



RAPID CONTEXT ASSESSMENT

Executive Summary

National Analysis

Political	2
Governance	2
Human Rights	3
Economic	4
Civil society & Media	5
Environment	6
Humanitarian & Development Space	7

The Government has had a firm grip on the administration specifically on its massive infra structure development projects. The Chinese built and funded Coal –fired power plant is to be commissioned on schedule. The first phase of the Hambanthota Harbour project has been completed.

as well as NGOs involved in the process the resettlement of IDPs is on track its implementation is smooth. The Government has taken procedural steps to enable NGOs to be more involved in this efforts while retaining a monitoring mechanism.

spread of Dengue fever. A special National Programme which mobilized the assistance of the Defense Forces and the Police was launched to eradicate the mosquito breeding sites in densely populated urban areas.

In the sphere of Law and Order the death of a University Student allegedly due to an assault by the Police dominated media attention while the police categorically denied any involvement. Yet the Police felt it necessary to send an investigating team to distant Moneragala to probe the incident.

Civil Society initiatives were mainly on subjects relating to the “Rule of Law “ such as the Universal Principles of Judicial Integrity while there were many contributions by retired Foreign Service professionals on the need to understand the complexities in international relations while not unnecessarily alienating other countries.

Province Analysis

North	
Jaffna	7
Vavuniya	8
Mannar	8
East	
Batticaloa	9
Trincomalee	9
Ampara	10
West	
Colombo	10

The Leader of the Opposition Ranil Wickremesinghe has held on to his office despite most members of his parliamentary group have openly rebelled his lackluster performance as party leader while the JVP has remained as the only opposition group that is at least attempting to present a semblance of a vociferous opposition.

The Government announced plans to try identified hard core LTTE combatants held in custody paving the way for the eventual release of most combatants after rehabilitation and vocational training. The National Child Protection Authority is reaching out with the installation of a dedicated help line to facilitate complaints of child abuse and has also launched special campaigns in identified areas to investigate Juvenile crimes with the assistance of the Human Rights Commission.

The Plight of war widows in the former conflict areas now fast returning to normalcy due to the accelerated reconstruction and rehabilitation received the attention it deserves. Why this pressing issue was on the back burner for so long was a refrain that may fad away if the focus on the issue remains long enough.

Trend Analysis

Political	→
Governance	↓
Human Rights	↓
Economic	→
Environment	↘
Civil society & Media Space	→
Humanitarian & Development Space	→

On matters of Governance, the talks between the UNP which is supposedly the main opposition party had talks with the governing UPFA on the proposed constitutional amendments. The hope that it may lead to a national consensus was ultimately a brief mirage in the expansive desert of Sri Lankan politics where scholarly debates on Constitutional making is as abundant as fresh water in the sand dunes.

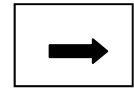
On environmental issues the principal focus was on health hazards due to the alarming increase of deaths due to the

Indicator References

According to official sources

No change	→	Slightly improving	↗	Slightly deteriorating	↘
Significantly improving	↑	Significantly deteriorating	↓		

NATIONAL ANALYSIS 25/06/2010 TO 26/07/2010



POLITICAL CONTEXT

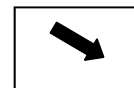
The Government so far has had a firm foot-hold on the administration and amazingly the development programs are on track. The Chinese built Coal-fired plant on the West coast in Noraichchola in the Puttalam District will be operational this year while the second an Indian built coal-fired plant in Sampur on the east coast in the Trincomalee District will be ready next year.

The Hambantota Port will see ships calling in November this year and a new international cricket stadium will be ready for use at the upcoming Cricket World cup mid next year. The second international airport will also be ready in a year or two. Development in the south is at an unprecedented pace.

The United National Party (UNP) will see the first election, within, to key posts much to the dislike of sen-

ior stalwarts but the up and coming politicians want a change and soon. The UNP is of the view that if its current leader Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe remains, there will be no split in the party but others reiterate that nothing will happen to affect the party. The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) is the only party that is acting in a vociferous manner. After shedding some trouble-shooters, the party seems to have not lost any of its luster.

