



Swine flu

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BBC parrots
Tiger propaganda
without checking
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CB on
Miliband's
IMF comment
by Devan Daniel



Miliband

The Central Bank said the US\$ 1.9 billion IMF standby facility, which is in the process of being finalized, will not be made available to the government but instead, it will be granted to the Central Bank with which to stabilize the country's balance of payments position. The Central Bank made this statement yesterday in response to an alleged statement of British Foreign Secretary David Miliband reported in

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Tiger boat laden with 1,500 kg explosives found

The 53 Division troops conducting clearing operations in the Vellamullaikkal yesterday recovered a 55-foot long LTTE boat laden with 1,500 kg of high explosives.

The army said that boat had been plastered with claymore mines around its hull and hidden under bushes by the beach.

Gang led by retd. DIG's son held over bank robbery

by Hemantha Randunu

The Colombo Crime Division (CCD) yesterday arrested a four-member armed gang responsible for the Rs 13 million robbery at the Union Bank, Wellawatte recently.

The gang leader is the son of a retired Deputy Inspector General of Police who had earned the respect of the public and the Department, the CCD said.

By yesterday noon police had recovered four million ruppies.

Among those arrested is an officer of a Union Bank branch close to Colombo who is the mastermind behind the operation, police said.

Investigators have revealed that the DIG's son, an ex-captain of the army, was responsible for breaking into the bank with another, holding the staff and the security guards at gun point, covering their mouths with sticking plaster and tying them with ropes, police said.

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Treasure hunters nabbed

by Percy Kuruneru, Anuradhapura Cor.

On a tip off the Anuradhapura Police raided a place behind a meditation centre near Malwatu Oya within the Sacred City around 4.00 a.m. yesterday (13) and arrested eight treasure hunters.

Suspects had already dug a pit six feet deep and four and a half feet wide. A generator, a water pump, a book of ancient Sinhala stanzas, crow bars, an axe, betel leaves and flowers on a tray were found at the site.

Three of the eight suspects were from Kalutara and said to be expert *kattadayas*.

Police said the Kalutara trio had been hired by the others who were from Anuradhapura.

The suspects were to be produced before the Anuradhapura Magistrate yesterday.



Aircraft parts found



Troops recover aircraft parts. Pic by army.lk

by Norman Palihawadana

Troops engaged in clearing operations at Thevipuram, Mullaitivu yesterday recovered a range of aircraft equipment including an engine. The army said that the recovery had been made by the 11 Artillery serving with the 57 Division.

An SLAF official told *The Island* that they would be able to identify the parts once the SLAF received

them. Among the items recovered were four cylinder engines (2) propellers (3) radio sets (1) tyres main wheels (5) nose wheels (3) used main wheels (2) battery charges (3) pilot headsets (4) computer graphic manuals (3) ground marshalling torch (1) computers (1) flying stimulators (2) runway lights (23) auxiliary lights, two marine radars and high speed boat engines.

Win over the displaced

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Acreeage available for paddy cultivation down by 30 per cent

Rice imports necessary to meet shortfall in supply

by Shamindra Ferdinando

The government will be compelled to import rice to meet a sharp shortfall due to the reduction of the acreage available for cultivation during the Yala season by the Mahaweli Authority due to drought.

Official sources said that about 35 per cent of land cultivated in the previous season could not be used this time.

Agriculture Minister Maithripala

Sirisena on Monday (May 11) told a public gathering in Polonnaruwa that the farmers would have to face this situation. He urged farmers in areas not affected by drought to increase their produce.

Agriculture Ministry Secretary Ranjith Wijethilaka yesterday told *The Island* that restrictions had to be imposed due to continuing drought. Responding to our queries, he said that the country experienced a similar situa-

tion in 1994. He said that farmers who depend on the Parakrama Samudraya wouldn't be affected in anyway. But those who draw water from Minneriya tank would be forced to abandon some of their land. He said that it would be too early to discuss the amount of paddy needed to be brought from overseas suppliers.

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LTTE counter-attack crushed, MBRL captured

Army on threshold of FINAL victory

by Shamindra Ferdinando

The army Tuesday night thwarted what would have been one of the last LTTE counter attacks on troops now positioned south of the no firing zone.

In an attempt to drive out the 59 Division troops who had crossed the Waduvaikkal Bridge to reach the southern edge of the no firing zone earlier on the day, the LTTE had launched a two-pronged assault, a senior army official told *The Island*.

According to him as four explosives-laden LTTE craft approached the newly liberated area, a sizeable group of terrorists who had come in two large boats landed a little distance away from the northern-most positions held by the 59 Division. "We blew up three of their suicide craft," he said. "Troops held their positions. The LTTE assault lasted about four hours."

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara told *The Island* that the army



MBRL captured by 58 Div troops had caused considerable damage to the LTTE during Tuesday's engagement.

The offensive undertaken by the 59 Division was the first since it faced an LTTE counter attack mounted in the first week of February.

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DRP wins Maldives' first multi party parliamentary election

The Dhiwhehi Rayyunge Party (DRP), led by former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, has won the Maldives' first multi party parliamentary election, held on Saturday.

The results were officially announced late on Tuesday night.

The DRP obtained 28 seats while the ruling MDP secured 26 seats.

The other seats in the 77 member parliament went to the Independents (13), People's Alliance an ally of the DRP (7) DQP (2) and RPP(1)

In a hung parliament, both sides are busy canvassing the support of the independents, who hold the balance of power with 13 seats in hand.



Gayoom

High Court orders arrest of Tiger chief Prabhakaran et al

by Priyalal Sirisena

Colombo High Court Judge Kumuduni Wickramasinghe yesterday issued an open warrant on LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and intelligence chief Pottu Amman over the August 2005 assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar.

Velupillai Prabhakaran and five others had been charged with the assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar. The Attorney General had filed indictment against five suspects including the LTTE leader, before Colombo High Court.

The five accused were V. Prabhakaran, Pottu Amman, Charles Master, Komathi Manimekalai, Muttiah Sahadevan and Arokiarajah Arokiathanath. They were accused of conspiring, aiding and abetting the assassination of Lakshman Kadirgamar.

Kadirgamar was shot dead near his private swimming pool at his residence on Buller's Road, Colombo, on the night of August 12, 2005. The assassin sniped him from an adjacent building.

When the case was taken up before the High Court yesterday, the Judge decided to proceed in the absence of Velupillai Prabhakaran and chief Pottu Amman. The fourth accused Charles Master and 5th accused Komathi Manimekalai are believed to have been killed.

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