



The Island



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What plunderers really deserve

Someone sams a name describing himself or herself as the media Coordinator for former President Chandrika Kumaratunga has flown off the handle and, in a strongly worded letter (carried in full today), vented his or her spleen on us over a recent news item where we said a fund had been launched to collect money for CBK to pay the State in keeping with the Waters Edge judgment by the Supreme Court. CBK is, no doubt, entitled to her version of the story but why her media functionary accuses this newspaper of a malicious intent defies comprehension. Is he or she trying to project his or her political boss as a victim of a vicious media campaign so as to gain some public sympathy?

What is consuming us is not a malicious intent to cast aspersions on any politician but a strong desire to humble and unmask corrupt potentates lining their pockets with public funds and pretending to be paragons of virtue.

The media coordinator (MC) says CBK 'has not requested anyone to collect funds for her to pay the State. We assure him or her that our news item was not based on a figment of imagination but hard facts culled from more than one source. Interestingly, in the same breath, MC says CBK 'has received messages from people who wish to raise funds to pay the Courts but she has not responded to any'.

Curiouser and Curiouser! Who are those people? The 4.8 million rupee question is whether they were also beneficiaries of some illegal land deals under the PA/UPFA governments? CBK, it may be recalled, while in office, said someone had offered her a bribe. But, she never took action against him or her. Nor did she ever reveal the culprit's name. Offering a bribe - to the Executive President of the country for that matter - is a punishable offence. So, why didn't CBK report the matter to the Bribery Commission? CBK's claim smacks of connivance, to say the least.

So much for CBK and people's offers!

Anyone desirous of raising funds for CBK to make the payment at issue had better be mindful of the fact that his or her contribution towards that despicable cause will be tantamount to an endorsement of abuse of power and illegal land deals. It was public land that the Kumaratunga government illegally granted to Ronnie Peiris *et al* to construct Waters Edge and a golf course and those offering to help CBK out at this juncture cannot be the ordinary people who have hailed the Supreme Court judgment and are furious. Therefore, the public, we believe, will be interested in knowing who the people willing to help CBK with fund raising are.

The apex court has, in its historic ruling in the Waters Edge case, sent a strong message to all the rulers - past, present and future - that no institution created by the Constitution is above the basic law of the land and no leader can get away with the plunder of public assets and abuse of power. Therefore, let no one trifle with that laudable message by resorting to gimmicks aimed at generating sympathy for or pledging solidarity with anyone responsible for the illegal land deal in question.

What the plunderers of state property who get into trouble having betrayed the public trust and abused their power to feather their nests really deserve from the hapless masses is not financial assistance but a torrent of rotten eggs. And those who try to defend robber queens and robber kings in the soup deserve to be flogged in public!

Will the brave defenders of the corrupt come forward?

Another major split in JVP?

Lal Kantha tenders resignation letter He has not resigned - Tilvin

by Saman Indrajith

The JVP is likely to suffer another major split with its trade union chief and parliamentarian offering to resign, The Island learns.

JVP trade union wing leader and MP K. D. Lal Kantha, highly placed sources yesterday said, had tendered his resignation letter to the party's politburo on Friday night as the politburo and the Central Committee had been very critical of his failure to handle trade union affairs effectively and efficiently.

Lal Kantha came under fire from a section of the JVP after the party's much advertised July 10 strike came a cropper and he failed to organise the trade unions thereafter in such way as to unsettle the government. He had also had personal differences with some of the party bigwigs, sources said.

However, the party hierarchy refused to accept Lal Kantha's resignation. Discussions aimed at rapprochement have been on during the last two days.

While sources close to the party leadership claimed the talks held at



Tilvin



Lalkantha

the party head office at Maharagama had been a success, others disputed that view. They said the tussle was far

from over and the Central Committee would have to decide shortly whether to keep Lal Kantha in the party or not.