GOVERNANCE



In a positive development, the government and main opposition party had talks that were reported to revolve around three major issues. The first was the replacement of the Executive Presidential system with one that brings in an Executive Prime Ministerial office.

The second issue was the implementation of the 17th Amendment to the Constitution that reduces the President's power to make unilateral and arbitrary public appointments to senior offices of state.

The third issue is that of reforming the present proportional electoral system to one based on a mixed first past the post and proportional system. However, it was notable that they did not address issues pertaining to the political solution to the ethnic conflict. It may be that the government and UNP leaderships want to first deal with those issues on which they

can reach agreement and will not be too controversial with the people. While most people have shown themselves to be apathetic in relation to questions of governance in general, their potential to get mobilized for action is much higher in the case of the ethnic conflict.

It is a matter of historical record that even governments have fallen when they attempted to deal politically with the issue of the political solution to the ethnic conflict in the past.

However, it would not be appropriate for the two main parties to finalise a constitutional settlement without the inclusion of the smaller and ethnic parties, as it is their marginalization from the decision making processes in the past that led to the aggravation of ethnic conflict in the first place.

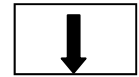
The re-commencement of the practices of registering Tamils with the

police and of conducting search operations that target them created a renewed sense of concern.

About two months ago Parliament approved the repeal of a large number of emergency laws which was projected worldwide as a sign that normalcy had returned to the country.

The Police have said they were instructed by higher authorities to register all people -- including Tamils, and that the registration would include the whole country.

In another development, the Ministry of Defence also issued a circular that directs NGOs who intend to do projects in the North to register with it and to follow a procedure of getting prior governmental permission for all activities and movements.



Resettlement of IDPs

The process of Resettlement of the displaced in the Kilinochchi and Mullaithevu districts continues to be implemented smoothly according to official sources while Tamil Political parties claim that it is not at a pace that they would like it to be.

In a move that will encourage the NGOs to participate in the reconstruction and resettlement in the Northern Province the Mass Media and Communications Minister has stated that the Non Government Organizations were free to visit the North and East and contribute to the development and resettlement in the conflict affected areas.

According to the Minister the Ministry of Resettlement has prepared “packages” out of which NGOs could select any and visit the conflict affected areas and contribute to expedite the resettlement process.

Meanwhile a group of Mullaithivu Muslims have returned to their original habitat after a period of twenty years. According to the Minister the IDPs have been resettled at a rate of 700 IDPs per day.

Law and Order

A student of the Ruhunu University died allegedly due to an assault by the Police.

The Inspector General of the Police made a categorically denied any Police involvement in the death of the Student who is from Buttala in the

Moneragala District. However he later sent a special investigating team from Colombo to investigate the death which according to other students was due to an assault by the police while according to the initial statement of the IGP it was due to natural causes. According to Government Officials 737 hard core ex LTTE combatants have been identified out of a total of 7948 persons being held. These hard core ex combatants will have face legal proceedings according to the Rehabilitation authorities.

According to reports in the media More than 12000 persons are currently in prison of whom more than 10000 are imprisoned due to their inability to pay the fines imposed on them while the others are awaiting Trials that are put off due to delays in the department of the Government Analyst.

A free lance journalist Anthony Mark of Mannar was assaulted by an unknown group on Thursday 22nd July and is being treated for injuries suffered at the Mannar base hospital.

Children

The National Child Protection Authority has introduced a dedicated help line for children or others to make complaints concerning children. The toll free line is reached by dialing 1929.

However how instance of child abuse could be reported from other parts of the country is not clear. Meanwhile

the Department of Probation and Child Protection of the Sabaragamuwa province with assistance of the Human Rights Commission has launched an offensive to reduce the high incidence of Juvenile crimes and child abuse reported in the Ratnapura police Division. In a shocking revelation the Department of Probation and Child Care services had stated that they receive an average of ten complaints of child abuse from around the country.

Human rights issues in Sri Lanka continued to be the focus of the international observers mainly from the West. Some Sri Lankan academics attempt to redefine the Rule of Law in a Cultural Context suggesting that European interpretation of law was not the most appropriate to measure the governance standards of governance and the rule of law in Asian countries.

