollinger was earlier superbly backed by fast bowlers Mitchell Johnson and Brett Lee, who bagged two wickets apiece. Former captain Kumar Sangakkara top-scored for Sri Lanka with a patient 52, hitting just one six and one four in his 85-ball knock. He added 63 for the fifth wicket with Angelo Mathews (35). Lower-order batsman Nuwan Kulasekara helped Sri Lanka cross the 200-mark with a brisk 31-ball 34. Sangakkara fell just when he looked like stepping up the run-rate, caught by Johnson at long-on while attempting a big shot off spinner David Hussey in the 37th over. Australia gained the upper hand when they reduced Sri Lanka to 77-4, with Lee, Johnson, Bollinger and left-arm spinner Xavier Doherty taking one wicket each. Skipper Tillakaratne Dilshan (24), Mahela Jayawardene (17) and Upul Tharanga (13) all got starts, but none could play a big knock. AFP

SRI LANKA
U. Tharanga c Haddin b Johnson 13
T. Dilshan b Lee 24
K. Sangakkara c Johnson b D. Hussey 52
M. Jayawardene c M. Hussey b Doherty 17
D. Chandimal c Haddin b Bollinger 1
A. Mathews c M. Hussey b Bollinger 35
J. Mendis c Bollinger b Lee 5

AUSTRALIA
S. Watson b Malinga 43
B. Haddin c Sangakkara b Kulasekara 7
R. Ponting not out 90
M. Clarke not out 58
Extras (lb2, nb1, w10) 13
TOTAL (for two wickets; 38.2 overs) 211

Peterites could not hold to their own

By Naushad Amit
(sundaytimes.lk/110814) Defending a title in any sport is a tougher task than winning it. The title defenders in addition to their in-born skills must confront an extra psychological pressure each time they take the field. Eventually the individual or the team becomes the most avowed object to beat. St. Peter's College, who defended the league rugby title eventually by pressure or pleasure, had to succumb to the mere truth as they watched Royal College take hold of their prestigious title as the schools league rugby champions of 2011. Where or what did drag St. Peter's to an unexpected drowning is a big question that still haunts many rugby fans of Sri Lanka. The Peterites who are renowned to be a well balanced schools rugby outfit earned a dominating name which is hard to blemish within a short period. The coach of the St. Peter's rugby team, Dinesh Colin verified some real facts behind their setbacks. "To begin with the coach is not exactly satisfied the way things took place during the three-month tournament. Before the beginning all had high expectations on St. Peter's but unfortunately we lost the title. On the bright side we never played badly except for the games against Kingswood and St. Joseph's where we couldn't earn bonus points. If you analyse carefully St. Peter's have scored four tries or above in a match and have been able to win bonus point at nine outings which is a remarkable fact," Colin assessed.

True to the facts related by Colin, St. Peter's played 11 games while winning seven and losing four. But they are the only team to score 440 points while league champions Royal were 40 points behind them. St. Peter's also leads the way in tries scored with 70 while the second best team next to them is Isipathana with 65



Peterites at practices. (Pix by Sanka Vidanagama)

tries. They also lead in conversions with 39 successful kicks as to 34 by Royal who is the next best team in that aspect. These figures only prove the fact that St. Peter's played good rugby despite being unable to reach their target. But St. Peter's too went through bad patches and experienced the agony of losing a title that they dearly defended. "Our strength during the league season was our backs and we relied a lot on them. Any team would love to have a fantastic set of three-

quarters like St. Peter's but unfortunately they didn't get the ball. As a result we couldn't achieve the set points this season," Colin said. Colin said the coaching staff headed by Sanath Martis had even drawn an entirely different action plan for the year 2011 knowing that they are not a strong outfit with forwards. This prompted the Peterites to take on the league season in a match-after-match planning basis. "Our forwards were not so strong but they were mobile. We lost many scrums and line outs and lost possession of the ball many a time. As a result of this we were compelled to defend than our usual style of attacking rugby. But we are happy that St. Peter's have showed a quality brand of rugby during the past decade. I really believed that we could have won the league title though it's not the truth," Colin who is now fully changed the focus into the upcoming knockout competition said. "Rugby is a game that cannot be predicted. This year like us many teams faced unexpected and mixed outcomes and

the season was full of surprises. This season may have not been the best for St. Peter's but we have done well in the past and will continue to keep up that form in years to come. Bad periods may come and go but we have a long term vision for rugby. Our feeder base is strong and talented. The future looks well set and bright," Colin stated.

