

# මාලදිවයිනේ ජාත්‍යන්තර බැඩ්මින්ටන් ශූරතාවලිය ඔවත් හමුදාවෙන් ලේකා

## ■ සංචිත ධර්මයන්

මාලදිවයිනේ පැවැත්වීමට නියමිත ජාත්‍යන්තර බැඩ්මින්ටන් ශූරතාවලිය සඳහා සහභාගි වන ශ්‍රී ලංකා කණ්ඩායමේ එකම කාන්තා නියෝජනය ලෙස ශ්‍රී ලංකා ඔවත් හමුදාවේ ඔවත් කාන්තා ලේකා හෙගානි සහභාගි වේ.

ජාතික ශ්‍රේණිගත කිරීම්වල ඉදිරියෙන්ම සිටින ක්‍රීඩිකාවක් වන ලේකා හෙගානි පසුගිය වසර තුළ කැපී පෙනෙන දක්ෂතා දක්වා ඇත. ලබන 5 වැනිදා සිට 9 වැනිදා දක්වා තරඟාවලිය පැවැත්වේ. තරඟාවලියට සහභාගි වන 15 දෙනෙකුගෙන් යුත් ශ්‍රී ලංකා කණ්ඩායමට ඊයේ (03) දිවයිනෙන් පිටත්ව ගියේය.



බටර්ලයි ශ්‍රේණිගත කිරීමේ මේස පන්දු තරගාවලිය

# ඉෂාරා මධුරංගි, උදය රණසිංහ විවෘත ශූරතා දිනති

■ **සංචිත ධර්මසේන**

ඉෂාරා මධුරංගි විවෘත කාන්තා ශූරතාවත්, උදය රණසිංහ විවෘත පිරිමි ශූරතාවත් දිනාගනිමින් තුන්වැනි 'බටර්ලයි ශ්‍රේණිගත කිරීමේ මේස පන්දු තරගාවලිය' පසුගියදා ගල්කිස්ස ශාන්ත තෝමස් විදුහල් ශාඛස්ථ ක්‍රීඩාගාරයේදී නිමාවට පත්විය.

තරගාවලියේ නැගී එන ක්‍රීඩිකාව ලෙස අම්බලන්ගොඩ ධර්මාශෝක විදුහලයේ කවිෂ්කා කාවින්දි සම්මාන දිනූ අතර,

තෝලංගමුව ඩබ්ලි සේනානායක මධ්‍ය මහා විදුහලයේ උදේත් රන්දික නැගී එන ක්‍රීඩකයා ලෙස සම්මාන දිනාගත්තේය. මෙම තරගාවලියේ කැපී පෙනෙන දක්ෂතා දැක්වූ පහලොස් වියැති මහනුවර විදුහාර්ථ විදුහලේ උදය රණසිංහ, විවෘත පිරිමි, 18 පහල හා 15 වයස් කණ්ඩායමගේ ශූරතාව දිනාගනිමින් වැඩි අවධානයක් දිනූ ක්‍රීඩකයා විය. කොළඹ 'බටර්ලයි' ක්‍රීඩා සමාජය විසින් තරගාවලිය සංවිධානය කළේය.



ඉෂාරා



උදය

# ජනපතිගේ කිලිනොච්චි සංචාරය

## - ඉරණමඩු අන්තර්ජාතික ගුවන්තොටුපළ ජනපති අතින් විවෘත වෙයි

ආහාර හඳුන්වා දීම

සිටි වසරක් පුරා කොටි ත්වේලාවාදයෙන් මිදින්නායකයන්ට පවරා ඇති ඉරණමඩුවේ ඉදිකෙරුණු අන්තර්ජාතික ගුවන් තොටුපළ ජනාධිපතිවරයා අතින් විවෘත කෙරිණි.

ජනාධිපති මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ මහතා රැගත් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාවට අයත් එම්.ඒ. 60 විරියයේ ගුවන් යානය ඉරණමඩු අන්තර්ජාතික ගුවන් තොටුපළට ගොඩබිස්වීමත් එය සිංග්ගියෙන් විවෘත කෙරිණි.

එයින් පසු ජනාධිපතිවරයා සිලිකොනිව්ලේ සංචාරය කරමින් එහි ජනතාව වෙත සංවර්ධන ව්‍යාපෘති රැසක් පවරාදීම සිදු කළේය.



ජනාධිපතිවරයාට ගුවන් තොටුපළ වෙත පැමිණීමෙන් පසු



'මහින්ද විජයසාගර' සාගරයේ ආරම්භක වාර්තාවක් යටතේ රාජකාරි මණ්ඩලය 20,000 ක් වශයෙන් සංවර්ධනය කරන ලද ඒ-60 මහලුරුව - යානය මාර්ගයේ පවරාදීම - යානය දුර්වල වූ පි.පී. 153 හි ආරම්භක පර්යේෂණ පරිදායකයන්ට පවරාදීම ජනාධිපතිවරයාගේ ප්‍රධානත්වයෙන් සිලිකොනිව්ලේ සිදු විය.



ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් තොටුපළ



මහින්ද විජයසාගර සංවර්ධනය කරන ලද ඒ-60 මහලුරුව - යානය මාර්ගයේ පවරාදීම

# මිහින්නලේ ගින්නක්

■ තසිත නිර්මාණ/උනුල් සේරත්/තිසර කමල් - චන්ද්‍රානි  
මිහින්නලේ රජමහා විහාරය පිහිටි  
මහසෑයට දකුණුපසින් වන රක්ෂිතයේ  
දැවැන්ත ලැවි ගින්නක් පැතිර ගොස් තිබේ.  
වේළුණු ඉලුක් පඳුරු ගින්නට අසු වී සුළඟ  
සමග වේගයෙන් පැතිරීම හේතුවෙන් රූප  
ගස්ද ගින්නට ගොදුරු විය. අනුරාධපුර මහ  
නගර සභාවේ ගිනි නිවීමේ ඒකකය සහ ගුවන්  
හමුදා හෙලිකොප්ටර් යොදාගනිමින් ගින්න  
මැඬපැවැත්වීමට කටයුතු කෙරිණි.





# හින්කාගාල රක්ෂිතයේ හදිසි ගින්නක්



මාදුරුමය හින්කාගාල රක්ෂිතයේදී ඊයේ (27) උදෑසන හදිසි ගින්නක් හටගන්නා ලදී. එම ගින්න මැඬපැවැත්වීම සඳහා හිඟුරක්ගොඩ ගුවන් හමුදාව ඉදිරිපත් වූ අතර, එහිදී 'බෙල් 212' වර්ගයේ හෙලිකොප්ටර් යානයක් ගිනි නිවීම සඳහා විශේෂයෙන් භාවිත කරනු ලබන 'බම්බ බකට්' උපාංගය සමග යොදවන ලදී.

මේ හේතුවෙන් ගින්න පැතිරී යාම වැළඳුන අතර, මේ සඳහා යුද හමුදාවේ සහයද ලැබුණු බව වාර්තා වේ.





# THE JUNGLE AIRSTRIP



BY GAGANI WEERAKOON

Once the hub of terrorist aviation activity, hidden in a seemingly endless ocean of scrub jungle in the former war zone, this relatively uninhabited patch of land, just a few kilometres away from the town of Kilinochchi is awaiting the call for takeoff as Sri Lanka's 16th aerodrome.

Made famous by the giant irrigation tank believed to be constructed by King Dhatu-sena, Iranamadu gained international notoriety during the separatist war of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Nevertheless, Iranamadu always held a legacy of being the Northern mainland's connecting mode to the rest of the world. The old Kandy-Jaffna A9 highway ran through Iranamadu until the road was shifted to its present lay

## Former terrorist airstrip

It was a stretch of this old, abandoned road that the LTTE cleared up and used as a temporary airstrip with a meagre cover of tar. As the Security Forces gained control over the area, the terrorists abandoned the airstrip, having completely destroyed it, using

machines in typical LTTE style.

From being in a state 'beyond economical repair', the strategically important Iranamadu runway was commissioned by President Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday (15) as a fully-fledged gateway to the North, with the promotion of tourism as a prime target.

Upon gaining control of it on 22 June 2009, the defunct airstrip was placed in the custody of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF). It was up to them to decide whether the site would be allowed to gradually be absorbed by the jungle, or could be given a new lease of life.

With a sense of vigour, the SLAF chose the latter option and a detachment of approximately 20 personnel was placed on-site, under the command of Squadron Leader (subsequently promoted to Wing Commander) Halley Rupasinghe.

"This was a new challenge to the SLAF civil engineers. Although the custodian of 14 airfields in the country, this was the first time in its history of 62 years that the SLAF set about constructing an airfield from scratch. Starting from scratch and having zero experience in construction, the runway today boasts of the capability of accommodating the landing of even the largest of SLAF aircraft, the C130," says SLAF spokesperson, Air Commodore Andrew Wijesooriya.







(Continued from page 1)

# THE JUNGLE..

The construction work of the new runway commenced on 12 August 2011, under the leadership of the current Commanding Officer of the Irinamadu Air Force Station, Wing Commander, M.M.T.C. Manamperi. However, the most important phase of the construction commenced only in February 2012, with the infrastructure that was immediately required in place. The Irinamadu runway construction also saw the birth of Rapid Runway Repair Wing (RRRW), which will continue in repairing and constructing runways in the country.

"Since we started with absolutely no experience, our staff, including civil engineers, did a lot of on-the-job learning which, by now, has made them experts in the field. Their expertise and knowledge, augmented with the facilities such as the newly established Materials Testing Laboratory, helped the RRRW make steady progress. The initial 85% of the work was completed in just 11 months and the project would have been completed way before if we were not hindered immensely by the North Eastern monsoon, which is known to unleash fierce torrential rains," he adds.

According to SLAF, the runway is



was strengthened with four layers instead of the usual two layers needed to support a light aircraft. The Irinamadu airfield is ready to receive even a fully-loaded C 130 Hercules, the SLAF's largest transport aircraft.

Although in its infancy, the airfield is already fledged with a fully functional runway light system, taxiway as well as an apron light system.

In order to ensure effective and safe aerodrome operations, the Irinamadu airfield has been even designated with its own radio

controlling frequency, leading to the establishment of Irinamadu's own Air Traffic Control services.

"Spanning a length of 1,500m and width of 20m, measure has been placed to quietly run down the rainwater with drains running 40m away from the centreline. The 100m x 60m apron is perhaps the beginning of what might evolve into a larger pad. With the third layer of runway surface in place, the Commander of the Air Force, Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrema personally flew a T-12 aircraft and made a test

landing," notes Air Commodore Wijesooriya.

## Working with foresight

The SLAF boasts of having its own manpower in building the runway from scratch to its finishing touches.

"The earth requirement was locally met and the metal requirement was provided by SLAF's own quarry in Mamaduwa, Vavuniya. The runway machinery and apron light system were manufactured by the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Wing of the SLAF which cost only Rs 1,600,000, which would otherwise have cost a whopping Rs 8,000,000. Thus the SLAF's role in this respect has been multifunctional. In addition to providing Northern Sri Lanka with its own aerodrome, the SLAF also saved millions of rupees, perhaps billions, in savings to come to the state coffers," he adds.

When asked as to why the SLAF chose to build a runway used by the terrorists in Irinamadu, he answered: "Kilinochchi is being revived as a municipality in the Northern mainland of the country where it will serve as a hub, linking Jaffna via Elephant Pass, Pooneryn, Mullativu and Vavuniya. This new form of air take place either via Vavuniya or Pooneryn which proves to be a negative aspect considering the distance involved. Hence, in order to catalyze the development of the North, it was chosen that Irinamadu would be developed to fully-fledged aerodrome notwithstanding its notorious past."

Allowing a famous contribution to terrorism to be buried in the sands of time, Irinamadu airfield will stand as a



## Balasingham lands in Irinamadu

The Irinamadu Tank shot to fame when Chief LTTE theoretician, Anton Balasingham arrived in Sri Lanka on a Maldivian sea plane, marking his return to Vanni on 25 March 2002.

He flew direct from the Maldives to Kilinochchi on a sea-plane and landed in Irinamadu at 10.20 a.m. (half an hour later than the local time due to daylight saving time

adjustments) according to media reports at the time.

Shortly after Balasingham's arrival, Norwegian Peace Envoy, Erik Solheim and the then Norwegian Ambassador, Jon Westborg also flew into the Vanni in an airforce chopper

the destination of reconciliation between the once east-Northeast and the South. With the picturesque Irinamadu reservoir in sight, this could be a major tourist destination for those seeking leisure and retreat. "As the heart of the Northern irrigation system, the once-forlorn patch of scrub jungle will be set to be a crown jewel in Sri Lanka's conquest of prosperity, peace and happiness," adds Commodore Wijesooriya.



# President opens SL's 16th domestic airport in Iranamadu

The newly constructed Domestic Airport in Iranamadu was declared open by President Mahinda Rajapaksa on 15 June (Saturday), on the invitation of the Commander of the Air Force, Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama.

The President flew to Iranamadu in a MA-60 aircraft of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) that made the first landing, amidst the salutation by the fire vehicles of the SLAF, on the Iranamadu runway. It becomes Sri Lanka's 16th domestic airport. The MA-60 aircraft conducts Heli tours to various destinations in the island.

The runway was earlier under the control of the LTTE, and was initially built to accommodate light aircraft where a layer of tar had been laid over gravel. However, the LTTE, prior to abandoning the runway during the latter stages of the conflict, had completely destroyed it by running heavy machinery over it.

The construction of the runway commenced on 12 August 2011 and the task of completing the construction was handed over to the SLAF's Rapid Runway Repair Wing (RRRW).

Utilizing their experiences and knowledge, the RRRW accomplished the



project at a quarter of the originally estimated cost. The runway which is 1,500 metres in length and 25 metres wide, can now handle the largest aircraft of the SLAF. The improved facilities at the airport

would promote the domestic aviation sector and provide access to the Northern Province, consequent to the development of tourism in the area. It will also contribute towards the government's



nation-building process, Minister of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development, Douglas Devananda, the Governor of the Northern Province, G.A. Chandrasiri, Government

Agent, Kilinochchi, Roobavathy Ketheeswaran and the Commander of the Army, General Jagath Jayasuriya, senior officers and service personnel were also present on the occasion.



# Jayasekara and Jayakodi win Commander's Trophy

Ananda Jayasekara emerged the winner of the Commander's Trophy for 2013 securing the highest Stableford points in the gents' Division with 30 points while Manori Jayakodi won the Ladies' Trophy with a stableford score of 32 points at the Annual Commander's trophy golf tournament held at The Eagles golf link, China Bay Trincomalee on Saturday. Chandana Weerasinghe

was placed the runner-up in the gents' Division with 29 points.

Rohith Silva and Nilika Weerasinghe received awards for the longest drive and for the nearest to the pin respectively.

The tournament was played by eighty enthusiastic golfers. The challenge was spiced up with enjoyable and unique rounds of golf on Bermuda grass fairways

comprising a 18 hole course with remote sand bunkers, roughs and of course doglegs right and left. The golfers however, rose to the challenge and displayed excellent performance throughout the tournament.

The awards were presented at a gala awards night held at 'Bay view' restaurant of the Eagles' Golf Links during the evening on the same day.



