



# News Bulletin

Issued by the High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
13, Hyde Park Gardens, London W2 2LU

ISSUE - 07

2010 July 16-31

## Making Sri Lanka the wonder of Asia

The Colombo city skyline is fast changing with tourism and city development playing a lead role in taking the country towards becoming the wonder of Asia. Sri Lanka is taking a leaf from development in Dubai, Singapore and some other countries which developed in the last three decades.

Slums and pavement hawkers are becoming things of the past as they are being cleared and given quality alternative houses and areas, way beyond their dreams.

A new city is to be built in the Galle Face area adjoining the new Colombo South harbour reclaiming land from the sea, similar to the artificially created Palm Islands in Dubai.

Sri Lanka will follow this model and is planning to have nearly 400 acres of reclaimed land which in turn would be offered to the leisure sector and property developers to construct mixed development projects. Global entertainment companies are expected to setup theme parks, night entertainment and many other recreation facilities.

Relocating and providing quality alternative housing is one of the priorities of the Government for people occupying houses illegally, especially in and around the Slave Island areas.

### Slums to disappear

Deputy Project Director, Urban Development Authority, H. A. Dayananda said that under the

directions of their new Chairman, Janaka kuru-kulasuriya a massive development plan is unfolding for the Slave Island area. "The slums in the area are being cleared and the dwellers will be provided alternative houses in Dematagoda," he said.

These slum dwellers stayed in small huts sharing one make shift bathroom, kitchen and a water tap with three or four other families. "The 320 new houses provided for them have two rooms, a verandah, a toilet and a separate kitchen with electricity and water.

He said 1,000 houses were being built at Dematagoda to relocate people now in temporary shelters.

After clearing the Slave Island area from the back of the Air Force grounds up to Beira Lake, this area would be given to both local and international companies for high rise buildings and for other recreation facilities. "A walk way for the public too would be built and several super markets, toy side food outlets and other forms of entertainment activities would be put into place by both the Government and the private sector," he said.

The D. R. Wijewardane Mawatha area would be converted to a more up market tourism area and all the warehouses adjoining the Convention Centre are to be relocated. "Beira Lake would be opened up for water sports and soon people would see water jets, ...P2

## Kilinochchi reborn with new development



Creating a new history, President Mahinda Rajapaksa Inaugurated the Cabinet Meeting on the verge of Iranamadu tank at Killinochchi. This is the first time in Sri Lankan history a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held its meeting out of Colombo.

The Cabinet last month had decided to hold its weekly Cabinet meeting at district level once a

month. Kilinochchi was once famous for its paddy production has had several other industries as well. Paranthan Chemical Industry was one of the biggest industries in the district which not only generated employment opportunities but also contributed to country's economy as well. The Iranamadu tank expands to 500 sq km was originally built in the early 1900's was renovated soon after the independence to realize agricultural benefits to the country from Kili-nochchi district.

Kilinochchi was a 'de- facto' capital of the defeated tiger terrorists during the period from 2002-2004, With the launch of humanitarian operation by President Mahinda Rajapaksa the people of Kilinochchi along with their northern people were liberated from the clutches of LTTE terrorists. Now the Government has ... ..P2

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>Sri Lanka removed from marine war</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MAS Holdings to open factory in Jaffna</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>National Mine Center to handle Mine clearing in the North</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Found: Sri Lankan primate thought to be extinct for 60</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Charity status revoked for funding LTTE</b>	<b>4</b>

## Oluwil Harbour to Public possession in the first quarter of 2011

The first step of the construction of the Oluwil Harbour is to be completed by the end of year 2010, and by the first quarter of 2011 it is intended to be granted to public possession says Deputy Minister of Ports and Aviation Rohitha Abeygunawardena.

Minister Abeygunawardena stated this on his visit to the Oluwil Harbor for inspection.

The Oluwil Harbour which started its formation on May 2008 is to be completed within two chapters. This harbor is 56 Hectares in range and it consists of a Trade Complex and fisheries port.

The Trade complex in the port is 330meters in length and it has an 8meter deep jetty as well. The Fisheries port consists of a Fish stall, a freezing facility, nets and other equipments.

An aid of 46.1 Euro Million was given to the government for this construction by the Denmark government.

Source:Lankapuvath

**Making Sri Lanka ... from P1**

banana boats and pontoons with heaps of locals and foreigners using them," he said.

The Maradana/ Panchikawatte area too is under the focus of development with people living in slums to be relocated to condominiums. He said that they would not relocate these slum dwellers until such time the housing complex is completed.

