

Local News

- **Agreement to Allow Chinese Company to Trawl in Sri Lankan Waters:** The Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Development Rajitha Senarathne has signed an agreement that gives the right to a Chinese company to fish in Sri Lankan waters using large trawlers reveals a very reliable source.
http://www.lankatruth.com/home/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5515:sri-lankas-sea-to-china&catid=42:smartphones&Itemid=74
- **Sri Lanka's Depleting Fish Catch:** Clearly there is marine stock depletion, says a top official from the National Aquatic Research and Development Agency (NARA). "The seas have changed and there are changes that are currently affecting fish stock. The sea levels are slowly rising due to global warming. This is a common experience of coastal nations," the NARA official said.
<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-40299-news-detail-the-long-wait-for-a-good-catch.html>
- **Indian Fisherman Want Open Seas Policy:** Indian fishermen have now proposed 'open seas' as a solution to the conflict between Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen.
<http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2013/08/18/indians-propose-open-seas/>
- **Unaddressed Environmental Issues:** A variety of environmental issues have hit Sri Lanka in recent weeks, raising the question as to why these matters come to light in the aftermath of various crises instead of being dealt with before the disasters occurred.
<http://www.nation.lk/edition/columns/this-is-my-nation/item/20214-effluent-damage-concerns-on-the-rise.html>
- **Environmentalists to Create Awareness:** Several environmental groups and activists, have come together to create awareness about factories across the island that are causing pollution.
<http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2013/08/18/environmentalists-to-create-awareness>
- **Environment Ministry Seeks Help to Eliminate Ozone Depleting Substances:** The Environment Ministry required the support of Government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to eliminate ozone depleting substances (ODS) in the atmosphere, Environment and Renewable Energy Minister Susil Premajayantha said.
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=86172
- **High Acidity in Weliveriya Water:** The Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) said yesterday the tests carried out on samples of allegedly contaminated water taken from several villages near Weliveriya revealed the presence of high levels of acidity in the water.
<http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/33720-high-acidity-in-weliveriya-water-iti.html>
- **Sustainability of Weliveriya:** This week economists, trade groups and environmentalists spoke out on the importance of sustainable practice, and the extent to which the fallout from the Weliveriya incident has impacted business.
<http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2013/08/18/sustainability-after-weliveriya/>
- **Kidney Disease Spreads:** Government to Ban Agro-Chemical Ads: Fresh on the heels of the continuing milk food crisis and questions over the advertising of milk products, the Government wants to impose a ban on advertising pesticides and agro chemicals causing the mounting Chronic Kidney Disease in Sri Lanka and establish a statutory Technological Council to promote environmentally friendly agriculture.
<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130818/news/kidney-disease-spreads-govt-to-ban-ads-on-agro-chemicals-58562.html>



- **Save the Farmers:** the excessive use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and weedicides is known to have caused major disasters in Sri Lanka's farmer community and put millions of them into the mud hole of poverty. <http://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/172-opinion/34022-editorial-save-the-farmers.html>
- **Protected Fauna Seized:** The Department of Wildlife Conservations' (DWC) Special Investigation Unit in the Western Province, had seized 17 star tortoises, four demon geckos, eight turtle eggs and an incubator, from a house in the Nivasieपुरa Housing Scheme, Ja-Ela. <http://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-39962-news-detail-protected-fauna-seized.html>
- **Wildlife Minister Takes Firm Action on Loss of Elephant Registry:** The service of an assistant director in the legal division of the wildlife conservation ministry, along with the services of 2 other deputy directors, have been suspended due to the loss of the registration book which contained data of tamed elephants. <http://www.srilankamirror.lk/news/9760-wildlife-directors-who-misplaced-the-elephant-book-sent-home>
 - **Registry Found:** A registration book on all the tame elephants in the country, in the possession of the Wildlife Department, that had allegedly gone missing, has re-surfaced, sources said. <http://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-40194-news-detail-missing-elephant-register-re-surfaces.html>
 - **Wildlife Ministry Officers Locked Out:** Wildlife Conservation Department officials are puzzled over the delay in reopening its most important branch, Law and Enforcement Division, which was sealed following the loss of a register on tamed elephants last week. http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=86173
- **Margarine May Cause Serious Health Issues:** Speaking to The Nation, Dr. Sudath Damsinghe of Sri Jayawardenapura Hospital said it is advisable for consumers to avoid using Margarine as it would result in multiple health issues in the short run as well as in the long run. <http://www.nation.lk/edition/latest-top-stories/item/20240-margarine-joins-the-club.html>
- **Mounting Garbage Problem as Pilgrims Flock to Sacred Cities:** In the wake of the ongoing annual Kataragama Esela Festival, environmentalists and officials have called upon pilgrims to be mindful of not polluting the sacred city with garbage. <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130811/news/mounting-garbage-a-problem-as-pilgrims-flock-to-sacred-cities-57322.html>
- **Enforcement of National Park Rules:** Incident of firing of an automatic rifle in Yala National Park by a member of the armed forces <http://www.feosl.org/>
- **Yala's Gemunu in Firearm Incident:** The Minister told the news station that the tusker was very friendly with visitors and on this occasion a group had come from behind and fired three shots into the air. The third shot struck the elephant and the animal fled into the jungle. <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/latest/36652-tusker-gamunu-fired-at-in-yala-park.html>
 - **Who Fired at Gemunu?** <http://dbsjeyaraj.com/dbsj/archives/24520>
- **Ancient Kings Help Fight Climate Change:** Thousands of such centuries-old reservoirs are spread through Sri Lanka's dry but agro-rich areas mainly in the Northern, North Central, North Western, Eastern and Southern provinces. Now researchers say they can be an effective tool against fluctuating rain patterns caused by climate change. <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/08/ancient-kings-fight-climate-change/>



International News

- **How to Manage the Arctic ‘Race to Riches’:** the Arctic supplies 40 per cent of the world’s palladium, 20 per cent of diamonds, 15 per cent of platinum, 11 per cent of cobalt, 10 per cent of nickel, 9 per cent of tungsten and 8 per cent of zinc.
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=86236
- **Climate Change Lessons in Mauritius:** Tourism, agriculture, fishing, the water supply – climate change threatens the very foundations of society and the economy in Mauritius. As the Indian Ocean island nation develops its adaptation strategies, it is working to ground the next generation of citizens firmly in principles of sustainable development.
<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/07/climate-change-teaches-some-lessons/>
- **Legislation to Ban to Bee Killing Pesticides in US:** Two Congressional Democrats have co-sponsored new legislation called the Save America’s Pollinators Act of 2013 to take emergency action to save the remaining bees in the U.S., and in turn, the U.S. food supply.
<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/07/bill-seeks-to-halt-bee-killing-pesticides-in-u-s/>
- **Kellogg Company Involved in Destructive Palm Oil Sourcing:** Kellogg Co. CEO John Bryant was challenged by a shareholder group over the food giant's palm oil sourcing policy during the company's conference call yesterday, reports Bloomberg.
<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0802-kellogg-palm-oil.html#exBtqKAUUERGVLWt.99>

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
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