**Manori Jayakodi (right) receiving the trophy from Commander of the Air Force Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama**



**Ananda Jayasekara (right) receiving the Commander's Trophy from the Commander of the Air Force Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama**



*Distribution of racing bicycles and cycling equipment worth Rs. 3 million which was received from the International Cycling Association to the Cycling Federation of Sri Lanka took place in the presence of Minister of Sports Mahindananda Aluthgamage, at the Department of Sports Development. Here Minister Aluthgamage handing over a bicycle to the president of the Sri Lanka Cycling Interim Committee Air Vice Marshal Gajan Bulathsinghala. Secretary of the Sri Lanka Cycling Interim Committee Group Captain Kithsiri Thilakaratne and Manager of the Sri Lanka Cycling Interim Committee Squadron Leader Prasanna Ranasinghe were present at this occasion.*

*(Picture by Palitha Gunasena - Ministry of Sports)*



# Devastating monsoon toll

## 18 fishermen dead, 36 missing

SLAF, Navy on the lookout for missing fishermen at sea for the second consecutive day  
Bad weather to continue at least for a few more days

BY A STAFF REPORTER

The disturbing details of the disaster caused by the monsoon rains and strong winds emerged yesterday as officials said at least 18 fishermen have been killed and dozens others are missing, most of them fishermen caught in the rough seas.

The Navy and the Air Force are searching for 36 fishermen who have been missing at sea since the monsoon hit early on Saturday. Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Sarath Kumara Gunaratne, told reporters. Some 37 boats are missing from Galle, Kalutara, Colombo and Negombo, sources said.

The bodies of 18 fishermen have so far been found, while the body of another person was discovered on land, the minister said.

Meanwhile, the Air Force deployed a Beech Surveillance Craft as part of the search and rescue mission along the seas off the coastal stretch from Colpetty to Galle as helicopters were on standby to be called out for any emergency.

In addition, the Air Force deployed a V12 aircraft to search the coastal belt from Ratmalana to Balapitiya and one Bell 412 helicopter has been deployed on a search and rescue mission along the coastal stretch from Ratmalana to Colpetty. The helicopter rescued two fishermen in two separate missions, landing at the Galle Race Green to transfer the rescued fishermen on Saturday.

Another Bell 412 helicopter was deployed on a search and rescue mission of a boat with five persons on board in the vicinity of Beruwala. The helicopter was able to locate the missing boat and rescued one fisherman from the boat, which had capsized. This person who was in a critical condition was airlifted to Nagoda Hospital. The chopper was also able to direct a fishing vessel in the vicinity to rescue two of the other fishermen while two others were dragged to the shore by people in the vicinity with the help of ropes.

Air Force Spokesman, Commodore Andrew Wijetunge, emphasized the difficulties faced in becoming airborne under the current weather conditions. However, a Bell 412 helicopter had been deployed in the Colpetty-Dehiwala region in the morning, with another one being deployed in Beruwala.

"We carried out a coordinated rescue of five fishermen in a boat off the coast of



SLAF officers carrying the body of a victim

Beruwala. Two of them were rescued by a nearby trawler. A seriously injured person was airlifted to the Nagoda Hospital. We have had continuous surveillance all along the Southern coastline," he said.

A report of six fishermen stranded on a boat had prompted another search by the Air Force at noon, which proved to be futile as the search was cut short by bad weather.

A rescue team has been called out to Katukurunda, Induruwa as well, but the persistent bad weather making it impossible to get airborne," he said.

The SLAF continued to fly search missions for the second day, and another Bell 412 rescued N. K. Ananda, a fisherman from Balapitiya who was found clinging to a buoy off the coast of Induruwa on Saturday night. He was airlifted to SLAF base Katukurunda and later transferred to the Nagoda Hospital.

According to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), by 5 p.m. Saturday, some 237 families along the coastline from Mannar to Pottuvil had been displaced from their homes, with five reported killed and 73 injured. A total of 396 houses had been partially damaged by the force of the wind, coupled with rain in several regions, while 24 houses had been completely destroyed.

Strong winds from Mannar to Pottuvil, passing via Colombo, Galle and Hambantota necessitated the rescue of fishermen in the seas off Mount Lavinia, Balapitiya and Colpetty, on Saturday, with the Air Force rescuing two persons off the Colpetty coast in two separate missions, while 12 fishermen were admitted to the Balapitiya Hospital. At least three bodies were washed ashore in the early hours of Saturday.

Also on Saturday disruption of power was reported in several parts of the country, including Beruwala, Galle and Ambalangoda.

Meanwhile, a tense situation developed along the Dehiwala coastline, when fishermen and residents of the area dragged sea-going vessels across the railway line, demanding the safe return of their kith and kin, who had gone out to sea earlier in the day.

General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Railway Union, Sumathipala Manuwaddu,

The Navy and the Air Force are searching for 36 fishermen who have been missing at sea since the monsoon hit early on Saturday. Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Sarath Kumara Gunaratne, told reporters some 37 boats are missing from Galle, Kalutara, Colombo and Negombo, sources said.

The bodies of 18 fishermen have so far been found, while the body of another person was discovered on land, the minister said

confirmed a Fort-bound train coming from Kalutara and a Matara-bound train from Kandy had been delayed as a result of the agitation.

SLN Spokesman, Commander Kosali Warnakulasuriya, said ten special vessels had been sent out to the seas off Colombo on Saturday to rescue fishermen, in addition to *Surya* and *Suranimala* craft, while *Jayasagara* and a fast attack vessel had been deployed from Galle. Additional craft had also been stationed in Galle and Colombo, with the Navy requesting the fishermen to stay away from the seas until the current weather conditions abated.

The Department of Meteorology confirmed the current windy conditions as a manifestation of the south-western monsoon, which has been lulling up for weeks, will continue for a number of days before dying down. The strength of the wind has been further highlighted by the fact that heavy rains were not recorded along the Mannar-Pottuvil coastline Saturday morning (Hambantota-1.3mm, Galle-1.7mm).

(Pix by Sarath Kumara)



SLAF officers carrying the body of a victim



Fisher folk protesting against the authorities not giving a timely warning



Some people looking out to spot boats that had gone out to sea

# Weather advisories and disaster management in Sri Lanka

HOW  
I SEE IT

by  
DULIP  
JAYAWARDENA

It was most timely that Razik Zarook, Chairman, Bank of Ceylon, Former Chairman NARA and co-Chair of Our Nations and the Sea (ONS) in his address at the World Ocean Day on June 7 (2013) at the BMICH highlighted the activities of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of India (MoESI) at this august assembly chaired by Mohan Peiris P.C. Chief Justice of the Democratic Socialist Republic - Sri Lanka and a number of Judges of the Supreme Court, eminent lawyers from the AG's Department Ministry of External Affairs and the private sector, and leading scientists, administrators and important personalities concerned with the theme "Together We Have the Power to Protect the Ocean".

This event was a great success due to the leadership of Dr Hiran Jayawardena Secretary General of IOMAC and Former Ambassador to the Law of the Sea who took this opportunity to launch the National Oceanology Center (NOC) to be located at Trincomalee with the mission and vision of an effective integrated multidisciplinary holistic and overarching modality similar to MoESI of India.

We have been experiencing incessant severe weather conditions in Sri Lanka for a number of days and weeks and this prompted me to write this article giving due recognition to the foresight of Zarook for taking the lead when he drilled into the audience the need of the hour is to establish a similar entity like the MoESI in Sri Lanka. To this end, the launch of the NOC will be a meaningful and a valuable pre requisite initially

The MoESI was established in the year 2005 by bringing all the agencies of meteorological and ocean development activities under one entity and the main objective of this endeavour is to address holistically various aspects related to earth system processes for evolving forecast of weather, climate and various natural hazards. The MoESI inter alia is primarily responsible for development of technology towards the exploration and exploitation of marine resources in a sustainable manner for the socio-economic benefits of the society by taking into account the global developments in the field of marine environment and to provide a wide range of meteorological services to the Indian public in general and to various sectors involved in marine affairs both in the



It is also recommended to bring the institutions and agencies under one entity preferably a new Ministry in line with the MoESI of India managed by an Earth System Science Organization (ESO) [and Council under a long term plan.

The MoESI areas of competence covers a whole range of policies and programmes that contribute to areas of weather (general), weather advisories specific to agriculture, aviation, shipping, sports etc, monsoons, disasters (cyclone, earthquake, tsunami, sea level rise) living and non living resources (fishery advisory, poly metallic nodules gas hydrates, fresh water etc) coastal and marine eco-systems and climate change. One of the primary functions is to develop and improve capacity of forecast, weather, and climate and hazard related phenomena for societal, economic and environmental benefit including addressing climate change science, and developing climate services etc. and a pre requisites to achieve these objectives is to defining and deploying satellite based air borne and in-situ atmospheric and lithosphere observing systems.

The institutions of atmospheric sciences at MoESI relevant to Sri Lanka are (a) Meteorology Department of India (IMD), National Center for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and Indian

and institutions under the Department of Ocean Development (DOD) namely National Center for Aquatic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Indian Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) Center for Marine Living Resources (CMLR) and Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM). These institutions are under Earth System Science Organization (ESO) managed it by the ESO Council.

The overarching vision of this ESO is to excel in knowledge and technology enterprise for earth system science focused towards socio-economic benefits of Indian sub continent and the Indian Ocean region. To this end the MoESI leadership in Earth System Studies are:

- Provide scientific and technical support for both academic and applied research in Earth System sciences as a whole comprising the atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere and the geosphere with particular reference with to the Indian sub-continent and surrounding oceans as well as to the Polar Regions.

- Provide the nation with bestest possible services in forecasting the monsoons and other weather /climate parameters, ocean state including early warnings to natural disasters like storm surges. Early earthquakes tsunami and other phenomena as through effective and integrated programmes.

- Support science and technology development for exploration and exploitation of ocean resources (living and non living) ensuring their sustainable utilization.

The goals of MoESI are being pursued

bodies and subordinate offices.

## Situation in Sri Lanka

The main institutions involved in Sri Lanka on weather forecasting and natural disasters mainly tsunami, storm surges, early warning systems (earthquakes tsunami) and landslides and floods are (1) the Meteorology Department (2) The Disaster Management Center (3) Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB) (4) National Building Research Organization (NBRO) (5) National Aquatic Resources and Research Agency (NARA) and (6) Irrigation Department.

It is interesting to note that these six entities have been established under six legislative enactments and fall within the purview of four Ministries namely Ministries of Disaster Management, Fisheries and Environment and Natural Resources and Irrigation and Water Resources Management.

Further the Central Environmental Agency (CEA) and the Marine Protection and Prevention Authority (MPPA) involved in land, surface and ground water and ocean pollution established under two more legislative enactments come under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

The important factor that the Government of Sri Lanka as a matter of great national interest and urgency is to evaluate whether there is an effective coordinating mechanism such as the MoESI between these independent, multidisciplinary and autonomous institutions, agencies and ministries and whether their short medium and long term policy initiatives are being effectively and co-ordinated.

ties are effective to manage natural disasters and calamities.

I have noted in the past the Meteorology Department and the GSMB give different warnings on tsunami and earthquakes followed by warnings from Disaster Management Center, the designated agency issuing such warnings to coastal areas especially on possible tsunami landfalls and storm surges and sea level rise. The past warnings caused panic and pandemonium among the coastal residents as well as fishermen, business community and small entrepreneurs resulting in even loss of lives and having an adverse impact on the economy. Adding to this the NBRO has no proper way of predicting landfalls and other earth movements as there is no coordination with the Meteorology Department. Further the Meteorology Department has no effective mechanism to obtain information from the Irrigation Department on overflow of reservoirs, tanks and rivers causing widespread flooding.

I would strongly recommend to the President to appoint a committee of senior scientists in the various fields indicated above chaired by the Secretary to the President, Secretary Ministries of Finance and other line Ministries and evolve an effective modality for effective early warning systems to prevent loss of property and human lives due to natural disasters. It is also recommended to bring the institutions and agencies under one entity preferably a new Ministry in line with the MoESI of India managed by an Earth System Science Organization (ESO) and Council under a long term plan.

The intention of this article is in no way critical of the present Ministries, Institutions and Agencies but to highlight the need for an effective mechanism to coordinate the designated activities enacted by law and policies of the Government.

In conclusion I also strongly recommend as a pre requisite to an integrated approach to study the earth system processes to provide funds for the National Oceanology Center which will work closely with the MoESI and the other local entities in the state and private sector. To this end I further recommend that a formal request be made to the Government of India for bilateral assistance to establish a Ministry for Earth Systems in close consultation with our respective local entities and the private sector.

References - Earth System Organization Ministry of Earth Sciences Draft Approach Paper for 12 th Five Year Plan (2012-2017) of the Government of India.

(The writer is a retired Economic Affairs Officer United Nations ESCAP and can be reached at [frackind@rediffmail.com](mailto:frackind@rediffmail.com))



# THEY LIVED TO TELL THE TALE

DEAD

42

MISSING

30

Text &amp; Pix By Padmini THIRUVANIGAL

As many as 15 boats filled with fishermen set out to sea on Friday evening from Moratuwa but fishermen from at least seven boats were never to return home from that journey.

Royce Anthony recalling his mid-sea ordeal on Saturday said he had not only lost many of his fellow fishermen but also his nephew that day.

Anthony along with his nephew Nilantha Tharadinandu had set off to sea with a fellow fisherman that Friday evening as usual. The three had cast out their nets and were fishing when the seas had suddenly become rough and the trio had decided to return.

It was on their way to land that they had seen other boats that set out with them capsize in the rough seas. With no way to save the other fishermen due to the bad weather, the three had decided to make it to land.

They had been floating in the sea for a few hours when Anthony realised that Nilantha was not responding to any questions or talking to him. "So I tapped him on the shoulder and that's when his head fell forward and I knew he was dead," Anthony said recalling the horror.

Anthony had then tied the



body of his nephew to the flag pole of the boat as he did not want to lose him to the sea. "And that's where I was since five in the morning till 11, holding on to his body because I didn't want to let him go, until the Navy Dvora came to rescue me," he said.

It was when Anthony was being rescued by the Navy that tragedy struck again. "I lost his body to the sea and we have not been able to recover it," he said with deep sorrow.

While fishermen battled to stay afloat and return to land another battle was being fought by the fishing community.

President of the Dehiwala Fishermen's Association, Anura Fonseka recounted the uphill battle to send out official search parties.

"They left at about five in the evening as usual. We realized the sea was getting rougher but we

I FOUND NILANTHA AND  
WE BOTH HUNG ON TO THE  
BOAT BUT WE COULD NOT  
FIND THE OTHER  
FISHERMAN WHO CAME  
WITH US

didn't know what was happening. So we waited," he said.

When several of the boats had returned to land, the news of bad weather and capsize boats reached the community who had informed all authorities with the hope that search parties would be immediately sent to look for their families and friends.

"When there was no response we couldn't think of anything else to do but to get the attention of the authorities, so we blocked the railway lines with boats and then we started a demonstration," Fonseka said.

Close to 2,000 protesters from the community took to the streets that day. They burned tyres and wood and demanded that authorities start rescue operations.

Dehiwala - Mount Lavinia Mayor, Dhanasiri Amarasingha, one of the many officials who came to the scene was forced to agree in writing to develop the fishing harbour in the area, as it was remained dangerous. It was thereafter that the boats were removed from the railway lines and rescue operations were begun by the navy and the Air Force.

While the overall death toll due to bad weather had risen to 42, including 38 fishermen, of whom seven set to sea from Dehiwala on Friday evening, close to 30 fishermen were yet suspected to be missing.





# Maldivian and Air Force Chiefs meet

Maldivian Chief of Defence Forces Major General Ahamed Shiam had cordial discussions with Air Force Commander Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama to strengthen the existing friendly relationship between the two militaries.

