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The Island

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Mihin Lanka flies to Trichy...
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MIHIN LANKA
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Page 7 Hatthotuwegama, the undergrad at Peradeniya

Page 10 Great Barrier Reef 'will die' unless carbon emissions slashed

Page 12 Aquino keeps lead in Philippine election survey

UNF demands Presidential or any election be held

Otherwise they would take their campaign onto the streets

by Zacki Jabbar

The United National Front said yesterday that if President Mahinda Rajapaksa did not keep his word on holding elections, they would take their campaign to the streets.

Leaders of the UNF, Ranil Wickremesinghe, Rauff Hakeem, Mangala Samaraweera, Sirimasiri Hapuarachchi and Sarath Manawadu told a news conference in Colombo that President Mahinda Rajapaksa who had boasted of advancing the date of the



Hakeem Mangala Ranil

Presidential Polls should not back track now. "If he does not give us an election, we will take our campaign to the streets."

Leader of the UNP Ranil Wickremesinghe said that with the end of the war,

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MR turns 64



President Mahinda Rajapaksa celebrates his 64th Birthday today. He was born in Weeraketiya on November 18, 1945.

Fonseka gets full security

by Norman Palihawadena

Security to retired Chief of Defence Staff General Sarath Fonseka has been restored fully. Defence Spokesman Minister Kheliya Rambukwella said yesterday.

He said that the General's security had been enhanced more than that of a retired officer of his rank and this was done in view of his complaints that his security had been reduced.

The Minister said that if necessary security would be further enhanced depending on a threat assessment. He said that President Mahinda Rajapaksa had directed officials to monitor the level of the security threat to the General and provide him additional security, if necessary.

Govt. moves to win over TNA



Members of the Students' Council of the Peradeniya University protest opposite the University Grants Commission in Colombo yesterday against the failure of the authorities to enroll students for the Allied Health Sciences Faculty. (Photo-Sujatha Jayarathne)

by Shamindra Ferdinando

Close on the heels of the UNP-JVP combine seeking to rope in the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) to support the candidature of General (ret'd) Sarath Fonseka at the next presidential election against President Mahinda Rajapaksa, the government has moved to win over the TNA.

The UNP-JVP alliance was seeking the TNA's support for their candidate. Government sources told *The Island* that President Mahinda Rajapaksa's government, which militarily defeated the LTTE, had the strength to resettle the displaced and was confident of meeting the uphill task with the support of the international community.

In an unprecedented move, the Defence Ministry on Monday (Nov 16) arranged a TNA parliamentary group to visit areas west of the A9 road where the government was in the process of resettling the war displaced.

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Chandrasiri

Police in bid to win Northern hearts and minds

The Northern Range Police have launched a special project to help people recently resettled in areas west of the A9 road. The police conducted a large scale relief operation last Saturday (Nov 14) following a two-day survey conducted in the area.

DIG Nimal Lewke told *The Island* that the people had welcomed their initiative. "We hope to continue with similar projects as part of the overall effort to win the hearts and minds of the people," he said. Responding to our queries, he said that they were in the process of setting up village development committees headed by police officers to identify people's problems.

He emphasised that winning hearts and minds would be an essential part in their counter-insurgency strategy. He expressed confidence that the private sector could be involved to provide relief to the needy.



Lewke

Ex-cop gets life for attempted murder

by Percy Kuruneru, Anuradhapura Corr.

Anuradhapura High Court Judge Ms Menaka Wijesundera sentenced an ex-Police Constable to life imprisonment for attempted murder of a woman and robbery of jewellery belonging to her.

The accused, in addition to life imprisonment for the murder attempt, was also sentenced to ten years rigorous imprisonment for the robbery of

Continued on page 2

Transport Ministry seeks Rs. 4.75 bn for railway development

by Saman Indrajith

The Transport Ministry yesterday sought parliamentary approval for a Supplementary Estimate of Rs. 4,750 million to purchase power sets, engines and to upgrade the coastal railway line.

Chief Government Whip, Urban Development and Sacred Area Development Minister Dinesh Gunawardene presented the paper to the House.

The explanatory note of the paper said that in

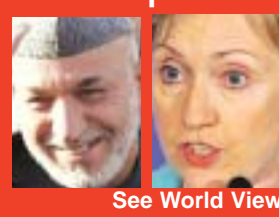
2009 budgetary allocations approval had been granted for Rs. 1,000 mn to purchase power sets and engines through the Indian line of credit.

