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UCG denies JVP charge on University admissions



by Dasun Edirisinghe
 While the JVP charged that students in the Eastern Province who qualified to enter universities had been confined to the Eastern University, the University Grants Commission denied the allegation stating that those who had obtained top marks could apply for a university of their choice.
 JVP Western Provincial Councillor and Central Committee member Duminda Nagamuwa said restrictions imposed by the UGC had compelled qualified students to confine themselves to the Eastern University. He said students qualified for Medicine and Management streams had been adversely affected by the alleged rule.

UGC Chairman Prof. Gamini Samaranyake dismissed the allegation: "In the three districts in the East, none from Ampara qualified to follow medicine. Of those qualified for medicine, an first 10 per cent on the list are given an option to seek entry to medical colleges of their choice while others are handled by the UGC. A total 1,165 are selected annually from all provinces to follow medicine. In the Eastern Province except for three students, two from Batticaloa and one from Trincomalee, none were among the first 10 per cent on the list."

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Saturday's attack on Masjidul Rahuman Mosque in Beruwela History created as 131 remanded for one incident



A security forces deserter released yesterday from the Welikada Prison hugs and kisses his son. A total of 1,883 military deserters were released from jails countrywide under a Presidential Common Amnesty. (Photo: Kamal Wanniarachchi)

by Norman Palihawadena

For the first time in recent history of the Sri Lankan judiciary, a total of 131 suspects were remanded in connection with a single criminal case.
 Kalutara Chief Magistrate Anura Seneviratne remanded 28 suspects on Sunday and Additional Magistrate Ms Shanthani Dias remanded another 103 yesterday. All of them were arrested over the attack on the Masjidul Rahuman Mosque at Beruwela on Saturday.

The suspects were produced by the Beruwela Police and they were remanded to fiscal custody till August 6. According to Police, the suspects belong to all strata of the Muslim community and include some respected Islamic religious dignitaries.

Two people were killed in the attack and 12 others with serious injuries admitted to hospital while over one hundred bicycles and motorcycles were burnt and considerable damages caused to the Rahuman Mosque.

A Police curfew was imposed in certain areas in Beruwela from 6.00 a.m. on Sunday as the situation got out of hand.

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Baby tuskers separated from mothers injure themselves

by Ifham Nizam

the two elephants from the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage.

One of the two baby tuskers forcibly taken out of the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage from their mothers has broken a tusk and the other is also injured.

Sources said yesterday that when the baby elephants were taken into Diyawadana Nilame Niranjan Dela Bandara's residence they were kept in a garage, where one of them charged at the motor cycle and destroyed it.

Meanwhile, a senior official of the Department of Wildlife yesterday said they had not authorised the removal of

Lawyer Jagath Gunawardena said elephants legally came under the Department of Wildlife and to transfer them to the other than to the National Zoological Gardens in Dehiwela, yesterday said according to the Zoo Director Board no animal under the age of five years should be handed over to outsiders.



considered illegal. Gunawardena said depriving the young of

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Permission to visit IDPs:

AG given time to obtain MoD approval

by Chitra Weeraratne

The Supreme Court yesterday gave the Attorney General time till August 24, 2009, to obtain instructions from the Defence Ministry, on the issue of granting permission to five Members of the Parliament to visit the IDPs in the Northern Province.

The five MPs are Jayalath Jayawardena, Lakshman Seneviratne (both UNP), Mangala Samaraweera (SLFP-M), Hassan Ali (SLMC) and Mano Ganesan of the Western People's Democratic Front.

They told the Supreme Court that on January 20, 2009, they had written to authorities concerned asking for

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Schools ignore Ministry order, charge exorbitant admission fees - JVP

by Dasun Edirisinghe

Schools defied an Education Ministry order that except for 'facilities' fees no other fees be charged from parents for admitting children to Grade I, the JVP charged yesterday.

JVP Colombo District Parliamentarian Sunil Handunnetti said that a parent had had to pay Rs 36,500 recently to admit his child to Grade I in a national school in Colombo. The amount comprised Rs 5,000 for the development of a Basket Ball Court, Rs 25,000 for the development of the Badminton Court and Rs 6,500 for the development of the sports complex. However, after receiving all

those payments the school refused to admit the child and the parent was desperately trying to get back his money but the school had refused to return it.

Handunnetti said that charges differed from school to school and even students seeking admission to AL classes were made to part with large sums of money. He said, though the Education Ministry permitted only facilities fees and schools continued to charge exorbitant fees.

Education Minister Susil Premjanyath, when contacted by *The Island*, denied the JVP's charge. The fees paid by parents

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Crash kills four including two policemen

A lorry crashed into a house at the Kalapitiya junction on Sunday evening killing two policemen, the driver and the cleaner of the lorry. The lorry was travelling towards Matale from Kandy and there were two policemen in the lorry returning home after Kandy Esela Perahera duty

Except for one policeman who died in hospital died on the spot. Police said two houses were badly damaged in the incident.

According to initial investigations and eye witness accounts, the lorry driver had lost control while negotiating a bend.

Matale Police are conducting investigations.

Weli-Oya - Padaviya IDPs to be re-settled before Aug. 31

by Franklin R. Satyapalan

Government had decided to resettle thousands of families displaced from the Weli-Oya - Padaviya sector under the 180-day *Uthuru Vasanthaya* Programme before August (31). Presidential Secretariat sources said yesterday.

Following a Presidential directive to accelerate the process of re-settlement, Senior Presidential Advisor and Chairman of Presidential Task Force, MP Basil Rajapaksa announced the decision at a meeting at the Mahaweli Community Training Centre on Sunday July (26), 2009.

Displaced families would be resettled in the Weli-Oya Divisional Secretariat areas such as Kalyanapura, Morawewa Gajabhapura before August 31, said Media Secretary attached to the Presidential Secretariat Senaka

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