The new Art Centre coming up in Town Hall with the assistance of the Chinese Government, the refurbishment of the country's oldest art centre the Tower Hall, and opening of the Galle Face area and Nawam Mawatha areas to the public will enable people to relax in a free and welcome atmosphere.

Havelock City is the largest residential and commercial development project presently undertaken in Sri Lanka by the private sector, adding more colour and dignity to the city of Colombo.

This will be linked to waterways with tenders already called to start boat services.

**Govt. offices to move out**

One of the other key developments undertaken by the UDA is the new office complex they are building in Battaramulla. "Our prime objective of this 13 door complex project is to enable government institutions located in the commercial city of Colombo to move to this complex in Sethsiripaya so that people would not have to run everywhere to get their work done," he said.

In addition this move will save millions to the government by way of rentals that are being paid to the private sector as rent.

The Colombo Katunayake Highway starting from Peliyagoda and now nearing completion would provide a vital link to the proposed development taking place in the city. Project Director M.P.K.L. Gunaratne told the Sunday Observer that the travel time from Peliyagoda to the airport would be reduced to 20 minutes as against over one hour it takes at present.

"This will be the icing on the cake for the development of Colombo City and one of the most important components in making Sri Lanka the wonder of Asia.

*Source: Sunday Observer*

**Kilinochchi reborn ..... From P1**

launched several development activities. As a prelude to the major development process, infrastructure facilities such as A9 high way, Electricity, telephone, water facilities are being carried out covering the entire district.

According to Military sources around 100 thousand IDPs have been resettled in the district. For the IDPs the army is every thing because it is they who provide everything from livelihood, shelter to educational facilities for their children.

Most of the school buildings and houses which were destroyed during the war have been reconstructed by the military. Agricultural tools and fisheries equipment have been distributed among the beneficiaries.

Already 60,000 acres of abandoned paddy land are being prepared for cultivation in the forthcoming MAHA season. Farmers are being provided with Rs 4000 per acre for initial preparation with two wheel tractors at a concessionary rate. In addition, a pool of four wheel tractors has been set up with the help of Agricultural Authorities to provide services to needy farmers.

*Source: News.lk*



*US Assistant Secretary of State Robert O' Blake met H.E, the President Mahinda Rajapaksa at President's House 21 July. External Affairs Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris, Secretary to the President Mr. Lalith Weerathunga, Finance Secretary Dr. P. B. Jayasundara, and US Ambassador Ms. Patricia Butenis were also present. (Pix By; Sudath Silva)*

**More tsunami warning towers for North**

The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) will set-up 25 tsunami early warning towers along the Northern coastal belt in addition to the existing towers.

DMC Deputy Director Pradeep Kodippilly said as part of covering all coastal areas by establishing tsunami early warning towers, the DMC has taken measures to set-up another 25 early warning towers along the Northern coastal belt. The DMC has already started constructing the tsunami early warning towers in the Northern coastal belt, he added.

The DMC will set up early warning towers in Mannar, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi and Jaffna districts while a tower will be set-up in Delf Island. *Source: Daily news*

**Over 350 ex-LTTE child combatants to sit G.C.E A/L**

Commissioner General of Rehabilitation, Brigadier Sudantha Ranasinghe said that over 300 ex-LTTE child combatants would sit for the G.C.E Advanced Level (A/L) examination in coming August.

According to commissioner General they had to stop their education as LTTE had forcibly recruited them into its fighting units at the expense of their education and wellbeing.

"Out of the 594 students identified from the government-run rehabilitation centres, 378 students have been prepared for the forth coming G.C.E (A/L) exam and the rest of others will be released after rehabilitation" said Brig. Ranasinghe.

He further added that the military conducted a special school for those A/L students within the premises of Vavuniya Tamil Primary school, with the assistance of the Education Ministry. According to him they had supplied all their necessities such as books, stationery, food and lodging and they had only to study hard.

According to the sources, the identified 11,800 ex-LTTE cadres for rehabilitation from the IDP camps and 152 university students among them were sent to the Jaffna University. About 3,000 former LTTE cadres were released after successfully completion of rehabilitation programs and some of them were employed in the private sector.

*Source:Ministry of Defence*

## Sri Lanka removed from marine war risk list

Sri Lanka has been removed from all marine war, and marine strikes risk of the Joint Cargo Committee Joint Cargo Watch List with effect from 05 July 2010, the Sri Lanka High Commission in London informed.

In addition, the Ground Risk of 2.6 (High Level) previously applicable for the entire ground in Sri Lanka is now confined only to the Vavuniya-Jaffna Section of the A-9 Highway.

