

## Local News

- **Sampur Coal Power Plant Approved by Attorney General:** The Attorney General's Department had given the legal clearance to go ahead with the much delayed proposed 500MW coal fired power plant at Sampur, Trincomalee, a senior Power and Energy Ministry official said.
  - **Power and Energy Ministry Secretary M. M. C. Ferdinando says Ranawaka suffering from Amnesia**  
[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=83266](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=83266)
  - **Champika Ranawaka on Power Project – a Response:** Apropos our front-page news item headlined Ranawaka picks holes in Sampur agreement published on June 23, Daya Perera, private secretary to the minister of technology and research has sent us the following statement...  
[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=83210](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=83210)
- **Cattle Wreak Havoc on National Parks:** Some 30,000 cattle enter the Lunugamvehara National park, while 15,000 enter the Maduru Oya National park and over 15,000 enter the Udawalawe National park on a daily basis.  
[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=82921](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=82921)
  - **Cattle in National Parks:** The government was not in a position to make a decision on cattle grazing in national parks until the Forest Department provided alternative lands; otherwise those animals would end up in beef stalls, Wildlife Resources Conservation Minister Wijithamuni de Zoysa said yesterday.  
[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=83803](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=83803)
- **Sri Lanka Swimming in Gas and Oil:** [http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=83110)
  - **Sri Lanka Expects to Award New Exploration Licenses** for 13 blocks in the Cauvery and Mannar Basins off its northwest coast within the first quarter of 2014 after extending a bidding deadline, a top government official said on Thursday.  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/11/srilanka-exploration-idUSL4N0FH3HS20130711>
- **Climate Change has Invariably Taken its Toll on the Country's Coconut Cultivation** considerably and thus, the growers are calling for drought and temperature resistant coconut plants as an urgent need.  
<http://www.dailymirror.lk/business/features/32106-drought-resistant-coconut-trees-an-urgent-need-coconut-growers-.html>
- **The Goods Market at Waters Edge:** There are many knowledgeable consumers in Sri Lanka who don't want their foods filled with pesticides or preservatives. Increasingly they are looking for healthy, natural foods and household products. They also want to "buy locally" and support rural communities. This is where The Good Market, a place for ethical producers and ethical consumers to team up, comes in.  
<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130707/business-times/good-market-all-things-good-at-the-waters-edge-51121.html>

- **The Sweet Things About Bitter Gourd:** Renowned for its health benefits, but not so for its taste, bitter gourd can be taken in capsule form as can gotukola, karapincha and other herbs thanks to the efforts of a pioneering microbiologist Dr. Suranjan de Silva.  
<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130707/plus/sweet-success-of-bitter-veggie-51670.html>
- **PC Protests Move to Fell Trees to Pay State Employees:** President's Counsel Wijayadasa Rajapaksa yesterday complained to the Human Rights Commission against State Resources and State Enterprises Development Minister Dayashritha Tissera and Renewable Energy and Environment Minister Susil Premajayantha over the move to fell 67,132 trees.  
[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=83375](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=83375)
  - **HRC to Investigate Plan to Fell Trees:** The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) has undertaken an immediate investigation into a government move to fell 67,132 trees on state-owned plantations in the hill country, HRCSL Commissioner Dr. Prathiba Mahanamahewa says.  
[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=83600](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=83600)
- **Sri Lanka's Bio-Mass Energy Should be Tapped:** Sri Lanka should tap 1,000 MW from biomass to meet the country's electricity demand and that will benefit the rural community to the tune of Rs. 25 billion, says a world renowned energy expert.  
[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=83430](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=83430)
- **Min.Patali Champika Ranawaka Addresses the August International Ministerial Forum on the Subject Of 'Nuclear Power in the 21st Century'**, representing the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, St Petersburg. –  
<http://www.nation.lk/edition/news-features/item/19075-nuclear-power-critically-important-option.html#sthash.J3Bq68lp.dpuf>
- **Toxic Rice in Sri Lanka:** A recent study by an international group of scientists has included among its most startling disclosures that rice samples from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh contained the dreaded toxic metal, cadmium. The 12-nation study yielded that Sri Lanka only came second to Bangladesh in the level of toxicity.  
<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/59-37637-news-detail-toxic-rice.html>
- **Elephant Killed by Speeding Bus:** A speeding private bus proceeding to Colombo from Polonnaruwa knocked down and killed an elephant, which was crossing the road near the 33rd mile post at Minneriya on Monday night. [http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=83760](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=83760)

## International News

- **In the Age of Climate Change, Australia's Vast Coal Fields Could Become Worthless.**  
<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0702-gen-coal-australia.html#pmSUQsu0EgJ04eAG.99>
- **Bangladesh Gears up for Climate Change Effects:** A country of 150 million people who depend on rice as their main staple, is gearing up for drought. Already huge areas of the rice-producing regions are on a knife's edge, as elusive rains and hotter temperatures team up on thirsty paddy fields and threaten to disrupt food supply.  
<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/07/fighting-drought-one-pond-at-a-time/>



- **The United States Military Going Green?** An organisation that consumes 90 percent of the country's federal oil allowance, is trying to become a greener institution. <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/07/u-s-navys-green-fleet-sparks-praise-and-cynicism/>
- **Chinese Lose 2.5 Billion Years Of Life Expectancy Due To Coal Burning:** <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0708-coal-life-expectancy.html#zTFz5lAMzJAgMcFD.99>
- **Warmer Ocean Temperatures Will Increase The Frequency and Intensity of Tropical Cyclones, Typhoons And Hurricanes in "Most Locations" This Century,** concludes a new study based on simulations using six global climate models. <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0708-cyclones-and-climate-change.html#zsq6j7x1Xf6kwD.99>
- **Could Renewable Energy Stop the Lights from Going out in the UK:** Rising fuel bills and security of energy supply are on the management agenda as never before. The recent media coverage about the very real risk of UK lights going out in 2016 brings an added urgency. At worst, manufacturing industry has less than three years to take more control by finding new ways of stabilising energy costs and securing supplies that don't rely on the grid. <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/07/could-renewable-energy-stop-uk-lights-from-going-out?cmpid=WNL-Friday-July19-2013>
- **Plan to Preserve the Worlds "Last Ocean"** killed by Russia? As the most pristine marine ecosystem on the planet, Antarctica's Ross Sea has become dubbed the world's "last ocean." <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/07/could-renewable-energy-stop-uk-lights-from-going-out?cmpid=WNL-Friday-July19-2013>
- **British Prime Minister Opens World's Largest Offshore Wind Farm:** London Array, the world's largest offshore wind farm is located off England in the outer Thames Estuary, 20 km from the coasts of Kent and Essex. Powered by 175 Siemens turbines, the wind farm has a capacity of 630 MW – enough to power nearly half a million homes. <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/07/could-renewable-energy-stop-uk-lights-from-going-out?cmpid=WNL-Friday-July19-2013>
- **Wind Energy in Brazil: The Country of the Future?** At the end of 2012, Brazil had 2.5 GW of installed wind capacity, enough to power four million households, accounting for 2 percent of national electricity consumption. <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/blog/post/2013/07/wind-energy-in-brazil-the-country-of-the-future?cmpid=WindNL-Thursday-July11-2013>

## **ACT!!!**

- Recycle your e-waste – drop it off at any Dialog Arcade <http://www.dialog.lk/support/mobile/coverage-service-points/store-locator/>
- Report large scale environmental damage – Tell FEO <http://www.feosl.org/tell-feo/>
- Support with a local environmental organization
- Share this newsletter. Email [contact@feosl.org](mailto:contact@feosl.org) to subscribe



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