The Villages of Anawilundawa, Chilaw are home to the Anawilundawa Sanctuary which is one of the largest RAMSAR wetlands in Sri Lanka. Covering 1,369 hectares lying between the coastal line and the Negombo - Puttalam railway line, the wetland consist of six large man made tanks and three peripheral tanks interconnected to create a complex irrigation system.

These tanks have created a natural habitat which is ideal for birds, with a large number of birds arriving at the wetlands during the migration season. The area is also a popular feeding as well as breeding ground for its many species. The factory lies 100 meters from the sanctuary as mentioned in the Environment Assessment, however the villagers dispute this saying that the factory site is in fact 40 meters away from the sanctuary.

Roofing factory

According to resident and former Anawilundawa Pradeshiya Sabaha member Jayaratne Jayasuriya, the officials and contractors of the Anawilundawa factory还没 any discussion about the project. He said that the relocation of several species of birds to other areas is needed in order to minimize the impact of the factory.

The company EL Thero Private Ltd had proposed to build a Roofing factory which produces sheets made out of Calcium, a more environmentally friendly material than asbestos. According to the report the company registered at No 75B Dr Daniyar de Silva Manaththa Colombo it also intends to hire 40 non-skilled employees from the area itself. However the project will require a large quantity of water and the proposed plant will be situated close to the surrounding areas through large wells and tube wells.

Currently the construction work has been halted due to the protest by the villagers. According to Jayaratne the company had agreed to temporarily halt the construction during a meeting between company officials and the villagers arranged by the ACP of Chilaw.

"Despite the promise they carried on construction and we had to once again voice our opposition against it" he said adding that this put a stop to any further construction. He also wanted to clarify that this is not an untested protest. According to Jayaratne while...