Post-war economic revival would be greatly boosted with increased business confidence, reduction of the cost of imports, removal of insurance surcharge, and inducement for more shipping lines to call over at Sri Lanka Ports due to the de-listing of Sri Lanka from War, and Marine risks, down to only a minimal level of Ground risks, the Sri Lanka High Commission in London further stated.

### *Following is the full press release:*

The Sri Lanka High Commission, London is pleased to inform that with effect from 05th July 2010 Sri Lanka has been removed from all marine war, and marine strikes risk of the Joint Cargo Committee Joint Cargo Watch List. In addition, the Ground Risk of 2.6 (High Level) previously applicable for the entire ground in Sri Lanka is now confined only to the Vavuniya-Jaffna Section of the A-9 Highway.

The de-listing/removal of Sri Lanka from a high level of 2.6 risk on Marine war risk, and Marine Strikes risk comes in the wake of Lloyds Market Association Joint Cargo Committee Review Meeting held in London on 02nd July 2010 which followed a comprehensive programme in Colombo for the visit of the international intelligence company and Advisor of the JCC to Colombo facilitated by this Mission and the line agencies/Ministries in Colombo.

Since the cessation of the war, in particular, this Mission has sustained a proactive engagement with M/s. Lloyds Markets Association and their International Intelligence Advisors in London in conjunction with line agencies in Colombo to provide the latest updates and progress on areas of concern. The Mission has also initiated and organized several representations made by the GOSL at the highest level in London with meetings arranged between Prof. G.L. Peiris, and delegation from Ministry of Ports last year and Lloyds Markets Association and their Advisors.

The removal of Sri Lanka from the Joint War Committee Hull War, Strikes, Terrorism and Related Perils Listed Areas w.e.f. 11th June 2010 also followed these combined initiatives where this Mission worked in close cooperation with the allied agencies and Ministries in Colombo and Lloyds Markets Association and their Advisors.

Post-war economic revival would be greatly boosted with increased business confidence, reduction of the cost of imports, removal of insurance surcharge, and inducement for more shipping lines to call over at Sri Lanka Ports due to the de-listing of Sri Lanka from War, and Marine risks, down to only a minimal level of Ground risks.

*Source: Priu.gov.lk*

## MAS Holdings to open factory in Jaffna

MAS Holdings, one of the leading apparel companies intends to open a garment factory in the Achthueli industrial zone in Jaffna as a Board of investment (BoI) approved venture.

"There is a 65 acre unutilised land at the industrial estate and our aim is to elevate it to its past glory. We are looking at local and foreign investors to set up industries at this venue,"

He said that they would speak to banks to differ the loans of industrialists and also assist them by introducing new technology. "We will also help them to find new markets and even go to the extent of finding them partners he said. *Source: Sunday observer*

## First liver transplant here



Marking a turning point in the Medical History of Sri Lanka, a team of local surgeons have succeeded in performing the first Liver Transplant in Sri Lanka.

A team led by Dr. Mandika Wijeratne had performed the surgery and the patient who underwent the operation is now being treated under supervision at the Intensive Care Unit, National Hospital Director Dr. Hector

Weerasinghe told reporters. He said the specialty of the operation was that the liver belonged to a patient who was declared brain-dead.

In the past, for a liver transplant a patient had to be taken to a hospital abroad and it would have cost a minimum of Rs.5. Million .

*Source: Daily mirror.lk*

## Army Special Forces praised for demining seabed

Villagers and the fisherfolk of Mullaitivu praised the Special Forces of the Sri Lanka Army for having taken timely action to clear the seabed of mines and other ordinances, reports from Mullaitivu said yesterday.

There was the possibility of these unexploded mines and artillery shells being washed ashore or getting entangled in nets posing a grave danger to civilians.

The SF Commander in Mullaitivu Maj. Gen. Prasanna Silva said that following the advice of Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Army Commander Lt. General Jagath Jayasuriya had instructed that Special Forces personnel, trained in underwater operations be deployed to carry out the de-mining of the seabed.

They had been successful in de-mining to a depth of 150 meters up to distance of two kilometres from the coast along six kilometres of the coastline," he said.

Maj. Gen. Silva said: "We have deployed over 500 Field Engineers attached to the SLA to carry out the mine clearing operations on land manually. They also carried out the de-mining mechanically.

We have succeeded in clearing the Mullaitivu town and parts of Odusuddan, Mulliyawalai, Thunukkai and Manthai East so that the IDPs could be resettled. The biggest challenge that we are yet to confront is de-mining the areas of the final confrontation with the LTTE such as Pudu Mathalang, Pudukududirruppu and Vellamulivaikkal which are full of unexploded explosive devices of all kinds," the SF Commander for Mullaitivu said.