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three Test matches will be played one each at Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah and the five ODIs will be played 2 in Dubai, 2 in Abu Dhabi and a game in Sharjah.

The tour was forced to be shifted out of Pakistan as a result of the Lankan team bus being attacked by terrorists in the city of Lahore in 2009.

Thereafter no international cricket (besides Afghanistan) team has toured the beleaguered cricket destination and even the 2011 Cricket World Cup was moved out of the country and the matches shared between the other three hosts Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh.

Sharjah was a very popular cricketing destination in the 1980s, but a string of scandals that followed saw the venue being dropped from the international list. The last Test match in Sharjah was played way back in 2002 when Pakistan played the West Indies while last ODI involving two test playing nations was worked off on April 10, 2003 when Pakistan took on Zimbabwe in the final of the Cheri Blossom Sharjah Cup. The other teams that took part in this tournament were Sri Lanka and Kenya. Currently Afghanistan uses Sharjah as their home venue.

T-20 World Championship final 2012

It is also learned that the ICC has confirmed the 2012 T-20 World Championship which is scheduled to be played in Sri Lanka will be played at Pallekelle, Hambantota and at the R. Premadasa Stadium.

R. Premadasa Stadium was used by the ICC to stage one of the 2011 World Cup semi-finals early this year and Sri Lanka took on New Zealand in that game. The final of the championship will be worked off at the Premadasa Stadium. However the women's T-20 championship which will be played concurrently will be worked off at the Galle Cricket Stadium.

T-20 World Championship final at the Premadasa Stadium

By S.R. Pathiravithana
(sundaytimes.lk/110814) The much talked about Sri Lanka's FTP tour of Pakistan will now be played in three locations in all probabilities. However the tour on principal is confirmed. It is learned that already the two cricket administrations have

agreed upon Abu Dhabi and Dubai, but the Sharjah leg is still under consideration by the Pakistani authorities. The Sri Lanka team is scheduled to leave the country on October 15 and the tour will go on till mid-November. If the tour goes off as scheduled the



Pakistan tour

Beat Havelocks by 23 points to 12:

Kandy SC retain league title for 11th successive year

S M Jiffrey Abdeen, - Kandy Sports Correspondent

(dailynews.lk/2011/08/15) Defending champions Kandy Sports Club left an indelible mark on rugby League Championship when they won it for a record 11th successive year by defeating Havelocks Sports Club by a good margin of 23 points (one goal, two tries, two penalties) to 12

(one goal, one try) in the final game of the Caltex League Championship played before a large crowd at Nittawela yesterday. At half time Kandy led 15-7. It was celebration all over as there was a fireworks display and Kandy players were carried shoulder high by their supporters. They danced and kissed the ground as if they had won a war.

But Kandy did not have things easy as the Havies gave them a torrid time and made them fight for victory.

With this win Kandy have aggregated 46 points, the highest by any club though six of the points earned by them in their match against CH and FC have been withheld by the SLRFU following an enjoining order but this win made it insignificant in the final reckoning.

The first points mounted on the board in the 16th minute when Havelocks three quarters after two earlier warnings were spotted off side. Kandy's scrum half Roshan Weeraratne converted the 40 metre penalty from a very difficult angle. (Kandy 3-0).

Hardly had the cheers died down and a minute later it was that play-maker Fazil Marija who did the honours collecting a pass from scrum half Roshan Weeraratne he bemused the Havies defence by kicking ahead and picked up the loose ball and ran 30 metres to touch down under the posts. Roshan Weeraratne added the extra points. Kandy led 10-0.

But the Havies did not relent and they fought back to tie up the hard running Kandy's three quarters.

