

Local News

1. **Carbide in Fruits and the Slow Poisoning of Our People:** Nutritionists say that Sri Lanka being a paradise isle has enough local food items to provide all the nutrition we need. This was the case for thousands of years but in recent decades transnational chemical companies are known to use unethical promotional methods and give other facilities for the farmers to buy and use more chemical fertilisers, pesticides and weedicides. As a result most of the rice, vegetables and other food items like gram or green gram are known to be polluted with chemicals.
<http://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/172-opinion/35300-carbide-in-fruits-and-slow-food-poisoning-of-our-people-editorial.html>
 - a. **Arsenic in Rice, Experts Worry:** The topic of heavy metal contamination in rice was hotly debated at the recently concluded Annual Symposium of Department of Agriculture held this weekend in Paradeniya. "There was an entire workshop dedicated to this topic which was attended by many members from various institutes and universities. We are confident of our research into the matter, but are unsure if our laboratories conform to the ISO standards and would reveal the accurate findings." <http://www.nation.lk/edition/news-online/item/20764-arsenic-in-rice-experts-worry.html>
 - b. **Department of Agriculture Commissions Tests on Rice:** "The Department is concerned about the purported levels of heavy metal contamination which was unearthed recently," he said referring to a report where Sri Lanka was ranked second after Bangladesh, for having the highest levels of the toxic heavy metal Cadmium in rice, in a study of 12 countries across the world.
<http://www.nation.lk/edition/news-features/item/20728-inorganic-arsenic-in-rice-dept-of-agriculture-commissions-tests.html>
2. **Elephant Registration Fees and Grace Period:** Those having unregistered elephants should pay one million rupees each and register them. Anyone can have an elephant provided that person could afford to maintain the animal.
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=87273
 - a. **Environmental Groups Speak Out About Illegal Elephant Registrations:** The Coalition of Environmental groups yesterday condemned a recent amnesty announced by Wildlife Resources and Conservation Management Minister Wijithamuni de Zoysa to facilitate the registration of the illegally kept elephants.
http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=87853
 - b. **Nearly 40 Elephants Kept Illegally:** Environmentalists expressed their deep concern over the proposed amnesty period of the Wildlife Conservation Ministry to register wild elephants kept illegally by various individuals, groups or institutions. It is reported nearly 40 elephants stolen from the wilds are being kept illegally by various parties: www.dailynews.lk/?q=policy-legal/nearly-40-elephants-kept-illegally-owners
 - c. **Environmentalists up in Arms Regarding Elephant Amnesty:** Environmentalists have warned that the amnesty period for those who rear elephants illegally to register them, will have far-reaching consequences as it will promote elephant poaching.
<http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2013/09/08/new04.asp>

3. **Minister of Wildlife Requests Secretary of Defense to Act to Control Illicit Mining in National Parks:** Officials say that Kiri Oya in the Wasgamuwa National Park, Nilgala area, in the Gal Oya National Park and a place in the Angammedilla National Park, had become havens for illegal gem miners. http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=87194
4. **Rape of the Giants:** Do you remember what a large tree looked like? Once they were all around us, not just the forest giants like the Hora or Palu, but the fine old Mango and Jak trees that would have taken at least four or five men to girdle. <http://groundviews.org/2013/09/02/rape-of-the-giants/>
5. **CEB Blocks Clean Energy Generation Plans:** The Island learns that the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) has sent a confidential letter signed by its General Manager F. K. Mohideen to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Sri Lanka (SEASL) ordering the immediate suspension of all upcoming renewable energy projects. http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=87722
6. **Human Elephant Conflict (HEC):** Cohabitation with wild elephants is a daily fact of life and an occupational hazard for villagers whose only security is their wits. <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130908/news/round-the-clock-vigil-of-life-on-the-edge-61416.html>
7. **Troops Educated on Wildlife Protection:** Troops deployed in the close vicinity of forest reserves and wildlife sanctuaries in the South were educated on the protection of wildlife and the conservation of forests reserves, the Army said. <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/35186-troops-educated-on-wildlife-protection.html>
8. **New Entrance to Wilpattu Re-Opened After 3 Years:** Wildlife Resources Conservation Minister Vijith Vijithamuni Zoysa yesterday ordered Wildlife Department officials to keep the new entrance to the Wilpattu National Park open from today. http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=87845
9. **BBC and Cinnamon Nature Trails Promote Tourism:** The BBC Natural History Unit (NHU), the department of the BBC which produces television, radio and online content with a natural history or wildlife theme is currently in Sri Lanka to film the country's national parks and archaeological sites for one of its highly regarded nature documentaries, 'Monsoon'. <http://www.ft.lk/2013/09/06/cinnamon-nature-trials-and-bbc-promote-wildlife-tourism-of-sri-lanka/>
10. **Allocation of Protected Areas to Private Companies to be Probed:** The Wildlife Resources and Conservation Management Ministry will soon launch an investigation into how acres of forest land were being given to two private companies. The Minister in charge of the subject, Wijith Wijithamuni de Zoysa told The Island yesterday that he had ordered the probe into how acres of forest land had been allocated to Dole Lanka (Pvt.) and Nelna Agri Development (Pvt.) Ltd. http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=87383



