

Why could we not defeat LTTE for 25 years?



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The Island

Did drugs kill the King of Pop?

World View



Italy rugby captain Parisse banned for 8 weeks



Jackson family calls for new autopsy as anger mounts

Los Angeles: The family of Michael Jackson ordered a second autopsy of the tragic pop icon as associates told of mounting anger over "unanswered questions" surrounding the superstar's death.

Jackson's family members were huddled at their compound in Los Angeles, where they have

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Resettlement: Stagnation defeats credibility ▶ See Page 5

Vol. 28 No. 190 Monday 29th June, 2009. 28 Pages Rs. 20 Registered in Sri Lanka as a Newspaper - City Edition

Karuna dismisses Tiger move to form govt in exile

by Franklin R. Satyapalan

Former LTTE Eastern Commander and present Minister of National Integration Vinayagamurthy Muralidaran dismisses attempts to form a 'government in exile' as a futile exercise.

He said so last Friday at the inauguration



Karuna

of the first regional branch of the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau (SLFEB) in Batticaloa in answer to a question by a journalist whether there was any possibility of Tamil people supporting the formation of an 'Eelam government in exile' so that the LTTE could continue to function as a political force from abroad.

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Now, US tries to undermine Lanka tourism revival plan

by Norman Paliawadana and Harischandra Gunaratna

The Sri Lankan government yesterday said that a US State Department travel advisory aimed at discouraging US citizens from visiting Sri Lanka was part of US strategy to undermine the country.

A senior Foreign Ministry official told *The Island* that nothing could be as bad as the US warning of potential for continued instability and possible

terrorist attacks a month after the end of war. He said that the government had requested the international community to remove travel advisories as the LTTE no longer posed a threat. Responding to our queries, he said though the armed forces maintained road blocks and carried out routine checks on vehicles entering the city and its suburbs, there was no likelihood of LTTE attacks.

He said that the US had also interfered with Sri Lanka's bid

to secure a USD 1.9 billion IMF facility.

The US State Department last Friday warned American citizens travelling to or living in Sri Lanka about the potential for continued instability, including possible terrorist attacks.

Another official pointed out that the US issued its latest warning close on the heels of Sri Lanka Tourism launching its new brand identity 'Sri Lanka

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Basil ready to lead Gampaha

by Shamindra Ferdinando

UPFA National List MP Basil Rajapaksa is expected to take over the Gampaha District SLFP leadership shortly.

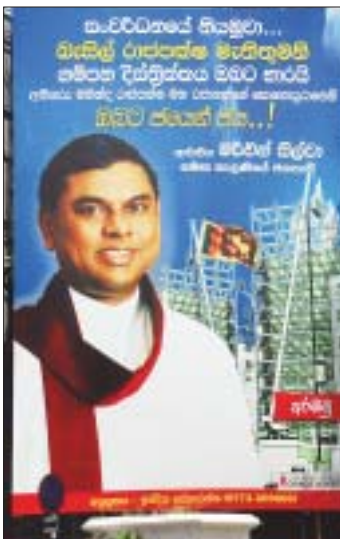
Political sources said that Basil Rajapaksa would contest the Gampaha District at the next parliamentary election and organise the district for the presidential election.

Labour Minister Mervyn Silva yesterday told *The Island* that the Gampaha District needed a capable leader who could meet any challenge. He said that Basil Rajapaksa's entry would provide a new impetus to Gampaha politics and strengthen the SLFP.

Responding to our queries, the minister said that Basil Rajapaksa shouldn't be considered the late Anura Bandaranaike's replacement. Anura succeeded his sister Chandrika Kumaratunga as the Gampaha District leader after she had won the presidency.



Mervyn



A billboard put up at Wattala in support of Basil Rajapaksa's move. Pic: Nihal Chandrakumara

Lalith proposes Gestapo-type op to tackle corruption

Lalith Weeraratna, Secretary to the President has recommended the use of state intelligence services to deal with corrupt government institutions.

Addressing a gathering at the SLFTI late last week, he expressed confidence that the intelligence services could play a pivotal role in combatting waste, corrup-

tion and irregularities. He said that he wouldn't mind having an intelligence services operative even at the Presidential Secretariat. Recalling the use of the then National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) by the J. R. Jayewardene administration to

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Killer couple picked their victim through newspaper

The police said that a couple held in connection with the recent killing of a businesswoman Beatrice Veronika in the Kurunegala police area had been employed by her a few months before she was killed on June 7.

The police said that Veronika had had picked them after interviewing several persons who responded to a newspaper advertisement seeking a couple.

The suspects had told police that they had found Veronika, a divorcee through a newspaper advertisement. They had said

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Jayantha

'German govt. never discouraged students visiting Sri Lanka'

Manfred Moeller, who has brought about 100 German students since 1995 to Sri Lanka said that he was happy the war against the LTTE was over. Moeller told *The Island* that even at the height of the war he hadn't suspended a programme initiated in 1994 to bring German students to Sri Lanka. He said though there had been travel advisories, the German government never prevented *Gymnasium Isernhagen* from sending students to Sri Lanka. "Now that the entire country had been brought under government control, we may be able to expand programme to north and east," he said.

He said that students engage in a range of fund raising activities over a two-year period to visit Sri

Lanka. He said that the German embassy in Colombo never discouraged him through international travel advisories categorised Sri Lanka a dangerous place to visit.

Gymnasium Isernhagen has had contacts with Sri Lanka since 1995. In 1994, Moeller initiated the "Sri Lanka Activity Group *Gymnasium Isernhagen*". So far about 100 students from the school situated in *Isernhagen*, near Hannover in Northern Germany, had visited Sri Lanka. Moeller said that usually visiting groups spend three weeks in Sri Lanka, mostly staying as 'paying guests' with host families. He said that their stay gave them an opportunity to

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The visiting group at the German Embassy, Colombo, with Acting Ambassador Dr. Stefan Weckbach on the far right

Real Platinum discovered in Sri Lanka...

Please see tomorrow's paper for more details.

SLTB employees say May salaries not paid

by Saman Upul Piniidiya

Sri Lanka Transport Board employees of the Akuressa Depot complain that they have still not been paid their salary for May. They said instead of the full pay they have been paid only an advance.

They were unable to attend to their domestic needs fully for want of money, workers have complained. The SLTB employees unions have requested Transport Minister Dallas Alahapperuma on several occasions in the past to pay employees salaries on time.

Shepard arrested over Eheliyagoda student killing

Acting on information provided by people of Pitakanda, Eheliyagoda, police have arrested a Shepard over the killing of Year-ten student Kushani Piyumi Madushika last week. The police said that



the 24-year-old suspect had come to the area in search of cattle and abducted the girl while she was returning home after school. The police said that the suspect had

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Teacher arrested for caning pupil

by Neminda Samarajeewa

The police have arrested a teacher for caning an eight-year old student of a leading school in the Wattala police area. The police said that the girl's mother had lodged a complaint with the local police after admitting the victim to the Colomboc (North) hospital. The mother had said that her daughter had been punished for failing to do her homework.

Clarification

In our page one news item headlined Uva battle hots up in June 25 issue of *The Island*, we inadvertently stated that Speaker W. J. M. Lokubandara's son Udith would contest the forthcoming elections to the Uva PC. The recently appointed Badulla organiser wasn't among the list of candidates fielded by the UPFA. The error is regretted.

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