They were rewarded in the 30th minute for their hard play. A penalty inside Kandy territory saw Havies stand off Sajith Bandara taking a quick tap and kicking ahead winger Chamara Withanage followed the ball which bounced near Kandy's full back Tharindu Chanaka in the in goal area.

Before Kandy defender took notice Chamara Withanage had touched down for right and scrum half Amjad Buksh added the extra points for Havies to reduce the lead to 7-10.

Almost on the stroke of half time Kandy extended their lead to 15-7 when flanker Asitha Ratnayake taking possession of the ball powered his way to score by the right corner flag though a host of defenders tried to stop him. Roshan Weeraratne failed to add the extra points.

In the 7th minute of the second half, Havies scrum half Amjad Buksh attempted to loop around and slung a pass to replacement stand off Pushpakumara Perera who 'knocked on' and Roshan Weeraratne fired the 35 metre penalty which was offered. (Kandy 18-7).

In the 20th minute legendary winger Sanjeeva Jayasinghe made his farewell appearance for Kandy when he replaced full back Tharindu Chanaka and winger Dinesh Kumara full back to man the last line at defence. Kandy scored again in the 26th minute when they won a line out and replacement scrum half Prasad Chathuranga sent a

quick pass to hooker Achala Perera who scored by the right corner flag. Fazil Marija failed to add the extra points. (Kandy 23-7).

In the 30th minute Havelocks reduced the lead through a push over try scored by flanker Dilip Selvam and this went unconverted.

A point of interest is that all the tries scored by Havies were scored by former Kandy players. Dilroy Fernando refereed.



(dailymirror.lk) Kandy SC celebrates being crowned champions for season 2011. At the conclusion of Sunday's Super Four Kandy SC - Havelock SC game, the proud co-sponsors of Kandy SC Etisalat presented a trophy to the champion team. Kandy SC won the match 23-12 to seal the Caltex League Trophy for a record 11th successive year. The glamour boys of local rugby were sponsored by long time faithful Singer Sri Lanka Ltd and mobile giant Etisalat for the year 2011.

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Up and coming spinner called for chucking

(dailymirror.lk) Promising right-arm spinner Sachithra Senanayake, who is currently representing the Sri Lanka 'A' team in England, has been called for chucking and will return to Sri Lanka for remedial action to his bowling, informed sources said.

The right-arm spinner is believed to have been close to a call up to the national team following good performances with the Sri Lanka 'A' team in tours to Australia and England, but has since been called back after

being reported for chucking.

Senanayake came to prominence when he took 8 for 70 in Australia against their 'A' team last year, and has put in consistent performances.

Meanwhile, sources also said that two changes were likely for third ODI to be played at the Sooriyawewa International Stadium today, with Chamara Silva likely to come in for Dinesh Chandimal while Rangana Herath is likely to be replaced by Suraj Randiv.

Sri Lanka under 20 cager team to tour Germany

(dailynews.lk/2011/08/16) The Sri Lanka men's under 20 basketball team will make a tour of Germany in June, 2012.

The team consisting of 10 players and two officials will play ten matches during the three week tour in Leipzig, Munich, Stuttgart, Badhauheim and Berlin against second and third division teams of the German Basketball League.

The tour is being arranged by national basketball coach Ajith Kuruppu and chairman of the national selection committee of the SLBF Dr Chula Senaratne in collaboration with the AGSEP.

The German teams will make a reciprocal tour of Sri Lanka in October-November 2012 during which they will play matches in Colombo, Kandy, Galle and Negombo.

Sri Lanka Lawyers in record breaking feat

Third Lawyers World Cup

(dailymirror.lk) The Sri Lanka Lawyers cricket team who are participating at the Third Lawyers Cricket World in Barbados put in a record breaking feat in their match against their England counterparts when they amassed 321 in their allotted 30 overs to defeat them by a massive 196 runs. The win also has put themselves in line for a berth to the semi-final which could be achieved if they win the next match.

The Sri Lanka Lawyers cricketers had fluctuated fortunes, the first match against West Indies was abandoned due to inclement weather and this followed with a close 27 runs loss to India before recording the comfortable win against England. According to an official the tournament began with a glittering opening ceremony graced by the West

Indian cricketing stars of the yesteryear including the incomparable Sir Garfield Sobers and the legendary Joel Garner. The official further stated that the massive score against England in fact this in is a record for 30 over International Lawyers' Cricket as well as the Historic Empire Cricket Ground since 1891, which is the late Sir Frank Worrell's home ground.

