

## MARINE SAFETY NEWS

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*One of the greatest victories you can gain over someone is to beat him at politeness.* - Josh Billings

## INFOTAINMENT DVD 46

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## Govt Promises Impartial Police Investigation

COLOMBO: A gun battle between rival Sri Lankan ruling party factions that killed four people during local polls was a "tragedy," the government said on Monday, promising an impartial police investigation.

Police said that they had detained a suspect and seized 12 pistols, two revolvers and two automatic assault rifles believed to have been used in Saturday's brief but intense shootout in the Colombo suburb of Kolonnawa.

Local media reported that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has taken over investigation and they will submit their report to President Mahinda Rajapakse.

CID has so far recorded 37 statements related with the incident.

Former legislator and presidential aide Bharatha Lakshman Premachandra was killed along with two of his bodyguards, while a fourth man died from his wounds on Monday.

"It is a tragedy," said government spokesman Dullas Alahapperuma. It was a clash between two groups within our own party. Police will conduct an impartial investigation," he said, while declining to apportion blame for the incident.

Police said Premachandra, 55, died of multiple

gunshot wounds while his arch-rival, legislator Duminda Silva, was still in intensive care after surgery to remove two bullets from his brain.

Security has been stepped up in Kolonnawa where Premachandra's funeral is scheduled for Wednesday, police officials said.

Police spokesman Maxi Proctor assured in an interview with Xinhua that security would be provided to ensure that there were no further incidents.

Police have not dissolved who started the attack but eye-witnesses said that it was Silva's supporters that had attacked first.

Despite the shootout the ruling party, United People's Freedom Alliance recorded a resounding win securing 21 out of 23 local government bodies at the election. But rights groups said the shooting underscored the link between violence and politics in the country.

Saturday's poll was seen as a mid-term test for Rajapakse, who won a second term for himself and his party in elections last year. Commenting on the ruling party's victory, Senior Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said that it was a further endorsement of Rajapaksa's leadership. (With inputs from AFP/Xinhua/PTI)

## Indian Foreign Secretary Visits Jaffna

JAFFNA: Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai has said that he had taken up the issue of fishermen with the Lankan government during his three-day visit. He was told that Lankan Navy was not involved in the attacks and that the Navy was under strict instructions not to attack Indian fishermen.

In Jaffna where he travelled yesterday, local officials made a presentation on how local fishermen were suffering due to alleged poaching by Indian fishermen in their waters.

Mathai told them that since the issue was one of livelihood there was no room for violence. Representatives of the fishermen of the two sides should meet for talks to thrash out the issues, he said. Mathai suggested deep sea fishing as means to prevent clashes between the fishermen of the two countries. (With inputs from PTI)

## Surge In Arrival Of Indian Tourists To Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: The arrival of Indians to Sri Lanka increased by 50 percent. In the first nine months of the year, the cumulative arrivals had increased by over 34 percent. Maldivian tourists (with 46.8 percent) were the next highest after Indian nationals visiting Sri Lanka, tourism authority said here on Monday.

Meanwhile, the tourism industry has been irked by the decision of the government to scrap the "on arrival" visa system applicable to 78 countries, including India, from next year in bid to streamline the issuance of the travel document.

The government has been complaining of foreign nationals abusing the on arrival visa policy. From January 2012, the visitors to Sri Lanka other than from Maldives and Singapore need to apply online for an electronic entry permit. The authorities believe the system would not deter tourists as it will be quick and hassle free. (PTI)

## Central Bank Keeps Monetary Policy, Repo Rates Unchanged

COLOMBO: Citing strong economic growth Central Bank has decided to leave its monetary policy and repo rates for October unchanged, the bank said in a statement on Tuesday. The Monetary Board at its monthly meeting decided to maintain the policy interest rates of the Central Bank at their current levels.

Accordingly, the bank's Repurchase rate remains at 7 percent while the Reverse Repurchase rate remains at 8.50 percent.

The Central Bank indicated that the economy and markets, especially money, are stable.

It said inflation continued to moderate with the year-on-year change in the Colombo Consumers' Price Index declining from 7 percent in August to 6.4 percent in September 2011.