**The Maldivian top military officer is on a five day visit and will be meeting with President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa as well.**

# Ananda and Manori win Commander's Trophy

The Eagles' Golf Links hosted the annual Commander's Trophy Golf Tournament on June 1 (Saturday) at the Sri Lanka Air Force's Golf Links in China Bay, in the harbour city of Trincomalee.

The tournament, played under the 'Stableford rules' was open to all and started off at 7.30AM with the participation of eighty enthusiastic golfers which included Suwineetha Selvaratnam, Neesha Nirmalingam, Danushi Senadheera, Nilu Jayatilleke, Anusha Senadheera, Suni Nirmalingam, Sanjeev Vairavanathan, Sujeewa Lankathilake, Kushal Johnpillai, Sidath Wettimuny, Amal Cabraal, Maj Gen Srinath Rajapakse, Sachin de Silva and Sohayb Sangani.

The challenge was spiced up with enjoyable and unique rounds of golf on Bermuda grass fairways comprising a 18 hole course with remote sand bunkers, roughs and of course coglegs right and left. The golfers however, rose to the challenge and displayed excellent performance throughout the tournament.

Ananda Jayasekara won the Commander's Trophy for 2013 securing the highest points in the Mens' Division with 30 points while Manori Jayakody won the Womens' Trophy with a total score of 32 points. Chandana Weerasinghe was placed the runner up of Mens' Division with 29 points.

Rohith Silva and Nilika Weerasinghe received

awards for the longest drive and for the nearest to the pin respectively.

The Commander of the Air Force Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama was present on the links and at the evening's awards night to watch the golfers in action and to give away the awards.

The Chairman SLAF Golf Air Vice Marshal KVB Jayampathy, Director Aeronautical Engineering Air Vice Marshal PDJ Kumarasiri, Director Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering Air Vice Marshal RJ Pathirage, Commandant SLAF Academy China Bay Air Commodore SK Pathirana and a few retired Directors of the Air Force Board of Management also participated in the tournament.



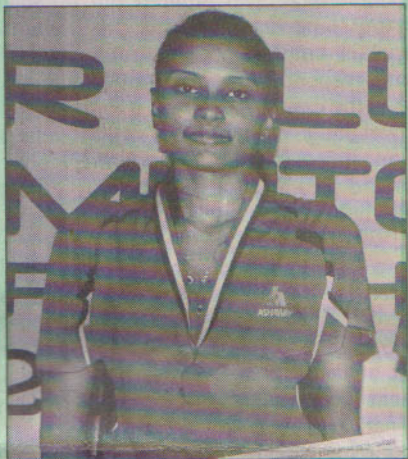
The winner of the Mens' Division Ananda Jayasekara is receiving the Commander's Trophy from Sri Lanka Air Force Commander Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama



The winner of the Womens' Division Manori Jayakody is receiving the Commander's Trophy from Sri Lanka Air Force Commander Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama



# Lekha in action in Maldives



**Lekha Shehani**

Lekha Shehani of the Sri Lanka Air Force has been selected to represent the country at the Maldives International Challenge – 2013 Badminton Championship which is to be worked off in Maldives from June 5 to 9.

Airwoman Lekha Shehani is the current national ranking No-1 and is enjoying a highly successful season, having performed outstandingly throughout the last two years.

She is the only women representative on the team which comprises fifteen players.



# President opens Iranamadu runway, renovated A9 road



The Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) MA60 aircraft carrying President Mahinda Rajapaksa landing at the Iranamadu Airport

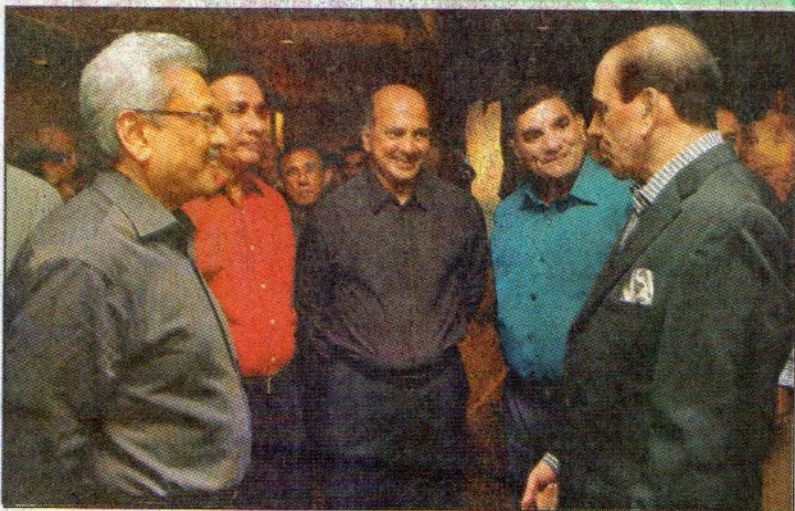


The President being escorted to the new airport



An aerial view of the Iranamadu runway which is 1,500 metres in length and 25 metres in width





**A reception for Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani who arrived here on a three day visit was held in Colombo yesterday. Here, he is seen in conversation with Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Chief of Defence Staff Air Chief Marshal Roshan Goonetilleke, Air Force Commander Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama and Army Commander General Jagath Jayasuriya. This is his second visit to Sri Lanka. *Picture by Sulochana Gamage***



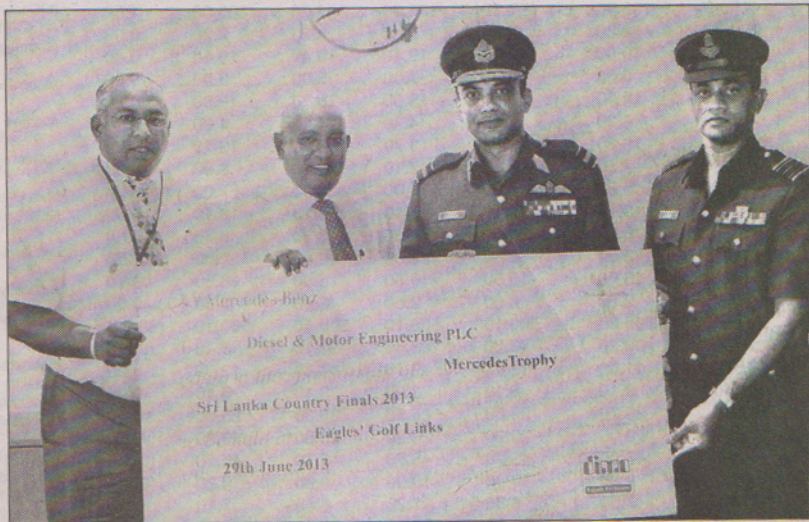
# Mercedes Trophy country finals today

The Mercedes Trophy, with the reputation of a renowned international golf tournament, is once again here to transform a pure sporting extravaganza into a 'lifestyle brand experience'. The participants of this tournament comprise of distinguished achievers from all walks of life and many find this event a great opportunity to meet and interact with other Mercedes-Benz owners.

Sri Lanka's top golfing community will be gathering at the Eagles' Golf Links - China Bay today for the Mercedes Trophy Sri Lanka Country finals. Diesel and Motor Engineering PLC, General Distributor for Mercedes-Benz in Sri Lanka is sponsoring the Mercedes Trophy this year for the 23rd consecutive time.

This event promises to gather the most elite golfing community and boasts to be the most exclusive sporting event in the Sri Lankan sporting calendar, where participation is limited to owners of Mercedes-Benz, Jeep and Chrysler vehicles. Moreover, this is a highly anticipated tournament among the golfing fraternity solely due to the prestige and the rewards which await the winners.

The winners stand the chance to



**DIMO Chairman Ranjith Panditage handing over the sponsorship cheque to Commandant of the Air Force Academy and President of the Eagles' Golf Links China Bay, Air Commodore Sagara Kotakadeniya". DIMO CEO Gahanath Pandithage and Wing Commander Rajiv Kodipilly were also present.**

compete in the Mercedes Trophy Asian Finals and if successful compete in the world finals in Germany.

The climax of the series is the world final, which for years has been held traditionally in and around Stuttgart, the "cradle of the automobile".

This venue underlines the close

relations between the brand Mercedes-Benz and golf. The top winners in each handicap categories will qualify for the Asian final, with an all expenses paid trip to Australia.

The winner of each handicap category at the Asian Final will qualify for the World Final in Stuttgart, Germany.



# ගුවන් හමුදාපති ගොල්ලේ ගූරතා ආනන්දට සහ මනෝරිට

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාව වාර්ෂිකව මෙහෙයවනු ලබන ගුවන් හමුදාපති කුසලාන ගොල්ලේ තරගාවලියේ පිරිමි අංශයේ ගූරතාව ලකුණු 30ක් ලබාගත් ආනන්ද ජයසේකරත්, කාන්තා අංශයේ ගූරතාව ලකුණු 32ක් රැස්කළ මනෝරි ජයකොඩිත් දිනා ගත්හ.

ක්‍රීඩාණාමලයේ විභවරාය ගුවන් හමුදා ඊගල්ස් ගොල්ලේ ලික්කස් පිටියේ පසුගියද පැවැති මේ තරගාවලියේ අනුගූරයා වූයේ ලකුණු 29ක් ලබා-

ගත් චන්දන වීරසිංහයි. රෝගීන් සිල්වා දීර්ඝ-කම පන්දු යොමුකිරීම වෙනුවෙන් සහ නිලිකා වීරසිංහ ආසන්නතම පන්දු යොමුකිරීම වෙනුවෙන් ද විශේෂ සම්මාන දිනාගත්හ.

ක්‍රීඩක ක්‍රීඩිකාවන් 80දෙනෙකුගේ සහභාගිත්වයෙන් පැවැති මේ තරගාවලියේ ත්‍යාග ප්‍රදානෝත්සවය ගුවන් හමුදාපති එයාර් මාෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම මහතාගේ ප්‍රධානත්වයෙන් පැවැත්විණි.



මනෝරි ජයකොඩි සහ ආනන්ද ජයසේකර ගුවන් හමුදාපති එයාර් මාෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම මහතා වෙතින් කුසලාන ලබාගනිමින්





දින පහක සංචාරයක් සඳහා මෙරට පැමිණ සිටින මාලදිවයිනේ ආරක්ෂක මාණ්ඩලික ප්‍රධානී අහමඩ් ෂියාම් මහතා ඊයේ (10) පෙරවරුවේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාවේ එයාර් මාර්ෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම මහතා හමුවිය. කොළඹ ගුවන් හමුදා මූලස්ථානයේදී පැවැති එම හමුවේදී දෙදෙනා සමරු තිළිණ හුවමාරු කරගත් අයුරු.

# දෙස් විදෙස් සංචාරකයන් වෙනුවෙන් “රිගස් කැෆේ ආපන ශාලාව” විවෘත කෙරේ

දෙබරවැව - ඒ. ඒ. සේමසිරි

වීරවීල ගුවන් හමුදා කඳවුර මගින් ඉදිකරන ලද නව ආපන ශාලාව කරානායක චමල් රාජපක්ෂ මහතාගේ ප්‍රධානත්වයෙන් පෙරේදා විවෘත කෙරිණි.

මගින්ද චිත්තනය යටතේ පිබිදෙන හම්බන්තොට නව නගර සංවර්ධන සැලැස්මට සහාය දීමක් වශයෙන් තිස්ස - කතරගම හා හම්බන්තොටට පැමිණෙන දෙස් විදෙස් සංචාරකයන්ට පිරිසිදු හා සහන මිලට ආහාර පාන ලබාදීම අරමුණු කර ගනිමින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාපති එයාර් මාර්ෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම මහතාගේ සංකල්පයකට අනුව වීරවීල ගුවන් හමුදා කඳවුරේ අණදෙන නිලධාරී ගෘහස්ත කපිතාන් දිල්ෂාන් වාසගේ මහතාගේ නායකත්වයෙන් හා මහ



ආපන ශාලාව

පෙන්වීම යටතේ ඉදිකර ඇති මෙම ආපන ශාලාව “රිගස් කැෆේ ආපන ශාලාව” යනුවෙන් නම්කර තිබේ.

එකවර අසූ දෙනකුට ආහාර ලබා ගැනීමේ පහසුකම් ඇති මෙම ආපන ශාලාව වාසුසම්කරණය කර ඇති අතර රාත්‍රී 10.00 වන තෙක් විවෘත ව පවතී.

මීට අමතරව පාසල් දරුවන් ප්‍රධාන පැමිණෙන පිරිසට



ගුවන් යානයක ක්‍රියාකාරිත්වය හා එහි ගමන් කරන මගීන් පිළිපැදිය යුතු නීති රීති පිළිබඳ දැනුවත් කිරීම සහ යුද්ධයේ දී විනාශ වී නැවත අසුන්වැඩියා කරන ලද ගුවන් යානයක්ද ආපන ශාලා භූමියෙහි ස්ථාපිත කර ප්‍රදර්ශනයට තබා තිබේ.

තිස්ස - මාතර ප්‍රධාන මාර්ගයෙහි වීරවීල ගුවන් හමුදා කඳවුර ඉදිරිපස පිහිටි මෙම ආපන ශාලාව විවෘත මංගල්ලත්සව සඳහා වෙන්කරවා ගැනීමේ හැකියාවද තිබෙන අතර එහි සේවකයන් පනහකට අධික පිරිසක් සේවය කරති.

එම ආපන ශාලාව කරානායක චමල් රාජපක්ෂ මහතා විසින් විවෘත කරමින් සමරා ඵලකය විවෘත කළ අවස්ථාව ඡායාරූපයෙන් දැක්වේ.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාපති එයාර් මාර්ෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම, වීරවීල ගුවන් හමුදා කඳවුරේ අණදෙන නිලධාරී ගෘහස්ත කපිතාන් දිල්ෂාන්, දකුණු පළාත් සභා මන්ත්‍රී සිරිපාල ජයවීර මහතා ද ඡායාරූපයෙහි සිටිති.



මාදුරුඔය හික්කාගල රක්ෂිතයේ ඊයේ (27 දා) හටගත් ගින්න ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාවේ බෙල් 212 චර්ගයේ හෙලිකොප්ටර් යානයකින් “බම්බි බකට්” යොදාගෙන ගින්න මැඬ පැවැත්වූ අයුරු සේයාරුවලින් දැක්වේ.

ජායාරූප - ගුවන් හමුදා මාධ්‍ය ඒකකයෙනි



# ඉරණාමඩු විවෘතයි



වසර 30 කට ආසන්න කාලයක් කොටි ප්‍රජාතන්ත්‍රවාදීන්ගේ ග්‍රහණයේ පැවැති ඉරණාමඩු ගුවන් පටය ගුවන් හමුදාව විසින් අලුත්වැඩියා කිරීමෙන් පසු ඊයේ (15 වැනිදා) ජනාධිපති මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ මහතා අතින් ජනතා අයිතියට පත්විය.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාව නිර්මාණය කළ ගුවන් පටයක් ලෙස ඉතිහාසයට එක්වන මෙම ගුවන් පටය දිගින් මීටර් 1500 ක් හා පළලින් මීටර් 25 කි. ගුවන් හමුදාව සතු විශාලතම ගුවන් යානා පවා ගොඩ බැස්සවිය හැකි ලෙස

තව ගුවන් පටය නිර්මාණය කර ඇත. මෙම ගුවන් පටය උතුරු පළාත සඳහා එක්වූ හතරවැනි ගුවන් පටය වේ. උතුරු පළාත සඳහා මන්නාරම, ඩිවිනියාව සහ පලාලි යන ගුවන් පට තුනක් ඇත. නායාරුවපවල දැක්වෙන්නේ ජනාධිපතිවරයා ප්‍රමුඛ ප්‍රභූත් රැගත් ගුවන් හමුදා ගුවන් යානයන් ඉරණාමඩු ගුවන් පටය වෙත ගොඩබෑන අයුරු සහ ගුවන් හමුදාවේ එයාර් මාර්ෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම මහතා විසින් ජනාධිපතිවරයා ප්‍රමුඛ ප්‍රභූත් ඉරණාමඩු ගුවන් පටයේ දී පිළිගෙන පැමිණෙන අයුරුයි.



