



President Mahinda Rajapaksa accompanied by Ports and Aviation Minister Chamal Rajapaksa unveiled a plaque to mark the inauguration of the construction of a fifteen storied administration complex and oil storage tanks at the Hambantota new port premises. (Photo-A. Waidyasekera, Ambalantota Cor.)

Soldier sentenced to death in lady doctor killing

by A. Waidyasekera, Ambalantota Cor.

A soldier named Paranamane Nihal, alias Neil Kumara was sentenced to death by the Hambantota High Court Judge Achala Wengappuli. He was convicted of killing the Medical Officer who was in charge of Badagiriya rural hospital Hambantota, Dr. Miss Mala Dona Luxmi Idunil.

The suspect entered the residential quarters of the doctor that is in close proximity to the hospital and shot her dead.

Prior to delivering the judgement the High Court Judge asked the suspect whether he has to say anything. The suspect was silent.

Sanitary conditions to be improved

by Kalutara Cor.

The Medical Officers of Health in Bulathsinhala have implemented a project to upgrade the health and sanitary conditions of the people in the estate sector in Bulathsinhala.

This was revealed at the co-ordinating committee meeting held at Kalutara Secretariat.

It was said that thirty toilets would be constructed where there are no sanitary facilities in estates.

The estimated cost for the construction of toilets is four and half lakhs of rupees.

"The toilets would be constructed in Frocester estate, Kiriwanaketiya, Millakandawatta and Halwaturawatta.

Vacancy filled

by Kalutara Cor.

The vacancy created by the death of Dr. W. T. P. Ariyaratna, the former vice-chairman of UC-Kalutara, a leader of the opposition and a chairman, was filled by Falan Feroz - a young politician.

He took his oaths before M. M. Jauffer the vice-chairman of Kalutara UC.

Patriotism needed to save the country

by Kalutara Cor.

"The people should inculcate the high ideal of patriotism to save the country from an international and local conspiracy and extend the fullest support to President Rajapaksa by re-electing him to preserve the unitary state of the country, which was won after thirty years of war.

"When the country was invaded by foreigners, people united to preserve national integrity even by sacrificing their lives."

This was stated by Minister of Tourism Nandana Goonetilleke in the key-note address at a seminar held at Vijaya Kumaratunga Commemorative Hall in support of Mahinda Rajapaksa in the forthcoming presidential election.

Ven. Nelumdande Wimalasara Thera, the Chief Incumbent of Gangaramaya temple, Wadduwa delivered an Anusasana.

Addressing the gathering he said, the LTTE agitated for the division of the country but it was not a success as President Mahinda Rajapaksa came into power.

"Even now there is an international conspiracy to topple the government with local support but patriotic people should vote against the conspiracy and defeat them.

"The leader of the UNP has no power to win the presidential election and has decided to field a common candidate to come to power but the people are not ready to defeat the present president and he has won the confidence of masses," he said.

Steps taken to uplift kitul industry

The Secretary to the Ministry of Rural Industries and Self Employment Promotion, Nihal Somaweera, said that measures have been taken to uplift the Kitul Producing Industry from rural to commercial industry level under the National Programme of Kitul Production Development.

New Technology and marketing facilities will be introduced to the people engaged in the industry to encourage them, under this programme.

It has been estimated that a sum of Rs. 10,000 per month could be obtained by tapping one kitul tree to produce treacle and jaggery.

According to the survey made by the Agrarian Development and Department of Census and Statistics, it has been disclosed that there are about 6 million kitul trees in the island and about

6 lakhs of trees are in the stage of blooming. Only 16% of which are suitable for tapping. It has also been ascertained that about 30,000 people are engaged in the kitul industry.

Somaweera said that as there is high demand for high quality kitul products, measures have been taken to uplift this industry.

"Kesper" treatment has been introduced to promote the toddy harvest which is very essential for the kitul industry. Steps have been taken to distribute this through Agrarian Services Centres. The Ministry of Rural Industries has taken steps to elevate the kitul producers socially, technically and economically by registering them and issuing identity cards, introducing a pension scheme and insurance scheme for them. Steps have been taken to maintain high standard

of kitul treacle and kitul related products and providing marketing facilities for them. Apart from this, research has commenced to introduce high-yielding kitul trees.

Kitul producing pilot projects have been commenced in the Divisional Secretariats of Imbulpe, Passara, Hataraliyadda, Bulathsinhala, Tawalama, and Madulla. Under this programme introducing new expertise and providing training for the Kitul industrialists also under way. In keeping line with the implementation of this programme, rural people have shown interest in the kitul producing industry.

Annually, 500,000 metric tones of sugar are being imported at the cost of Rs. 20,000 million. The Ministry anticipates curtailing the import of sugar imports by enhancing kitul production.