Annual average inflation increased marginally from 7.1 percent in August to 7.2 percent in September.

As per provisional data, both earnings from exports and expenditure on imports grew further on a year-on-year basis in August 2011.

Increased remittances, higher earnings from tourism, as well as other inflows to the services account continue to cushion the impact of the trade deficit on the overall balance of the Balance of Payments.

Substantial amounts of foreign inflows on account of direct investments, equity investments and other inflows to the private sector are expected during the remainder of the year.

"The recent announcement of the discovery of natural gas deposits in the Mannar basin although further research is required to assess its commercial viability is likely to raise investor attention on Sri Lanka further," the bank said in the statement. (Xinhua)

## REGIONAL NEWS

### US Agrees To Help Fund Lanka's Social Reintegration

COLOMBO: The US government has agreed to provide a grant of USD 14.7 million to Sri Lanka for social reintegration and equitable economic growth, a statement said here on Monday.

On a proposal made by President Mahinda Rajapaksa in his capacity as the Minister of Finance and Planning, the Cabinet has approved signing two agreements with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the development arm of the US government.

The USAID has agreed to provide a grant assistance of USD 14.7 million through the USAID to Sri Lanka.

The main objectives of the above programs are to increase the private sector investment and enterprise development in lagging provinces and strengthen participatory governance at the local authority level.

## MARINE NEWS SUMMARY

### CONTAINER VESSELS: NEXT-GENERATION WILL BE LARGEST EVER

If the need is for greater efficiency for road and rail freight during an economic slowdown, standard operating procedures might be to downgrade to smaller and lighter means of overland transport. Shipping lines, however, have a different approach: they build bigger ships. The reason, they say, is better economies of scale, costing them less to send a string of three or four huge new ships across the oceans instead of a larger fleet of smaller vessels. These bigger and newer ships will also have more efficient engines and lower emissions, which also means lower fuel costs, as the company hopes an everlasting impression on its customers. One shipping giant is reportedly spending USD 1.9 billion on 10 new ships, each of which will carry 18,000 TEUs. The new Ultra Large Container Ships (ULCS) will be more than 1,312 feet long and more than 193 feet wide, and will outdo cargo capacity of the world's largest container vessel currently afloat, by 16%. The company's chief executive said that building ULCSs was not only a top priority for the firm but also for its customers, who are heavily dependent upon this in their supply chain. Five years ago, the world's largest container ship had a TEU capacity of 9,500. According to a Paris-based maritime research firm, the container carriers' answer to challenges of sustainable shipping and reduction of emissions is to build ever-larger ships, whose sizes have doubled over a decade.

In addition it will improve delivery of legal services and enhance the public engagement in the legal process.

Media Minister Keheliya Rmbukwella told the media outlining the cabinet approved program.

A project office will be set up under the Economic Development Ministry for co-ordination and implementation of activities related to the above program. A committee appointed with USAID representation will undertake the annual review of the progress of the program. (Xinhua)

### Army Playing A Major Role In Development: Jayasuriya

COLOMBO: Army Commander Lieutenant General Jagath Jayasuriya said that the Army is playing a major role in implementation of various development projects all over the country.

Jayasuriya, during his address to the troops attended the 62nd anniversary and Army Day Parade at the CR and FC grounds, said that the Army rendered an exemplary service in the resettlement drive after the end of the conflict with LTTE rebels.

He said, "Under the direction of Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Army personnel are engaged in a variety of assignments like resettlement, infrastructure building, field constructions, agricultural projects, engineering tasks across the country, while providing collective labour to various other governmental development efforts."

He added, "The time has come to speed up the country's development process and rebuilding of our nation."

### Victory In CMC Shows UNP's Unity: Muzammil

COLOMBO: The mayor-elect for the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC), A JM Muzammil has said that the UNP would honour its pledge to stand by the people. Muzammil said that the victory of the main opposition party in CMC election shows that UNP is united.

He said that every members of UNP worked together at the elections and the party would try to live-up to the trust shown by the people. He said that the people have cast their vote to UNP safeguard their houses and livelihood and the leaders of the party would ensure that all the members of CMC carry out their duty in serving the people.

