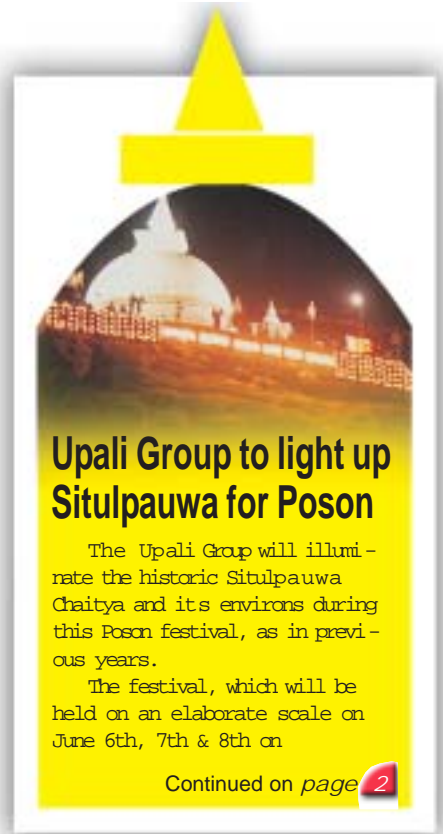




Page 4 Obama and the Two-State Solution

Page 14 Sri Lanka challenged to qualify for super eights



Upali Group to light up Situlpauwa for Poson

The Upali Group will illuminate the historic Situlpauwa Chaitya and its environs during this Poson festival, as in previous years.

The festival, which will be held on an elaborate scale on June 6th, 7th & 8th on

Continued on page 2

Lanka rejects UK special envoy again



Bogollagama



Miliband

Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama has reiterated Sri Lanka's decision not to accept a Special British envoy during a recent meeting he had with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband. A senior government official emphasized that there was absolutely no need to accept a British special envoy. Sri Lanka rejected a British move to appoint former Defence Secretary Des Brown

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Demand for cancellation of teachers' training college exam over cribbing

Parents of teacher trainees attached to Adalalchenai Teachers College have written to President Mahinda Rajapaksa urging him to cancel the recently held first and second year examinations conducted by the Department of Examination for National Evaluation and Testing Services as many candidates had cribbed openly.

Students alleged that though they had informed the Commissioner of Examination and the School Examination Organisation branch of the alleged malpractices, they turned a blind eye.

Hot air over SA's support for Lanka at UN HRC

The South African Human Rights Commission has asked the government to explain why its UN Representative voted against a call for an international investigation into war crimes in Sri Lanka during eelam war IV.

Commission Chairperson Jody Kollappan has written to

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SLPA chairman rejects union claim of chaos at Colombo port



SLPA Chief

The All Ceylon General Ports Employees Union said that recent introduction of a new computer system at Jaya Terminal had caused chaos with many ships turning

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400 Tigers masquerading as IDPs arrested - IGP



Health Minister Nimal Siripala was among the guests at a lunch at Australian High Commissioner Ms Cathy Klugman's official residence to felicitate Australia-Sri Lanka Medical Aid Team on Sunday (June 7). The Health Minister is greeted by Ms Klugman while Mrs Silva looks on.

Pic Nihal Chandrakumara.

by Norman Palihawadana

Police Chief Jayantha Wickremaratne yesterday said that about 400 LTTE cadres taking refuge among civilians at welfare centres in the Vavuniya District had been taken into custody. The suspects had been identified following screening of internally displaced persons.

IGP told The Island that the suspects had revealed the identities of their contacts, some of them living in the South.

He said that 14 police stations would be established in Mullaithivu and Kilinochchi districts. According to him a DIG would be appointed to run police operations in the newly liberated areas. Responding to our queries, he said that a mixture of Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim law enforcement officers would be deployed in those areas.

Media Minister Anura Priyadarshana Yapa said there were about 272,000 men, women and children at 26 welfare centres. Addressing post-cabinet press briefing last Thursday (June 4), he said that the government was in the process of conducting a survey at welfare centres.

The police chief said that among the recently detained persons could be hardcore LTTE cadres.