# ජාත්‍යන්තර පාපැදි සම්මේලනයෙන් ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට රු. මිලියන 3ක පාපැදි



ජාත්‍යන්තර පාපැදි සම්මේලනයෙන් ශ්‍රී ලංකා පාපැදි සම්මේලනය වෙත ලැබුණු රු. මිලියන 3කට අධික රෙයින් පාපැදි සහ පාපැදි උපකරණ අමාත්‍ය මහින්දානන්ද අලුත්ගමගේ මහතා අතින් පාපැදි අතුරු පාලක කමිටුවේ සභාපති එයාර් චයිෆ් මාර්ෂල් ගගන බුලත්සිංහල මහතාට භාරදෙන අයුරු ඡායාරූපයෙන් දිස්වේ.

එම අවස්ථාවට පාපැදි අතුරු පාලක කමිටුවේ ලේකම් ගෘෆ් කපිතාන් කිත්සිරි තිලකරත්න, පාපැදි අතුරු පාලක කමිටුවේ කළමනාකරු බළගණ් නායක ප්‍රසන්න රණසිංහ යන මහත්වරුද සහභාගි වූහ.

# හමුදාව දිගින් දිගටම කෝදිසි මෙහෙයුම්වල



පැවැති අයහපත් කාලගුණික තත්ත්වය හේතුවෙන් අනතුරට පත් ධීවරයන් බේරාගැනීම සඳහා 08 වන දින නාවික හමුදාව විසින් කෝදිසි මෙහෙයුම් ආරම්භ කරන ලදී. මේ සඳහා බටහිර නාවික විධානයට අනුයුක්ත 'සයුර' සහ 'සුරනිමල' යන නෞකා ද වේග ප්‍රහාරක යාත්‍රා 06ක් සහ දකුණු නාවික විධානයට අයත් 'සමුදුර', 'ජය සාගර' යන නෞකාවන් මෙන්ම වේග ප්‍රහාරක යාත්‍රා 04ක්ද යෙදවීමට නාවික හමුදාව විසින් කඩිනමින් පියවර ගන්නා ලදී. එහිදී 'සුරනිමල' නෞකාව මගින් රත්මලාන නුදුරු මුහුදේදී ධීවරයන් 04 දෙනෙකුද අනෙකුත් යාත්‍රා මගින් තවත් ධීවරයන් දෙදෙනෙකු බේරුවල මුහුදු සීමාවේදී ද ඊට අමතරව ඉදුරුව, බලපිටිය, කොස්ගොඩ සහ භාලු මුවදොර යන ප්‍රදේශවලදී ධීවරයන් 12 දෙනෙකුද බේරාගැනීමට හැකිවිය. මේ වනවිට මෙම මෙහෙයුම් මගින් ධීවරයන් 18 දෙනෙකු බේරාගැනීමට නාවික හමුදාව සමත්ව ඇත. මෙම මෙහෙයුම සඳහා නාවික හමුදා සෘණික මුදවා ගැනීමේ සහ සහන සැලසීමේ බළගණය මෙන්ම නාවික හමුදා කිමිදුම් අංශයද සිය දායකත්වය දෙන අතර මේ වන විට වෙරළාශ්‍රිත මුදවා ගැනීම් සඳහා ඔවුන්ගේ විශේෂ කණ්ඩායම් කිහිපයක් කොළඹ සිට භාල්ල දක්වා වූ වෙරළ කලාපයන් වෙත අනුයුක්ත කිරීමටද නාවික හමුදාව විසින් කටයුතු කර ඇත.









## ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් පර්ය රටට දායාද කළ වගකී

වසර තිහක් පුරාවට කොටි ත්‍රස්තවාදීන්ගේ ග්‍රහණයේ තිබී හිඳුනස් කරගැනීමෙන් පසු ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණය කිරීමෙන් අනතුරුව නැවත ස්ථාපිත කළ ඉරණමඩු අභ්‍යන්තර ගුවන් තොටුපළ ජනාධිපති මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ මහතා අතින් 15දා විවෘත කෙරුණි. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාවට අයත් එම්.ඒ. 60 වර්ගයේ ගුවන් යානයකින් ප්‍රථම මිගියා ලෙස පැමිණි ජනාධිපතිවරයාට පිළිගැනීමෙන් පසු ගුවන් හමුදා ආචාර්ය මධ්‍යයේ පාලක මධ්‍යස්ථානයට පැමිණි අයුරු. ගුවන් හමුදාපති හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම, යුද හමුදාපති ජගත් ජයසූරිය හා ජනාධිපති කාර්ය මණ්ඩල ප්‍රධානී ගාමිණී සෙනරත් යන මහත්වරුද දායාරූපයේ වෙති.

□ ආකාරය - සුදත් පිල්වා



**වැඩි විස්තර 2 වැනි පිටුවේ**



# ඉරණුමඩු ගුවන් තට්ටු යළි සක්‍රීය වෙයි

□ රමේෂ් වරුල්ලෙගම

කොටි ත්‍රස්තවාදීන්ගෙන් මුදාගැනීමෙන් අනතුරුව ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාව නැවත ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණය කළ ඉරණුමඩු ගුවන් ධාවන පථය ජනාධිපති මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ මහතා රැගත් එම්.ඒ.60 වර්ගයේ ගුවන් යානයේ සම්ප්‍රාප්තියත් සමග පෙරේදා (15) උදෑසන විවෘත විය.

ඒ අනුව මෙතෙක් උතුරේ පලාලි දක්වා සීමා වී තිබූ අභ්‍යන්තර ගුවන් ගමන් ඉදිරියේදී ඉරණුමඩු දක්වාත් ව්‍යාප්ත වීමට නියමිතව ඇත.

එල්.ටී.ටී.ඊ. ත්‍රස්තවාදීන්

විසින් සම්පූර්ණයෙන්ම විනාශකර දමා තිබූ මෙම ගුවන්පථයේ ඉදිකිරීම් කටයුතු 2012 වසරේදී ඉරණුමඩු ගුවන් හමුදා කඳවුරේ අණදෙන නිලධාරී විංග් කමාන්ඩර් ක්‍රිශාන්ත මනම්පේරි යටතේ ආරම්භ වී තිබිණි.

ඒ අනුව ගුවන් පථයේ සංවර්ධනය කිරීමේ කටයුතු ගුවන් හමුදා ක්ෂණික ගුවන් ධාවනපථ අලුත්වැඩියා කිරීමේ පක්ෂාංගය පැවැරිණි.

අලුතින් ඉදිකරන ලද ඉරණුමඩු ගුවන් ධාවන පථයේ ගුවන් යානා ගොඩබැස්සවීමේ මූලික පෙරහුරුවක් 2012

දෙසැම්බර් මස 09 දින ගුවන් හමුදාපති එයාර් මාර්ෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම වයි -12 වර්ගයේ ගුවන් යානයක් ගොඩබැස්සවීමෙන් පරීක්ෂාවට ලක් කර තිබිණි.

ජාත්‍යන්තර ප්‍රමිතීන්ට අනුකූලව ඉදිකර ඇති මෙම ගුවන් පථය දිගින් මීටර් 1500ක් හා පළලින් මීටර් 25කින් සමන්විත වේ. මෙහි සැලසුම්, ඉංජිනේරු ඉදිකිරීම්, යන්ත්‍රෝපකරණ හා තාක්ෂණික ඇතුළු සියළුම කටයුතු ගුවන් හමුදාවේ විවිධ ක්ෂේත්‍රවල ගුවන් හටයින් විසින් ඉටුකර තිබීම

විශේෂත්වයකි.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාව සතු විශාලතම ගුවන් යානය වන සී-130 ගුවන් යානය පවා මෙම ගුවන් පථය මත ගොඩබැස්සවීමට හැකි අයුරින් ගුවන් පථය නිර්මාණය කර ඇත.

ඒ අනුව ගුවන් පථය හරහා උතුරේ සාමාන්‍ය ජනතාව වෙනුවෙන් මෙන්ම උතුරු හා නැගෙනහිර පළාත්වල සංචාරයේ යෙදෙන සංචාරකයන් වෙනුවෙන් අභ්‍යන්තර ගුවන් ගමන් සේවය වඩාත් සක්‍රීයව කඩිනම්ව ගැනීමට හැකිවනු ඇත.

මෙම අවස්ථාව සඳහා

සාම්ප්‍රදායික කර්මාන්ත හා කුඩා ව්‍යවසාය සංවර්ධන අමාත්‍ය ඩග්ලස් දේවානන්දා, උතුරු පළාත් ආණ්ඩුකාර, විශ්‍රාමික මේජර් ජෙනරාල්, පී.ඒ.වන්දසිරි, කිලිනොච්චි ප්‍රදේශයේ රාජ්‍ය නියෝජිත රුබාවරි කැතිස්වරන් මහත්මිය, යුද හමුදාපති ජෙනරාල් ජගත් ජයසූරිය, ගුවන් හමුදාපති එයාර් මාර්ෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම ඇතුළු ගුවන් හමුදා අධ්‍යක්ෂ මණ්ඩලය, ගුවන් හමුදා ඉරණුමඩු කඳවුරු අණදෙන නිලධාරී එම්.එම්.ටී.සී.මනම්පේරි ඇතුළු ගුවන් හමුදාවේ පිරිසක් එක්ව සිටියහ.



# ගුවන් හමුදාපති කුසලාන ගොල්ල තරගාවලිය අද ත්‍රිකුණාමලයේදී

(දීපා අදිකාරී)

ගුවන් හමුදාපති අභියෝග කුසලාන ගොල්ල තරගාවලිය අද (1) ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාවට අයත් විනවරාය 'රිගල්ස්' ගොල්ල පිටියේදී පැවැත්වේ.

මෙම කුසලානය නිර්මාණය කරනු ලබ ඇත්තේ 1873 වසරේ සිට පැවැති මහා බ්‍රිතාන්‍ය විවෘත

ගොල්ල තරගාවලියේ ජයග්‍රහණයට හිමි කුසලානයේ අනුරුවක් ලෙසිනි.

මතරම් වටපිටාවකින් සමන්විත ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාවට අයත් ත්‍රිකුණාමලයේ පිහිටි 'රිගල්ස්' ගොල්ල පිටිය' ගොල්ල සිදුරු 18 කින් සමන්විත වන ජාත්‍යන්තර තලයේ ක්‍රීඩා පිටියකි.



තරගාවලියේ ජයග්‍රහණය සඳහා පිරිනැමෙන කුසලානය ගුවන් හමුදාවට විශාර් මානුෂ් හර්ෂ අඩවිභූමි මහතා විසින් ගුවන් හමුදා ගොල්ල සභාපති, විශාර් වයිස් මානුෂ් කේ. ඩී. ජයමානි මහතාට ගුවන් හමුදා මුලස්ථානයේදී ධාරදෙනු ලැබූ අවස්ථාව.



# ඩිවරයකු ඩේරාගන්න ගුවනේ සිට මහ මෙහෙයුමක්



කුරුමේ නළුවා තෙල්කොට්ටරයෙන් බේරුවනු ලබනු ලබන අයෙකු



ඩිවරයන් සහ පුහුණු කළු මීට් ආඥා සහතිකයක් ලෙසින්ම ලබනු ලබන අයෙකු



බේරුමක් සිටින  
 බිමක් ආරක්ෂිත වන  
 බේරුමක් ලෙසින්ම  
 බේරුමක් ලබනු ලබන අයෙකු



මොහොතේ මීට් ආඥා සහතිකයක් ලෙසින්ම ලබනු ලබන අයෙකු

# ගුවන් හමුදාව හැදෑ රිගල්ස් කැලේ කථානායක අතින් ජනතා අයිතියට



එම ආපනශාලාව විවෘත කරමින් කථානායක වමල් රාජපක්ෂ මහතා සමරු ඵලකය නිරාවරණය කරමින් පිත්ත පටිය කැපූ අවස්ථාව සහ ගනුදෙනු කළ අවස්ථාව ඡයාරූපවලින් දැක්වේ.

මෙම අවස්ථාවට සහභාගි වූ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාපති එයාර් මාර්ෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම, විශ්විල ගුවන් හමුදා කඳවුරේ අණදෙන නිලධාරී ගෘප් කපිතාන් දිල්ෂාන්, දකුණු පළාත් සභා මන්ත්‍රී සිරිපාල ජයවීර මහතා ද ඡයාරූපයේ සිටිති.

**ජේමසිරි අන්දරවීර - නිස්සමහාරාම**

නිස්ස-මාතර ප්‍රධාන මාර්ගයෙහි වීරවිල ගුවන් හමුදා කඳවුර ඉදිරිපිට ගුවන් හමුදාව මගින් ඉදිකරන ලද නව ආපන ශාලාව කථානායක වමල් රාජපක්ෂ මහතාගේ ප්‍රධානත්වයෙන් ඊයේ (12දා) විවෘත කෙරිණි. මහින්ද වින්තනය යටතේ පිහිදෙන හම්බන්තොට නව නගර සංවර්ධන සැලැස්මට සහාය දීමක් වශයෙන් හම්බන්තොට නිස්ස, කතරගම පැමිණෙන දෙස් විදෙස් සංචාරකයින්ට

සහන මිලට පිරිසිදු ආහාරපාන ලබා දීම අරමුණු කර ගනිමින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාපති එයාර් මාර්ෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම මහතාගේ සංකල්පයකට අනුව වීරවිල ගුවන් හමුදා කඳවුරේ අණදෙන නිලධාරී ගෘප් කපිතාන් දිල්ෂාන් වාසගේ මහතාගේ නායකත්වයෙන් සහ මග පෙන්වීම යටතේ ඉදිකරන ලද මෙම ආපනශාලාව "ඊල්ස් කැෆේ" ආපනශාලාව යනුවෙන් නම් කර තිබේ. එකවර අසූ දෙනකුට ආහාර ලබා

ගැනීමේ පහසුකම් ඇති මෙම ආපන ශාලාව වාසු සම්කරණය කර ඇත.

මීට අමතරව පාසල් දරුවන් ප්‍රධාන පැමිණෙන පිරිසට ගුවන් යානයක ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය පිළිබඳව හා එහි ගමන් කරන මගීන් පිළිපැදිය යුතු නීතිරීති පිළිබඳ දැනුමවත් කිරීම සඳහා යුද්ධයේදී විනාශවී ගිය නැවත අලුත්වැඩියා කරන ලද ගුවන් යානයක්ද ආපනශාලා භූමියෙහි ස්ථාපිත කර ප්‍රදර්ශනයට තබා තිබේ.



# කොට් වැහඳු ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් පථය අලුත්වැඩියා කර විවෘත කිරීම හෙට

(ගුවන්තොටුපොළ දිටා අදිකාරි)

එල්.ටී.ටී.ඊ ත්‍රස්තවාදීන් විසින් සම්පූර්ණයෙන්ම විනාශකර දමා තිබූ ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් පථය අලුත්වැඩියා කටයුතු අවසන් කර හෙට (15) වෙනිදා විවෘත කිරීමට සියලු කටයුතු සුදානම් කර ඇත.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදා ඉතිහාසයේ පළමුවරට ගුවන් හමුදා පිරිස් බලය සහ දැනුම යොදාගනිමින් මෙම ගුවන් පථය ඉදි කර ඇත. ජාත්‍යන්තර ප්‍රමිතීන්ට අනුකූලව ඉදිකර ඇති මෙම ගුවන් පථය දිගින් මීටර් 1500ක් හා පළලින් මීටර් 25කින් සමන්විත වෙයි.