### Govt Will Present A National Policy For Private Transport: Samarasinghe

COLOMBO: Private Transport Ministry Secretary Victor Samarasinghe has said that the government is to prepare and present a national policy for the private transport sector by the end of the year. Samarasinghe said that a committee appointed by Private Transport Minister C B Ratnayake is preparing the national policy.

The minister said that the national policy would cover all vehicles involved in private transport including the private buses, school vans and three wheelers. Samarasinghe has that the new policy would help to improve the country's private transport sector also address some of the issues faced by the sector.

### French Company Supplies Medical Equipment To Karapitiya Hospital

GALLE: The French company EUROFORMED supplied high tech medical equipment to the Teaching Hospital Karapitiya in Galle. Ambassador of France, Christine Robichon, attended the opening ceremony of the new operating theatres of the hospital.

The government of France offered a soft loan of EUR 9.5 million to upgrade the medical equipment of the public hospitals in Galle, Jaffna, Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura.

A loan received from the government of France has been used in the construction of a twin modular operating theatre and a cardiac catheterisation laboratory angiography system in Teaching Hospital Karapitiya in Galle.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Prominent Indians Warn Of Threats To Growth

NEW DELHI: Leading Indian businessmen, economists and judges have warned that the country's future prospects are threatened by "galloping corruption", a stagnant legal system and lack of reform.

In the latest sign of nervousness in India after years of rapid economic growth, the group of 14 influential figures wrote an open letter of complaint railing against the government's inability to tackle major problems.

The signatories, including the philanthropic founder of Wipro software giant Azim Premji, said that daily life in India was "vitiated by corruption in almost every sphere".

"Several antiquated laws require urgent overhaul to reflect contemporary realities. Land, judicial, electoral and police reforms are most urgently needed," they said.

India has enjoyed an economic revolution since 1991 reforms, but recent signs suggest slowing growth amid high inflation, falling foreign investment and the uncertain global outlook.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Congress-led coalition government has been caught up in a series of graft scandals, and the culture of corruption among officials triggered angry nationwide protests in August. (AFP)

### Afghanistan Opium Production Set To Rise 61%: UN

KABUL: Opium production in Afghanistan is set to rise by nearly two-thirds this year, with farmers' revenues from the crop set to soar compared to last year's disease-hit harvest, the UN said on Tuesday.

Afghanistan produces more than 90 percent of the world's illegal opiates from its mammoth crop that continues despite an internationally-funded eradication drive and funds much of the Taliban's insurgent activity.

The UN said that cultivation of the poppy crop reached 131,000 hectares in 2011, seven percent higher than in 2010 "due to insecurity and high prices", in its annual opium survey released by the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

And with the crop yield per hectare up markedly from last year's blight-hit harvest, overall production would potentially rise by 61 percent on last year, the report said.

The price of dry opium rose 43 percent this year compared to 2010 and total farm-gate income is set to increase by 133 percent to reach USD 1,407 million in 2011, the report added. "Buoyed by higher speculative prices arising from volatile security conditions, the farm-gate income of opium farmers rose markedly," it said. (AFP)

### Minor Blasts Ahead Of Bhutan Royal Wedding

THIMPHU: Two low-intensity bombs exploded on Monday in a border town of the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, injuring two people, just days before the country celebrates the wedding of its king, an official told AFP. The twin blasts in the town of Phuentsholing, on the border with India, occurred in the early evening.

One was near a cash machine and the other just the other side of the border gate, a government spokeswoman said.

"There were small blasts from two home-made bombs. There are two Indians with minor injuries," she said, asking not to be named, adding that investigations were ongoing and police were unable to suggest a motive.

In 2008, Bhutan was targeted in a string of minor explosions as it prepared to shift to democracy by holding its first national elections after a century of absolute monarchy.

Police at the time said they suspected one of three militant organisations based in Nepal - the Bhutan Tiger Force, the Bhutan Maoists Party and the Communist Party of Bhutan.