Results:

Vs West Indies - Match Abandoned
Sri Lanka Vs. West Indies A - Match called off due to rain.

Sri Lanka - 113 for 4 in 21 overs
(Ershan Ariyaratnam - 40, Yohan Jinasena 16, Asela Patabendi - 29 n.o.)

West Indies - 14 for 2 in 4.4 overs
(Asela Patabendi - 1 for 2)

Vs India lost by 27 runs

India 186 for 7 in 30 overs (Digant Popat 36, W. Rizvi-34, Uday Pande 42 n.o.; Nalinda Rathnayake 3 for 30, Pradeep Heenkende 2 for 25, Tharanga Abeykoon 1 for 24, Yohan Jinasena 1 for 33)

Sri Lanka 159 in 29.2 overs (Ershan Ariyaratnam - 47, Yohan Jinasena - 31, Pradeep Heenkende 15: Sunil Rajput 5 for 30)

Vs England - Beat England by 196 runs

Sri Lanka - 321 for 7 in 30 overs (Nalinda Rathnayake 68, Malika Gunasekara 59, Asela Patabendi 52, Yohan Jinasena 41, Ershan Ariyaratnam 29, Priyantha Rajapaksha 18, Pradeep Heenkende 16 n.o.; Oliver Moore 1 for 43)

England 125 for 9 in 30 overs (John Brinsmead-Stockham 49, Charles Prior 16: Nalinda Rathnayake 4 for 19, Yohan Jinasena - 3 for 15, Pasan Amarasekara - 1 for 24, Pradeep Heenkende - 1 for 25) - MSA