The first copy of the Book titled "Office Systems and Practice" the 5th in series of Publications edited by Senior Public Servant A. H. Gamage, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Empowerment and Socio Economic Development was handed over to Dr. Sarath Amunugama Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs at a simple ceremony held at the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs recently. Also in the picture are D. Dissanayake, Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs and Riaz Ismail, Co-ordinating Secretary, Ministry of Youth Empowerment and Socio Economic Development.

'School teachers are well looked after'

by Bingiriya Cor.

"School teachers and school principals should be grateful to this government and the Minister of Education Susil Premajayantha for taking early steps to rectify existing salary anomalies. All school teachers and school principals will get their arrears during the early part of next year. The Minister of Education has already asked for a sum of 6,000 million rupees from the Central Bank for this purpose," said W. M. Somapala, President of Bingiriya School Principals' Association.

Speaking at a meeting of school principals in the NWP recently at the Bingiriya MMV, he said that 3,000 aesthetic graduates would be appointed to rural schools next year and special attention would be paid to promoting

positive attitudes of school teachers and principals towards their noble task of moulding future citizens.

Although billions of rupees were spent annually for a quality education, the desired results seem not to have been achieved due to certain social trends that prevail in the present day society.

"To offer equal educational opportunities to all Sri Lankan students, more facilities such as computer education and learning of the English Language are now being provided to remote schools all over the country.

"School principals, being the pioneers of school education, have a national responsibility of guiding students and teachers towards a better Sri Lanka," he further said.

Deputy Director of Education W. M. Balasooriya also spoke.

'Hummanaya' developed

by A. Waidyasekera, Ambalantota Cor.

The Blowhole *Hummanaya* has been developed to a great extent.

A visitors' information centre and a viewing platform have been set up.

The narrow roads that lead to the blowhole remain in the same position because of

houses in close proximity on either side of the road.

The Hambantota integrated coastal development project, the former Ministry of Fisheries and aquatic resources, the Ruhunu Tourism Bureau and the Southern Development Authority contributed immensely towards the development of the *Hummanaya* tourist attraction.

SLNC aimed at giving all Lankans one national identity

The following statement was issued by Chairman B. Sirisena Cooray on the formation of Sri Lanka National Congress aimed at creating a society with a Sri Lankan Identity.

"It was through the strength and resolution of leaders belonging to all communities that this country was able to achieve much 'yearned' political emancipation from its colonial masters.

The institution that brought these leaders together for this historic and landmark event was known as Ceylon National Congress.

The resolute and tireless commitment of all the leaders, who rose beyond petty political and other social differences, set an example to the entire country when they stood in unison in the discharge of their historical duty.

In the present context, the incumbent President takes pride of place for having vanquished terrorism which plagued the country for almost three decades. This was possible, only because the entire nation joined hands with the political leadership with commitment to achieve the target.

Today the challenge before us is to develop the country and achieve economic emancipation and prosperity for the well being of the fellow countrymen.

At this crucial and sensitive juncture of our history it is imperative to bring all who are in conflict due to various social phenome-

na under one identity and one Sri Lankan philosophy.

The aims and objectives of Sri Lanka National Congress are to achieve these targets within the Sri Lankan society.

National unity is an important factor in an era of nation building; hence it is the determined effort of Sri Lanka National Congress to create a broad platform for co-habitation of people who subscribe to various shades of opinion.

Minister Milinda Moragoda who believes in this philosophy functions as the leader of Sri Lanka National Congress while R. A. D. Sirisena who has a wealth of experience in rural development activities has been elected as the General Secretary. The administrative committee, of Sri Lanka National Congress consists of twenty members representing all sectors.

People representing various communities, faiths, political ideologies and cultures participated in the initial discussions for the formation of Sri Lanka National Congress.

The importance of creating a new political philosophy devoid of narrow political differences was emphasized at the inaugural meeting of the Congress.

Sri Lanka National Congress as an initial step had decided to align with the United People's Freedom alliance and to pledge its support to the development programme launched by the incumbent President."



American Ambassador Patricia A. Butenis speaks with Deputy Minister of Vocational Training R. Radhalrishnan at the latter's office

Hundreds of families benefit by water supply project

by A. Waidyasekera, Ambalantota Cor.

The Tangalle water supply project funded by UNICEF for the provision of a sustainable supply of safe drinking water has proved to be a boon to several hundreds of families in Tangalle and Beliatta.

"The supply of water rose from the

current 2,500 cubic meters per day to 9000 cubic meters. Although periodically upgraded Tangalle's original water supply scheme set up about 35 years ago has not been able to meet the requirements of the growing population.

Lack of fresh water resources along the coastal belt for many years had been a major constraint in providing drinking water to be people of the area.



A meeting was organized by the Ministry of Social Services and Social Welfare at the Sethsiripaya on the 'Role of Elderly Citizen.' Ministry Secretary Ms V. Jegarajasingam addresses the meeting.