However, it had been estimated that Rs. 2,500 million would be spent in 2009 and 30 per cent of the total expenditure had already been paid as an advance. To purchase 15 power sets under the Peoples Republic China Aid Rs. 1,450 million was sought. Another Rs. 3,300 million was sought to upgrade the coastal railway line.



Dinesh

Hamid Karzai unveils new anti-corruption unit



See World View



The Central Bank of Sri Lanka yesterday issued a commemorative note in the denomination of Rs 1000 to mark the defeat of the LTTE and the ushering of peace and prosperity. President Mahinda Rajapaksa receives the first note from Governor of the Central Bank Ajith Nivard Cabraal.

Pix by: Nalin Hewapathirana

Two jail guards injured in clash with prisoners

by Percy Kuruneru, Anuradhapura Cor.

Two jail guards of the Anuradhapura Prison were admitted to the Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital with injuries following a clash between prisoners and jail guards within the Prison premises yesterday (17) morning.

According to Prison sources, an argument between the inmates and the guards while breakfast was being served had resulted in fisticuffs in which some prisoners were also injured. The injured prisoners were treated at the Prison Hospital.

Prison authorities and the Anuradhapura Police are conducting investigations.

UNP walks out in protest

by Saman Indrajith

The UNP walked out of the Chamber of the House yesterday morning in protest against the government's decision to restrict the sittings to one day for this week.

Chief

Opposition

Whip

Joseph

Miac-hel

Perera

said the

UNP had wanted the government to have sittings on the 19th and 20th excluding the 18th as the day fell on the 4th anniversary of the President's assumption of office.

"We were willing to compromise on one day but the government did not agree to our demand," MP Perera said.

However, leader of the House Health Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said the government had agreed to hold sittings yesterday (17th) and on Friday (20) with extended hours of sittings to accommodate the UNP and JVP's demands but they had not agreed to it.

"Only the TNA leader R. Sampanthan agreed to this decision and hence we have decided to adjourn today to meet again on December 8th, Minister Silva said.



In Parliament on Tuesday

Corruption Index Sri Lanka safe

Sri Lanka was not among the top ten in either the world's most or least corrupt countries according to the Corruption Perceptions Index report published yesterday by watchdog Transparency International.

According to an Associated Press report, Somalia topped the most corrupt list while New Zealand was on top as the Least corrupt.

The world's ten most corrupt countries:

1. Somalia
2. Afghanistan
3. Myanmar
4. Sudan
5. Iraq
6. Chad
7. Uzbekistan
8. Turkmenistan
9. Iran
10. Haiti

The world's ten least corrupt countries:

1. New Zealand
2. Denmark
3. Singapore
4. Sweden
5. Switzerland
6. Finland
7. Netherlands
8. Australia
9. Canada
10. Iceland

Withdrawal of 16 'Belco Pharma' drugs recommended

by Dilanthi Jayamanne

A committee appointed to investigate the detection of glass particles and other substances in phials of certain injections and in bottles of saline recently in government hospitals, recommended that the Health Ministry withdraw sixteen types of drugs manufactured by 'Belco Pharma' of India for two years. The Manufacturer should also take steps to reimburse the cost of the withdrawn injections and other drugs, the committee recommended.

Health Ministry sources said yesterday (17) that the committee headed by the Head of the Cosmetic and Drug Devices Authority (CDDA) Dr. Hemantha Beneragama had recommended that the Recall Committee be informed of the withdrawal.

The panel advised the Ministry to warn all manufacturing companies that they would be black-listed if their drugs were found to be substandard.

The committee warned that new drug registration applications would not be accepted until a good medical product (GMP) inspection was carried out. A team nominated by the Health Ministry was to be sent for GMP inspection with the cost borne by the manufacturer.

The local agent had stated that he would get in touch with the manufacturer about the GMP inspection and inform the CDDA.

The drugs and injections which are to be withdrawn are:

- 1) Ampicillin sodium for Injection BP 250mg
- 2) Ampicillin sodium for Injection BP 500mg
- 3) Atropine sulphate Injection BP 0.6mg/ml
- 4) Cefotaxime sodium Injection USP 1g
- 5) Ceftazidime for Injection USP 1g
- 6) Ceftazidime for Injection USP 1g

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