



The Island

Page 7 Promoting tourism or chasing tourists away

Page 11 Oral contraceptive pill (OCP)

Vol. 28 No. 185 Tuesday 23rd June, 2009. 28 Pages Rs. 20 Registered in Sri Lanka as a Newspaper - Late City Edition

Red lines for REDD

See Page 6

JVP demands Govt reveal its stand on 13th Amendment

by Dasun Edirisinghe

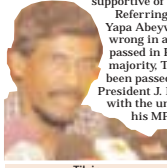
The JVP yesterday demanded that the Government reveal its stance on the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, at a press conference in Colombo.

The party insisted it wanted President Mahinda Rajapaksa to reveal the Government's stand since several key ministers were issuing contradictory statements on the issue.

Commenting on the 13th Amendment which deals with the devolution of power, JVP General Secretary Tilvin Silva said that coalition partners in the Government who could not secure a single seat on their own were calling for the implementation of the 13th Amendment. He referred to All Party Representative Committee Chairman Professor Tissa Vitharana, from the LSSP and Constitutional Affairs Minister,

D. E. W. Gunasekera, a Communist who were fully supportive of the 13th Amendment.

Referring to Media Minister Lakshman Yapa Abeywardene's query as to what was wrong in adopting a resolution that was passed in Parliament with a two-thirds majority, Tilvin Silva recalled that it had been passed during the tenure of late President J. R. Jayawardene who was armed with the undated resignation letters of all his MPs. "Only Minister Gamini Jayasuriya opposed the move and walked out of Parliament," Silva said.



Tilvin

Continued on page 4



Thousands of bicycles left behind by the civilians, who fled the no fire zone during the last stages of the war, were collected by Army from several locations in Vellaimullaivaikkal, the place of the last battle. The bicycles are to be handed over to the owners when they return from the welfare camps (Photo-Kamal Bogoda)

Robbers make off with Rs. 4 mn in jewellery

by Hemantha Randunu

Gang robbers last week made away with a haul of jewellery worth 155 gold sovereigns from a house in Keselwatte. The rupee value of the stolen jewellery was estimated at Rs four million, police said.

According to police, a Muslim businessman and his family had returned home after attending a wedding and left home again to attend to another errand leaving the gold jewellery unattended at home.

The robber gang had entered the house in their absence.

Although the Keselwatte police launched an investigation into the incident, so far there is no trace of the culprits.

Investigations are conducted by a team of officers of the Keselwatte police under the supervision of ASP Jayaratne Manampari.

UNP hands over nominations for Jaffna MC

The United National Party yesterday (22) handed over its nominations for the Jaffna Municipal Council elections to the Assistant Elections Commissioner at the Jaffna District Secretariat, a party press release said.

UNP Assistant General Secretary and parliamentarian Dr. Jayalath Jayawardena who flew to Jaffna yesterday morning handed over the nominations.

The party has nominated 28 Tamils and one Muslim candidate. Four were women while 12 were youth candidates.



Danduam's death leaves depositors claimless - Lawyer

by S. B. Kaluarachi and Lalith Chaminda, Galle Corrs.

Over 4,000 persons who placed deposits with Piyadasa Ratnayaka alias Danduam Mudalali are in a quandary since he had died while the case against him was still pending in Court.

Attorney-at-Law Premasiri Gunaratne, who appeared on behalf of the depositors said that since Danduam Mudalali had died while the case against him was still pending the depositors have no legal right to his property and money, now in the custody of the Court.

Danduam Mudalali, who was allowed bail by the Tangalle Magistrate's Court was killed by unknown persons at Kuruwita, about three weeks ago, while he was on his way with them to Colombo in a cab. He had been arrested by the CID earlier following complaints by thousands of people that he had got them to deposit monies with him promising higher interest rates but he neither paid any interest nor the capital. The total sum of money so deposited with him amounted to millions of rupees.

Attorney-at-Law Gunaratne, addressing a press conference at South Point Villa Hotel at

Kathulawa Galle, said that he represented 4,719 depositors of Danduam Mudalali and there were nearly Rs 500 million worth of properties that belonged to his clients that are now in the custody of the Court. Since he died not as a convict but as an accused there is no recourse in law for his clients to claim their deposits and the case now stands closed, he said. He said that he would request the Government and other authorities concerned to amend the present law and bring in new legislation that could allow the depositors to claim the sums they deposited.

Continued on page 4



Justice Shirani Bandaranayake is being sworn in before President Mahinda Rajapaksa as Acting Chief Justice in absence of Chief Justice Asoka de Silva who is currently abroad. President's Secretary Lalith Weerathunga looks on.

Pic by Sudath Silva

TNA MP had links with LTTE - CID

By Samantha Illeperuma

The CID yesterday informed Colombo Chief Magistrate that TNA parliamentarian Sathasivam Kanagaratnam, who is now under arrest is alleged to have close links with the LTTE and aided and abetted terrorism, is being detained and interrogated, when they produced him before Colombo Chief Magistrate Nishantha Hapuarachchi. He was arrested on May 21 in Vavuniya and the information provided by the suspect would lead to the arrest of persons and institutions which have had close links with him, they said.

The sleuths told Court that the suspect had moved from an uncleared area to a cleared area during the Wannu operation. He was arrested in Vavuniya.

The CID said that the suspect, a resident of Veliyayaweli, had close links with the LTTE and he had been responsible for writing slogans and making statements supporting the Tigers.

Continued on page 4

Govt. negotiates with ship's hijackers

by Norman Palihawadena

The New Zealand owned cargo vessel, captained by a Sri Lankan, which was hijacked by Somali pirates while sailing from Oman to Dubai reached Somalia on Saturday. The Government has commenced discussions with the pirates through the Sri Lankan High Commission in Kenya. Foreign Ministry sources said.

The ship had seven other Sri Lankan crew and four Filipinos. Sources were unable say at this stage what the hijackers were demanding or anything about the crew members' health condition. The incident began about three weeks ago and first reports said the crew members were well looked after and were in good health.

The local agents of the vessel, Ocean Shipping Company last week said that the New Zealand owners were willing to settle the ransom provided the crew and the cargo were released unharmed.

Vehicle Emission tests in Provinces too



by Franklin R. Sathyapalan

Commissioner General of Motor Traffic Bandula Wijerana yesterday said that special provision had been made for the convenience of all vehicle owners in the Southern, Central and North-Central Provinces to obtain their emission test certificates in their own provinces from yesterday (22).

He said that until recently vehicles owners of these provinces had to bring their vehicles all the way to the Western Province and submit them to the Laugs Eco-Sri or Cleanco Pvt., contracted by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, to obtain certifications, a compulsory requirement for renewing revenue licenses.

Continued on page 4

Sri J'pura u'grads claim VC unqualified

by Dasun Edirisinghe

Students of the Sri Jayawardenepura University claimed yesterday that the Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. N. L. A. Karunaratne is unqualified for the post. He had the patronage of the present government and his appointment is a political one, they charged.

President of the Students' Council Daminda Pushpakumara told The Island yesterday that he had never held any position as a Department head, Faculty Dean, Students Counselor or disciplinary committee member. All the Vice Chancellors before him had these qualifications.

"This VC was appointed at the end of last year. A few months after his appointment, most lecturers who held several posts like, welfare directors had resigned their positions. Due to that, one person has to handle several duties and it would lead to inefficiency of the university," he said.

Continued on page 4



Orange Invitation...

We respectfully extend this invitation to all of you, dignified Sri Lankans, to establish with us a strong meaningful connection...

Orange

Telecom