Jayantha Wickremaratne

Tigers wiped out, no reason to continue with travel advisories: Amb. Aryasinha

Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU Ravinatha Aryasinha has called on Governments of EU Member States to revise travel advisories as the LTTE no longer posed a security threat.

He also called on them to encourage trade and investment in Sri Lanka to facilitate economic development and the restoration of normalcy in the newly liberated areas in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Addressing a 3-day investment seminar in Brussels last week, Aryasinha said this was the first overseas investment forum after armed forces triumph over the LTTE. Noting that with the ending of 30-year conflict, the main impediment to Sri Lanka reaching its full potential had been removed, he said.

Sri Lankans are keen to shift gears and move on focusing on development and bringing peace and economic prosperity to the country. The resilience the Sri Lankan economy showed in the

Continued on page 2

Algeria slams Navi Pillay

The UN human rights commissioner Navi Pillay came under fire last Friday at a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council, where Algeria criticized her report on civilians and armed conflict. The Algerian envoy pointed out that she had lumped together various conflicts around the world where the circumstances differed substantially and used a one-size-fits-all approach. Algeria pointed out that the conflict in Pakistan is defensive action against terrorists whereas the conflict in Palestine



Navi Pillay

is about foreign occupation. The Algerians had said that it was time to work out the exact relationship between the Human rights commissioner and the Human Rights Council. Taking Sri Lanka as an exam-

ple, and Ms Pillay's call for an independent inquiry into human rights violations in Sri Lanka, the Algerian envoy reminded the commissioner that the Council had already overwhelmingly rejected calls for such an inquiry and reminded the commissioner that nobody has the right to challenge the Council on this score.

Robbers kill husband and wife

by Shiran Ranasinghe, K. K. Dayasena, Padmasiri Gardiwasam and Ashan Nilantha

A man and his wife were killed in Katuwana on Saturday when they were shot by four robbers fleeing after an abortive attempt to rob a nearby house. The victims were S. P. Jayasena and A. P.

Gunawathie.

One suspect was killed and another seriously injured when the police opened fire on the fleeing suspects



Continued on page 2

Robber gang busted

by Lalith Chaminda and S. K. Kaluarachchi

The police have nabbed an underworld figure known as Army Jine or Datha and two of his accomplices responsible for a number of robberies and killings in the Southern Province.

By the time of their arrest at Ambalangoda recently, there had been two hand grenades and a knife in their possession, the Meethiyagoda police said.

The police believe they will be able to trace some more weapons

after interrogating the suspects. A few days before the gang was busted, Army Jine had robbed a grocery store and got away with 600,000 rupees. The police said he had also been involved in a murder committed in Yakkalamulla about two months ago.

The police have recovered 24 mobile phones, a television set and a VCD player; the gang had robbed in the recent past.

The Meethiyagoda police are conducting investigations.

Mi 24s role in eelam war IV emphasised

by Shamindra Ferdinando

The Hingurakgoda-based Mi 24 helicopter gunship squadron played a critical role in the recently concluded eelam war IV with nearly 400 missions in the Northern and Eastern theatres. Known as the No 09 squadron, it had caused devastating losses in coordinated attacks directed at fortified LTTE positions situated close to what Wing Commander Sampath Thuycontha, Commanding Officer of the squadron called forward location of own troops

In an interview with The Island, the veteran flyer said that despite having a range of weapons, including dedicated anti-aircraft guns the LTTE never succeeded in threatening their operations. Of course, they hit our choppers on many occasions, maybe about 35 instances during the entire of offensive. Some times, damaged chop-

pers had to come down in areas where fighting was raging, he said, adding that their engineering section always responded swiftly and decisively to any emergency.

The Mi-24 squadron comprises about 35 officers and 375 men. We caused chaos along their frontline in the Vanni theatre. They were never allowed to settle in and zero-in on attacking choppers, he said. Responding to The Island queries, he said that as they engaged targets right across the Vanni theatre from the north-western coast to the north-eastern coast, the enemy couldn't concen-



SLAF helicopter gunships at Hingurakgoda air base

trate on one particular sector. We always achieved any given task, he said. He asserted that a range of powerful armaments, enhanced technology,

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