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'V2025: A Country Enriched' launched

By Uditha Jayasinghe

(FT.LK) - Presenting a united front, President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday jointly unveiled the Government's policy framework titled 'V2025: A Country Enriched', which detailed the broad goals that the two parties wished to achieve over the next few years.

The launch, which gave prominence to youth and reconciliation, did not feature speeches by Sirisena or Wickremesinghe but instead had a discussion where the two leaders answered questions from young people including members of the youth parliament who joined them onstage. The choreographed event at the BMICH was also attended by ministers, MPs, top public officials and members of the diplomatic community.

"A Consensual Government is a new concept to everyone. It is new not just for the politicians but for the people and even the world. It brings together two deeply antagonistic parties in the hope of developing Sri Lanka. Understandably this cannot be done easily. We have to start thinking communally. We have to think 'this is for our

family, for our children'. Only then will we come together to develop on a common platform shared by all communities," President Sirisena said.

The Prime Minister, responding to questions in his turn, emphasised the opportunities available to the youth and called on young people to ask their conscience if the Government was rolling out policies that benefitted them.

"If we are doing something good then you can support that," he said, adding, "we are giving something new to a new generation. We have accepted the challenge and we are now moving forward. When we came to power we had to deal with high levels of debt. When we increased VAT everyone blamed us but because of it we have now managed to make the economy more stable." Both leaders concurred that the Government had created space for open deliberation, discussions and adjustment of ideas. They both stressed that the country has the building blocks to embark on a new chapter of growth and development. Sirisena stressed that the development should be equitable and inclusive, recapping the benefits of new laws such as the Right to Information and the 19th

Amendment.

"Today politicians are scared to do wrong because they know that the law can catch up to them. Anyone living in civilised society should have shame and fear. Only animals live without these. When I say fear it does not mean suppression or fear for their lives but they should fear to do wrong because they



President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe responding to questions from youth representatives during the 'V2025: A Country Enriched' launch - Pic by Lasantha Kumara
have to face the repercussions of that law. This is being felt by politicians now," ... SEE P14

SriLankan Airlines cautions public on fake airline survey

SriLankan Airlines issued a notice to the general public over a fake airline survey currently circulating on the internet and social media including messenger apps, mentioning



SriLankan Airlines is offering free tickets. The airlines said that it was not a SriLankan Airlines promotion as claimed.

"This is a malicious and false site that is attempting to prey on our valued customers. Please do not access any sites that are not directly linked to SriLankan Airlines' webpage. The airline is currently offering a "Partner flies free" promotional offer that can only be accessed via www.srilankan.com", the Airline said.

It further said that SriLankan Airlines would not undertake any responsibility with regard to promotional campaigns not carried out directly by the airline. They advise general public to log onto their website for any promotional offers and refrain giving personal information to any other websites mentioning SriLankan Airlines.

Well done Dilshan



Dilshan Weerasinghe with his Bronze Medal at the International Biology Olympiad

SEE P16

'Western contribution to Buddhism'



The Western Contribution to **BUDDHISM**

WILLIAM PEIRIS

See P17

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Provisional support for 20th Amendment

By Chathuri Dissanayake

(FT.LK) - The Government made a crucial breakthrough by winning provisional support from the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) for the 20th

during a meeting which party seniors held with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe based on assurances that several amendments would be introduced to the draft Bill during the committee stage. The provisions that would have enabled

dissolved will be among those to be removed, Daily FT learns. Attorney General Jayantha Jayasuriya also attended yesterday's meeting to discuss the contentious constitutional amendment which has been defeated by two provincial councils, with the Northern and the Eastern provincial councils deferring to vote until 7 September. During the discussions the TNA members had insisted that their support for the 20th Amendment was contingent upon amendments to be adopted during the committee stage. The debate is expected to take place during the third week of September.

The Prime Minister held discussions with the Attorney General and several party leaders regarding the amendment on Monday and Tuesday. The current draft of the 20th Amendment has already been defeated by two provincial councils, with the Northern Provincial Council deferring

its vote to 7 September along with the Eastern Provincial Council.

"We have agreed to support the 20th Amendment if certain amendments are made during the committee stage discussions. The Government needs the support of the TNA if they are to pass the proposed amendments. The AG is to inform the Court about the amendments to be incorporated," TNA MP M.A. Sumanthiran, who was present at the meeting, told Daily FT. "We discussed the matter with the Prime Minister and it was evident that the purpose of this amendment has not been communicated to the public correctly. There are a number of changes to be brought to the proposed 20th Amendment as well, and these were discussed at the meeting."