"We cannot drag our feet on Lal Kantha's letter," a JVP Central Committee member said, "we totally mishandled the Weerawansa and Nandana affairs." He said the party had decided to be done with the Lal Kantha affair without losing much time.

General Secretary of the JVP Tilvin Silva declined to comment on Lal Kantha's letter.

See **Another** on page 2

Govt. mulls rice imports as its paddy purchase plan goes awry

by Shamindra Ferdinando

A government plan to stock up 140,000 tonnes of paddy to thwart a possible attempt by the private sector to exploit the market in the next few months has failed due to a vast majority of farmers declining to sell their product at the prices fixed by the government.

The government priced a kilo of samba at Rs 30 and Nadu at Rs. 28 early this year.

A senior government official said that the Paddy Marketing Board and the Government Agent Ampara had managed to buy approximately 4,800 and 900 tonnes of paddy respectively.

He acknowledged that the private sector traders had been able to purchase huge stocks of paddy due to attractive prices offered by them.

The government competed with several major private sector traders, including Siripala Gamlath, Deputy Minister of Agrarian Services and Dudley, brother of Agriculture Development and Agrarian Services Minister



President Rajapaksa



Agriculture Minister Sirisena

Maithripala Sirisena. Gamlath, who is the brother-in-law of Sirisena, is the proprietor of 'Nipuna' while Dudley runs 'Araliya' - two of the largest selling brands.

A senior official with the Agriculture Development and Agrarian Services Ministry told *The Island* that on a presidential

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Now, no food supplies to A'pura Hospital

by Percy Kuruneru

Our A'pura corr

Close on the heels of the Health Ministry successfully tackling a trade union dispute triggered by the non-appointment of a permanent Director to the Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital, a fresh crisis has erupted, at the premier health institute in the NCP, with a private contractor terminating food supplies due to non-payment of his dues.

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LTTE intelligence cadres carrying Jaffna University IDs killed



The Police and the military are investigating the possibility of the LTTE taking cover in the Jaffna University, after a chance encounter between troops and two youth on Saturday afternoon caused the death of two suspects

who carried student identity cards purportedly issued by the University.

One of them took cyanide when troops on routine foot patrol at Ariyalai, a suburb of Jaffna detained him along with another person, an army official said. He said that troops had shot dead his companion as he made an attempt to get away.

The person who took cyanide carried a Jaffna University identity card (Reg. No 2003 A/85), which identified him as

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School heads will multiply

Acting principals to be promoted

by Dasun Edirisinghe

President Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday ordered the Education Ministry to confirm thousands of acting principals in those positions where they had been functioning for a long time. The Presidential order came soon after the Public Service Commission released the cut off marks of an examination conducted by the Ministry to select school principals.

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Five die in trishaw-bus collision in NCP

Four of the same family perish

by Dasun Edirisinghe

A killer road accident shocked Eppawala yesterday afternoon. Five out of six persons travelling in a trishaw including the driver died in a collision with a military bus.

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Save CBK Fund CBK contradicts, we stand by



Chandrika

The Media Coordinator to former President Chandrika Kumaratunga, referring to our front-page story of October 24, headlined Save CBK Fund Launched said that Ms Kumaratunga had-

n't either requested anyone to collect funds or responded to messages from people who wished to raise funds to pay the 'sum imposed by the Supreme Court' in its judgment on land alienation for the construction of Waters Edge and a golf course.

The full text of the Media Coordinator's letter to *The Island*:

"The article is a total fabrication. Mrs. Kumaratunga wishes to state that she has not requested anyone to collect funds for her, to pay the sum imposed by the Supreme Court. She has had no time to respond to the judgment as she has been away from Sri Lanka since late September, attending five important conferences in as many countries.

However, she has received messages from people who wish to raise funds to pay the courts but she has not responded to any.

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LTTE logistic cum training base bombed

Jets bombed an LTTE logistics and training base about 2.5 kilometres north of Iranamadu yesterday morning. SLAF headquarters said that air strikes would continue on identified LTTE targets as part of the ongoing overall military campaign.



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