

**Michael Jackson,** the moonwalker who strolled off the planet  
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# The Island

India joins 'neocolonial' rush for Africa's land and labour  
World View



Page 06 **Royal college salutes the Royalist war heroes**



## NFF to get two ministries

by Akitha Perera



Nandana Gunatillake

JVP dissident Parliamentarians Nandana Gunatillake and Piyasiri Wijenayake, now with Wimal Weerawansa's National Freedom Front would receive ministerial portfolios, party sources said.



Piyasiri Wijenayake

According to NFF sources, the portfolios are likely to be the Tourism and Cultural Affairs. General Secretary of the NFF Nandana Gunatillake is to get Tourism while Piyasiri Wijenayake is to get the non-Cabinet portfolio of Cultural Affairs.

Gunatillake said that so far Minister Moragoda, who is currently abroad, had not made any statement about resigning from his post. Therefore he could not comment.

## Akashi here again

Japanese special envoy Yashushi Akashi arrived here yesterday morning.



Yashushi Akashi

He was welcomed by Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Kunio Takahashi at the Bandaranaike International Airport.

Akashi is in the country to take part in the Sri Lanka Economic Summit scheduled to begin today at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel in Colombo. The Sri Lanka Economic Summit organized by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) is to be held till July 2 under the theme, "Dawning of a new era ... Opportunities and Challenges." The technical sessions, being held from July 1-2 mark the 10th anniversary of this forum.

Akashi, an alumnus of the University of Tokyo and Fulbright scholar at the University of Virginia will be the keynote speaker at the summit.

## SCOPP disbanded



by Dasun Edirisinghe

The Presidential Secretariat yesterday dispatched a directive winding up the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) by the end of July. SCOPP was established in 2002 after then UNF government entered a Cease Fire Agreement with the LTTE. The first Secretary General was Bernard Gunathilake, now the Chairman of Sri Lanka Tourist Board.

The Military staff of the SCOPP comprising 22 has already withdrawn and there are another 25 employees working on contractual basis. They had been informed of the termination. Some of them would be absorbed into the Ministries, sources said.

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# JHU to quit Govt. if ...

## Friends again?



Nation Building Minister Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan alias Karuna Amman in conversation with his one-time deputy Sivasathurai Chandrakanthan, Chief Minister of the Eastern Province during the opening ceremony of the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau's Batticaloa office on Friday.

(Pic courtesy of Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau)

by Chaminda Silva

The JHU yesterday announced that it would resign from the government if the latter fully implemented the 13th Amendment to the Constitution or attempted to grant more powers to provinces.

Environment and Natural Resources Minister Patall Champika Ranawaka, announcing his party's decision at a press conference held at the Public Library Auditorium the government had come under pressure from some quarters to implement the 13th Amendment fully.

The 13th Amendment was something enforced on Sri Lanka by outsiders and its full implementation would grant provinces powers over lands and the police, he said. If such powers were given to provincial councils sacrifices made by the armed forces and the police to

safeguard sovereignty would be in vain. Thus, Minister Ranawaka said, the JHU opposed devolving any more power to the provinces.

The JHU did not oppose the provincial council system but granting further powers to them could not be allowed, and if the government attempted to do so the party would pull out from the government and campaign against such a move, he said.

He challenged those who promoted and advocated the full implementation of the 13th Amendment for an open debate with the JHU on the issue.



Champika

## No Ranaviru tag for polls campaigns

The Media Centre for National Security (MCNS) yesterday announced that it would not allow the use of the title 'Ranaviru' as a prefix for candidates in polls campaigns without the prior approval of Secretary to the Ministry of Defence.

Director, MCNS, Lakshman Hulugalle in a statement issued to media said that some persons were using such a revered title quite irresponsibly for polls campaigns.

Apart from such personnel in the armed forces or those who have left the services following accepted procedures, no other person would be permitted to use the 'Ranaviru' title, he said.



Lakshman Hulugalle

**Real Platinum discovered in Sri Lanka...**

These are Singapore's papers for more details.

## Gale like wind leaves trail of destruction

by Thushari Kalubowila

Nearly 150 houses were damaged due to a gale force wind that blew across several villages at Siyambalanduwa in Monaragala on Sunday (28) evening.

Three Grama Niladhari divisions, Madugama, Ruhumu, Danawwa and Mahakalugolla were the

most affected. Disaster Management Center sources said. However there were no injuries reported.

The DMC sources in Monaragala said that a gusting wind had blown across villages for about five to six minutes with torrential rains at about 3.00 p.m.

The DMC has already taken steps to provide relief to the displaced persons.



## Tiger leader, deputy arrested

By Dinawansa Rathugamage

An LTTE leader and his deputy were arrested by the anti-terrorist unit of the Vavuniya Police, while they were in the company of a young pregnant girl, according to reports from Vavuniya Police.

Identified as Keenan and Kannawan, they were arrested at Pesalai in Mannar. When Police arrested them they were in possession of two claymore mines, two T-56 weapons, five magazines and 142 rounds of ammunition.

One of them was a LTTE leader of Pampalnadu and when he was arrested he was in the company of a 13-year-old girl who Police said was pregnant. The other LTTE cadre was in the company of an 18-year-old girl. Both girls in their statement to Police had said that they were abducted and forcibly kept by the two LTTE cadres.

All four have been detained by the Vavuniya anti-terrorist unit and are being interrogated.

## India to review gay laws

**NEW DELHI - INDIA** is set to review its long-standing laws barring gay sex, in a move that could decriminalise homosexuality in the largely conservative country, a report said on Sunday. Consensual sex between same-sex adults is currently punishable by a fine and a 10-



year prison term under the Indian Penal Code, and most politicians have so far resisted amending the statute which dates back to British rule.

Now three key ministers have agreed to meet shortly to discuss a possible revamp of the country's homosexuality laws.

The issue was being discussed in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Health Ministry and it will come before the Law

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