CONT P14



Minister Faiszer Musthapha Amendment to the Constitution. The TNA pledged conditional support



TNA MP M.A. Sumanthiran Parliament to exercise the powers of the Provincial Councils while they stood

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Police to reward disciplined drivers

(dailynews.lk) In an effort to combat the high incidence of traffic accidents, the Police Department acting on the direction of IGP Pujith Jayasundera has introduced a new practice of selecting disciplined and cultured drivers and rewarding them in addition to the normal practice of nabbing errant drivers and taking legal action against them.

As a first step of this programme, a batch of 300 disciplined drivers were routinely selected in the Kandy City and presented gift vouchers of Rs.3,000 each after a workshop held for them in Kandy for their benefit for a duration of one week plus a free inspection of their vehicles. The programme was sponsored by AMW pit stop. "The next step of this programme would be held in



Colombo and later extended to Kurunegala and Matara," a Police Headquarters release said.

As the programme progressed, added benefits would be given to disciplined drivers selected including free medical check-ups, and a discount for services in leading hospitals and Hotels and restaurants.

N.M.Nalin Bandara, a resident of Gurudeniya, Kandy who was the first motorist halted by Police during the programme in Kandy said when police waved his car to a stop he was trembling thinking he had breached a traffic rule. But, the Policeman who was very courteous cleared his apprehensions saying he was stopped for the disciplined manner he was driving the vehicle. He said this motorist friendly attitude on the part of police would help clear public mistrust in the service.

Help for medical treatment

A helpless poor mother seeks financial help to undergo surgery to correct her hip bone at Nawaloka hospital as there is a long waiting at Govt. hospitals. She has fallen down and broken her hipbone. She needs immediate surgery to correct otherwise her bones will be stuck to wrong place and cannot be corrected. The surgery will cost Rs 350,000. The only daughter has raised Rs 70,000 and they need further Rs 280,000. Please contact daughter. Contact: Nilangi, Sri Lanka. Email: shiromiwasana03@gmail.com

National Shrine of Our Lady of Matara

(dailynews.lk) The 110th annual feast of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Matara, will be held on September 8, 9 and 10. The festivities began with the raising of the flagstaff at 4 p.m. on Thursday.

"The Feast of Our Lady of Matara is looked forward to by the people of Matara who unite

irrespective of race or religion to make it a success. There are less than 1,000 parishioners belonging to 200 families. It is with the help and support of all communities that we are able to host more than 300,000 persons who attend the feast," Shrine Administrator Rev. Fr. Michael Collin said.

2nd term as Commonwealth Countries League president

(sundaytimes.lk) Nalini Paranavitane seen here with the head of the Commonwealth Queen Elizabeth II was unanimously elected to a second term as President of the Commonwealth Countries League. She has served as President Soroptimist International Colombo and South London Lewisham, and inaugurated a street children project, which is now amalgamated to the ongoing tsunami project in Sri Lanka. She inaugurated the Street Children Focus 2000 supported Young tenants support Lewisham, Project Sereia water project, Asgiriya School Kandy, Tanzania Health Project, Needy Children's support New Cross and supported the promotion of the rights of children. In her capacity as President of the CCL she has initiated projects to develop the capacity of women to become financially independent.



Sri Lankan boy wins full scholarship to prestigious Eton College

by Sujeewa Nivunhella in London

Thirteen-year-old Neo Perera, a Sri Lankan boy living in Harrow, London, received a full scholarship to the prestigious Eton College until he enters University. Eton College was founded by King Henry VI in the year 1440 and is considered the best English independent boarding school for boys in England. Eton has educated 19 British Prime Ministers and generations of the aristocracy.

Former Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Prince William were among the famous pupils who studied there. Perera gained admission by getting into the top ten at the entrance examination. The scholarship

will pay both his tuition and hostel fees. Generally, a student at Eton College has to spend around forty thousand sterling pounds (around SLR 8 million) per annum.

Perera is also a keen sportsman. He played cricket and hockey for his previous school John Lyon in Harrow. He is a good swimmer as well. He is studying to play piano and completed up to grade 3 standard. He has also been selected to follow the Excellence Program hosted by Lord Robert Winston.

He is the son of Nirosh Perera and Nadika Makawitige Perera. He has a 10-year-old sister Namaira.



