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421/2024

உமது இலக்கம்
Your No

/ 2024

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Date

10/03/2024
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PRESS RELEASE

Arresting eight persons for acting against a judgement delivered by the Court by trespassing into an archaeological reserve - Nedunkerny Police Area.

A judgement was delivered on 04.03.2024, stating that permission cannot be granted to conduct a special religious ceremony, although a request had been made by filing a motion under No. B 540/23 to the Magistrate Court of Vavuniya by a group of people, including the priest of the Hindu temple at the archaeological site, to grant permission to conduct a special Shiva Rathri Pooja in Vedukkunarimalai Archaeological Site in the Nedunkerny Police area, which is an archaeological site in question where several cases are already pending before the Court. The request has been rejected by the court and informed them to stop conducting any additional or special pooja in the said venue.

According to a request made by the acting Director of Archaeology from the Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of the Northern Province on 06.03.2024, to take action to prevent any other special religious ceremonies from being held in addition to the usual religious observances during the daytime at this archaeological site, measures had been taken to deploy police officers at the archaeological site to maintain law and order on 08.03.2024.

In spite of this, about 500 people had come during the daytime and performed the usual religious observances for the Maha Shiva Rathri day at this archaeological site. At night, around 40 people, including the priest of the Hindu temple at the said site, had taken steps to conduct a special Shiva Rathri Pooja by setting bonfires at night and improvising hearths, disregarding the judgement of the court and without the permission of the Department of Archaeology or the Forest Department. Despite being informed by the police officers on duty not to do so, the chief priest, including 08 suspects, had proceeded without taking heed of such instructions. Considering the possibility of causing great damage to the forest as a result of the fire that could have spread across the forest reserve during the prevailing dry weather conditions and the act of going against the court judgement, measures have been taken by the police to arrest the chief priest, including 08 suspects.

The suspects taken into custody are 24, 29, 30, 34, 37, and 54 years old and are residents of Nedunkerny, Pulyankulam, Kanagarayankulam and Mamaduwa areas.

Further investigations are being carried out by Nedunkerny Police Station.

Office of the Media Spokesman
Police Media Division