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Call for scrapping exec. presidency, a ruse says Weerawansa

by Shamindra Ferdinando

Go-slow JVP-UNP unions confident: Govt has troops at the ready

by Ifham Nizam, Norman Palihawadena and Don Asoka Wijewardena

The UNP-JVP-led trade union alliance was confident that its three-day go-slow due to commence today would hamper the day to day activities of the people. The warring unions held the government responsible for the hindrance since their due salary increases had been denied. But the government was confident that it could deal an effective blow

to the union alliance since the UPFA led unions were strong enough to maintain an effective service in the four targeted sectors while the armed forces stood by to chip in case of an emergency.

Meanwhile, Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said the army had troops standing by and would deploy them in any sector where the TU action was planned, if the government issued an order to that effect.

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Ban on Opp. MPs' visits to Vanni IDP camps lifted

Mallavi hospital reopened, UN agencies given access

by Shamindra Ferdinando

The government will shortly invite Opposition MPs to visit northern relief camps, where about 140,000 war displaced people are accommodated.

The government has so far refused the entire Opposition, including the UNP, the TNA and the JVP, access to the facilities run with the support of some international community, particularly UN agencies.

Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services Minister Risad Bathiudeen yesterday told *The Island* that a 32-member Consultative Committee of his ministry would be invited to visit northern camps



Chandrasiri



Bathiudeen

shortly. The Minister said that he had obtained Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa's consent on Monday (Oct 9) for that purpose.

The Minister said the IDP camps had held almost 300,000 persons at the end of war last May. The number had rapidly come down to 140,000 after the government accelerated the resettlement programme, he said.

The government would shortly open Pooneryn in the Kilinochchi District for resettlement. Responding to our queries, he said that about 28,000 persons would be resettled in the Pooneryn area.

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National Freedom Front (NFF) leader Wimal Weerawansa, MP on Monday (Oct 9) alleged that the JVP's demand for abolishing the executive presidency was a ruse to facilitate an anti-Mahinda Rajapaksa alliance with the UNP.



Wimal

Joining President Mahinda Rajapaksa in a live political programme telecast over state and private television networks, the MP said there was an attempt to bring the UNP, JVP and the likes of Mano Ganesan, MP and R. Sampanthan, MP under one umbrella. He asserted that the so-called common front represented anti-nationalist forces bent on destabilising the country.

The constituents of the proposed alliance had sided with the LTTE during the Eelam war IV but failed to save the LTTE, Weerawansa said. As at the last presidential election in November, 2005, the country had been divided into two groups, patriots and those contracted by the international community to destabilise the country for the benefit of the separatists, he said.

The JVP had now joined the second group and was using the so-called demand for the abolition of executive presidency to cover up their true intentions.

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Tens of thousands of workers converged opposite the Fort Railway station yesterday (Oct. 10) in support of President Mahinda Rajapaksa's government ahead of a three-day work-to-rule campaign called by trade unions affiliated to the UNP and the JVP demanding a salary increase.
Pic Saranapala Pamunuwa

Sexual harassment: Chief doc transferred

A Medical Superintendent of the Elpitiya Hospital has been sent on compulsory leave for an alleged attempt to sexually harass a lady doctor serving in the same hospital.

The office of the Director of the Southern Provincial Health Services said that a complaint had been received that a Medical Superintendent of the Elpitiya Hospital had attempted to sexually harass a young female colleague and after sending him on compulsory leave a two-member committee of doctors of the medical administra-

tive service had been appointed to inquire into the incident. The Director General of Health Services Dr. Ajith Mendis had been informed of the alleged incident, sources said.

Dr. Mendis said he was awaiting an official intimation to order the special investigation unit of the Health Ministry to probe the incident.

Meanwhile, sources said a report would be sent to the Health Ministry once the Southern Provincial Council health authorities concluded their inquiries.

Bhikku Front condemns prayer meeting and JHU monks' action

The National Bhikku Front in a statement issued yesterday condemned both the Prayer meeting conducted by a religious group at Vihara Mahadevi Park on October 31, in which two participants died, and the subsequent conduct of the Jathika Hela Urumaya,

which it claimed was responsible for the attack on the office of the religious organisation concerned at Koswatte.

The National Bhikku Front said that it was deplorable that prompt

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Govt. agreeable to pay hike, stop go-slow, Fowzie tell CPC unions

Petroleum Minister A. H. M. Fowzie yesterday urged petroleum workers to drop their plan for a three-day 'work-to-rule' campaign beginning today (Oct 11) as the government was willing to grant a 22 per cent salary increase in keeping with a collective agreement between them.



Fowzie

He said that the government would ensure an uninterrupted supply of fuel even if workers went ahead with planned trade union campaign.

A spokesman for CPC union affiliated to the JVP told

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US helped destroy some LTTE 'floating arsenals'
- President



Story on page 4

Power cut brings Tile factory to a halt

by Percy Kuruneru, Anuradhapura Cor.

Production in the Elayapattuwa Tile Factory in Anuradhapura has been halted for the last three months following the disconnection of electricity supply for failure to settle the electricity bill arrears of Rs 2.1 million. The Ceylon Ceramics Corporation under which the tile factory functions was responsible for settling electricity bills.

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Jail guard remanded

by Percy Kuruneru, Anuradhapura Cor.

A prison guard attached to the Anuradhapura Prison was remanded till Friday by Magistrate Shivantha Machanayake for allegedly attempting to smuggle 20 packets of cannabis (*ganja*) into the prison. He was produced in Court on Monday by the Police.

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Ex-HC judge unhappy with police probes

by Ifham Nizam

Former High Court Judge Mahanama Tillekeratne, Chairman of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into abductions and disappearances said yesterday that he was personally unhappy with Police investigations into telephone calls as regards an attack on Lake House journalist Poddala Jayantha. The Commission also inquired into unexplained killings and

unidentified bodies. Chairman Tillekeratne said that he would shortly submit a report to President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Poddala Jayantha, who had been brutally assaulted by a group of unidentified persons at Nugegoda a few months ago. He said that he would also submit a report on the plight of 31 families in Trincomalee and Kantale who deserved compensation since they had lost their bread winners.

Addressing a press conference in Colombo yesterday, he said that the Commission had commenced sittings in September, 2006 and handled nearly 15,000 cases and settlement had been reached in a majority of them. The ex-Judge said that in many instances during inquiries, a majority of families were not interested in compensation but wanted the commission help trace their kith and kin who went missing.

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