Lunch packets

(dailynews.lk) Increasing the price of a lunch packet by Rs.10 in the wake of the lunch sheet ban is highly unreasonable and unfair by the consumers, Central Environmental Authority

(CEA) Chairman Prof. Lal Mervin Dharmasiri said. Speaking to the Daily News yesterday, Prof Dharmasiri pointed out the polythene ban that came into effect from September 1 was for the common good of people's health and environmental protection, adding that it needs the wholehearted support of all segments of society.

"Food vendors are not without options. A biodegradable sheet is available in the market.

The producers of this sheet said they could offer it at Rs.1.50. The price of a lunch sheet is about 75 cents. How fair is it to increase a lunch packet by Rs 10 in view of this marginal change of cost?," he asked.

He said in addition to biodegradable sheets, many suppliers have come forward to supply banana and lotus leaves for the purpose of preparing lunch packets.

"They ask for a price of Rs.5 for it. Still the additional cost the buyer has to bear will be worthy given the flavour and

aroma it adds. It is purely a matter of spending a few more Rupees for the good of your own health," he remarked.



Heavy rains in Galle, Colombo, Nuwaraeliya and Ratnapura



Mahinda P.Liyanage - (dailynews.lk) Heavy rains lashed several areas of the country with the worst hit being Galle, Colombo, Nuwaraeliya and Ratnapura districts. Roads were inundated in several areas in Galle and Colombo following the showers.



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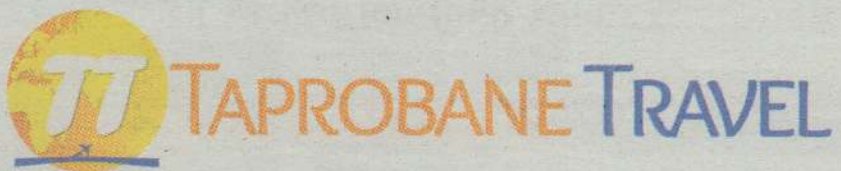
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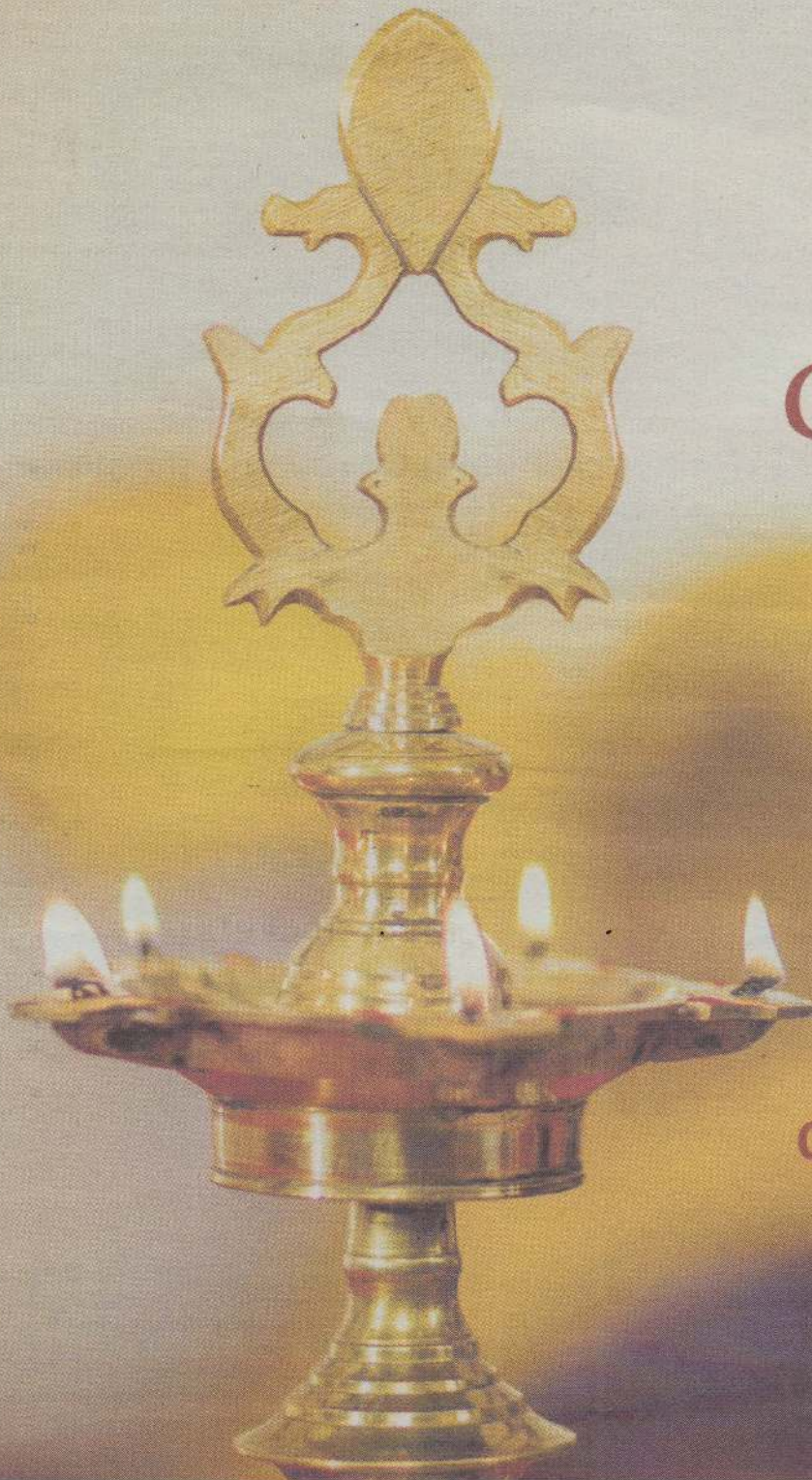
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Our Lady of Perpetual Succour 63rd anniversary



