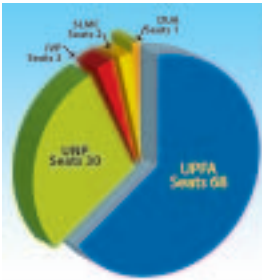


Detailed WPC polls '09 results inside

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Now, shoe for Indian Premier

NEW DELHI, April 26 (APP): A wave of shoe-attacks on political leaders in India continued and this time Prime Minister Manmohan Singh escaped a sneaker attack on Sunday when it was hurled by a student during an election rally in Ahmedabad but it fell short of the dais.

However, the Prime Minister forgave him and directed the police not to register the case.

Continued on page 2

Govt. rejects truce offer

'Disarm and surrender'

The LTTE has declared a unilateral ceasefire today, with the military having surrounded them in a tiny area along with thousands of civilians, but the move was immediately rejected by the government.

"In the face of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and in

Continued on page 2

Five fishers killed

An armed gang on Saturday night had stormed a fishing 'vadiya' at Panama in the Pottuvil area and killed five fishermen before setting fire to several boats. The gang had also set fire to two boats belonging to the STF deployed in the area, security sources told 'The Island'. Sources said that the bodies had been thrown into the fire by the gunmen before they fled the area.

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Stunning win: Govt. bags WPC with 68 seats UNP 30, JVP 3

Prasanna R tipped to be Chief Minister

TOP SCORERS

UPFA:Gampaha Prasanna
186,338 votes

UPFA:Kalutara Reginald
72,961 votes

UNP:Gampaha Ruwan
53,756 votes

Former WPC Chief Minister Reginald Cooray polled the highest number of preferential in the Kalutara district. He obtained 72,951. He is followed by Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickrematunge's son, Vidura (63,385), Vikum Gunasekera, formerly of the army (55,338), Ranjith Somawansa (54,999), Lalith Ellawela (48,453), M. M. Piyal Nishantha (47,540), Yasapala Koralage (46,146).

Continued on page 2

by Shamindra Ferdinando
The ruling SLFP-led coalition scored an impressive victory at Saturday's elections to the coveted WPC by bagging all electorates in Gampaha (13) and Kalutara districts (8) and 10 out of 15 electorates in the Colombo district.

The government, which turned the polls into a referendum on its successful war against the LTTE, narrowly lost to the UNP at Borella and Colombo East by 2,044 and 2,032 votes respectively. The UNP also retained Colombo Central, Colombo West and Colombo North electorates which they won at the last elections to the WPC in July 2004.

While the UPFA campaign led by President Mahinda Rajapaksa focused on the security forces triumph over the LTTE, the UNP and JVP targeted the government over economic crisis, cost of living and corruption. Political sources said that a rift between the former SLFP leader Chandrika Kumaratunga and the incumbent President didn't affect the

party at all in the Gampaha district. Massive victories at Attanagalle and Dompe electorates where the UPFA polled 51,661 (72.94 %) and 48,383 (75.20 %) had reflected the mood of the people.

The UPFA obtained an overwhelming majority by winning 68 seats, including two bonus seats while the UNP secured 30. The JVP ended up a distant third with three seats. The SLMC and Democratic Unity Alliance (DUA) won 2 and 1 seats respectively.

The JVP contested the last WPC polls in 2004 on the UPFA ticket and won 23 slots. Of them nine represented Colombo, eight Gampaha and six Kalutara. Now the JVP has managed to produce just one candidate each from the three districts.

Continued on page 2



Final Results

Names of the Party	No. of Votes Received	Percentage (%)	Seats
UPFA	1,506,115	64.73%	68
UNP	688,253	29.58%	30
JVP	56,384	2.42%	3
SLMC	49,388	2.12%	2
DUA	11,970	0.51%	1

Total Valid Votes:	2,326,886	96.32%
Rejected Votes:	88,993	3.68%
Total Votes Polled:	2,415,879	
Registered Votes:	3,820,214	

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Co-Chairs asks for amnesty to LTTE

Washington, Apr 26 (PTI): The US-Led 'Tokyo Co-Chairs' today asked the Sri Lankan government to offer amnesty to the Tamil Tigers, devise a clear resettlement plan and open the way for a political dialogue with the rebels.

A statement in this regard was issued by the US State Department today on behalf of the Tokyo Co-Chairs, which had its third teleconference in less than 10 days to discuss the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka.

Calling on the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Tigers to end hostilities, the State Department Acting Spokesman, Robert Wood said: "We urge the Tamil Tigers to lay down arms to a neutral third party." "We further urge the Government of Sri Lanka to offer amnesty to most Tamil Tigers and to devise a clear resettlement plan and to open the way for a political dialogue," he said.

Welcoming the reported escape of civilians from the conflict zone in northern Sri Lanka, the statement said the Co-

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Four civilians killed

by W. M. Wickremesinghe
Our Kantale Correspondent

Unidentified gunmen on Saturday night shot dead four civilians at Nochchikulam in the Morawewa police area.

Police identified the victims as Kamal, Rajamani, Noel and Bhanunandan.

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