In a recent lecture, the Eminent Sri Lankan Jurist Justice C.G. Weeramantry traced the Asian tradition of the rule of law to Kautilya and the laws of Manu suggesting that adherence to the accepted law was an essential ingredient of every civilization.

ENVIRONMENT



The primary environmental concern in the month of July is one of environmental health: the alarming rise in dengue and the almost uncontrollable increase in mosquito prevalence.

Although the current alarm is in certain districts (Jaffna, Gampaha, Colombo, Kandy, Matale and Batticaloa and Western and Sabaragamuwa Provinces), according to the health ministry the spread of this disease across the country is expected in the coming months. In 2009 it was the

months of June and July that saw the highest number of cases.

In Colombo alone, one of the worst affected districts, due to the prevalence of mosquito breeding places which result from poor Solid Waste Management and high human density 3,546 patients have been reported to date with 20 new cases per day being identified.

So far this year a total of 158 deaths and 21,964 of reported cases; Sri

Lanka recorded 35,007 cases of dengue and 346 deaths in the whole of 2009 with a peak in the months of June and July. Cabinet has just approved a Special National Programme for the control of Dengue to be initiated in the 3rd week of August (16th-22nd). All three armed forces together with the police are being put on duty for this programme in order to eradicate as many breeding sites across the country as is possible.

CIVIL SOCIETY & MEDIA SPACE



The main stream print media presented some incisive commentaries on matters of contemporary relevance in July. The writers of these commentaries were eminent professionals who once held high office in their chosen fields.

“There are complexities in international relations about which a small and weak country such as Sri Lanka can do little or nothing. But we can certainly see to it that we don’t unnecessarily alienate other countries” wrote former envoy Izmeth Hussain in the Sunday Island (25th July) in an article captioned “Isolating Sri Lanka” “He was commenting on the on going controversy over the appointment by the UN SG of an advisory panel.

In another aside he suggests that Sri Lanka should have a program designed to provide Racism Awareness’ training. “We badly need it in Sri Lanka where people are not just unaware of racism, but also get in to a

state of murderous rage when its incidence is pointed out.” What prompted him to make the suggestion was a recent article on the GSP plus problem where it had been stated that “those who tried to teach us how to conduct ourselves may have come down from the trees in the not so distant past”

In her weekly column “Focus on Rights” in the Sunday Times of 25th July Ms. Jayawardene attempts to relate abstract principles to concrete reality in the field of administration of justice at a time it was headed by a personality for whom she has reserved some candid observations. Quoting the Guatemalan poet Otto Rene Castillo she writes that the attempt to justify the unjustifiable is “born in the shadow of the total lie”

The immediate catalyst for her anguish, despair and the savage indictment is the lecture delivered by Judge Michael Kirby Former President of

the International Commission of Jurists and former judge of the High Court of Australia on “Universal Principles of Judicial Integrity” at the invitation of the Weeramanthy International Centre for Peace Education and Research. It is hoped that this organization headed by the distinguished Jurist, Justice C.G. Weeramanthy will plan more such events. The two lectures by Justice Michael Kirby and Justice Weeramanthy received wide coverage in the English Media while apparently the subject did not arouse the interest of the Sinhala press. It is assumed that it may be due to the need to translate the two erudite presentations.

The Vice President of the Organization of Professional Associations and Attorney at Law Methsiri Cooray was writing in the Sunday Island on “Standard Sri Lanka English” and of the remarkable progress made by the Presidential Initiative headed by

Mr. Lalith Weeratunge Presidential Secretary whom he describes as an Erudite Educationist and IT visionary. It seems that the pragmatic approach taken by those who are steering the initiative has got it not only right but are moving it forward developing a strong new National Cadre of master trainers covering all nine provinces.

