

Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa seems to be sharing a light moment with UNP General Secretary and Minister of State Enterprise Development Kabir Hashim at a reception held to mark the National Day of Pakistan at the Kingsbury in Colombo yesterday.

Warrant issued for arrest of Commissioner of DMT

GUNAWATHEE ILANGAKOON MENIKE

Kaduwela Additional Magistrate Prasanna Alwis yesterday issued a warrant for the arrest of Commissioner of the Department of Motor Traffic (DMT) for not adhering to the court summons issued on him to appear in court to give evidence in a case that had been filed against Parliamentarian Namal Rajapaksa.

The case was filed by the Financial Crimes Investigation Division (FCID) against MP Rajapaksa with regard to the ownership of a luxury car valued at over Rs.8 million.

The lawyer appearing for MP Rajapaksa, Premanath C. Dolawatte informed the court that the vehicle had already been sold to a woman by the name of Shanthaa Weerakoon from Kelaniya.

His lawyer confirmed that the vehicle had been purchased by utilising the permit issued to Namal Rajapaksa as an MP.

The FCID reported that the documents related to the vehicle had gone missing from the Department of Motor Traffic.

After taking all the evidence into consideration Magistrate Prasanna Alwis issued the arrest warrant on the Motor Traffic Commissioner and postponed the case till March 30.

Addressing a reconciliation programme held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), the minister also

activities did not get much of a mention nor did we feel appreciated for what we had done for the communities living in those areas", the minister said.

SL, Ukraine sign agreement

Gazette concerning mutual help in criminal matters passed in House

YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA

The gazette notification, pertaining to the agreement signed by Sri Lanka and Ukraine on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters affecting both countries, was unanimously passed in Parliament yesterday.

Under this agreement the

government of Ukraine will assist Sri Lanka in carrying out investigations on any criminal act committed by a Sri Lankan in that country while Sri Lanka too will be duty-bound to assist Ukraine in carrying out investigations in Sri Lanka on any criminal act committed by a Ukrainian national in Sri Lanka. Serious crimes were

alleged to have been committed by certain Sri Lankans in Ukraine including the controversial deal in which several Mig Aircraft were purchased. Meanwhile, a Bill titled 'Revocation of Irrevocable Deeds of Gifts on the Grounds of Gross Ingratitude' was passed by the House last evening. Under this legislation

a person can reclaim a deed of a property which he or she has gifted to a close relative or friend on the grounds the receiver of the gift has shown ingratitude towards the giver.

The reclaiming right is effective only for ten years after the gifting of the deed, subject Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe told Parliament.

CA issues order to disperse protesters in front of SLT Fort

S.S.SELVANAYAGAM

The Court of Appeal yesterday (23) ordered the IGP to forthwith disperse unruly protesters who congregate in and around the Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT) head-office with the activities carried out therein agitating to be absorbed into the permanent cadre of the company.

A Bench comprising Justices Vijith K. Malalgoda (President/CA) and S.Thurairaja issued this order sequent to the Writ petition filed by Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT). Court issued the order directing the IGP to forthwith act and

formulate rules applicable to and governing all members of the police force to duly take positive and prompt action in the instances when law and order was threatened and also when the obstruction of vehicular and pedestrian movement takes places as well as unlawful occupation of public or private property takes place.

Court issued notices on the Respondents returnable for April 4. Respondents were also directed to give the petitioner copies of the police complaints.

The protesters were the employees

of SLT Human Capital Solutions (Pvt) Ltd which has a work force of 2,640 employees, out of which 1,371 are permanent employees and 1,269 are contracted, the petitioner stated.

Sri Lanka Telecom stated that HCS had entered into contracts with several companies including the SLT for the provision of human capital services and the said agreement had expired due to the effluxion of time on December 31, 2016.

It alleges the demands of the employees of HCS was unlawful, unreasonable and unjustified and

maintains that the SLT has no legal obligation whatsoever to absorb them.

SLT cited Fort Police OIC Sumith Gunaratne, its Crime Division OIC S.M.L.M. Suriyakumara, Superintendent of Police P.S.C. De Silva, DIG L.S. Pathinayake, Senior DIG Nandana Munasinghe, IGP Pujith Jayasundera and the SLT Human Capital Solutions (Pvt) Ltd as Respondents. Sanjeeva Jayawardane PC with Lakshana Perera and Lakmini Warusavitharana instructed by Sudath Perera Associates appeared for the Petitioner.

Development Index: SL remains at 73

SL has been able to maintain its 73 under the 'High Human Development' category in the latest development index (HDI) report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), based on a survey.

Central Africa was the country with the least human development this year and it was followed by Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso and Burundi

Maldives ranked at 105 and Sri Lanka had been categorised in Countries with High Human Development.

Sri Lanka's neighbour India ranked at 131, Bhutan 132, Bangladesh 139, Nepal 144 and Pakistan 147 under the category of 'Medium Human Development.'

A stronger focus on those excluded groups and on actions to dismantle these barriers is urgently needed to ensure sustainable

The report shows that gender-based inequalities linked to patriarchal social norms afflict women over their entire lives.

The report said exclusion of women, ethnic minorities, and people living in remote areas create constant barriers