

**Labour leadership election: is David Miliband built to lead?**



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# The Island

Vol. 29 No. 250 Wednesday 8th September, 2010, 48 pages Rs. 20 Registered in Sri Lanka as a Newspaper - Late City Edition

## PM moves 18-A Bill amidst Opposition disturbances

BY SAMAN INDRAJITH

Prime Minister D. M. Jayaratne yesterday moved the Bill, titled 18th Amendment to the Constitution, in parliament, amidst disturbances by Opposition members who opposed the Bill by raising points of order.

The Bill is scheduled to be taken up for debate today and the vote is to be taken in the evening.

Soon after the Prime Minister tabled the Bill, TNA MP M. Sumanthiram, raising a point of order, said the Bill had to be presented to the provincial councils before it came to Parliament.




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**7 Why not brushing your teeth can kill you**



**8 The draft 18th Amendment in comparative perspective**



**12 Men should be screened for post-natal depression, say researchers**



**WORLD VIEW**

Putin compares himself to FDR as he hints at third term



**Greenest State Behind The Waste-to-energy Race**



Government officials from around the world used to come to this port city to catch a glimpse of the future: Two-story piles of trash would disappear into a furnace and eventually be transformed into electricity to power thousands of homes.

**Gen Petraeus requests 2,000 more troops for Afghanistan**



General David Petraeus, the commander of the war in Afghanistan, has requested 2,000 extra troops, primarily to train Afghan forces.

**WORLD VIEW**

**Ramazan Fasting/Prayer Times**

September 05-08

Sahar Ends	4.32
Fajr	4.47
Sunrise	6.03
Zuhar	12.11
Asar	3.13
Maghrib	6.16
Isha	7.27

**JEFF & NUT**



- Opposition walks out in protest against A-18...
- They will be more out than in at this rate.

# Govt. assures UNPers voting for 18-A of protection

The government expects to have the 18th Amendment passed with at least 160 votes today. Minister Sirisena says the government will get anything more than 160.

BY FRANKLIN R. SATYAPALAN

The government yesterday assured all UNP Parliamentarians, who would vote for the 18th Amendment in Parliament today, that they would be given total protection. SLFP General Secretary Minister Maithripala Sirisena, when asked whether the government would provide legal and other assistance to those UNP MPs if they got into trouble for supporting the government, said the government would never let them down.

Asked whether the government would offer ministerial portfolios as rewards to the UNP MPs who supported the 18th Amendment, Minister Sirisena said that the government had made no such decision yet.

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## SC ruling on 18-A announced Referendum not needed

Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa announced in Parliament yesterday that the Supreme Court had determined that the 18th Amendment to the Constitution Bill was consistent with the Constitution and does not need a referendum to become law.

Speaker Rajapaksa, reading out the Supreme Court determination, said that the Bill needs a special majority of the house to be approved.

The Bill had been sent to the Supreme Court by President Mahinda Rajapaksa for determination as an urgent Bill, he said.



Speaker

**Mourning ahead of an impending defeat**



Opposition and UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe leads his party's Parliamentarians in a walk out from Parliament yesterday in protest against the moving of the Bill titled '18th Amendment to the Constitution'. Wickremesinghe referred to the Amendment as a 'fraud' and declared that his party would not participate in today's debate on the Bill.

Pic by Chandrasiri Weerasinghe.

## 18-A to Constitution 'Urgent Bill' perturbs BASL

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka yesterday said it was perturbed by the government's move to introduce the 18th Amendment to the Constitution as an 'Urgent Bill'.

The BASL said: "As early as June this year, the Bar Council resolved that Constitutional Amendments should not be presented as 'Urgent Bills' and urged the Government to desist from proposing Constitutional Amendments in the form of 'Urgent Bills'.

"This position of the Bar Association was communicated to the Government and given wide publicity as well. We regret to note that despite this, the Government plans to proceed with the proposed 18th Amendment to the Constitution as an 'Urgent Bill' to be debated and voted upon on September 8.

"As the professional body representing all lawyers of this country, we strongly urge the government not to move this proposed Bill without a fuller public discussion and debate on such an important matter."

## Two more UNPers to vote for 18-A

UNP Kurunegala District Parliamentarian Nimal Wijesinghe will vote in favour of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution. Wijesinghe obtained 30,687 preferential votes at the April 8 2010 General Election.

Former Maharaja employee Sri Ranga, (Nuwara Eliya District MP), too will support the proposed Amendment. Ranga contested on the UNP ticket at the last General Election.

## No one knows where gold found by army is - SF

DNA MP General (retd) Sarath Fonseka told Parliament yesterday that during his tenure as Army Commander, 200 kilos of gold had been unearthed from the Vellamulliwaikkal area during operations there.

Participating in the Emergency debate, Fonseka said that even larger stocks of gold had been recovered after he had stepped down as Commander of the Army.



Sarath

## UNP walks out in protest against 18-A

Stages satyagraha

BY SAMAN INDRAJITH

The UNP staged a walkout from Parliament in protest against the 18th Amendment to the Constitution. They said that they would boycott the entire debate and vote on the Bill presented in Parliament yesterday.

The UNP MPs rushed to the well of the House protesting against the Bill. They said, "This fraudulent piece of legislature must be withdrawn."

UNP MPs Dayasiri Jayasekera, Sujeewa Senasinghe, Palitha Thearapperuma and Ajith P. Perera tried to move towards the Mace, but were prevented by Sergeant-At-Arms Anil Parakrama Samarasekera.

## ... won't allow 18-A to become law

BY SAMAN INDRAJITH

Even if the 18th Amendment Bill is passed in Parliament, the UNP would not allow it become the law of the country, UNP and Opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe said yesterday.

Addressing a press conference at the Parliamentary complex, Wickremesinghe said the Bill was against democracy and the mandate the government received at the last general election.

The way the Bill was presented was in violation of the Section 46(A) of the Constitution, he said. The Bill should have been referred to Provincial Councils before it was presented to Parliament.



Ranil

## US Mercruisers powered Sea Tiger attack, suicide craft

A thorough inquiry may help Sri Lanka to identify LTTE procurement agents and their foreign associates.

BY SHAMINDRA FERDINANDO

The Naval Intelligence recently recovered four US-built inboard engines acquired by the Sea Tigers to power attack craft, which posed a formidable threat to the Navy.



One of the Mercruisers recovered by SLN

Authoritative sources say the engines, Mercruisers, recovered from Vellamulliwaikkal, Mullativu are in top condition. During the eelam war IV, the LTTE may have acquired over 100 Mercruisers, though some of them were destroyed in SLN operations on the high seas

directed against LTTE floating warehouses, sources say. An official said that the Sea Tigers had mounted three US engines each on 70-foot and 55-foot long vessels, which engaged in a series of confrontations with

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