Roshan Maduranga Paranavithana a first year student of the Engineering Faculty of the Moratuwa University writing in the Rawaya of 18th July describes his 13 year odyssey to learn English Grade One to Grade Five in his Village School. Having passed the fifth standard Scholarship Test he then enters a National School in Matara and spends another seven years up to the point when he scores

high marks for Mathematics at A levels and gains admission to the University of Moratuwa. After thirteen years of learning English I still cannot participate in a meaningful conversation in English.

Obviously my intelligence quotient as indicated in my performance in Mathematics illustrates that I could learn another Language. So why is it that I cannot still speak or write well in English? He queries. With his analytical skills he explains why?.

Citing statistics from the department of Education he points out that the percentage of students who pass O level English in Colombo is 79.97% while in Homagama it is 49.36% , Walapane 12.24% while it again rises to 65.35% in Kandy. What he implies is that the Urban Schools perform better. What he does not comment on

is the quality of teachers in the Urban schools as opposed to rural schools.

It seems that Civil Society organizations are now in the process of identifying areas in which they could play a role constructively.

The Weeramanthry International Centre has dealt with the subject of Judicial Integrity. The Vice President of the OPA is concerned with the English Teaching Initiative. Dr. Gopalakumar Thampi who heads the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability and the Global Partnership Fund addressed a gathering of a broad cross section of representatives from Civil Society Organizations On the Right to Information. He suggested that the best means of taking forward such issues is through the collective will of civil society in a broad coalition.

HUMANITARIAN & DEVELOPMENT SPACE



Resettlement

After nearly twenty years, 1730 families displaced by war have been resettled in stages in the Divisional Secretariat areas of Tellipilai, Uduvil and Kopay. These lie in the 600-meter 'Buffer Zone', between the normal area and the High Security Zone opposite the main Military Base in Palaly.

The government is also continuing with its resettlement programme in the High Security Zones of the Jaffna district where 865 people belonging to 211 families have been resettled in the HSZ of the Chavakachcheri area. All resettled families have been provided with the usual dry rations for six months, kitchen utensils, agricul-

tural implements and resettlement allowances of Rs 25,000 each.

Meanwhile IDPs returning back to their homes in Eastern Sri Lanka are literally facing a big problem – elephants - which have taken a liking to the abandoned homesteads. For example in Mahaweve, a herd of three dozen elephants including at least four bulls are now regular visitors to the once abandoned homes.

Residents say they have never seen them enter their communities so regularly before. In June at least a dozen elephant attacks were reported in the Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts, many parts of which were deserted during the war. Steps to alleviate this problem must be taken with due con-

sideration to the dynamics of the human-elephant conflict.

War Widows

A catholic news agency reported that an increasing number of widows in the North of Sri Lanka are dealing with the stress of the aftermath of the country's civil war by taking painkillers.

About 20 Catholic priests from the Mannar and Jaffna dioceses have been assigned to the former war zones in the north, to set about returning thousands of resettled families to a stable, sustainable, integrated life. They have encountered loneliness and insecurity among the widows. Many see little or no chance of re-marrying as it carries a social stigma and there are few eligible males. These prob-

lems are especially felt by many with this approach. younger widows.

The Rehabilitation and Prisons Reforms Ministry also says that an urgent programme is needed to provide relief to war widows. The ministry had earlier called for applications from people of the Northern Province before meeting them in three separate groups to give assistance. Out of the 8,000 who had responded to this query about 98 per cent were young women.

Ex-Combatants

More than 11,000 LTTE members surrendered to the military or were arrested during the last phase of war. So far 3,038 ex combatants including child soldiers have been reunited with their families. Approximately 8,000 are still under rehabilitation, mainly at centres in Vavuniya and Batticaloa. Some 100 LTTE members who worked as drivers for the organization are now undergoing training to be recruited as drivers for the Northern Transport Board. Some ex combatants were trained in agricultural activities at government farms in the Batticaloa district. Out of the 1,100 women cadres, 650 have already been employed at two leading garment factories in Colombo. Also, 110 women cadres and 243 male cadres are now getting to ready to sit for the G.C. E. Advanced Level Examination scheduled for next month.

