

The Automobile Association of Ceylon

Needing HELP on the Road?

24 Hour Hotline
011 7555557

The Island

Vol. 29 No. 05 Friday 20th November, 2009, 32 Pages Rs. 20 Registered in Sri Lanka as a Newspaper - Late City Edition

The Automobile Association of Ceylon

AA CEYLON

Est. 1904

Your Partner in Motoring

Page 3 **Schools closed in CP**

Page 10 **Anatomy of LTTE collapse and the Fonseka factor**

Page 11 **Despite rich biodiversity**

Plot to bomb Colombo revealed

by Hemantha Randunu

The police have uncovered a fresh plot by the Tamil Diaspora to carry out a massive bomb attack in the city. The recent arrest of Ananda Varnan, a hardcore LTTE terrorist, in Vavuniya by a special police team has revealed the planned attack.

The police had recovered a powerful bomb which was to be used in the attack, a senior police official told *The Island* adding that Varnan had received Rs. 30,000 from his masters based in Malaysia to carry out the operation.

Continued on page 6

We'll sit with TNA in Ranil's caretaker cabinet - JVP

New party being formed for Fonseka to contest presidential polls

Symbol likely to be 'something like a sword, but not so sharp'

by Dasun Edirisinghe

The JVP says it is not apprehensive about being part of the same Cabinet as its bête noire, the Tamil National Alliance, dubbed in Parliament as the mouthpiece of the LTTE, in the event of a caretaker government being formed with UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe as Prime Minister.

In reply to a question whether the JVP had no difficulty in sitting with the TNA in the same Cabinet after being critical of the latter's pro-LTTE stance, JVP Parliamentary Group Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake said he saw no reason why his party could not do so because the caretaker government to be formed would consist of all political parties represented in Parliament.

He said his party saw no alternative to winning the next presidential election with the help of a common candidate and forming a caretaker government to restore democracy.

Asked whether the Elections Commissioner had rejected the JVP's application for the registration of a new political party to field Gen. (ret'd) Sarath Fonseka at the next presidential election, Dissanayake said his party had not received any official communication to that effect.

Continued on page 6



Fonseka can pick his guards

... and occupy Army Commander's Buller's Road residence until...

Gets bullet proof car

The government yesterday said that General (ret'd) Sarath Fonseka had been allowed to pick his security contingent.

A spokesman for the Presidential Secretariat told *The Island* that the Defence Ministry had instructed Army Chief Lieutenant General Jagath Jayasuriya to release officers and men requested by the former Army Commander. He said that the entire security contingent, including commandos would be selected by the recently retired Chief of Defence Staff.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa has also asked General Fonseka to continue to occupy the Army Commander's official residence at the Buller's Road but

Continued on page 6

Fonseka's candidature still under discussion, says Vajira

UNP MP Vajira Abeywardene says that naming of General Sarath Fonseka as the common candidate of the Opposition is still under consideration.

See page 6

Tamil, Muslim party heads in Zurich to find solution

by Franklin R. Satyapalan

Leaders of all Tamil and Muslim political parties in Sri Lanka were in Zurich yesterday to attend a three-day conference on finding a lasting political solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict.

The conference, organised by the Tamil Information Centre (TRC), commenced yesterday (19) and will conclude tomorrow.

Representatives of the TNA, TULF, EPDP, CWC, UPF, DPF, PLOTE, TELO, ACRC, SLMC, TMVP, and EPRLF (both Naba and Varatha wings) participated.

The London based Tamil Information Centre, which was an alliance of Tamil militant groups, was founded in 1984 and had its head office in India. It became dysfunctional following the Indo-Lanka Agreement in 1987 and subsequently got amalgamated to the pro LTTE Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO).

After the defeat of the LTTE it had been taken over by the Tamil Diaspora, Tamil political sources said.

Many senior ex-militants and representatives of the Tamil Diaspora had also been invited to the conference to

Continued on page 6

President has two more years to go - Yapa

by Zacki Jabbar

The much-awaited election announcement, expected at yesterday's Cabinet press briefing did not materialise, with the government simply saying that it was prepared for any poll and President Mahinda Rajapaksa would announce his decision shortly.

"The President has two more years of his tenure left. He will make an announcement soon with regard to the conduct of Presidential and Parliamentary Elections," Media Minister and Cabinet Spokesman Anura Priyadharshana Yapa said. "We are ready for any Poll and are confident of winning. The UPFA is the strongest political alliance in the country today."

The UNP, he said, was so bankrupt that it could not even present a Presidential nominee of its own and was in the hunt for a "common candidate."

The time had come for the rank and file in the UNP to join the government and strengthen the hands of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, because their party was up for dissolution, Yapa said.

The UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe had, he alleged, handed over a part of the country to the LTTE, but President Mahinda Rajapaksa had resisted many forces, in winning the war.

Yapa said that the government had not forgotten the masses and had decided to increase the cost of living allowances of public servants, including armed services and police personnel. Those employees on contract or casual basis in the state sector, who had served for more than 180 days, would be confirmed in service, he added.



Anura Priyadharshana

Accidental blast wounds 13 AL students

by Denagama Dhammika Ranaweera

Thirteen GCE Advanced Level students of the Moneragala Royal College yesterday received minor injuries due to an accidental blast of a test tube.

A spokesperson for the College said that at the time the blast, the students had been engaged in an experiment using chlorine.

The wounded were admitted to the Moneragala hospital.

Saved from watery grave

The police have rescued seven students of the Moratuwa University who had been fighting for their lives after losing control of two boats in the Bolgoda lake. Police headquarters said that two police officers, Kapurubanda (Police Sergeant 24556) and Prasad (Constable 84792) intervened after hearing their cries.

Nimal desperate for Cuban bacteria to battle dengue

by Dilanthi Jayamanne

Health Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva yesterday urged the Cuban Ambassador Nirsia Castro Guevara to expedite the process of registering the Bti bacteria with the Insecticide Registration Office. The delay was on the Cuban side, spokesman for the Health Ministry said yesterday.

The spokesman said that the Ministry planned to use the bacteria to control dengue from next year. There have been reported 29,730 cases of dengue since mid January.

Meanwhile the spokesman said Minister de Silva had requested the Public Health Department of the Health Ministry to accelerate the procedure to acquire the bacteria to control field rats.



Nimal

German boost for Lanka's resettlement efforts

Sri Lanka's efforts to resettle the war displaced will receive a further boost with Germany providing \$ 450,000 to the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) engaged in mine clearing operations west of the A9 road.

The FSD is one of the six INGOs carrying out mine clearing operations in support of the army. Northern Province Governor G. A. Chandrasiri told *The Island* that their focus was on the area west of the A 9 though mine clearing operations were also taking place east of the road. Among the INGOs are British, Danish and Indian groups. Chandrasiri said that all of them had hired locals under supervision by expatriates.

A spokesperson for the German Embassy in Colombo said their financial assistance to the FSD was in support of the Integrated Humanitarian Mine Action Programme aimed at helping IDPS to return to their villages. According to her, the FSD operation would benefit about 5,000 families comprising 18,000 persons originally from Manthai West in the Mannar district.

Continued on page 2

Mangy frowns on Mahinda's picture on currency note

by Dasun Edirisinghe

Sri Lanka Freedom Party - Mahajana Wing leader Mangala Samaraweera MP said that it was shameful to issue a currency note with the picture of President Mahinda Rajapaksa on it. That had been done by the Central Bank while a Presidential or General election was on the cards, he said.

Nowhere in the world were currency notes printed with the picture of a political leader while they were still alive, Samaraweera said adding that only in a monarchy either the king's or the queen's picture was printed on currency notes.

Addressing a press conference at the party head office in Rajagiriya, Samaraweera said that his party would request the Elections Commissioner to stop the circulation of the newly printed Rs.1,000 notes with President's picture since an election was in the offing.

Continued on page 6



Mangala

TID locates 31 pistols at women suicide cadres' training facility

by Shamindra Ferdinando

The Terrorist Investigation Division (TID) has found a cache of arms belonging to LTTE suicide cadres based at a training facility in the Puthukudirippu area.

Police headquarters said that the weapons, including ten 9mm pistols, 20 micro pistols, one revolver, one T-56 assault rifle, two repeaters, one AT 16 weapon and nine 0.22 weapons had been buried at playground. According to senior DIG Nimal Mediweka, DIG C. N. Wakista had informed Police headquarters of the recovery made by Fourth Investigation Unit headed by Inspector Jagath Bandara.

An official said that a hardcore LTTE terrorist, who had been captured from an IDP facility in Vavuniya, led the TID to Anandi base, exclusively used to train women suicide cadres. Responding to *The Island* queries, he said that the informant had been living among civilians accommodated at an IDP facility in the Vavuniya area before being arrested and interrogated by the TID.

Sources said that the LTTE Intelligence, too, had maintained a permanent presence at the facility. Sources emphasised the importance of recovering buried arms, ammunition and equipment in areas east of the A9 before resettlement begins.

Since the end of war last May, the TID had made several important recoveries.

The Island www.island.lk

THE LEADER IN INTERNET SERVICES

LankaCom

Subsidiary of Singapore Telecom

Phone: 011-2437545 | Web: www.lankacom.lk