

Local News

- **Yala National Park Closed for One Month:** Yala will be closed to the public between Sept. 1st and 30th. The annual closure was taking place this year after a lapse of two years, according to Wildlife Conservation Department officials.
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=84827
- **Ancient Reservoirs Can Boost Irrigation Needs:** Experts at the Colombo-based International Water Management Institute say one way to ease fluctuating rice harvests (due to increasingly erratic monsoon seasons) is to use thousands of ancient small irrigation reservoirs spread out in the Northern, North Central, Eastern, North Western and Southern provinces.
<http://www.irinnews.org/report/98503/could-sri-lanka-get-irrigation-boost-from-ancient-reservoirs>
- **Zoo Runs out of Space for Anaconda Babies:** The National Zoological Gardens, in Dehiwela, is unable to exhibit all 30 newly born Green anacondas due to lack of space in the exhibit enclosures and also due to ongoing repair work.
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=84759
- **Minister's Decision on Transferring Baby Elephants Criticized:** Environmentalists yesterday criticized the Wildlife and Agrarian Services Minister's recent decision to transfer elephant calves from the Ritigala Elephant Transit Home to the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage. They claimed that the decision was taken to allow high level government politicians to take away those calves for their use.
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=84675
- **National Poison Information Center Warns Against Formalin in Fruits and Fish:** Consumers were yesterday warned to be careful when purchasing fruit and fish as unscrupulous traders were using formalin to preserve them.
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=84676
- **Agro-Chemicals – The Silent Killer in Sri Lanka:** Over 10,000 serious patients are registered in government- owned hospitals. According to a WHO survey some 15 percent of the population living in the North Central Province (total population 1.3 million in 2012) is suffering from CKDu. More dangerously, it is now spreading to other areas like the North, Eastern, North-West and Uva provinces.
<http://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/172-opinion/33018-agro-chemicals--the-silent-killer-in-sri-lanka.html>
- **Illegal Ivory Tracking:** The International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC), at the Request of Sri Lanka, Deployed its First Wildlife Incident Support Teams (WIST) to the Country with the Aim of Collecting DNA samples from the 359 Tusks that were confiscated by Sri Lanka Customs.
http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130725_icwc_wist_Srilanka.php



- **Sri Lanka's Garbage Problem:** Fifty per cent of the 6500 Metric Tons of Garbage we Produce everyday is Biodegradable. Local governments Should have a Composting Facility to Reduce Garbage according to the Secretary of Local Government and Provincial Councils
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=84436
- **CEA Partners with IWMI to turn Organic Waste into High Quality Fertilizer:** At the request of the Central Environmental Authority (CEA), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) signed an agreement to collaborate towards Resource Recovery and Reuse in Sri Lanka.
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=84319
- **Panagoda Army Cantonement Leads the Way in Turning Solid Waste into an Asset:**
<http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2013/07/21/fea06.asp>
- **Four Imported Milk Powder Brands Found to have Toxic Substances**
<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/27-38695-news-detail-toxic-substance-in-milk-powder.html>
- **Sri Lanka to Reduce Emissions by 20% by 2020:** New Green Power Initiatives Could Reduce Sri Lanka's Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Almost 20 percent by 2020
<http://www.dailymirror.lk/business/economy/32920-sl-could-reduce-emissions-by-20-by-2020-minister-.html>
- **Mangrove Area Near Kalpitiya Lagoon Being Destroyed and No Action:** Despite mangroves being part of a vital coastal ecosystem protecting the shoreline from erosion, residents complain that heavy equipment has been used to completely destroy a lush green 24-acre mangrove at Puliyanakudah, Kaka Adiya on the Mohoththuwarama Island in Kalpitiya near Puttalam.
<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130721/news/environmental-degradation-53740.html>
- **Hayleys Dipped Products Implicated in Ground Water Contamination in Gampaha – Mervyn to the Rescue:** Public Relations Minister Mervyn Silva yesterday allegedly took the industrial law into his own hands when he walked into Hayleys Group's Venigros Ltd. in the Gampaha District and ordered its closure, endangering 600 jobs and key supplies for exports, to the cheers of residents accusing the factory of a major pollution scandal.
<http://www.ft.lk/2013/07/31/maverick-mervyn-shuts-down-hayleys-group-export-factory-with-600-workers/>
- **As Extreme Weather Hits Food Harvests, Food Buffers Could Help:** In 2012 the overall rice harvest fell by 6 to 10 percent because of losses suffered in the middle of the year due to drought and, later on, floods. This year the overall harvest is predicted to be good, thanks to the availability of water and the favourable weather.
<http://www.trust.org/item/20130724100422-sv5zd>
- **Release of Elephant Country Report Delayed:** The launch of the reprint of the report on the first countrywide survey on elephants, conducted in 2011, will be further delayed, according to senior officials of the Department of Wildlife Conservation.
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=84160



- **Agriculture Ministry Wants to End Dependence on Imported Seeds:** Sri Lanka's weak vegetable, fruit and pulse breeding industry had left the country with no choice but to spend vast sums of money on importing seeds and breeding stock, which would impair the future growth of the country's entire agricultural sector, according to Agriculture Ministry Secretary W.A Sakalasooriya.
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=84145
- **Sri Lanka Goes for Alternative Energy:** The necessity for alternative power generation has been felt with the increasing demand for electricity in the country. Several alternative power generation projects have been implemented including coal and wind power plants to cater to the increasing demand.
<http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2013/07/21/fea03.asp>

International News

- **Peru to give Solar Power to Masses:** Peru may be best known for Machu Picchu and other Incan and Aztec treasures, but the nation is looking to its future with new plans to use solar to provide electricity for about 2 million of its poorest residents by the end of 2016.
<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/blog/post/2013/07/peru-pursues-solar-for-the-masses?cmpid=SolarNL-Thursday-August1-2013>
- **Fires Burning in Sumatra Again:** Deforested areas and degraded peatlands are again burning on the island of Sumatra, triggering haze alerts in nearby Malaysia, despite last week's commitment by regional authorities to address the ongoing fire problem in Indonesia
<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0723-riau-fires.html?n3ws1ttr#8HzffWifCf5Pj1Ki.99>
- **Japanese Homeowners Help in Fight for Energy Independence:** homebuilders promote "smart homes" to differentiate their products and appeal to new homebuyers who are conscious about saving energy amidst rising electricity costs.
<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/07/new-solar-homes-japanese-homebuilders-helping-the-fight-for-energy-independence?cmpid=SolarNL-Tuesday-July30-2013>
- **Oil Palm Genome Mapped, Could Boost Yields, Reduce Pressure on Rainforests:** A team of Malaysian and American researchers have mapped the genome of the oil palm, the oilseed that is widely used as a cooking oil and in cosmetics, cleaning products, and processed foods. <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0724-palm-oil-gene-mapped.html#LoOhVKDWpqmxMlxe.99>

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<http://www.dialog.lk/support/mobile/coverage-service-points/store-locator/>
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