මෙහි සැලසුම්, ඉංජිනේරු, ඉදිකිරීම්, යන්ත්‍රෝපකරණ හා තාක්ෂණික ඇතුළු සියලුම කටයුතු ගුවන් හමුදාවේ විවිධ ක්ෂේත්‍රවල ගුවන් හටයින් විසින් සිදුකිරීම මෙහි ඇති විශේෂත්වයයි.

එසේම ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාව සතු විශාලතම ගුවන් යානය වන සී130 ගුවන් යානය පවා මෙම ගුවන් පථය මත ගොඩබැස්සවීමට හැකි පරිදි මෙය නිර්මාණය කර ඇත.

ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් පථය වෙත පැමිණිය හැකි මාර්ග දෙකකි. මාන්කුලම්, අම්බගාමම්, ඔලුමඩු, හරහා පැමිණිය හැකි අතර අනෙක් මාර්ගය කිලිනොච්චිය, වව්ටකච්චි, රාමනාදපුරම් හා කල්මඩු හරහා පැමිණිය හැකිය.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදා ඉතිහාසයේ වාර්තාවක් තබමින් ඉදිකළ මෙම ගුවන් පථයත් සමග මන්නාරම, වව්නියාව, පලාලි ඇතුළුව උතුරු පළාත සඳහා ගුවන් පථ හතරක් වෙයි.

මෙහි ඇති විශේෂත්වය වන්නේ වව්නියාව සහ පලාලි ගුවන් තොටුපළවල් අතර ගමනාන්තයන් කෙටි කරමින් ඉන්



අලුතින් ඉදිකරන ලද ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් ධාවන පථයට පෙරහුරුවක් ලෙස වයි 12 වර්ගයේ ගුවන් යානාවක් ගොඩ බා ඇති අයුරු.

අතර මැදට ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් පථය එක්වීමයි.

ලබන 15 වැනිදා ජනාධිපති මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ මහතා අතින් ජනතා අයිතියට පැවරීමත් පසු මින් ඉදිරියට මෙම ගුවන් පථය හරහා උතුරේ සාමාන්‍ය ජනතාව වෙනුවෙන් මෙන්ම උතුරු හා නැගෙනහිර පළාත්වල සංචාරයේ යෙදෙන සංචාරකයන් වෙනුවෙන් අභ්‍යන්තර ගුවන් ගමන් සේවය වඩාත් සක්‍රීයව කඩිනම්ව ලබා ගැනීමට හැකිවනු ඇත.

ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් හමුදා කදවුරේ අණදෙන නිලධාරී විංශ් කමාන්ඩර් ක්‍රිශාන්ත මනම්පේරි මහතාගේ නායකත්වයෙන් මෙහි ඉදිකිරීම් සිදුකරනු ලැබීය.



# සතුරුපාදි ධාවන පිටියේ ගුවන් හමුදාවේ බලාපොරොත්තුව යසේල මධුර පිරිස්

රොෂාන් අහංගම

ජාත්‍යන්තර සතුරුපාදි ධාවකයන්ට අභියෝගයක් කළ හැකි ගුවන් හමුදා සතුරුපාදි ධාවකයෙක් පිබිදීමක් පසුගිය සිහිරිය සතුරුපාදි ධාවන තරගාවලියේදී දැක ගැනීමට හැකියි. ගුවන් හමුදාවේ ගුවන් හට යසේල මධුර පිරිස් තම සතුරුපාදියෙන් ගුවනේ ඉහළ යමින් ස්ටාඩ්ඩ් 125 ඉසව්වෙන් ඉහළ දක්නො දැක්වීම කැපී පෙනේ.

මේ වන විට ගුවන් හමුදාව සතු එකම සතුරුපාදි ධාවකයා ලෙස වැඩි බලාපොරොත්තු තබා ඇති ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදා ක්‍රීඩා ඒකකය ගුවන් හට යසේල මධුර පිරිස්ට අවශ්‍ය පුහුණුව මෙන්ම නවීන රේසින් සතුරුපාදියක් ලබා දීමටද කටයුතු සූදානම් කරමින් සිටී.

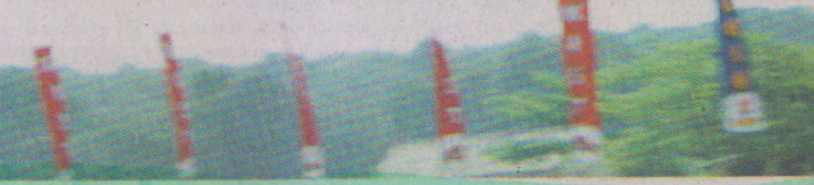
2009 වසරේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාවට එක්වන යසේල මධුර පිරිස් ගුවන් හමුදාව නියෝජනය කරමින් වසරක පමණ පුහුණුවකින් පසුව 2011 වසරේ සිහිරි සතුරුපාදි ධාවන තරගාවලියේ විවෘත ස්ටාඩ්ඩ් 125cc ඉසව්ව ජය ගැනීමට සමත් වන්නේ දේශීය මෙන්ම විදේශීය තරගකරුවන්ද පරයා යමින් සුපිරි ධාවනයක නිරත වෙමිනි. මේ වන විට 22 වැනි වියේ පසුවන යසේල මධුර පිරිස්ගේ ගම කැස්බාව බණ්ඩාරගම කිදෙල්පිටියය. දෙමාපියන් ගොවිතැනින් ජීවත් වුවද යසේලගේ සිහිනයට ඔහුගේ දෙමාපියන්ගේ නොමසුරු සහයෝගයද ලැබෙන අතර ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාවේ සතුරුපාදි ධාවන තරග අංශයේ බලාපොරොත්තුව වන්නේද ගුවන් හට යසේල මධුර පිරිස්ය.

ගුවන් හට යසේල මධුර පිරිස් පසුගිය ගජබා, බෝයගනේ හා සිහිරි ධාවන තරගාවලිවල සතුරුපාදි විවෘත ස්ටාඩ්ඩ් 125cc ඉසව්වේ ජයග්‍රහණය වාර්තා කරන්නට වූ අතර ඔහුගේ බලාපොරොත්තුව මේ වසරේ රේසින් සතුරුපාදි ඉසව්ව සඳහා ඉදිරිපත් වීමයි. ගුවන්හට පිරිස් පැවසුවේ ගුවන් හමුදාව මේ වන විට සතුරුපාදි ධාවන තරගවල බලාපොරොත්තුව මම, පසුගිය තරග ජයන් සමග මම නිකෙනවා. ඉදිරියේදී මට ලොකු

වෙනසක් කළ හැකි බව මෙම ක්‍රීඩාවෙන් ඉන්දියාවේ, ජපානයේ ධාවකයන් ඇවිත් අපේ රටේ ධාවන තරග ජයගෙන යනවා. ඒක නතර කරන්න ඕන. ඒ අභියෝගය භාර ගන්න මම සූදානම්. අපේ දේශීය දක්ෂ ධාවකයන්ට මෙන්ම විදේශීය ධාවකයන්ටද අභියෝගයක් වන්න මා පුහුණුවීමවල යෙදෙනවා. නමුත් මට පුහුණුකරුවෙක් නම් නෑ. මම පරණ සතුරුපාදියකින් මේ වන විට තරග කරන්නේ. ගුවන් හමුදාවෙන් මට සියලු පහසුකම් ලබාදී තිබෙනවා. මේ වසර ඇතුළත නවීන රේසින් සතුරුපාදියක් ලබා දීමට ගුවන් හමුදා සතුරුපාදි සංගමය මේ වන විටත් කටයුතු යොදා තිබෙනවා. ගුවන් හට පිරිස් දැඩි අධ්‍යයනයකින් පැවසිය. වැඩිදුරටත් අදහස් දැක්වූ සතුරුපාදි ධාවක ගුවන් හට යසේල මධුර පිරිස් "මාගේ ගුවන් හමුදා සේවයට එක් වූ පසු එයා වයිස්මාෂල් රණසිංහ සර් තමයි මට මුලින්ම සතුරුපාදි ධාවනයට එක් කරගෙන මේ ගමනට මූලික සවිය වුණේ. මේ වන විට එයාට කොමදෝරෝ විජේමාන්න සර් මගේ භාර නිලධාරියා ලෙස සියලු පහසුකම් ලබා දෙමින් ගුවන් හමුදා



සතුරුපාදි බලාපොරොත්තුව ලෙස මා දිරිගන්වනවා. මේ වන විට මා පුහුණුවීම් සිදු කරන සිහිරිය ගුවන් හමුදා කඳවුර භාර අණදෙන නිලධාරී වන්නේ කොමාන්ඩර් සී.ටී. ගුණතිලක සර් බලසනායක සුවිගොල්ල, ගෘප් කැප්ටන් සොයිසා යන නිලධාරීන් මගේ ගමනට ගත්තියක් වූ අය. ගුවන් හමුදාවේ ඒයා වයිස් මාෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම සර් මා ගැන අවධානයෙන් සිටිනවා. මේ සියලුම අයට මෙන්ම ගුවන් හමුදාවේ සියලු දෙනාට මගේ කෘතචේදිත්වය පළ කිරීමට කැමැතියි යනුවෙන් මේ ක්‍රීඩකයා පවසන්නේ තමාගෙන් ගුවන් හමුදාවට රටට ඉදිරියේදී මේ ක්‍රීඩාවෙන් ලොකු ගමනක් යෑමට ඇති බවයි.





# මාලදිවයින ආරක්ෂක මාණ්ඩලික ප්‍රධානී ගුවන් හමුදාපති හමු වෙයි



රංජිත් ගර්ඞිනන්ඩස් -  
ගුවන්හොටුපොළ

මාලදිවයිනේ ජන රජයේ ආරක්ෂක මාණ්ඩලික ප්‍රධානී මේජර් ජෙනරාල් අහමඩ් සියාම් මහතා රියේ (10) දහවල් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාපති එයාර් මාර්ෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම මහතා හමු වී ද්විපාර්ශ්වික සහයෝගීතා තවදුරටත් තර කර ගැනීමට විශේෂ සාකච්ඡාවක් පැවැත් විය.

මෙම විශේෂ හමුව ගුවන් හමුදා මූලස්ථානයේදී පැවැත් විණි. දින 5 ක විශේෂ නිල සංචාරයකට පැමිණි ජෙනරාල් අහමඩ් සියාම් මහතා මෙහි රැඳී සිටින කාලය තුළ දී ජනාධිපති මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ, ආරක්ෂක ලේකම් ගෝඨාභය රාජපක්ෂ මහතා ඇතුළු ත්‍රිවිධ හමුදාපතිවරු හමුවීමටද නියමිතව ඇත.

එංගලන්තය, ඇමෙරිකාව, ඉන්දියාව පාකිස්තානය යන රටවල විශේෂ ආරක්ෂක සායමාලා හදාරා ඇති අහමඩ් සියාම් මහතා අති දක්ෂ නිලධාරියෙකි.

මාලදිවයිනේ ජනරජයේ ආරක්ෂක මාණ්ඩලික ප්‍රධානී මේජර් ජෙනරාල් අහමඩ් සියාම් මහතා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාපති එයාර් මාර්ෂල් හර්ෂ අබේවික්‍රම මහතා හමු වූ අවස්ථාව.





ප්‍රධාන වෛද්‍ය නිලධාරී විත්ත කමාන්ඩර් එරන්දින ගුණවර්ධන

සූදු ගිනි දැල් ඇවිළ යැදී ඒ ගිනි දැල් නිවා දමා රටට සාමය ගෙන එමට ඔවුහු ගුවනේ සිට ඉටු කළ මෙහෙය, අප්‍රමාණය. ත්‍රස්තවාදී උග්‍රලෙන් මිදී පලා ආ අහිංසක ජනතාවට ඔවුහු සිය සෙනහසේ දැන ආදර්ශීය ලෙසට දිගු කළහ. සූදු බිමෙහි ඇද වැටෙන සහෝදර සෙබළුන් ප්‍රතිකාර උදෙසා එහා මෙහා ගෙන යාමට උපරිමය ඉටු කළහ.

ස්වභාවික විපත්වලදී අසරණ වන ජනතාවට ඔවුන්ගේ දැන නොපැකිළු දිගු වන්නේ නිරායාසයෙනි. මෙරට ගහන පමණක් නොව මුළු රටම ඔවුහු සිය අත්හදා යට ආරක්ෂා කළහ. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාව ඒ කටයුත්ත අද ද එදා ලෙසම ඉටු කරමින් සිටී.

එහෙත් මේ සටහන ඒ පිළිබඳව නොව, ඔවුන් ඉටු කරන සුන්දර සංවේදී වෙනස් ක්‍රියාවක් පිළිබඳවය. නිවසේ ඇති දැඩි වන සුරතලාට අසනීපයක් වූ විට එය අපට දරාගත නොහැකි දුකකි. ඔවුන්ට හැකි උපරිම ලෙසට ප්‍රතිකාර ලබා දීමට අපි උත්සුක වෙමු. හොඳම පශු වෛද්‍යවරයා වෙත සිය සුරතලා රැගෙන යාමට අපි පසුබට නොවෙමු. දැන් එවැනි ස්ථානයක් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාව සතුය. ඔවුන් ආරම්භ කර තිබෙන ස්කෑම් සත්ත්ව රෝහල කුලීන් හොඳම ඉහළම ප්‍රතිකාර සත්ත්ව සුරතලාට ලබාදීමට ඔවුහු සැදී පැහැදී සිටිති.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදාව මගින් මීට වසර එක හමාරකට පමණ පෙරදී ආරම්භ කරනු ලැබූ මෙම රෝහලෙහි සංචාරය කිරීමේ අවස්ථාව මට පසුබිසට හිමිවිය. අප එහි යන විට රෝහල් ගලාහැරයේ සුරතල් පුසතු ගලාකරමයකට ලක් කරමින් තිබුණි. මුත්‍රාගය ආශ්‍රිතව තිබූ රෝගාබාධයක් උදෙසා මෙම ගලාකරමය සිදු කෙරුණු අතර ඊට යොදා ගැනුනේ නවීන උපකරණය.

2012 ජනවාරි 14 වන දින ආරම්භ වූ මෙම සත්ත්ව

# ස්කෑම් සෙට්

## ගුවන් හමුදා සත්ත්ව රෝහල



කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය

රෝහල හරහා සුරතල් සතුන්ගේ විවිධ රෝගාබාධවලට ප්‍රතිකාර ලබා දේ. සූදු සමයේදී බිම බෝම්බ සෙවීම උදෙසා සක්‍රීය ලෙසට දායක වූ ගුවන් හමුදා නිල සුනඛ අංශයේ සුනඛයින්ට අවශ්‍ය ප්‍රතිකාර ලබා දීම සඳහා ආරම්භ කළ මෙම රෝහල සූදු ගිනි දැල් නිවී ගිය පසුවද 'ස්කෑම් සෙට්' නමින් තවදුරටත් ක්‍රියාත්මක කෙරෙනුයේ ගුවන් හමුදාපති එයාර් මාර්ෂල් එම්. ඩී. අබේවික්‍රම මහතා ගේ අදහසකට අනුවය. කොළඹ 8 බොරැල්ල ගුවන්පුර ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් හමුදා විභාගක මහල් නිවාස සංකීර්ණයේ මෙය ස්ථාපිතව තිබේ.