Meanwhile the Rehabilitation Commissioner General stated on July 26 that all former LTTE combatants could be rehabilitated and reintegrated into society despite their involvement in terrorist activities in the past. A concerted effort towards reconciliation must also go hand in hand

War affected Youth

The Higher Education Ministry is meanwhile set to launch a programme to look after the welfare of undergraduates who returned to the university from rehabilitation camps. Due to their long absence, these undergraduates have lost their Mahapola payments and the Ministry would coordinate with the relevant authorities to regain it for them.

There were 152 university students among those ex-LTTE cadres who were gathered in the government-run rehabilitation camps. All undergraduates were released to the Jaffna University after rehabilitation.

Children

According to the Socialist Youth Union, although there are more than 8000 children who have lost both parents in the Northern Province, the government does not possess accurate statistics of orphaned children in the North. As a result many children were stranded without proper care. However, the Northern Province Probation and Child Care Services Department statistics state that there are only 1309 children who have lost both parents. According to the statistics 388 of such children are now living in children's homes while the rest of them are living under the care of relatives

Meanwhile the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) stated that they will monitor all Children's Homes as they have observed that several Children Homes are not functioning up to the required standards.

In addition to this, the NCPA will

appoint volunteers to visit Children's Homes. These volunteers will visit Children Homes in their localities frequently and spend time with the children in these homes. Intellectuals, retired educationalists, retired Security Forces personnel or any other suitable person who can dedicate time for children are invited by the NCPA as volunteer visitors.

On July 23, The NCPA yesterday launched an island wide 24 hour hotline number - 1929 in an attempt to fight the growing rate of child abuse in the country. It was reported that within the first 24 hours itself a record number of complaints were received. While lauding the efforts of the NCPA this response to the establishment of the hotline highlights the need for similar hotlines to be established.

Prisoners

The Prisons Department will be subjected to radical reforms with immediate effect, Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms Minister stated on July 22. Prisons Department was established in 1844 making the department one of the oldest in Sri Lanka. However, no reforms have been carried out so far although reports have been presented by four separate commissions which had been appointed from time to time aiming at reforms to the Prisons Department.

The newest development is that a 12-member expert panel has been appointed. They will go through the four commission reports thoroughly, pay attention to the present situation of the prisons in the country and make their recommendations. It is reported that this panel, which handed

over an interim report in July, has identified several key issues to be attended to including easing congestion in prisons and upgrading welfare facilities. Currently prisons in Sri Lanka are 400% overcrowded.

General Security

Meanwhile, Tamils detained for months under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) have written to the Pope and the Catholic Bishops in Sri Lanka seeking their intervention for a Presidential pardon or to be released on bail. The letter claims that several

hundred prisoners remain behind bars at prisons around the island and among the prisoners are women with children, elders and youth.

Humanitarian Space

The fast unto death embarked on by a leading member of the Parliament once again fed the suspicion with which the ruling party and the general public views the expert panel appointed by the UN to study the Human Rights situation in Sri Lanka. One casualty of this event was the UNDP Regional Centre for the Asia

and Pacific, which decided to close down its operations in Sri Lanka.

The government is also planning to introduce special procedures for UN agencies travelling to the north in order to distinguish them from local and international NGOs. Discussions to this effect are expected to take place with the UN soon. Whether this is retaliation to the appointment of the expert panel or a routine security measure remains to be seen.

PROVINCIAL ANALYSIS 25/06/2010 TO 26/07/2010

NORTHERN

VAVUNIYA

Aiming to accelerate the process of rehabilitation of war victims, the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms conducted a three day mobile service in the North, in the districts of Killinochchi, Vavuniya & Jaffna, to ascertain and address the most pressing needs of those war victims who remain in rehabilitation centers such as the Punthottam Child Protection and Rehabilitation centre in Vavuniya, St. Theresa College in Kilinochchi and in the Jaffna Prison.