Sources in Mullaitivu said that along with the SLA Field Engineers the UK based Mine Advisory Group, the Indian based Sarvatra, the Swiss Foundation for De-mining (FSD) were also assisting in the mine clearing operations. *Source: The Island*



## National Mine Center to handle Mine clearing in the North



The Government of Sri Lanka is now implementing a humanitarian demining programme with a target of achieving mine threat free Sri Lanka by end of 2020. The government decided to set up a National

Mine Action Centre to coordinate and fast tract the de-mining process. The Government coordinates and manages the demining programme, through the Ministry of Economic Development with the mine action operators, Donor Agencies and

UN organizations.

Presidential Task Force for Resettlement, Development and Security in the Northern Province acts as the decision making body on Northern programme through a temporary unit in collaboration with respective Government Agents. In this exercise, UNDP and UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Government to implement and coordinate the demining programme.

Over 26 years of armed conflict, land mines, unexploded ordinances ( UXOs) and improvised explosives devices (IEDs) which have been laid

by the terrorists constituted a significant impediment to resettlement and development activities of the conflict affected areas.

Over 640 villages had been affected by these mines and it is estimated that about 1.5 Million mines have been laid underground. Out of this only 266,123 mines and UXOs have been cleared up-to- date. Over 4500 square kilo meters in particular in the Northern Province have been laid suspected as contaminated with mines and explosive remnants of war ( ERW). Of which 1, 474 of square kilo meters have been cleared so far. *Source: News.lk*

## Found: Sri Lankan primate thought to be extinct for 60 years

The Horton Plains slender loris was pictured in central Sri Lanka by the Zoological Society of London and Sri Lankan researchers. Photograph: London Zoo

A mysterious primate driven to the brink of extinction by Britain's taste for tea has been photographed for the first time. The Horton Plains slender loris, found only in [Sri Lanka](#), was for more than 60 years believed to be extinct.

Then one was spotted fleetingly in 2002 when a light shone in its eyes and was reflected. Researchers have now managed to get the world's first pictures of the animal.

More than 1,000 night surveys were carried out in 120 forested regions by Sri Lankan researchers working in partnership with the [Zoological Society of London](#) (ZSL). The loris was found in half a dozen regions and researchers managed to capture three live specimens long enough to measure them.

The prime reason for the animal's rarity is the loss of its natural forest habitat, which has been largely destroyed by the drive to create tea plantations. The loss of land to other crops also contributed.

Estimates suggest there are just 100 left, putting it among the world's top five most threatened primates. But so little is known about the animal that numbers could be below 60 – which would make it the rarest species.



Dr Craig Turner of ZSL said: "There's been a lot of loss of habitat historically. Forest covered much of the south-west area of Sri Lanka, but it's been cleared for agriculture and tea estates.

"More recently they've been cleared for firewood collection. We are now left with a very few islands of forest that aren't connected.

"Because they [lorises] are so rare and because for many years they were thought to be extinct, virtually nothing is known about them. *Source: www.Guardian.co.uk*

## Charity status revoked for funding LTTE

Ottawa based 'Tamil (Sri Lanka) Refugee-Aid Society' (TRAS) was revoked of its charitable registration with effect from July 17, 2010 for funding the LTTE.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) responsible for administering tax laws for the Government of Canada and for most provinces and territories announced this decision July 19, 2010.

The CRA stated that the charity failed to maintain adequate control and direction over the use of its funds; improperly issued tax receipts on behalf of third parties; and provided funding to non-qualified donees outside Canada.

According to the findings, the Tamil charity has provided funds including \$713,000 to an organization, which the CRA believes

was operating as part of the support network for the LTTE, a listed entity under the United Nations Suppression of Terrorism Regulations and the Criminal Code of Canada. *Source: Priu.gov.lk*

## Sri Lanka domestic air services chased by 13 firms: official

July 19, 2010 (LBO ) - Thirteen firms that applied to start domestic air services in Sri Lanka after the end of a 30-year war are awaiting the final nod from the island's aviation ministry and the president's office, an official said. Director general of Sri Lanka's civil aviation authority H M C Nimal Siri said domestic, foreign and joint ventures between local and overseas firms had applied to fly within the island.

*Source: www.lankabusinessonline.com*

### Services by the Sri Lanka High Commission in London

Consular Services (Visa, Passport, Dual Citizenship, Registration of Births / Marriages / Deaths, etc)

Tel. 020 7262 1841-6, Fax. 020 7262 7970, Email: consulardivision@slhc-london.co.uk

**Consular Hours:** Mon-Fri : 0930—1300 hrs

Please visit our website [www.slhclondon.org](http://www.slhclondon.org) for more information.