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LLRC recommendations to be implemented, Land Kachcheris soon to allocate land

## High Security Zones shrink

Lands in the High Security Zones (HSZ) will be released and returned to civilians soon, said a press release issued by Government Information Director General Prof Ariyaratna Athugala. Already 256 houses have been released from the Palaly HSZ and another 2,392 houses have been identified for civilian occupation in 2500 ha of HSZ land. The Government pays rent to owners for lands it occupies at present, it added. The Government will also hold land kachcheris in the North and East as a constitutional means to solve the problem of land which had been complicated by the LTTE confiscation of land and loss of documentation due to the armed conflict that lasted almost three decades.

This Land Kachcheri system is to be taken as some of these issues pertaining to lands need solutions which cannot be offered through existing legal remedies, due to the destruction of administrative infrastructure and private and public documentation as a result of the three decades of conflict. However, the initiative for the land Kachcheri system is currently awaiting the final recommendations of the LLRC as this is a complex issue, according to the sources. Land Kachcheris - a mechanism of state land allocation where the Government Agent of the District after due and fair inquiry plays a central role in assigning ownership and tenorial rights, will soon be held with more regularity.

The Government has also accelerated de-mining in order to increase the availability of suitable land for settlement. It also categorically state that there is no forced settlement though it recognizes the Constitutional right of "every citizen to choose his residence anywhere within Sri Lanka". The Government is also taking measures to implement the interim recommendations of the LLRC. The completion of two housing projects in the North to build 100,000 houses could greatly ease the housing shortage, the press release said. The Committee appointed by the Government chaired by a Deputy Solicitor-General in pursuance of the recommendations of the LLRC has already interviewed LTTE suspects with a view to expedite

their release or investigations according to available evidence, the release said. The release also expressed the Government's commitment to ensure language rights of all citizens, particularly in the Tamil speaking areas and noted the actions taken to implement the Official Language Policy. It said: "The GoSL has encouraged the process whereby 335 Tamil people have been recruited to the Police Department in the year 2010..." It also said that "a further recruitment of 50 Sub-Inspectors, 25 Women Sub-Inspectors, 350 Police Constables and 50 Women PCs will be done in the near future".

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### Resettlement almost completed in Mullaitivu: GA

**By R. Suganthini**  
(DailyMirror.lk) The resettlement process had been completed in 100 out of the 127 Grama Niladhari divisions in the Mullaitivu District where the final war between the security forces and the LTTE was fought, Government Agent Mullaitivu, A. Paththinathan told Tamil Mirror Online today. The balance 27 G.N. divisions were in the process of being demined and people would be able to settle in those areas only after the receipt of landmine clearance certificates, the Mullaitivu GA said. He further revealed that 202 families depending on fishing for their livelihood would be settled in Karunadukerni as land mine clearance has already been completed there, the government agent said. These resettled families will be provided with temporary shelters built with the assistance of NGO's. The government had also decided to provide these families with cooked meal for a few days in addition to the dry rations, he said. We hope to resettle people in Kumulamunai East and Kumulamunai Central soon as the clearance of landmines in these areas are completed, he said adding that 193 families in Kumulamunai East and 237 families in Kumulamunai Central were to be resettled there soon.

### Dual citizenship claims put on hold

By Leon Berenger

(SundayTimes.lk) The Government has put on hold the issuing of fresh dual citizenships until further notice because the present system has to be changed and upgraded, Immigration Controller W. A. Chulananda Perera said. This also applies to applications that have already been approved and due for payment, he said. "From now on we need to provide this privilege only to persons that will be of maximum benefit to the country and not otherwise," Mr. Perera said. He said, for example, a professor or a PHD holder would be considered in a different manner since such people could be of benefit to the country. Persons who do not fall into to the proper and required categories will be denied this facility but there will always be transparency at the end, he explained. He added that under the present system there are four categories in which a person could apply for dual citizenship. They are that a prospective

applicant should be a degree holder, or a senior citizen above the age of 55, own property to the value of Rs. 2.5 million or have a bank deposit of US\$ 25,000. "We need to change all this and make the set up more transparent. There is no hidden agenda or security factor and neither is there targeting any

particular individual," he said. He denied reports that moves were underway to deny this facility to certain individuals or to do away with it altogether. Mr. Perera also refused to deny or confirm if there would be an increase in the present fee of Rs. 200,000 for dual citizenship.