පුරා වර්ෂයක් සහ මාස තුනක පමණ කාලයක් 'ස්කෑම් සෙට්' සත්ත්ව රෝහල සතුන් දහස් ගණනකට සුවය ලබා දීමට කටයුතු කර තිබේ. ඔබේ සුරතලාට මෙම රෝහල කුළු ලැබෙනුයේ ඉහළම ප්‍රතිකාරය.



සත්ත්වයාට සත්කාර

ඒ බවට අපට කිහිප කළ සංචාරයේදී මනා ලෙසම පසක් විය. සුරතල් සතුන් උදෙසා වෛද්‍ය පරීක්ෂණ අති නවීන උපකරණ හරහා සිදු කෙරෙන අසුරු අපි දුටුවෙමු. සුරතල් සතුන් උදෙසා අල්ලා සවුන්ඩ්

ස්කෑන් පරීක්ෂාව, ඊ. ඩී. ජී. පරීක්ෂාව හා රුධිර මුත්‍රා පරීක්ෂාව සේම විකිරණ පරීක්ෂණ ද මෙහිදී සිදු කෙරේ.

පැය 24 පුරාම ක්‍රියාත්මක සත්ත්ව රෝහල ඕනෑම මොහොතක සතුන්ගේ ලෙඩ දුක්වලට ප්‍රතිකාර ලබාදීම සිදු කරයි. විවිධ ගලාකරම සේවා සුරතලන්ගේ දත්ත සොබා පිළිබඳව ද ඔවුහු ප්‍රතිකාර ලබා දෙති. 'ස්කෑම් සෙට්' රෝහල සුරතල් සතුන්ගේ ප්‍රතිකාර ලබාදීම ජංගම සේවාවක් ලෙස ද සිදු කරයි. පැය 24 පුරාම ජංගම රථයක් ඒ සඳහා යොදවා තිබේ. බරපතළ ගලාකරමයකදී සුරතලාගේ ආරක්ෂාවට එම සතුන්ට අවශ්‍ය නේවාසික ප්‍රතිකාර ලබා දීමට අවශ්‍ය පහසුකම් ද 'ස්කෑම් සෙට්' සතුය. මෙය විවිධයේ පරිසමාප්ත අර්ථයෙන්ම අංගසම්පූර්ණ වූ සත්ත්ව රෝහලකි.

ඔබේ සුරතලාට අවශ්‍ය ලෙස පුහුණු කරදීම සේම නැතැවීම ලොම් කපා පිරිසිදු කිරීමට ද ඔවුහු පියවර ගනිති. නේවාසික සුරතලාට සිය ආදර්ශීය ස්වාමියා අසල නොමැති විමේ අඩුව මකාලීමට ගුවන් හමුදා සත්ත්ව රෝහලේ කාර්යය මණ්ඩලය ඔවුන්ට උපරිම ආදරය සෙනෙහස ලබා දෙති. එය අපට එහි කළ සංචාරයේදී දක්නට ලැබුණු දෙයකි. සතුන්ට සරප විය ප්‍රතිකාර ලබා දෙන එකම සත්ත්ව රෝහල මෙම 'ස්කෑම් සෙට්' රෝහල වීමද විශේෂත්වයකි.

එලෙසම දුර බැහැරක ගමන් යාමේදී ඔබේ බලු සුරතලාට අවශ්‍ය ආරක්ෂාව ලබාදීම උදෙසා ගුවන් හමුදා 'ස්කෑම් සෙට්' සත්ත්ව රෝහල සූදානමය. මෙහි තිබෙන සුනඛ දිවා සුරැකුම් අංශය අවශ්‍ය දින ගණන සුරතලාට අවශ්‍ය ආරක්ෂාව ලබා දීමට සූදානමින් සිටියි.

'ස්කෑම් සෙට්' හි සේවක මණ්ඩලය 11 කි. ඒ අතර පළපුරුදු දක්ෂ පශු වෛද්‍යවරුන් හය දෙනෙකු සිටින අතර මේ පිරිසට නායකත්වය ලබා දෙනුයේ

ප්‍රධාන වෛද්‍ය නිලධාරී විත්ත කමාන්ඩර් එරන්දින ගුණවර්ධන මහතා විසිනි. ස්කොට්ලන්ත ලිඩර් ජනරතන, ස්කොට්ලන්ත ලිඩර් සේන්ට්‍රල් ස්කොට්ලන්ත ලිඩර් සුමනසිංහ, පියසර ලුතිනන් පෙරේරා සහ පියාසර ලුතිනන් නාවුල්ල සතුන්ට ප්‍රතිකාර ලබා දෙන ජීවක පිරිස වේ. මෙම රෝහල පිළිබඳ සියලු අධීක්ෂණ කටයුතු එයාර් කොමදෝර් ලේනාඩ් රුද්‍රිගු මහතා අතින් සිදුවන අතර ඒ සඳහා සහයෝගය දීමට ගෘහ කටිනාත් තේමවන්දු මහතා ද කැපවී සිටී.

ස්කෑම් සෙට් හි ප්‍රධාන වෛද්‍ය නිලධාරී විත්ත කමාන්ඩර් එරන්දින ගුණවර්ධන මහතා සිය රාජකාරි දිවිය පිළිබඳව අප සමග මෙසේ අදහස් දැක්වීය.

'මගේ රාජකාරි දිවිය වසර 15 ක්. මෙහි අපි සුරතල් සතුන්ට අවශ්‍ය සියලු ප්‍රතිකාර ලබා දීමට පියවර ගන්නවා. සෑම විටම අපේ වෛද්‍යවරු දෙදෙනෙක් මෙහි රාජකාරියේ යෙදෙනවා. මෙහිදී අපි දැනට බරපතළම ගලාකරමය කළේ මුවෙකුට. හාල්ල ප්‍රදේශයේ අයකු රැගෙන ආ මුව පැටියාගේ කොඳු ඇට පෙළට හානි වෙලා තිබුණා. අප ගලාකරමයක් හරහා එම සතාට අවශ්‍ය ප්‍රතිකාර ලබා දුන්නා. මෙය අප කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයේ සියලු දෙනාට අමතක නොවන අත්දැකීමක්'

මේ කෙටි සංචාරය අපට ද අමතක නොවන අත්දැකීමක් විය. මෙහි ප්‍රතිකාර සඳහා ඔවුන් අය කරන්නේ ඖෂධ සඳහා වැයවන මුදල පමණි. සුරතලාට අවශ්‍ය ආහාර, ඖෂධ ඇතුළු සියලු උපකරණ මෙහිදී සහනදායී මිලට ලබා ගැනීමට අවස්ථාව ඇත.

රට රකින්නට කැප වූ ඔවුහු මෙලෙස සිය දයාවේ කරුණාවේ දැන සුරතල් සතුන් දෙසට ද යොමා තිබීම සැබැවින්ම විශිෂ්ටය. ඔවුන් අවිචාරයෙන්ම විරහන්ය.

නගනකේශි විජේකෝන්  
ඡායාරූප - භූසිත ගමගේ





● President Mahinda Rajapaksa being received by SLAF Commander, Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrema on arrival aboard a MA60 SLAF aircraft at the newly constructed Iranamadu Domestic Airport yesterday. The President later unveiled the plaque to mark the commissioning of this airport. This airstrip, built by the LTTE, was completely destroyed during the war and was restored by the Air Force using its own engineering expertise. The air strip, 1,500 m long and 25 m wide, is now equipped to accommodate C130 SLAF aircraft.



● The MA60 plane touching carrying the President and party touching down at the airport.

(Pics by Sudath Silva)

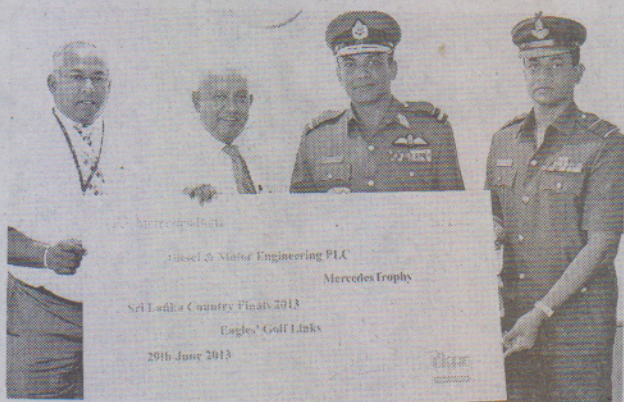
# MercedesTrophy Sri Lanka Country Finals 2013

**T**he MercedesTrophy, with the reputation of a renowned international golf tournament, is once again here to transform a pure sporting extravaganza into a 'lifestyle brand experience'. The participants of this tournament comprise of distinguished achievers from all walks of life and many find this event a great opportunity to meet and interact with other Mercedes-Benz owners.

Sri Lanka's top golfing community will be gathering at the Eagles' Golf Links - China Bay on 29th of June 2013 for the MercedesTrophy Sri Lanka Country Finals. Diesel & Motor Engineering PLC,

General Distributor for Mercedes-Benz in Sri Lanka is sponsoring the MercedesTrophy this year for the 23rd consecutive time.

The climax of the series is the world final, which for years has been held traditionally in and around Stuttgart, the "cradle of the automobile". This venue underlines the close relations between the brand Mercedes-Benz and golf. The top winners in each handicap categories will qualify for the Asian final, with an all expenses paid trip to Australia. The winner of each handicap category at the Asian Final will qualify for the World Final in Stuttgart, Germany.



*Ranjith Panditige (Chairman-DIMO) handing over the sponsorship cheque to Commandant of the Air Force Academy and President of the Eagles' Golf Links China Bay, Air Commodore Sagara Kotakadeniya. Gahanath Pandithage (CEO-DIMO) and Wing Commander Rajiv Kodippily were also*



# Commander's Trophy

## Annual Golf Tournament

The Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrema handed over the Trophy of the annual Golf Tournament to the Chairman of Sri Lanka Air Force Golf, Air Vice Marshal Kapila Jayampathye earlier this week symbolizing the inauguration of a new SLAF tradition of hosting an Annual Golf Tournament.

The trophy is fashioned on the lines of the 'Claret Jug' which is the trophy that has been presented to the winner of the British open championship since 1873.

The SLAF Commander's trophy differs from this trophy in that it has its own unique engraving which reflects Sri Lanka's rich cultural heritage.

The Commander's Trophy Annual Golf Tournament, which is open to all and will follow the Stableford rules, commenced yesterday at the SLAF's own Eagle's Golf Links in the picturesque settings of China Bay, close to the harbor city of Trincomalee.

The 18 hole course which winds its way through undulating ground overlooking the scenic Clappenberg and Malay Cove will come alive on Saturday the 1st with the sounds of gutta-percha... or rather its modern version,



striking wood and steel and with cries of fore! With over one hundred golfers expected to participate, it is expected to be a busy day out on the green.

It is expected that this new tradition will fill a long awaited need amongst the golfing fraternity for a new challenging competition in a unique location.

# SLAF's daring missions to save lives



BY DHANESHI  
YATAWARA

The wind blew at 30 knots and there was no decrease. The clouds and the rain made it impossible to see anything beyond 1,000 metres. The weather was becoming turbulent, creating an adverse situation. This was how the sky was like when the Sri Lanka Air Force Bell 412s and Y12s took off to search and rescue the missing and stranded fishermen who have gone to the sea in the wee hours of June 8. It was a fateful day for Sri Lankans and specially for the fishing community living along the coastal line where more than 50 fishermen perished.

Information was flowing in from many people and relevant officials on spotting possible survivors in the sea and in these conditions the best search option lay with the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) ready to face any challenge. Sri Lanka Air Force received instructions to conduct search and rescue missions in the surprisingly adverse weather.

Thus, with very short notice and with 10 - 15 minutes preparation time the SLAF Squadrons No. 4 and No. 8 prepared for the search and rescue.

The first airborne were the Y12s of the No 8 squadron with Squadron Leader Daminda Rambukkella as the Captain pilot with the co-pilot flying Officer Dhanan Jayasinghe. "We were instructed to do the search operations initially so that the helicopter squadron can directly reach the locations," said Squadron Leader Rambukkella.

"It was a very adverse weather condi-



Squadron Leader Nipuna  
Thanippili Arachchi

tion with strong winds. The cloud base was 500 feet. So we had to fly very low," Sri Ldr. Rambukkella said. Then the Y12 received instructions to proceed towards Beruvala. Reaching Beruvala the two pilots spotted one survivor about five kilometres North of the Beruvala light house. We were communicating with the Bell 412 helicopter throughout and we sent this message to them," he said. The Y12 continued their search operations more in Beruvala and spotted three more survivors, this time more into the deep sea - about 25 - 30 kilometres from the light house.

Though we informed the Bell 412 the weather at that moment became so adverse we had to look for an alternative to rescue these people, said Rambukkella. Fortunately they spotted a trawler located very close and the Y12 pilots managed to communicate with them in getting the boat to rescue the survivors.

"But the winds and the sea was so rough the boat could not see the victims. So the helicopter guided the trawler to the survivors and the trawler managed



Wing Commander Channa Dissanayake

to rescue the three people," said Rambukkella.

For Wing Commander Channa Dissanayake the Commanding Officer of the Squadron No.4 - the Bell helicopter fleet - it was a good day of judgement of how their versatility and flexibility - testing how fast they could switch roles from VIP transportation to rescue missions in a deadly storm. Ironically for the No.4 squadron it was exactly after one week from celebrating the 48 years of the fleet.

"This emergency call was after a long time. In all other occasions we had sufficient time to prepare ourselves for that mission. But in this case with the sudden changes in the weather pattern time was a limited crucial factor," said Wing Commander Channa Dissanayake starting to explain the true stories of real life heroism.

## Worst case scenario

"In that weather as long as the helicopter is head on with the gusty wind, the situation is under control. Yet when the wind hits from the side creating what we call a cross wind situation, the problems start becoming worse making the helicopter go out of control. Facing that cross wind coming at 30 knots the helicopter tends to turn and totally go out of control," Wing Comdn. Dissanayake explained.

One of the Gunners, Flight Sergeant Gomes explained a deadly situation their rescuer faced during the mission. Gomes spotted a victim and informed the pilot that he was positioned at 3 O' clock. His fellow Airman Chaminda got down with the rope.

"The sea was very rough. I could see



The Bell 412 team

from the helicopter," how Chaminda was struggling to avoid being washed away by heavy waves," Gomes said.

The struggle between the rescuer and the victim was intense. The waves were pushing Chaminda 20 - 25 metres away from the victim.

Finally he managed to rope the survivor and by then Chaminda was also in a crucial situation. Yet the rescuer's job was not done. Hanging on to the rope many metres away from the helicopter and soaked in cold salty water after an intense struggle with the rough sea, the airman had to hoist the survivor safely until they reached the landing point.

In those minutes the life of the survivor depended on the skill of this airman. After rescuing the person from Beruvala sea the Bell crew landed Chaminda and the survivor at the Beruvala fishing harbour and set off to save another three survivors on the information they received from the Y12 aircraft that was on search operation in the same area.

Another Bell 412 helicopter with Captain pilot Squadron Leader Nipuna

Thanippili Arachchi and Co-Pilot Squadron Leader Indika Wijethilake along with their crew with Corporal Nanayakkara, Corporal Sampath, Corporal Navaratne and Leading Aircraftman Kumara were hovering and flying over sea off Dehivala for more than two hours rescuing fishermen.