Former Bloomfield President Shelley Wickremasinghe is no more

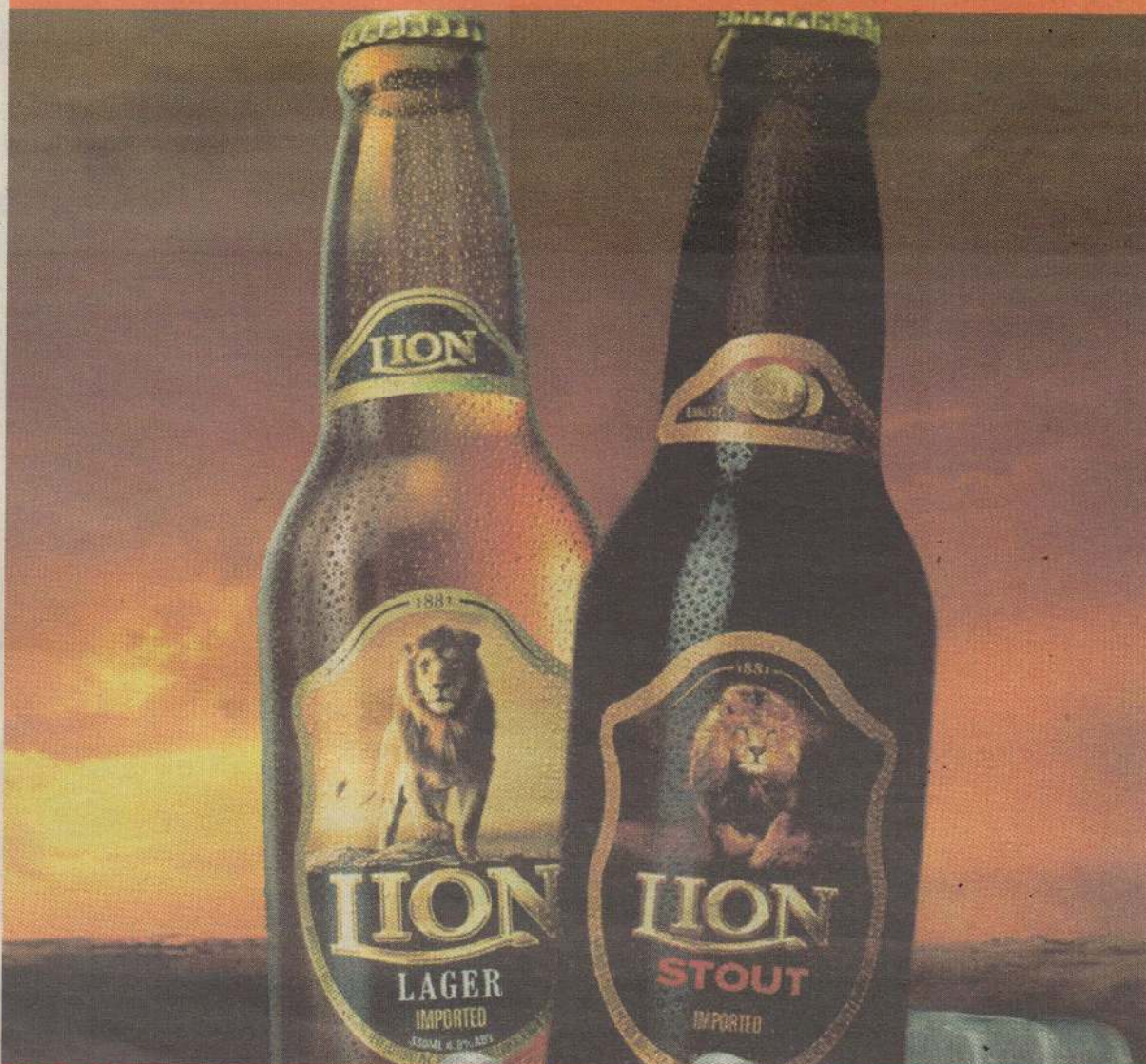


Shelley Wickremasinghe, an outstanding cricketer and sportsman served the game for the right reasons

By Bernie Wijesekera

(sundaytimes.lk) An off the field innings on par with Sir Donald Bradman and off field achievements came to a dignified close when Shelley Wickremasinghe breathed his last on August 12. He was studied with compassion, generosity, selflessness and had exemplary leadership abilities.

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Airwomen division I cricket champions

Anuradha ABEYSEKERA

(dailynews.lk/2011/08/16) The Sri Lanka Air Force women's cricket team clinched the Division I Premier League Women's Cricket Championship when they registered a comfortable seven wicket victory over Parlinks Sports Club in the final played at the Colts ground. Airwomen won all five group matches and were unbeaten throughout the tournament.

Parlinks SC batted first and scored 129/8 in 50 overs. Air Force spinner Chamini Seneviratne did the greatest damage to the Parlinks batting order by removing

four wickets out of 21 runs. She was supported by her fellow spin bowler Rangika Fernando who claimed 2/23. The only two players who fared well with the bat for the losers were Nirosha Wickremasinghe and Shalika Nilukshani who added valuable 44 runs and 38 runs respectively to their total.

In contrast the strong Airwomen found no difficulty to reach the target in 28.5 overs by sacrificing three wickets. Chamari Athapattu scored the highest knock of 37 runs for the victorious team while Chamari Polgampola and Dilani Manadara contributed 35 n/o each. Shalika Nilukshani who did a solitary fight

with the bowl was the only wicket taker for the Parlinks SC. She claimed all three wickets giving away 13 runs. Air Force team played with eight national squad players and were very strong in both batting and bowling. They beat Colts team by 10 wickets in the semi final to qualify for the finals.

Parlinks SC: 129/8 (Nirosha Wickremasinghe 44, Shalika Nilukshani 38, Chamini Seneviratne 4/21, Rangika Fernando 2/23)
Air Force SC: 130/3 in 28.5 overs (Chamari Athapattu 37, Chamari Polgampola 35 n/o, Dilani Manadara 35 n/o, Shalika Nilukshani 3/13)



The victorious Air Force women's cricket team.
Picture by Mahinda Vithanachchi

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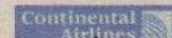
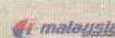
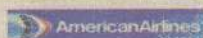
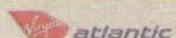
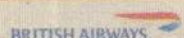


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