More than 100,000 ethnic Nepalese fled Bhutan for Nepal in the early 1990s, claiming ethnic and political persecution after Thimphu made national dress compulsory and banned the Nepalese language. (AFP)

### Myanmar To Free Thousands Of Prisoners

YANGON: Myanmar announced a mass prisoner amnesty on Tuesday, raising hope for the imminent release of hundreds of political detainees in what would be a major sign of change in the authoritarian state.

More than 6,300 prisoners will be pardoned from Wednesday "on humanitarian grounds", state television announced, without saying whether political prisoners would be among them.

The fate of the country's estimated 2,000 political detainees, who include pro-democracy campaigners, journalists, monks and lawyers, has long been a top demand of Western nations that have imposed sanctions on Myanmar.

The announcement came just hours after a government-appointed human rights panel called for a pardon for the country's "prisoners of conscience".

The National Human Rights Commission said freeing detainees "who do not pose a threat to the stability of state" would allow them to participate in "nation-building", according to an official English-language newspaper.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE

USD 1 = LKR 109.41

GBP 1 = LKR 168.90

EUR 1 = LKR 146.21

### PETROLEUM

Brent Spot: USD 108.090 per barrel

It noted that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and foreign governments were calling for "the release of what is referred to as 'prisoners of conscience,'" in a rare official acknowledgement of their existence. (AFP)

### Sarah Palin Visits South Korea, Takes Aim At Elites

SEOUL: Former Alaska governor Sarah Palin took aim on Tuesday at the political elite in the United States, Europe and China, as she brought her criticisms of big government and "crony capitalism" to South Korea.

Days after announcing she would not run for president in 2012, Palin said there "will be a woman president of the United States of America, and I look forward to that day", but did not elaborate on why she did not enter the race.

The 2008 vice-presidential candidate told supporters last week she could help the Republican cause more by working to elect others.

In a wide-ranging speech to a forum in Seoul, the conservative commentator accused China of seeking to use its military influence in regional disputes and said she looked forward to the ousting of North Korea's regime.

Palin cited the Arab Spring as proof that new information technology was playing an "enormous role" in spreading cries for freedom. "Technology means individuals have been empowered in ways they have never been empowered before in our entire history," she told the World Knowledge Forum hosted by Maeil Business Newspaper. (AFP)

### Putin Arrives In China After USD 7bln Deals

BEIJING: Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for talks with Chinese leaders, a day after his gas-rich nation signed deals worth over USD 7 billion with the world's top energy consumer.

Putin is due to meet his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao and President Hu Jintao on his two-day visit - his first abroad since he announced plans last month to reclaim the Russian presidency.

 WEATHER

Low-High: 26-30c Cloudy  
 Colombo: 26-30c Cloudy  
 Kandy: 19-29c Cloudy  
 Jaffna: 26-32c Partly Cloudy  
 Galle: 25-30c Cloudy

China's foreign ministry said Tuesday the two countries had already signed 16 economic and trade agreements worth more than USD 7 billion "in the fields of technology transfer, research and development and mineral development".

It gave no further details of the deals, which were signed at a summit on Monday, held ahead of Putin's visit.

Observers say the Russian prime minister may lay out his foreign policy priorities for years to come during the trip. Putin has paid frequent visits to China - where he is very well known - in his capacities as president and then prime minister since he took power in 1999. (AFP)

 SPORTS NEWS

## India Takes Control Of South Asian Beach Games In Hambantota

COLOMBO: At the end of the second day of the inaugural South Asian Beach Games held in Hambantota, India registered its control winning the most medals. India made its medal tally to eight while making it to the finals in two games, men's and women's basketball. Adding more medals India won gold and silver equestrian-lemnon and peg today, October 11.

India's Krishan Yadav won the gold while Jasvinder Singh Bhatt won the silver.

Sri Lanka's Sarath Kuar won the second bronze in the same event.

The highlight of the day was Bangladesh's first gold medal after defeating in a tight and tense final against Sri Lanka.

At one point Bangladesh walked out of arena over a decision by one of the referees who gave double red cards to their two best players.

The team and the manager complained as the decision was unfair and decided to withdraw its team.