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## Polls for 60 LG bodies postponed

Daya Perera

(dailynews.lk/2011/02/21) The Commissioner of Elections has decided to postpone the elections of 60 local bodies as cases have been filed following the rejection of nominations for these local bodies. The Elections Secretariat said that although elections were to be held on March 17 for 301 local bodies earlier, only 241 local bodies will have elections held on that date as scheduled. Elections Commissioner Dayananda Dissanayake last Friday instructed all Assistant District Election Commissioners to wind up all official functions with regard to those 60 local bodies. Deputy Elections Commissioner Mahinda Deshapriya said that after all the election cases were concluded a suitable date would be fixed for elections to those 60 Local Government institutions. The following are the local bodies where elections will not be held on March 17. Kaduwela Municipal Council, Maharagama Urban Council, Kesbewa Urban Council, Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha, Minuwangoda Pradeshiya Sabha, Attanagalle Pradeshiya Sabha, Agalawatte Pradeshiya Sabha,

Akmeemana Pradeshiya Sabha, Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha, Baddegama Pradeshiya Sabha, Matara Pradeshiya Sabha, Akuressa Pradeshiya Sabha, Yatinuwara Pradeshiya Sabha, Wilgamuwa Pradeshiya Sabha, Ukuwela Pradeshiya Sabha, Lindula Talawakele Urban Council, Mawathagama Pradeshiya Sabha, Nikaweratiya Pradeshiya Sabha, Polgahawela PS, Chilaw Urban Council and PS, Wennappuwa PS, Navagattagama PS, Rajanganaya PS, Galnewa PS, Central Nuwaragam Palatha PS, Welikanda PS, Hingurakgoda PS, Elahera PS, Siyamabalanduwa PS, Moneragala PS, Embilipitiya Urban Council, Balangoda PS, Ratnapura PS, Weligepola PS, Warakapola PS, Kegalle Urban Council, Kuchchaveli UC, Seruwila PS, Kantale PS and 16 bodies in Jaffna and three in Kilinochchi. The Election Secretariat expressed hope that elections for these 60 local bodies could be held on March 17 if the judicial proceedings with regard to the rejection of nominations are concluded before February 24.

## Prabhakaran's mother dies

by Eswaran Rutnam

(island.lk) The ailing mother of slain LTTE leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran died yesterday morning at a hospital in Jaffna. Parvathi Ammal (81), had been at the Velvettiturai hospital for several months and was being looked after by Tamil MP Sivajilingham since the death of her husband in January last year. "She was very sick and died early this morning in hospital," the MP said. As her condition began to deteriorate last year, she flew back to Sri Lanka from Malaysia and was admitted to the Jaffna hospital. Prabhakaran's mother had also sought permission to obtain treatment in India last year. A legal issue

later broke out following her request as the LTTE was a banned outfit in India and her son was the leader of the outfit. The Madras High Court had later given two weeks' time to Parvathi Ammal to give a representation to the state government if she wanted to undergo medical treatment in Tamil Nadu, following which she had sent an e-mail to the government seeking permission. The state government had written to the Union Home Secretary to consider allowing Parvathi Ammal to be treated, provided certain conditions were met. However, Ammal had later refused to travel to India and obtain treatment owing to the conditions which were imposed by India. (News Now.lk)

## Past pupils deplore closure of burial grounds St Michael's Old Boys protest

(dailymirror.lk) The Colombo Branch of the St. Michael's College Batticaloa Alumni Association has urged the authorities not to close the Alayadichchoiai cemetery situated on the border of Batticaloa town. In an appeal sent by the secretary of the Association, F R Ragel, who had served Batticaloa as Deputy Mayor for over ten years the old boys of the College are grieved to learn of steps being taken by the authorities to close the cemetery, where the bodies of their parents and relatives have been interred for over a century. The British during the latter part of their reign had donated this plot of land to the Catholics and members of other faiths, including Hindus and Buddhist, to bury their dead ones there. Hundreds of priests, brothers and sisters with thousands of lay Catholics have been buried there in this cemetery during the years, the Association said in its letter. The cemetery is kept high in their esteem and revered, where thousand flock in the month of

November to pay respects to their departed, buried in this hallowed plot of land it added. Hence, the old boys of the College have appealed to the authorities to reconsider their plan to close down this cemetery and deny the residents the right to continue burying their loved ones there.