"Normally a rescuer would start roping down at 100 - 80 feet height. The airman going down for rescue communicate with us using hand signals and it is us who have to communicate what our man down says to our pilots. During our trainings we spend just five minutes to rescue a person but with this weather it took us nearly twenty minutes," said the gunners.

The rescuers have to manage the panicking survivor who could do anything in his unconscious mind. It is the rescuer airman who should be strong enough to hold the victim tight and soft enough to calm his mind.

From Dehivala the crew had to take the survivor to the Galle Face green as it is there the medical teams waited to

receive them. After leaving the survivor in the hands of the medical team, the Bell 412 returns to the same location to rescue the other person.

"The final call came to me from my Director Operations around 6.15 p.m. Darkness was setting in and flying in the dark specially in such an adverse weather is something that we do not normally do. Yet if we tried we could save another life. Therefore, we took the risk," said Wing Comdn. Dissanayake.

The No.4 squadron is with 13 pilots along with 235 technical staff. At an instance there will be 65 on duty. We have a separate duty crew called ASR - Air Sea Rescue.

That crew about 23 is responsible for day to day servicing and preparations of the helicopters.

"Bell 412 is a multi role aircraft. This is meant for rescue missions. This can be fitted with all the rescue equipment as well. This is not only for carrying VIP. This is for search and rescue missions, casualty evacuation and for carrying troops.



The Beech King Air (B-2007 Beechcraft) surveillance aircraft with pilots



The search party - The Y12 with the two pilots



# SLAF's daring missions to save lives



BY DHANESHI YATAWARA

The wind blew at 30 knots and there was no decrease. The clouds and the rain made it impossible to see anything beyond 1,000 metres. The weather was becoming turbulent, creating an adverse situation. This was how the sky was like when the Sri Lanka Air Force Bell 412's and Y12's took off to search and rescue the missing and stranded fishermen who have gone to the sea in the wee hours of June 8. It was a fateful day for Sri Lanka and specially for the fishing community living along the coastal line where more than 50 fishermen perished.

Information was flowing in from many people and relevant officials on spotting possible survivors in the sea and in these conditions the best search option lay with the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) ready to face any challenge. Sri Lanka Air Force received instructions to conduct search and rescue missions in the surprisingly adverse weather.

Thus, with very short notice and with 10 - 13 minutes preparation time the SLAF Squadrons No. 4 and No. 8 prepared for the search and rescues.

The first airborne were the Y12's of the No. 8 squadron with Squadron Leader Daminda Rambukwella as the Captain pilot with the co-pilot Flying Officer Dilshan Kithiri. "We were instructed to do the search operations initially so that the helicopter squadron can directly reach the locations," said Squadron Leader Rambukwella.

"It was a very adverse weather condi-



Squadron Leader Nipona Thaniputti Arachchi

tion with strong winds. The cloud base was 500 feet. So we had to fly very low," Sq. Ldr. Rambukwella said.

Then the Y12 received instructions to proceed towards Beruwala. Rescuing Beruwala the two pilots spotted one survivor about five kilometres North of the Beruwala light house. We were communicating with the Bell 412 helicopter throughout and we sent this message to them," he said. The Y12 continued their search operations more in Beruwala and spotted three more survivors, this time more into the deep sea - about 25 - 30 kilometres from the light house.

Though we informed the Bell 412 the weather at that moment became so adverse we had to look for an alternative to rescue these people, said Rambukwella. Fortunately they spotted a trawler located very close and the Y12 pilots managed to communicate with them in getting the boat to rescue the survivors.

"But the winds and the sea was so rough the boat could not see the victims. So the helicopter guided the trawler to the survivors and the trawler managed



Wing Commander Channa Dissanayake

to rescue the three people," said Rambukwella.

For Wing Commander Channa Dissanayake the Commanding Officer of the Squadron No. 4 - the Bell helicopter fleet - it was a good day of judgement of how their versatility and flexibility - testing how fast they could switch roles from VIP transportation to rescue missions in a deadly storm. Ironically for the No. 4 squadron it was exactly after one week from celebrating the 48 years of the fleet.

"This emergency call was after a long time. In all other occasions we had sufficient time to prepare ourselves for that mission. But in this case with the sudden changes in the weather pattern time was a limited crucial factor," said Wing Commander Channa Dissanayake starting to explain the true stories of real life heroism.

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The Beech King Air (B-2007 Beechcraft) surveillance aircraft with pilots



The search party - The Y12 with the two pilots



The Air force plane carrying President Rajapaksa lands on the Iranamadu airstrip and (below) the President receiving a red carpet welcome



# Choose a friend, President tells Northern voters

By Ariyaratne Ranabahu

President Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday urged the people of the North to make the right choice at the forthcoming elections to the Northern Provincial Council (NPC).

*"Re watunu wale dawal wattenna epa.* (Do not fall into the same trap you already fell into before). You have been misled and kept blindfolded by certain forces and they are still trying to do the same", the President told a public rally in Kilinochchi. The rally was the first before the proposed NPC elections in September.

In a speech, a large portion of which was delivered in Tamil, the President quoted from a well-known Sinhalese saying which says that a friend who is close is better than the relative who is far (*Dura inna nayata wadiya laga inna yaluwa hondai*).

The President kicked off his trip to the North by declaring open the Iranamadu domestic airport, a housing



scheme in Mullaitivu housing scheme and sections of the A9 route which was newly constructed.

A large crowd gathered near the newly-opened People's Bank in Kilinochchi to listen to the President.

Mr. Rajapaksa said that when the new NPC was installed the govern-

ment hoped to undertake bigger projects for the development of the North.

"We are giving the people of the North the same that are given to the South," he said, adding that the people should make a decision that was good for the future of their children.



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## ජයග්‍රහණයේ ගුවන් පටිය-ඉරණමඩු ආශ්වරියයේ මාවත-A 9



උතුරු දකුණ යා කැරෙන ඒ 9 මාර්ගයත්, කලක් එල්.ටී.ටී.ඊ. යට අයත්ව තිබූ ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් ධාවන පටියත් නවීකරණය වූ අතර එසේ නවීකරණය වූ ඒ 9 මාර්ගයත් ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් ධාවන පටියත් ජායාරූපයේ දැක්වෙයි.

ජායාරූප - මාර්ග සංවර්ධන අධිකාරිය හා ගුවන් හමුදා මාධ්‍ය අංශය

## ඒ - 9 පාර සහ ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් තොට අලුත් වී ඇරේ

**හිහුල් පී. අබේසිංහ**

රුපියල් දස ලක්ෂ 22000 ක වියදමින් සම්පූර්ණ ලෙස ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණය කළ කිලෝමීටර් 321 ක් දිග මහනුවර - කාපතය ඒ 9 මාර්ගය හා ඉරණමඩු ගුවන් තොට ජනතා අයිතියට පැවරේ.

මුලින් මීටර් 3, 5 ක් පළලට තිබුණු මේ ඒ 9 මාර්ගය නවීකරණය කිරීමෙන් පසු මීටර් 10 ක් පළලට සම්පූර්ණයෙන් කාපට් අතුරු නවීකරණය කර තිබේ. දැන් මේ මාර්ගය ප්‍රධාන මංකිරු දෙකකි. බයිසිකල් යාමට 08 වැනි පිටුවට









# මිනිත්තලේ ගින්න නිවූ ගුවන් මෙහෙයුම

පොසොන් පොහොය පෙති පෙති මිනිත්තලය රක්මනය ගිනි දැව්වලින් වැසී ගියේය. පැය සිහිපයක් පුරා තම බලය පතුරුවාගෙන සිටි ගිනි දැව් නිවී යන විට අක්කර විස්සක් පමණ දැවී ගොස් අවසන්ය. මෙය කඩාකප්පල්කාරී ක්‍රියාවක් දැයි සැකයක් ද මතු ව තිබේ. කෙසේ වුවද ගිනි දැව් පැතිරුණු මොහොතේ සිට එය නිවා දැමීමට දත්තිය හෙළුවේ බොහෝය. ප්‍රදේශය හරහා ගමා ගිය තද සුළං ගින්න නිවා දැමීමට බෙහෙවින් ආධා පැමිණිවිය. මිනිත්තලා රජමහා විහාරාධිපති වලව්වකරුණා වැවේ ධම්මරතන හිමියන්ගෙන් ලද දුරකථන ඇමතුමකට පිළිතුරු ලෙස ආරක්ෂක දේශමි ගෝඨාභය රාජපක්ෂ මහතා ගුවන් හමුදාවේ සහය ගින්න නිවීමට ලබා දුන්නේය. අවසන් ගිනි දැව් මෙල්ල වූයේ ගුවන් හමුදාවේ හෙළිකොප්ටර් මගින් ඉසින ලද ජල ධාරා හමුවේ පමණි. කෙසේ වුවද දැන් ගිනි දැව් නොයේ ය. මෙවරද මිනිත්තලය පොසොන් වන්දනාකරුවන්ගෙන් පිරී යනු ඇත.





# SLAF 33rd Intake to celebrate anniversary

The 33rd Intake of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) will celebrate its 44th anniversary (1969 – 2013) in November, with an excursion to Stable Hill, Diyatalawa, where the Airmen underwent training at the Ground Combat and Recruit Training Unit of the Royal Ceylon Air Force, 44 years ago.

It is coordinated by the Steering Committee Chairman, T.A.S. de Silva (+94719811687) and the Media Co-ordinator, K.A. Ariyapala (+94776250508).



# Leaders stay put while Colombo FC stuns Negombo Youth

Navy Sports Club snatched the leadership from Blue Star while Solid Sports Club remain on top for the third week running in their respective groups as the Dialog Champions League 2013 football competition completed its seventh round this last weekend.

From Group 'A' unbeaten Navy SC marched two notches up to end Blue Star's dominance of four consecutive weeks, after thrashing bottom seed Super Sun by a massive 5-0 at Welisara. The scheduled match between Blue Star and Matara City was abandoned to due inclement weather and as a result they lost their top position from the group.

Colombo FC gained two places in the table as they beat the strong Negombo Youth outfit by 6-1 in an away game, to move up from fifth to third. Ratnam lost to Air Force by 2-1 at City Football Complex and this resulted in causing them two notches as they were pushed down to fourth in the table. Java Lane beat Saunders by 2-0 at the same venue a day earlier and moved up a place to fifth while Matara City despite their game being abandoned was pushed down to sixth from fourth. Air Force's win against Ratnam helped them gain two places to seventh as Saunders by losing their game against Java Lane, lost a place and moved down to eighth. Negombo Youth's massive defeat at the hands of newcomers Colombo FC pushed them down to ninth as Super Sun still lingers without a win to their name at the very bottom of the table.

From Group 'B' newcomers Solid SC beat Nandimithra by 3-2 at their home ground in Anurad-

hapura remain as the only unbeaten team from the group. Solid SC is one of the teams to complete all rounds by now as they become the first team to near 20 points. Solid SC's closest rivals Army SC who has all the potential to dislodge them again moved up to second place after crushing favourites Renown by 4-0 at Longdon Place. Upcountry Lions drew their game against Pelicans by 2-all at Nawalapitiya but lost one place and swapped places with Army SC to third position. Don Bosco lost their game against Kalutara Park by 2-1 in an away match but that could not make a bigger impact to their standing in the table. The team

from Negombo remains at fourth position as Renown who managed to hold on to their place at fifth, despite losing to Army by 4-0. Police SC drew against New Youngs by 2-all at Wennappuwa and hoped a place to sixth as they exchanged places with Nandimithra who were beaten by table topper Solid SC. New Youngs' drawn game against Police helped them remain at eighth while Kalutara Park progressed to ninth from the bottom after their win against Don Bosco. Pelicans' win drought continues for the fifth week as they ran out of luck against Upcountry Lions and moved down to the bottom of the table.

- NA

## DIALOG CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2013

### Group A

TW	LW	Club	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	3	Navy	5	3	2	-	11	1	11
2	1	Blue Star	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
3	5	Colombo FC	5	2	2	1	12	5	8
4	2	Ratnam	6	2	2	2	11	10	8
5	6	Java Lane	6	2	2	2	6	6	8
6	4	Matara City	5	1	3	1	4	7	6
7	9	Air Force	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
8	7	Saunders	5	1	2	2	4	9	5
9	8	Negombo Youth	4	-	3	1	4	9	3
10	10	Super Sun	4	-	1	3	2	14	1

### Group B

TW	LW	Club	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	1	Solid SC	7	5	2	-	14	6	17
2	3	Army	5	4	-	1	16	3	12
3	2	Upcountry Lions	7	3	3	1	15	12	12
4	4	Don Bosco	7	2	2	3	11	10	8
5	5	Renown	6	2	2	2	8	11	8
6	7	Police	6	1	3	2	11	11	6
7	6	Nandimithra	7	1	3	3	10	19	6
8	8	New Youngs	5	1	1	3	6	11	4
9	10	Kalutara Park	5	1	1	3	6	12	4
10	9	Pelicans	5	-	3	2	5	7	3



Ratnam and Java Lane are still struggling to find form this DCL season. - File pic



# Heavy rains....

*From page 1*

In Matara, the houses of 25 families (comprising 121 individuals) were badly damaged by the strong winds, he said. "We have also received reports of damage and destruction from the Kalutara and Galle areas".

"Our officers are out in the field and according to information gathered the coastal stretch between Dehiwala and Beruwala was the worst hit",

Strong winds also damaged houses and uprooted trees in Colombo and many parts of the country. "It was not the rain that caused most of the damage but the howling winds".

Giant trees were uprooted in the metropolis and other parts of the country blocking key roads and obstructing traffic. A giant tree which was uprooted by strong winds on the Galle Road and the Colombo-Kandy Road held up traffic, which was fortunately sparse as it was a Saturday. An old, huge tree collapsed at Maitland Crescent badly damaging a two-storied house.

The wind speed may increase up to 80 kmph, the Meteorology Department predicted, warning people to be "vigilant of the prevailing bad weather".

A tense situation developed at Dehiwala when a group of irate fisherfolk dragged their boats across the rail track yesterday morning disrupting train services on the Southern coastal line for many hours. They demanded that their missing colleagues be rescued immediately and also a warning light be installed at a vantage point to guide



those going out to sea particularly during inclement weather.

The angry protesters also made a bonfire on the rail track to focus attention on their plight, but later dispersed following assurances by Dehiwala-Mt. Lavinia Mayor, Dhanasiri Amaratunga and Senior DIG (Western Province) Anura Senanayake.

Three fishermen who had set sail from Dehiwala, but had swum ashore when their craft capsized, were amongst the agitating members of the fisher community.

The fishermen complained that there had been no prior warning of gale force winds, which would have otherwise sounded a note of caution and generated a sense of preparedness on the part of those venturing out to face the worst.

Journalists covering the protest also saw a badly mutilated turtle, which had been carried ashore by the huge waves and flung against the rocks on the shore.

Adverse weather conditions with strong winds will continue due to activation of South-west monsoon over Sri Lanka today as well, the department cautioned.

Fishermen and naval communities were advised to refrain from their routine activities in the deep and shallow sea areas, especially off the coast extending from Mannar to Pottuvil via Colombo, Galle and Hambantota due to the prevailing windy conditions.

# Met Department Shamed!



Rescuers brave rough seas as they attempt to locate fishermen who went missing following severe weather conditions that prevailed in the early hours of yesterday. Strong winds and heavy rain made for a lethal combination, as many fishermen were standard mid-sea. Pic by Rukshan Abeyewansa

## Fails to disseminate timely warning

Arthur Wamanan and Sandun Jayawardana

The failure to disseminate a timely warning on the prevalent inclement weather conditions has resulted in loss of lives and damages to property, where at least five fishermen were reported dead and several others missing as of yesterday afternoon.

