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The Island

Where Lanka Goes to Trichy...
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Vol. 28 No. 223 Thursday 6th August, 2009, 36 Pages Rs. 20 Registered in Sri Lanka as a Newspaper - City Edition

Page 5 **CA dismisses writ against findings of Commission of Inquiry on Athurugiriya Safe House Raid**

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Page 11 **Will Sri Lanka take-up these issues?**

New Archbishop installed



Mahanayake of Asgiriya Chapter receives Sannasa from the President. Pic: Sudath Silva

England plan for life without Flintoff ▶ Page 14

President goes ahead with handover of elephant sucklings

President Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday (06) gifted two baby elephant sucklings separated from their mothers at Pinnawala to the Mahanayake theras of Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapter of the Siyam Maha Nikaya.

He handed over to the Mahanayake Theros documents of donation.

However, the baby elephants were not taken to the Vihares. They remained in the premises of the official residence of the Diyawadana Nilame. The sannasa were presented to the Mahanayake Theras placed in caskets.

Baby elephant Sindu was gifted to the Malwatte Mahanayake Thera and the

other named Raja to the Asgiriya Mahanayake Thera.

Governor Central Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, Minister Gamini Lokuge, Keheliya Rambukwella and S. M. Chandrasekera, Chief Minister Sarath Ekanayake and Diyawadana Nilame Pradeep Nilanga Dela were present.



Outgoing Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis presents the Pastrol Staff, symbolically handing over the Archdiocese of Colombo to the newly installed Archbishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Dr. Malcolm Ranjith at the Eucharistic Celebrations held yesterday at St. Lucia's Cathedral in Colombo. Pic by Nishan S. Priyantha.

Two gangsters killed, two policemen wounded

by Anton Fernando
 Our Battaramulla corr

The police yesterday shot dead two underworld figures in two separate incidents at Madiwela and Ratmalana. The police said that the suspects had been arrested earlier and the police had taken them to hideouts where they claimed to have hidden some weapons.

A senior police officer told *The Island* that the police had had to open fire as one of the suspects, 'Army Chamanids' made an attempt to lob a hand grenade.

The police identified the other gangster as 'Maligawatte Pappa' alias Mohammed Anumadeen Mohammed Silvan (35) shot dead by police at Ratmalana after he grabbed a T-56 assault rifle and opened fire at policemen accompanying him to a hideout. The police said that Silvan had wounded two personnel before police shot him down.



Our staff photographer Kamal Bogoda captured this scene at the Vavuniya Urban Council yesterday (August 5) shortly before the army moved 439 families comprising 1,094 persons for resettlement in the Ampara, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Jaffna Districts. UPFA MP Vinayagamoorthy Muralidaran with several MPs, including Basil Rajapaksa visited Vavuniya to see delighted civilians boarding SLTB buses.

31-year-old killed in accidental grenade blast

by Percy Kuruneru
 Our A'pura Spl. Corr

A 31-year-old person had been killed in an accidental grenade blast in the Kekirawa police area on Tuesday (August 4) evening, the police said. A police officer told *The Island* that the victim had found the grenade on the of Labunoruwa tank bund and attempted to examine it. He identified the victim as Sirikelum Aberyatne.

Earlier this week, a twelve-year-old child was killed in an accidental grenade blast at Ikinwewa in the Tambutegama police area.



by Cyril Wimalasurendre

Kandy Esala Perahera ends today

KANDY - The Kandy annual Esala Perahera ends today (06) with the Day Perahera followed by the presentation of the customary *Perahera Sandeshaya* to President Mahinda Rajapaksa announcing the successful completion of the procession.

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Strike looms over overtime payment

by Dilanthi Jayamanne

The clerical and minor staff of the Health Ministry warned that they would resort to a strike if the Health Secretary did not withdraw a circular which cancelled their overtime. A majority of the health services in the internally displaced camps of the Vanni had to be handled by the minor and clerical staff of the Ministry while they were off duty.

Southern Provincial Polls

UPFA won't field criminal offenders



Susil

by Shamindra Ferdinando

UPFA General Secretary Minister Susil Premjayanath yesterday said that the ruling coalition wouldn't field anyone found guilty of a criminal offense or facing strictures due to criminal offenses committed by them, at the forthcoming elections to the Southern Provincial Council. He

said that decision was final and not negotiable.

Responding to our queries, he said the UPFA and other parties had not given a similar pledge before. He said though interviews for the selection of prospective candidates had been held no final decision had been taken so far.

Well informed sources told *The Island* that a directive to this effect had been issued from Temple Trees. Welcoming the SLP move, sources said that unscrupulous elements too, should be denied nominations to contest Parliamentary elections.

Damning AG report on Gem and Jewellery Research and Training Institute

Manager robs gold & silver worth millions of rupees

by Shamindra Ferdinando

A former manager of the Gem and Jewellery Research and Training Institute had stolen a stock of gold and silver worth an estimated value of Rs 2,395,749 in the first half of 2007, the Auditor General Department said.

Although the AG's department had revealed the waste, corruption and irregularities at public enterprises and even the Parliament, direct charges of fraud levelled against heads of institutes were rare.

AG S. Swarnajothi has informed Faizal Razeen, Chairman of the Institute that the institute which comes under the purview of Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion Ministry hadn't reported the loss and damage, in violation of Financial regulations 104 (2) and 105 (1). The AG said though a sum of Rs. 900,000 had been recovered, the Institute had suffered a loss of Rs. 1,495,749. He had attributed this to the inefficiency of the management of the Institute.

According to its annual report for 2007 presented in Parliament, the AG had been severely critical

of the management. The AG has estimated the loss of income to the Institute during the year at Rs. 8,991,550 due to its failure to fully implement a planned training programme.

The AG said though the Institute had spent Rs. 3,666,324 on research activities no effective research had been carried out. The audit investigation had revealed that of the total sum spent, three Geologists received Rs. 1,295,815 as payments and the rest on research equipment.

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Mother asks IGP to probe abduction and assault of her son

by Shamindra Ferdinando

Quick action by Gnanalatha Ranasinghe Ramanayake, mother of a 22-year-old youth abducted by an unidentified group of persons including policemen at Malabe on Tuesday afternoon, and swift intervention by Textile Industries Development Minister Mahinda Ratnathilake saved her son's life.



She has called for the intervention of President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa to ensure a thorough inquiry into the incident.

Speaking to *The Island*, yesterday, a weeping Ramanayake said that a vehicle bearing GC 0343 released to the Police Department had been used by the gang to abduct her son, Nipuna studying at the Sri

Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT). She said, the vehicle waiting inside the SLIIT premises had followed her son and the gang had bundled him into the vehicle at gunpoint.

Although the gang had wanted to abduct another SLIIT student identified as Chamil Madura, it left without him.

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