## Unclaimed vehicles in North to be auctioned

(dailymirror.lk) The government has decided to auction unclaimed heavy vehicles, motorbikes and machinery abandoned during the final days of the war, Northern Province Governor Major General G.A. Chandrasiri said. The governor said he had asked the Kilinochchi District Secretary Rupawathy Ketheeswaran to prepare the necessary documents and obtain permission from court to conduct the auction. "I decided to auction these items because it was a year ago that an announcement was made asking the owners to collect these items after proving ownership," said Major General Chandrasiri. He said most of the vehicles and machinery had been handed over to their rightful owners, but that there were 800 motorbikes and 50 heavy vehicles left and that these would be auctioned.

## TN politico, two others turned back at BIA

by Dasun Edirisinghe

(island.lk) Three Indian nationals, including a member of a member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council, were refused entry into Sri Lanka by Immigration and Emigration officials at the Bandaranaike International Airport yesterday. According to sources, the trio, including TN Legislative Council member and President of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi Thol Thirumavalavan had arrived in the wee hours of Tuesday to attend the funeral of slain LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran's mother, Parvathi Ammal, which was held yesterday afternoon in Jaffna. Chief Authorizing officer of the Immigration and Emigration office at the BIA, S. M. Ameerdeen

told The Island that they arrived at the airport at around 2.00 a.m. but were refused permission to enter the country. "Our officers at the arrivals counter were not satisfied with the details provided by the politician and his two associates and they were refused entry," he said. Ameerdeen said that they arrived in flight number SG 001 of Spice Jet and returned in flight number SG 002 of the same airline. Later, it was reported that 300 people, including Thirumavalavan, were arrested by the Chennai Police when they organized a protest near the Sri Lankan Deputy High Commission Office in Chennai.

## Yellow rain in Badulla

By Palitha Ariyawansa

(dailymirror.lk) Kahataruppa a village in the Passara Divisional Secretariat in the Badulla District experienced an extraordinary shower during which the rain drops had been yellow in colour, residents said. Villagers who noticed the shower had informed the monk in the village temple, Ven. Kahataruppe Dhammakeethri Thera. One of the villagers who had informed the monk said his garden was full of coloured water. However, the Department of Meteorology said it had not received any information on this rain up to date.

## Get temporary identity papers to vote

by Ranil Dharmasena

(island.lk) Elections Commissioner Dayananda Dissanayake has requests all voters, who do not possess any identification papers, to obtain temporary identifications before March 5 in order to cast their votes at the forthcoming Local Government elections. No one would be allowed to cast his or her vote without valid identification, he said. Applications are currently being processed to issue

temporary identification papers to eligible voters. The applications requesting for temporary IDs have to be forwarded to the Elections Department through the respective Grama Niladhari. Applicants are required to submit two color photographs. A valid form of identification, accepted by the Election Department, is required for voting and any other documents such as office IDs are not accepted, the polls chief said.

## East Coast Courts Development Programme : Two new Magistrate, Quazi Courts for Samanthurai

by Zacki Jabbar

(island.lk) A Magistrate Court and a Quazi Court have been opened in Samanthurai, under the Justice Ministries "East Coast Courts Development Programme." Justice Ministry Media Secretary, Dr.A.R.M Hafeez told 'The Island' that the two new Courts were inaugurated by the Chief Justice Asoka de Silva in the presence of the Justice Minister Rauff Hakeem, judges, magistrates and officials on Sunday. Responding to a request by Minister Hakeem to appoint a permanent magistrate to

Samanthurai, the Chief Justice had assured him that a permanent magistrate would be appointed within the next two months, he said. "A meeting presided over by the Chief Justice to get the firsthand knowledge of the improvements needed to be effected, was also held on Sunday at the Samanthurai Town Hall", Hafeez said. "The East Coast Courts Development Programme, was aimed at reconstructing and improving Court Houses, which had been affected by the long drawn out war."

## Paba's hubby surrenders, claims he was confused

By Norma Palihawadena

(island.lk) Mahesh Chaminda, the husband of teledrama actress Upeksha Swarnamali (Paba) surrendered to Nugegoda SP Deshabandu Tennekoon yesterday. Paba was assaulted warded at the Sri Jayawardanapura Hospital. While being questioned, Chaminda had said that he was confused at the time of the incident, the police said. He was due to be produced before a Magistrate



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