The Meteorological Department attributed this problem to the delay in establishing an advanced radar system. The Department, following the gale storms that affected the Southern Coast in November 2011, said it was working on establishing advanced radars that would detect stormy weather conditions well in advance than the existing system.

Director General of the Meteorological Department, S.H. Kariyawasam admitted that it was too late by the time it had relayed the warning to the DMC. Kariyawasam said the delay was due to the

## Delay in establishing an advanced radar system

problems in receiving the information on time. He said that the department was already looking into ways of improving their systems to avoid such incidents in future. "We are looking at ways to upgrade our system. We have requested the authorities to address the issue," he said.

Fishing families living along the coastal areas in Dehiwela who were affected by the adverse weather protested against the authorities, calling on them to take immediate steps to rescue fisher folk missing at sea.

According to Deputy Director (Media), Disaster Management Center (DMC) Sarath Lal Kumara, the deaths of five persons including four fishermen had been confirmed by yesterday evening while 13 persons were reported injured. A further 17 fishermen were reported missing in Galle alone. The DMC was yet to receive information of the missing from other areas, he noted.

Kumara also said that 20 fishermen who were stranded mid sea were rescued by the Navy and Air Force. In addition, 24 houses were reported fully damaged while another 396 had suffered partial damages.

Minister of Disaster Management Mahinda Amaraweera said he had inquired from the Met Department regarding accusations that a timely warning had not been given to fishing communities along the coast. "The Department informed me that it had advised those conducting Naval and fishing activities to be vigilant regarding severe weather for the past several days. However, their contention is that the warning had been disregarded by some fishermen," he said.

Amaraweera admitted the department had not issued a specific severe weather advisory for Friday (7). The Met Department's forecast issued at 1600 hours on Friday (7) for

## Minister accuses fishermen of disregarding warning

the following 36 hours had requested Naval and fishing communities to be vigilant as deep and shallow sea areas off the coast extending from Mannar to Pottuvil via Colombo and Galle will be rough with strong southwesterly winds up to 80kmp/h.

A "severe weather advisory" was issued at 0300 hours yesterday by the Department's Early Warning Centre requesting Naval and fishing communities to 'refrain their activities in the deep and shallow sea areas, especially off the coast extending from Mannar to Pottuvil via Colombo, Galle and Hambantota'.

The Disaster Management Center (DMC) with the assistance of the Air Force and Navy yesterday launched a search and rescue operation along the coastal areas following severe weather conditions experienced in several parts of the country in the wee hours of yesterday.



## Met Department ...

The DMC, which is the official body to disseminate public warnings on weather related issues, said it had received a severe weather advisory from the Meteorology Department at three am. yesterday. However, DMC officials said they received the warning at a time when fishermen had already moved to the seas.

Sri Lanka Air Force Spokesperson (SLAF) Air Commodore Andrew Wijesooriya said the SLAF had flown three rescue missions from yesterday morning. Two Bell 412 helicopters had been deployed; one to the Kollupitiya and Dehiwela areas, and the other to Beruwela, he added. "The severe weather made flying very difficult, but our pilots still flew due to the urgency of the situation," he explained.

Wijesooriya said Air Force personnel were able to pluck one injured fishermen from a capsized vessel carrying five persons off the coast of Beruwela. They were also able to alert a nearby trawler of the presence of two others in the sea, leading to their rescue, and two others had swam to shore. Accordingly, all five persons on the boat were rescued alive, he stressed. The fisherman rescued by the Air Force was flown to Katukurunda and was currently being treated for his injuries at the Nagoda hospital, he added. Additionally, two other fishermen were rescued by the Air Force in the seas off Kollupitiya, Wijesooriya said.

"We also deployed a Y12 aircraft to De-

hiwela to search for a boat which reportedly had six persons onboard that had gone missing. However, we were unable to locate it," the Air Force spokesman said.

All aircraft had returned to their respective airfields by last evening, but were on standby to assist in further rescue operations if called upon to do so, he further said.

Navy Spokesperson Commander Kosala Warnakulasuriya said the Navy had deployed three ships (SLNS Sayura, SLNS Suranimala and SLNS Jayasagara) and five Fast Attack Crafts (FACs) to rescue fishermen. The vessels were those attached to the Navy's Western and Southern Naval Commands, he added. Navy personnel from these vessels had rescued three fishermen; one in Kollupitiya and two in Beruwela, he revealed.

Naval rescue operations were still ongoing at the time this edition went to press. Police Media Spokesman SP Buddika Siriwardena said the deaths of four fishermen had been confirmed by last evening. They are from Ahungalla, Beruwela, Bentota and Galle, he added. However, the death toll was likely to rise as the number of those missing was still unclear, he further said. "Fishermen have gone out to sea from many fishing harbors, and some of those reported missing have been rescued or have made it to shore at various locations. Therefore, it is difficult at this stage to say just how many are missing," Siriwardena explained.



# Distribution of racing bicycles and cycling equipment



Racing bicycles and cycling equipment worth Rs. 3 million, donated by the International Cycling Association to the Cycling Federation of Sri Lanka were distributed in the presence of Minister of Sports, Mahindananda Aluthgamage at the Department of Sports Development, yesterday.

Minister Aluthgamage is pictured handing over a bicycle to the President of the Sri

Lanka

Cycling Interim Committee, Air Vice Marshal Gagan Bulathsinhala.

Secretary of the Sri Lanka Cycling Interim Committee, Group Captain Kithsiri Thilakaratne and Manager of the Sri Lanka Cycling Interim Committee, Squadron Leader Prasanna Ranasinghe were present at the occasion.





Aerial view of Iranamadu runway



Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrema (C) following test flight on Dec 9, 2012

# President Rajapaksa flies to Vanni east airdrome

# SLAF develops Tiger airstrip to accommodate C-130s, jets

By SHAMINDRA FERDINANDO

**T**he LTTE's largest airstrip near the Iranamadu tank was meant to bring in plane loads of ammunition and some specialised armaments, which could have helped the LTTE to stall the advancing Sri Lanka Army (SLA) on the Vanni east front.

The LTTE had airstrips both east and west of the Kandy-Jaffna A9 road.

Although the LTTE fought fiercely on multiple fronts to halt the security forces advance, the Task Force III (TF III) overran enemy strong points guarding the airstrip on Jan. 14, 2009.

Since the conclusion of the conflict in May 2009, four years ago, the SLAF has transformed the airstrip into the largest such facility in the Vanni mainland.

An SLAF spokesman told *The Island* that it had built it from scratch.

"Spanning a length of 1,500 metres and width of 25 metres, it will be able to accommodate even a fully loaded C-130 Hercules transport aircraft, the largest in service with the SLAF," the official said.

Asked whether attack aircraft could touch down on the runway, a high ranking official said that even a jet could land there in an emergency.

An SLAF fixed wing aircraft carrying President Mahinda Rajapaksa is scheduled to touch down at Iranamadu this morning (June 15). The President will be received by SLAF Chief Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrema.

Instead of two layers, the SLAF had decided to lay four hence ensuring it could accommodate large aircraft, the official said. With the third layer of runway surface in place in mid July 2011, Air Marshal Abeywickrema made a test

landing in a Chinese Y-12 aircraft.

Although LTTE light aircraft launched from different LTTE airstrips attacked Palaly, Amuradhapura, Katunayake as well as Colombo during eelam war IV, the big runway at Iranamadu had been built with a view to bringing in armaments, military sources said. War time navy commander Vice Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda told *The Island* at that time the LTTE had been forced to seriously consider bringing in plane loads of arms owing to the destruction of its floating warehouses.

The SLAF's Rapid Runway Repair Wing (RRRW) had spearheaded the runway building project with the main work commencing in Feb. 2012, the SLAF said, adding that 85% of the work had been completed in just 11 months and it could have been finished earlier if not for heavy rains experienced in that part of

the country.

The SLAF spotted the runway at an initial stage of construction during the Norwegian arranged Ceasefire Agreement (CFA). Although the SLAF had observed light aircraft on the runway, the CFA prevented the government from taking action.

Sources said that the SLAF single-handedly undertook the runway construction project utilising its own manpower. Sources said that the earth requirement had been procured from the surrounding area and the metal requirement was provided from SLAF's own quarry at Mamaduwa, Vavunia. SLAF official said: "The lighting system which would have cost at least Rs 18 mn was manufactured by the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Wing of the SLAF at a cost of less than one million rupees."

Trinity win Bradby Shield

# Lions roar on jumbo turf



Among the dignitaries present at the Bradby 2nd leg in Colombo yesterday was none other than President Mahinda Rajapaksa, an ardent rugby fan himself. Here is the President with the Opposition Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe, Royal College Principal, and the newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff, Jagath Jayasuriya.

BY ROCHELLE PALIPANE GUNARATNE

It was eighty minutes of ooohs and aaahs as the rugby ball was passed from player to player at the Royal Sports Complex when Trinity College, Kandy and Royal College, Colombo fought for supremacy at the second leg of the Bradby. Amidst the ooohs and aaahs were a few epitaphs and 'aiyo's' uttered as well, as players of both teams missed so many opportunities to score brilliant tries. As one of the famous commentators says: "Pressure... pressure... pressure!"

The ultimate score was in favour of the host Royal (RC) 13 (1G, 1P, 1T) to Trinity (TCK)'s 09 (3P) but the overall score being 46 to 38 in favour of TCK who ultimately retained the shield...

Dynamo,' and his united band of team members roared out "T-R-I-N-I-T-Y!!!"

The chief guest was Michael Muller, one of the legendary Royal captains of the 1972 team, who won the Bradby. Thereafter the TCK team performed a 'HAKA' created primarily for their team. It was poetry in motion but the execution of that wonderful ritual was marred by some of RC players who seemed frazzled by it and tried to intimidate their opponents. What they should have done was simply respect and stood by, like all other professional teams who simply watch when their opponents perform 'HAKA'.

Enough said on that subject, how to the game proper... The first three minutes into the game, TCK was awarded a penalty with Tarindra Ratwatte kick taking them to 3-0. A few minutes



Trinity College, Kandy win the Bradby Shield. The Lions perform a victorious roar! (Pix by Kamal Wanniarachchi)

later, Rimzi Jamaldeen, captain of RC, kicked a drop goal from the 50 m mark levelling the score at three all. An unnecessary infringement by RC garnered another penalty for TCK (06/00).

Eighteen minutes into the game, RC had possession of the ball most of the time but it seemed to be a case of tug-of-war as both teams did not wish to yield. TCK was defending brilliantly whilst the RC forwards kept pounding on. But there was a sense of disappointment whenever a super opportunity at scoring by both teams was missed by knock-ons or in laymen's language, 'butter fingers'!

At half-time, the score was 06-00. Come second half and the score was made even by a penalty by RC (06/06). The Royal forwards kept gaining ground and a penalty was awarded to RC once

again but 'sure-footed' Rimzi surprised all by failing to deliver. At the 28th minute Ratwatte ensured the kick went through when TCK was awarded a penalty. At the eleventh hour RC's umpteenth attempts at scoring a try was finally made into a reality by Shuib Muthalip who scored an epic try which was converted by the skipper. TCK's reply was too failed. The final score at the last whistle was in favour of RC (13/09) but the shield was awarded to the Lions for defending the overall score winning the coveted Bradby shield in 2013!

This was also a significant and somewhat sentimental match for our very own famed referee, Dilroy Fernando, who blew the whistle for the last time. Hats off to you Sir, for years of dedication to refereeing!





June 15 Iranamadu airstrip: The SLAF 'Helitours' operated MA 60 56-seater passenger plane touches down

SHAMINDRA FERDINANDO reporting from Iranamadu

The Chinese-built MA 60 passenger plane carrying President Mahinda Rajapaksa landed on the newly constructed SLAF runway at Iranamadu, the heartland of



President Rajapaksa leaving the aircraft

clandestine LTTE operations during eelam war IV, on the morning of June 15, marking a new chapter in post-war development in the Vanni mainland.

The SLAF took delivery of the twin engine turboprop MA 60 aircraft on Sept. 30, 2011.

The President was welcomed by SLAF chief, Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama. EPDP leader Douglas Devananda and Northern Province Governor, retired Major General G. A. Chandrasiri too, were present. Having unveiled a plaque at the airfield to mark his historic visit there, the President took part in a series of events in the region.

Accompanying the President was Army Commander, General Jagath Jayasuriya. It was the army commander's first visit to the former operational areas since Friday's announcement of his promotion as well as the appointment of Major General Daya Ratnayake as his successor with effect from August 1.

Spanning a length of 1,500 metres and a width of 25 metres, the runway could accommodate even a fully loaded C-130 Hercules transport aircraft, the largest in service with the SLAF.

# Vanni east landscape transformed with new airfield, major SLAF station

In accordance with the overall security strategy in the Vanni mainland, the SLAF has built a major facility encompassing the runway making it the main base in the Vanni east. The SLAF station at Iranamadu comprised pre-fabricated buildings supplied by China since the conclusion of the conflict in May 2009. The transformation of Iranamadu had been gradual, with Wing Commander Crishantha Matumperi being the incumbent Commanding Officer there.

The LTTE's latest airstrip was meant to bring in plane loads of arms in case high profile SLN operations on the high seas caused the destruction of its 'floating arsenals.' The Tigers' plan went awry.

The SLAF utilised its expertise to complete the job which would enable the service to take on even bigger tasks.

SLAF spokesman Air Commodore Andy Wijesuriya told *The Island* that the LTTE had launched the runway project years back, even before the outbreak of major battles in August 2006.

The LTTE had built a smaller runway a little distance away from the main landing strip, which Air Marshal Abeywickrama said could even accommodate a jet in an emer-



SLAF Chief Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama accompanies President Rajapaksa Pictures by Sudath Silva

gency. The SLAF chief was responding to a query by *The Island*.

The writer had the opportunity to fly in to the smaller airfield earlier in the day and move overland to the newly built runway. At the edge of the runway, the wreckage of an SLAF Mi 24, destroyed during the conflict, can be seen.

It is believed that the LTTE

unit which caused immense damage in a daring raid on the SLAF base at Anuradhapura during the fourth week of Oct. 2007, had rehearsed at Iranamadu, probably on the smaller runway. Even the LTTE's fixed wing aircraft involved in the Anuradhapura attack had been launched from one of the airstrips at Iranamadu.



# Air Force fight another forest fire

By DASUN EDIRISINGHE



The Sri Lanka Air Force yesterday deployed a Bell 212 helicopter from Hingurakgoda, equipped with Bambi bucket, to control a forest fire in the Hikkagala forest reserve in the Maduru Oya area, SLAF Spokesman Air Commodore Andy Wijesuriya said.

He said that they released the helicopter with airmen on a request from the Disaster Management Centre (DMC).

The DMC sought the assistance of the SLAF to douse the major forest fire which broke out in the Hikkagala forest reserve located towards the northeast of Maduruoya Tank, Air Commodore

Wijesuriya said adding that the SLAF No. 7 helicopter Squadron, stationed at the SLAF Base in Hingurakgoda, deployed one Bell 212 helicopter to control a fire engulfing approximately 1,130 hectares.

Wijesuriya said, using water from the Pimburattewa Tank the crew of Bell 212 helicopter battled the fire with its 'Bambi bucket' flying five consecutive sorties and limited the spread of the raging flames.

The operation was conducted with the assistance of the Sri Lanka Army, which was also fighting the fire on the ground, the Air Commodore said.