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The Island

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Ranil is our presidential candidate – *SB*

by Cyril Wimalasurendre

Ranil

SB

KANDY - National Organiser, UNP and opposition leader, Central Provincial Council S. B. Dissanayake told a media conference in Kandy that the UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe would be the party's contestant at the forthcoming Presidential Election.

Dissanayake said that the government would go for a presidential election ahead of a Parliamentary Election and the presidential polls would be held on February 22 next year.

Asked who would be presidential candidate of the UNP, Dissanayake said, "The candidate will be none other than our leader Ranil Wickremesinghe."

Responding to another query Dissanayake said that there were internal issues to be settled. "There are more problems within the SLFP, the UNP's internal problems

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LTTE trying to cover up failure to prevent exodus – *Gota*

Tigers flee abandoning precious guns

by Shamindra Ferdinando

LTTE spin doctors in a last ditch bid to force international intervention yesterday claimed that over 3,200 civilians had been killed in an artillery barrage directed at no fire zone on the Mullaitivu coast over the weekend and on Monday.

The Defence Ministry said that this accusation was made to cover up death and injuries to several hundred civilians in the no fire zone at the hands of the LTTE. The ministry said that the LTTE had fired mortars and small arms at about 1,000 civilians trying to escape over the weekend killing and wounding about 250 men, women and children.

Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa told *The Island* that the LTTE had directed mortar fire after sentries failed to prevent people escaping towards the army-held area. About 750 had managed to reach army units operating in the area.

The Defence Secretary said that the LTTE would say anything now to win the attention of the international community. International news agencies quoted reports posted on the pro-LTTE Tamilnet on slaughter of men, women and children by the army. The LTTE urged the international community to force an immediate halt to the Sri Lankan offensive.

This was a sure sign of their failure on the battlefield, he said adding the 58 and 53

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Only 36 of 112 GK directors declared assets

by Chitra Weerarathne

Attorney General Mohan Peiris PC yesterday submitted to the Supreme Court an Interim Report containing a list of assets, so far declared by the Directors of Golden Key Credit Card Company Pvt Limited.

The total value of properties known so far to be owned by the Golden Key Credit Card Company amounted Rs. 6 billion.

The immovable properties and the personal accounts of directors are to be valued by an official valuer and their final value will be submitted to Court next Friday.

The Supreme Court said it was necessary to appoint a Committee of accountants and auditors who would examine the list of properties compiled by the Central Bank on declarations made by the Directors of the Golden Key Credit Card Company, and on information received by other concerned parties. The properties were to be listed as immediately disposable, medium period disposable, and long term disposable.

These assets were to be brought into a common account. A list of depositors should be scheduled starting from the lowest range to the highest.

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UN spokesman to be questioned on adverse remarks

by Harischandra Gunaratna

Disaster Management Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe yesterday said the UN Spokesman in Sri Lanka Gordon Weiss would be summoned to the Foreign Ministry over his comment to the media that there was a bloodbath in the No Fire Zone.

Addressing a news conference at the Presidential Secretariat Samarasinghe said "It is not the first time that Weiss has gone beyond his mandate and made adverse remarks about the internal strife in the country. We have every right to deal with him."

Weiss made these remarks to the AFP news agency on Sunday.

Foreign Secretary Dr Palitha Kohona responding to a query whether he had questioned Weiss over the remarks at issue said, according to protocol he did not deal with officials at Weiss' level.

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There's no such doc – *Govt*

The Ministry of Health yesterday said there was no government doctor called Shanmugarajah working in the LTTE – held civilian safety zone. Dr K. N. S. Navaratne representing the Health Ministry at the media briefing said investigations had revealed there was no government doctor in the LTTE held terrain.

Dr. Neluk Mallawa of the NFF, currently in remand over his alleged involvement in the assassination of JVP activist Nandana Balage, is congratulated by his son while a jailer looks on soon after he was sworn in as a Member of the Western Provincial Council before Governor of the province Alavi Moulana.
Pic by Dimuthu Premaratne

Edu. Ministry bans combat tourneys

by Reemus Fernando

The Ministry of Education imposed what a top sports official termed as a temporary ban on all martial arts sport tournaments yesterday following the death of D. S. Senanayake College Wushuite Hasanka Jayawickrama in the ring, a press release said yesterday.

D.S. Senanayake College Wushuite Hasanka Jayawickrama died after receiving injuries during a Wushu bout last week. The tournament was conducted by the Schools Association affiliated to both the Ministry of Education and the Sri Lanka Wushu Federation.

17-year-old Pasidu Hasanka Jayawickrama was the second Wushuite to die since last November due to injuries suffered during Wushu competitions.

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Emirates detains sheik on torture allegations

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) - The Emirates detained a member of the country's ruling family as prosecutors launched an investigation into allegations the sheik tortured another man, the country's official news agency reported Monday.

If the case of Sheik Issa bin Zayed Al Nahyan goes to trial, it would be the first time in the oil-rich Gulf

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Bethmage remanded over shooting

Bethmage

The Kaduwela Magistrate yesterday remanded WPC member Hector Bethmage, produced in Court in connection with a shooting incident on April 11, till May 25.

Earlier, the Nawagamuwa police declined to arrest Bethmage, wanted in connection with a shooting incident in its area in the run up to the recently concluded WPC polls, on the basis that the Talangama police should make the arrest as the suspect lived in Talangama.

Bethmage, a former minister of the WPC, had allegedly shot Dinesh Pushpakumara, a supporter of a rival UPFA candidate, with a revolver issued by the government on April 11 at Nawagamuwa in the Nugegoda police division. After the incident, Bethmage had walked in to Nawagamuwa police and handed over the revolver and several rounds of ammunition.

Well informed sources said that the police had allowed the politician and his supporters to leave the police station.

The sources pointed out that Kaduwela Magistrate Ms. Sujatha Alahapperuma, had directed Nawagamuwa police to produce

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● Abduction of boy

Sarana, 3 others remanded till May 25

Sarana

The Gampaha District UPFA MP Sarana Gunawardena and three others, including two police bodyguards, were remanded till May 25 by the Attanagalle Magistrate over the abduction of a 12-year-old boy in the run up to elections to the WPC.

Gunawardana surrendered to police last week after evading arrest for over a month. Eyebrows were raised when the wanted man visited Temple Trees for a propaganda meeting while police told the Atanagalle Courts that the suspect couldn't be located.

Court allows action against Harry J

by Priyalal Sirisena

The Commercial High Court of Colombo yesterday permitted three shareholders of the Stassen Group to proceed with their action against Harry Jayawardena, Managing Director of Stassen, for denying the rights of minority shareholders.

The three shareholders, the late Dr. V. P. Vittachchi, R. K. Obeysekera and Zaki Alif had filed the action against Harry Jayawardena. They had moved the Colombo Commercial High Court against Mr. Jayawardena, saying they had lost confidence in him and sought to quit the company or buy out Jayawardena's shares. They wanted Mr. Jayawardena to either buy their shares or sell out his shares to them. The petitioners also sought a court order preventing the company and or Mr. Jayawardena taking any step to alter the present Board of Directors of the company. The petitioner and the respondent Jayawardena had formed Stassen Exports Limited on September 07, 1977 with the intention of exporting tea. The three petitioners were collectively holding 49.99 per cent of the shares of Stassen Group.

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