The game was twice tight. At the end of the game both teams had scored 6 goals and at the end of the extra time it was tight again claiming for 3 more goals by both the teams. In the next extra time Bangladesh scored the first goal and won the gold. Sri Lanka received the silver and Nepal bronze in the football. (Xinhua)

## Ponting Happy To Drop Down Test Batting Order

SYDNEY: Former Australian Captain Ricky Ponting said that he is happy to drop down the Test batting order to accommodate Shaun Marsh at No 3. The 36-year-old, who has scored 12,487 runs in 154 Tests, has long come in to bat at first drop but slotted in as No 4 during the second Test against Sri Lanka last month in which Marsh scored 141 at No 3 on his debut.

Marsh followed it up with scores of 81 and 18 in the third Test when again batting at No 3. Test skipper Michael Clarke sees Marsh as a long-term fixture in the role and Ponting said he had no complaints.

"It was a long-term plan of Michael's to have Shaun move to No 3 and me move to No 4 and Michael (Clarke) move to five and (Mike) Hussey to six," Ponting told reporters.

"So that wasn't just ... a one-off for that game (in Sri Lanka). When I first came into the Australian side, batting at six was hard. Waiting that amount of time to bat for me was something that was very foreign to me," he added.

"But three to four I don't think is as big a change as three to six." Ponting is playing for Tasmania in their Sheffield Shield clash with Western Australia at the WACA Ground in Perth starting Tuesday, ahead of Australia's Test tour of South Africa next month. (AFP)

## Gayle Gap Haunts West Indies In Bangladesh Twenty20

DHAKA: The glaring absence of Chris Gayle stood out as the West Indies prepared to open their Bangladesh tour with a Twenty20 international in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The explosive left-hander was omitted for the tour, which also includes three one-dayers and two Tests, following a breakdown in his relationship with the West Indies Cricket Board following the World Cup earlier this year.

As his compatriots warmed up in Bangladesh, Gayle emerged as the second highest scorer in the Twenty20 Champions League in India with 257 runs in six matches for the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Gayle, 32, has played 91 Tests, 228 one-dayers and 20 Twenty20 matches for the West Indies and has two triple-centuries in Test cricket to his name. "Coach Ottis Gibson played down the absence of both the star batsman and leading all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, saying he was happy with the progress his young side was making. "Whenever Chris Gayle does come back, we will welcome him in the set-up," Gibson told reporters on Monday. "The team we have here is the one our selectors have given us." (AFP)

## Wisden To Launch Indian Edition

LONDON: Cricket bible Wisden is to launch a separate Indian edition, its publishers revealed on Monday.

Cricket in India is booming and Wisden India will focus on all areas of the Indian game from Test matches through to domestic cricket and has set itself the aim of becoming the independent voice of cricket in the home of the reigning world champions.

"The chance to marry Wisden's age-old strengths with the 21st century home of the game was too good to ignore," added Wisden editor Lawrence Booth.

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The first edition will launch in October 2012 with the pool of writers expected to include some of the great Indian players as well as respected journalists.

Founded in 1864, Wisden has been published every year since and is recognised around the world as the definitive record of the game. Bloomsbury sells about 40,000 editions of Wisden each year, but the potential in the Indian sub-continent is 50 times that, said director Richard Charkin. (AFP)

## Match-Fixing Claims 'Baseless': Cricket Australia

SYDNEY: Cricket Australia chief James Sutherland on Tuesday said allegations made in a London court implicating Australian players in match-fixing were baseless claims made by a person of "dubious repute".

The details emerged as Mazher Mahmood, the former investigations editor for Rupert Murdoch's now-defunct News of the World, gave evidence at the trial of ex-Pakistan cricket Captain Salman Butt and fast bowler Mohammad Asif.

In recordings played to Southwark Crown Court, an agent, Mazhar Majeed, alleged that Australians, as well as some of the biggest names in Pakistani cricket, were prepared to fix parts of matches. Sutherland said he had serious doubts over Majeed's integrity.

"These comments or allegations would appear to be outlandish and were made by a person of dubious repute," he said at a press conference.

"These would appear to be baseless allegations." During the trial, a video secretly filmed in a car was played showing the agent and Mahmood - posing as an Indian frontman for a gambling syndicate - meeting during the first day of Pakistan's Test against England on August 18 last year. (AFP)