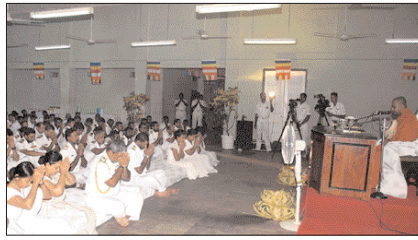




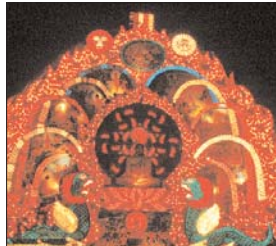
Prime Minister D. M. Jayaratne participates at the opening ceremony of the 2010 Vesak darsana organized by the Central Province Chief Minister's office.



The Sri Lanka Navy under the patronage of Navy Commander Vice Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe participated in religious activities at the Naval Headquarters for Vesak. Chief of Staff and Navy Buddhist Association President Rear Admiral Somathilaka Dissanayake, Senior officers and the other officers of the Western Naval Area and family members of the Naval personnel participated in these religious observances.



The Vidura Jataka Katawa Vesak Pandal built at Kottawa Town. The script was by Marvin Senaratne and drawn by Pushpananda Dinipitiya. Picture Wehelle Piyathilake, Maharagana special correspondent



Vesak Pandal in Pellygoda Picture by Susantha Wijegunawardena



Vesak Pandal at Town Hall Picture by Saliya Rupasinghe.

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Asia Crime Prevention Foundation - Sri Lanka

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Nearly 150 low income group families of Galle district received housing loans from the Southern Province Chief Minister. Here Southern Province Chief Minister Shan Wijayaratne of Silva handing over a cheque to a recipient. Chief Minister's Media Secretary, Kumara Karavita also participated. Picture by Richmond Wijesekera, Bentota Group Correspondent.



Jaffna Vesak Zone



Vesak illuminations at Gangaramaya Picture by Sumanachandra Ariyaratna.



Vesak illuminations at Air Force grounds Picture by Saliya Rupasinghe.



Students attached to the Abhaya Maha Vidyalaya Madampe presenting a musical item at their English Day celebrations held at the school hall. Picture by W.B.C. Fernando, Pattalam group corr.



A massive crowd witnessed the Jaffna Vesak Zone on May 27. People in Jaffna and visitors from various parts of the country walked along the illuminated roads in the Zone admiring decorations made by Army troops serving in Jaffna to mark this year's Vesak. Commander Security Forces Headquarters-Jaffna Major General Mahinda Hathurusinghe accompanied by Jaffna Naga Vihara Chief Incumbent Ven. Meghajanuru Gnanarathana Thera, Vicar General Jaffna Rev.Fr. Dr. Justin B. Gnanaprasasam, Government Agent K. Ganesh, University of Jaffna Vice Chancellor Professor N. Shanmugalingam and Senior Army and Police officers opened the Vesak Zone on the first day. The festival was organized on a concept of Major General Mahinda Hathurusinghe under the theme Yapa Patursai Dahan Amavai. It continued until yesterday. Vesak was also celebrated in Mannar.

Help for flood hit



A stock of dry food items valued at Rs. 100,000 have been collected from Mahaweli Development Zones by Irrigation and Water Resources Management Deputy Minister S.M. Chandrasena for distribution among flood victims in the Ja-Ela area. Here Deputy Minister Chandrasena hands over the stock to Western Provincial Council member Merry Perera and Ja-Ela Urban Council Chairman Upali Arambowatte at the Ja-Ela Urban Council premises for distribution among the victims. Picture by W. Wilfred Silva, Ja-Ela Group Corr.



Lunch packets were distributed among flood victims around Seeduwa area by the Hatton National Bank, Katunayake Branch. The program was initiated under the guidance of HNB Katunayake Branch Manager Tyrone Fernando.



Biyagama Social Worker E.A. Chandra Wasantha handed over lunch packets and 15 litres of drinking water to 87 families displaced by the floods in the Biyagama-South area. Here Wasantha makes a presentation to one of the families. Picture by Mahanama Vithanage, Mahana group correspondent



Jama'he-Islami distributed meals packets and milk food among the flood affected. Here Sri Lanka Jama'he-Islami (Colombo District) chief organizer Niyas Aboobucker hands over the milk food among flood victims of Maligawatte Darusalam Maha Vidyalaya. Picture by Ruzaik Farook.



Galewela Pubudu pre-school band team participates in an event. Picture by A.A.L. Dias, Matale district group corr.



The 11th Charter Anniversary of the Weliveriya Lions Club was held at the Naranawila Sittimal Hotel. Here Chief guest 306 802 Lions District Governor Kingsley Bernard Lights the oil lamp to inaugurate the festival. Weliveriya Lions Club President Gratton de Mel was also present. Picture by Mahanama Vithanage, Mahana group correspondent