One of the main services provided was the issuance of official documents such as birth and marriage certificates and identity documentation,

MANNAR

Issues affecting the wellbeing of the resettled population as well as the remaining IDPs include a lack of infrastructure and transport, with a

which the IDPs lost as they fled the encroaching violence. With roughly 30,000 IDPs remaining in camps, including 340 A/L students – many of them ex-LTTE cadres, services such as these are vital in assisting them to prepare for their eventual release from these camps, and their reintegration into society. According to the Ministry, 3,000 former LTTE cadres have thus far been rehabilitated and reintegrated into society, while 8,000 former cadres, of which 1,300 have been identified as being extremely dedicated to the rebel cause, continue to be rehabilitated at the abovementioned camps.

common complaint being the exorbitant bus fares charged by private buses.

In addition, there is a need to fully revise the existing electoral database – which has not been amended for 15

The demining process has been accelerated, with the State providing 29 Flail machines and the services of 1050 trained army officers, as well as especially trained dogs. These personnel will supplement the 2013 strong demining team from six foreign agencies as well as a local NGO. A total area of 1,744 sq.km. has thus far been cleared in the North and East, at a total cost of Rs. 2.18 billion, according to figures released by the Economic Development Ministry.

On an encouraging note, the Omanthai railway station is due to be opened soon, creating a Northern railway line from Thandikulam to Omanthai.

years - to include the newly liberated areas, giving the voting population of the district an opportunity to make their voice heard. The public cannot however escape the more gripping realities of life, of which an ever-

present dilemma is the struggle to survive in the face of the high cost of living. In the face of any price control, the prices of essential items are extremely high.

Furthermore, while a large portion of the population depend on fishing as their main source of income, a majority of the fish is sent to the South by middlemen, with the Mannar fishermen losing out on much of the profit. There is also a dire need for more equipment, including fishing

boats and trawlers, for use by the over 8,000 fishing families in the district. If more boats and engines could be purchased With State assistance to purchase boats and engines, the monthly harvest of fish could greatly improve, according to the Fisheries Department.

Meanwhile, 4,839 hectars wetland in Vankalai has been proposed as the 4th RAMSAR wetland in Sri Lanka. The sanctuary is home to more than 20,000 water birds during the migra-

tory season including the Great Flamingo & Eurasian Widgeon, while the site's coastal and marine ecosystem is home to 60 species of fish.

With regard to resettlement, landmine clearance continues in the district, with the UNDP giving clearance for 51 villages in the district, which they have deemed to be free of landmines, and therefore ready for IDP resettlement.

JAFFNA

Following the spate of elections in the island, the population of Jaffna has settled down to the business of getting on with their day to day lives. The public is fully engaged in rebuilding and developing their homes and livelihoods, pursuing education and reviving their social lives. Their efforts are being assisted by the State as well as several NGOs, which are actively engaged in developing the district.

While unofficial figures indicate that prior to the end of the war around 550,000 people lived in the Jaffna peninsula, as several families who had earlier fled the area returned to the district, this number has now reportedly increased to around 600,000. Many of them consider the Vanni their home.

De-mining is continuing at an accel-

erated pace in order to facilitate rapid resettlement in the peninsula. Certain areas in the High Security Zone have also been cleared, and certificates issued for resettlement.

Certain NGOs, both national and international, have managed to obtain Presidential Task Force approval for their operations in the peninsula. As the Government began initial resettlement, many IDPs from the Vanni came to the Kayts area, where lands were available for temporary resettlement. But as the number of IDPs continued to increase, the available land proved insufficient, and many families moved back to Kayts. In addition, people who had registered for the Cash for Work programme were no longer in the area when they were required to report for work, which has caused disruption to planned development programmes.

The death of a hospital midwife on the premises of the Velanai hospital also caused a great deal of consternation, with hospital staff staging several protests, asking that a thorough investigation be carried out.

Trade between the North and the South is flourishing with the opening of the A9 road. The increased availability of goods and services has brought down market prices, which are now more in line with those around the rest of the island, while a decision to reduce fuel prices in the North is also bound to encourage trade between the district and the rest of the island. Cultural exchanges are also taking place, as many people from the South have begun to visit religious sites in the North. An increase in tourism has given a boost of confidence to the people of Jaffna, and the atmosphere is markedly relaxed.

