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Late City Edition

● **Mannar camp, Kelanitissa suffer minor damages in LTTE air raid**

Tiger aircraft coated with special paint to minimize heat emission?

By **Harischandra Gunaratna**

Two LTTE aircraft yesterday bombed the Mannar army camp and the Kelanitissa Power Station in Colombo. However, the damage was minimal, the military said.

No details were immediately avail-

able from Mannar but a senior defence official confirmed one soldier had been injured there and that bombing had damaged a cooling system connected to a gas turbine at Kelanitissa. The Fire Brigade had managed to bring the situation under control, he said.

There was a power cut in Colombo

soon after the incident as a precautionary measure and the movement of traffic came to a halt for a few hours in some areas in the city due to the incident.

The lights at the Bandaranaike International Airport was also switched off as a precautionary measure but the airport authorities said that the situa-

tion is back to normal and the flights are operated on schedule.

Military Spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said the LTTE had missed both targets as the military had opened anti-aircraft fire in time. "The enemy had to drop the bombs in a hurry and flee," he said.

The air defence systems were activated in Colombo and lights switched off as a precautionary measure. Anti aircraft fire woke up the city and notwithstanding risks hundreds of people could be seen watching the tracer bullets crisscrossing the western skies.

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First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa declares open the Swimming Pool of Sirimavo Bandaranaike Balika Vidyalaya. Principal of the school Ms Pushpa Kalubowila, Education Minister Susil Premjayanth and Sports Minister Gamini Lokuge also attended yesterday's opening ceremony. (Photo-Nihal Chandrakumara)

Indian team due here to speed up power network

by **Don Asoka Wijewardena**

A special Indian delegation will soon arrive in Sri Lanka to expedite the exchange of an Indo-Sri Lanka Electricity Transmission Network in response to a Sri Lankan Government request to the Indian Government for assistance in handling the current energy crisis.

The delegation will hold talks with Power and Energy Minister W. D. G. Seneviratne and energy sector experts on the project.

The Indian Government would supply 1,000 MW of electricity to Sri Lanka and in

Continued on page 2

Stabilisation Fund, interest rate cuts to help floundering tea industry

by **Zacki Jabbar**

The government yesterday decided to establish a Rs.1.5 billion Tea Price Stabilisation Fund and also ask Commercial Banks to cut interest rates by 6 per cent, to bail out the floun-

dering tea industry.

Government sources said that the decision was arrived at during a meeting between the Central Bank, Plantation Ministry, tea industry and com-

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UNP demo for Rs.7,500 pay hike

by **Zacki Jabbar**

The UNP, yesterday held a public protest opposite the Fort Railway station demanding

that the government grants public servants a Rs.7,500 salary increase before or through the 2009 budget.

Continued on page 2

UN discovers arms, ammo hidden outside Mannar office

The United Nations office in Colombo yesterday said that it had discovered two pistols and ammunition hidden in its Mannar office compound yesterday.

The Makarov pistols and 48

rounds of ammunition had been hidden under an outdoor woodpile and were discovered at 10 a.m. by a security officer during a routine check.

Police have taken over investigations.

Four TMVP cadres killed arms taken, five go missing

by **Norman Palihawadena**

Four Thamil Makkal Viduthalai Puligal cadres were shot dead around midnight on Monday at the TMVP office on the Chenkaladi-Badulla Road in Eravur. Five others, who were with them, have been reported missing.

Eravur Police said there had been death threats to TMVP cadres loyal to Eastern Province Chief Minister S. Chandrakanthan for some time. But this was the first occasion four cadres were killed and five went missing.

According to Police Media Spokesman Ranjith Gunasekera, Police are with-

out any information about the killers.

Eravur Police were even unable to guess the fate of those who went missing. "We just don't know whether the five had been abducted by the killers, or whether they had escaped. We cannot even say whether they had a hand in the killing", a spokesman for the Eravur Police said.

Police have deployed special teams to conduct investigations. All the TMVP cadres were armed and the weapons of those who were killed had been taken away by the killers, Police said.

The bodies of the dead had been dispatched to the Batticaloa Hospital and post-mortems were due to be held yesterday, police said.

LTL to get Beliatta power project outside tender procedure

by **Iffham Nizam**

The latest Cabinet Paper on the Beliatta Electricity Project, which was approved on October 22 and is due to be ratified today, is aimed at handing over the project to Lanka Transformers Limited by-passing tender procedures.

Senior Ceylon Electricity

Board sources yesterday told *The Island* that although Lanka Transformers Ltd (LTL) had been formed as a subsidiary of the CEB, their projects were handled by a private company which was not a subsidiary of either the CEB or LTL.

Continued on page 2

Plot to assassinate Obama busted

Hours after Obama told Ohio voters, "We are one week away from changing America," federal agents reported breaking up a plot to assassinate the Illinois senator and shoot or decapitate 88 black people in a Tennessee murder spree, AP reported yesterday.

The report added: "An Obama spokeswoman travelling with the candidate had no immediate com-

ment on the plot, which involved two young men, one from Tennessee and the second from Arkansas - both southern states.

In an attempt to blunt Obama in pivotal states, the National Republican Trust PAC planned to air ads in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida showing clips of controversial sermons by Obama's former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright."

CB ensures stability

by **Shyam Nuwan Ganewatte**

The Central Bank has taken all necessary steps to maintain the stability and the credibility of the Financial regime of the country, Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivaard Cabraal said yesterday.

"It is very important that we maintain our credibility," he said addressing a news conference in Colombo.

Dr. Rani Jayamaha, Deputy Governor of the CB whilst admitting that there were minor problems faced by Sri Lanka as a result of the global economic crisis said that there is financial stability in Sri Lanka.

"There wouldn't be any dangerous consequences as regards our financial stability due to the drastic steps

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