International News

- 1. Just Say No to Combustion in Buildings, And Say Yes to Geothermal Heat Pumps:** State governments must enact policies for energy efficiency and greater renewable energy production. And we believe that state and local governments must seriously consider innovative ways to harvest the “low-hanging fruit” of energy efficiency that can be gained by reducing the heating and hot water needs of buildings across America.
<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/09/just-say-no-to-combustion-in-buildings-and-say-yes-to-geothermal-heat-pumps?cmpid=WNL-Wednesday-September11-2013>
- 2. Japanese firms buying illegal timber from Malaysia’s endangered rainforests:** Japanese companies are failing to keep illegally logged timber from entering their supply chains, international human rights and environmental watchdog Global Witness said.
<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0910-dparker-sarawak-malaysia.html>
- 1. Large-scale opposition among Borneo villagers to deforestation:** Nearly two-thirds of villagers surveyed across rainforests in Indonesian and Malaysian Borneo are against large-scale deforestation due to the adverse impacts on livelihoods and the environment, finds a comprehensive new study across 185 communities.
<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0910-borneo-deforestation-opposition.html#ocwyKFZds0p1ug6S.99>
- 2. Indonesian villagers sue president over climate change:** Indonesian villagers have sued the country’s president and a number of other high-level government officials over the impacts of climate change and environmental destruction in their province, reports Mongabay-Indonesia.
<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0911-dparker-villagers-sue-indonesian-president.html#0CdCOHw8AKDpYjl4.99>
- 3. Scientists outline how to save nearly 70 percent of the world's plant species:** In 2010 the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) pledged to set aside 17 percent of the world's land as protected areas in addition to protecting 60 percent of the world's plant species—through the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)—by 2020. Now a new study in *Science* finds that the world can achieve both ambitious goals at the same time—if only we protect the right places.
<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0905-hance-plant-endemics-cbd.html#4uPBf9HBoE7xZWZQ.99>
- 4. New Initiative Aims to Integrate Agriculture and Conservation:** It took Brazil four decades to overcome food insecurity and earn a place as a major global food supplier. Now its experiences will contribute to the evidence base for a new initiative that seeks to reconcile agriculture and the conservation of biological diversity.
<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/08/new-initiative-aims-to-integrate-agriculture-and-conservation/>
- 5. Renewables-based Desalination: A Solution to MENA's Water Crisis** Water scarcity is now this century's imminent greatest problem, a clear and present danger. This is no surprise considering 85 percent of the world’s population lives in the driest half of the planet. The United Nations estimates that, already, 6 to 8 million people die annually from the consequences of disasters and water-related diseases, with a child dying from a water-related illness every 21 seconds.
<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/09/renewables-based-desalination-a-solution-to-menas-water-crisis?cmpid=WNL-Wednesday-September4-2013>



6. **US Army Ramps up Renewable Recruitment Drive:** The U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force each intend to install 1 gigawatt (GW) of renewable power capacity through 2025 as they strive to reach the 25 percent-by-2025 federal government renewable energy target required by law. Public-private partnerships are seen as playing a central, pivotal role in reaching this goal, and that could spell significant opportunity for private sector businesses across the renewable energy value chain. <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/08/staring-down-sequestration-us-army-ramps-up-renewables-recruiting-drive?cmpid=SolarNL-Thursday-August22-2013>
7. **Solar Manufacturers May Boost Capacity as Demand Surges in Asia:** Three major solar manufacturers are producing panels at full speed and contemplating plans to expand capacity to meet surging demand in Asia. <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/08/solar-manufacturers-may-boost-capacity-as-demand-surges-in-asia?cmpid=WNL-Friday-August23-2013>
8. **Brazilian Hydroelectricity Giant Promotes Biogas:** The massive Itaipú hydroelectric dam, shared by Brazil and Paraguay, has now become a model for the micro-scale production of an energy source that is not only clean, but also helps to reduce pollution and promote local development: biogas. <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/09/brazilian-hydroelectricity-giant-promotes-biogas/>

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/>
- Volunteer with a local environmental organization
- Volunteer planting coral in Passikudah with The Wildlife Research and Conservation Trust, contact FEO
- Share this newsletter. Email contact@feosl.org to subscribe



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