EASTERN

AMPARA

A sizeable proportion of abandoned paddy lands have now been brought under cultivation by the

farmers of the district. However, the farmers remain concerned over Government inaction to purchase the paddy at a reasonable price, leaving

them at the mercy of middlemen who buy the paddy at a very low price. The farmers need assistance to build granaries where they can store the

harvested paddy, enabling them to sell the stored paddy over a longer period of time, thereby ensuring the maintenance of a steady price. The construction of a new Navy camp surrounding the Olivil Harbor has drawn strong protest from the Muslim community living in the surrounding villages. According to the Navy, the presence of the camp will provide protection for the communities in its environs from paramilitary activity and petty crime, while at the same time preventing smuggling and other unsavoury activity.

BATTICALOA

The Batticaloa' District Development Committee established by the Government under the initiative of Minister Basil Rajapaksa could be a step in the right direction, as far as unifying the various political parties and development organizations currently functioning in the district. The Committee holds meetings on a regular basis, and several activities initiated by the Committee have been sup-

ported by several political parties, including the TNA. Three Government Ministers and Deputy Ministers and several Local Government Authority officials and elect members attended the Committee's most recent monthly meeting, at which several current issues and solutions to these issues were reportedly constructively discussed. Unauthorized settlements on crown land continues to create tension

among the minority communities in the Eastern Province. Settlements in the Keviliya Madu village has been brought to the attention of the of the respective authorities, but apart from some inquiries, the residents of the claim little is being done to arrest the problem, while the settlement continues to gradually expand. The Government however has stated that this settlement is not an unauthorized one, and is instead, a resettlement.

TRINCOMALEE

The Security presence in Trincomalee is strong, with impromptu checks being carried out throughout the town and its suburbs. The docking of an American War Ship called at Trincomalee created some excitement, as some crew members visited a Children's Home in Trincomalee town and assisted in cleaning the surrounding areas, and also donated gift items to the children. Sports is also coming under the spotlight with several parties encouraging the development of sports in the district, in order to foster more camara-

derie among the communities as well as the Armed Forces. The latest event, a football tournament organized by the Trincomalee Football League and the Lions Club of Trincomalee generated a great deal of excitement, and was attended by several senior Government and police officials. Additional events such as a five-day industrial exhibition, an agricultural exhibition, and school athletic meets are serving to bring the district into the spotlight, while acting as a catalyst for socio-economic development and empowerment.

Progress has also been made in other areas. A court was recently opened in Kuchchiveli, while services such as drainage, irrigation, and road renovation are being focused on as well. Fishing disputes have however yet to be resolved. Recently, the Navy confiscated the nets of several fishermen who were engaged in banned activities. The Navy has also requested fishermen to obtain permission before they set off to sea. Tamil fishermen feel priority is being given to Sinhalese fishermen in the area, and the situation is creating some tension in the district.

WESTERN

COLOMBO

The Government has announced intentions to launch a project to upgrade basic infrastructure facilities in 100 selected urban low-income settle-

ments on lands owned by the National Housing Development Authority (NHDA) and Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) covering the city of Colombo and the Western Province.

The Cabinet has approved a proposal by Housing and Construction Minister Wimal Weerawansa, seeking funds for the project under the concept of 'Nagamu Purawara'. The pro-

ject targeted to be completed by year end will cost Rs 50 million. Simply put, the project aims to replace slums and dilapidated housing schemes with more suitable dwellings with proper sanitary and bathing facilities, waste and drainage facilities, and proper

access roads and drinking water.

Latest Central Bank statistics indicate that inflation rates have decreased for the fifth consecutive month, the latest decrease being from 4.8 percent in June to 4.3 percent in July. The

annual average inflation however increased marginally from 3.9 percent in June to 4.2 percent in July, while the Consumer's Price Index remained stable at 217.6 in July.

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It is intended to help with risk assessment, calibrate your response in conflict mitigation/transformation and identify the most effective means of responding to evolving conditions with the right attitude and resources. Read the RCA and your decision making process will be automatically conditioned to "do no harm" but certainly to "Do Good" or ("do Some good")

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Please mail us at peacepa1@cha.lk

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86, Rosmead Place, Colombo 7, Phone/Fax: 94-114 610943