Sivam Packiyannathan

(dailynews.lk) The 63rd anniversary celebration and annual feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Ayethiyamalai, Batticaloa was held on Sunday (03). The celebrated mass was conducted by the Bishop of Jaffna Rt, Rev. Dr. Jestin

Gnanapragasam and the Bishop of Batticaloa Rt, Rev. Dr. Joseph Ponnaiah. Thousands of devotees from the Batticaloa district chanting prayers went in procession from St. Mary's Cathedral, Puliyanivu, Batticaloa and from St. Nicholas' Church, Chenkaladi.

125th Anniversary Celebrations

(dailynews.lk) The Trinity College Old Boys Association will celebrate its 125th Anniversary with a series of events on September 9 and 10 in Kandy. The programme includes presentation of awards to old boys who have distinguished themselves in different fields of endeavor, a dinner dance and a vintage car rally. The OBA was formed in 1892, twenty years after the school was established. As the school had grown from 50 to 458 students during this period, the then Principal, Rev Napier-Slavinger, requested the old boys to form an Association. The first general



meeting was held on the August 12, 1893 and the programme included a Cricket match. The Principal of the School continued to hold the position as the President of the OBA until 1918 when for the first time an old boy of the School, T. B. L. Moonamale, took up the post. In August 1922 the OBA celebrated the Jubilee and the foundation stone for the Chapel was laid at the same eve. This year, the OBA celebrates its 125th anniversary. Fifteen Old Boys who have excelled in their chosen fields will receive the Trinity Prize - the highest award that an Old Boy can receive from his fellow Trinities. These awards will be presented at the seventh night of the lion's ceremony which will be held on the September 9 at 4 p.m. in the Trinity College Hall. The fifteen award winners are Hussain Afeef - Entrepreneurship, Prof. Derek Frewin - Education, Prof. D. Jana Janakiram - Agriculture, Dr. Thangamuthu Jayasingam - Education, Dr. Lakshman Karalliedde - Medicine, Professor Asoka Nugawela - Natural sciences, Major General. Mano Perera - Defence, Madhura Prematilake - Creative Arts /Architecture, Roshan Rajadurai - Plantation Agriculture, Air vice Marshall Saranath Rambukwella - Defence, Justice Ranjit Ranaraja - Law, Arjuna Ranawana - Media, Vice Admiral Travis J.L. Sinniah - Defence, Betram Tittawella - Public Service, Dr. Abdul-Sattar Yoosuf - Public Service.

The 125th anniversary dinner dance will follow the award ceremony at the Golden Crown Hotel. A vintage car rally has been arranged for September 10 starting at 10am from the junior school. It will proceed along William Gopallawa Mawatha to Getambe and return via Old Peradeniya Road to finish at the Trinity College Grounds, Asgiriya. To Mark this occasion a souvenir will also be launched.

Natural Skin care tips

1. Keep yourself hydrated: Drink plenty of water every day. It will flush out toxins from your body which are bad for your skin. Moreover your skin will be kept naturally hydrated. An ancient time natural organic skin care beauty tip.
2. Avoid too much direct sun exposure: Do not expose yourself for long hours to direct sun heat, as the direct sun heat for long hours causes ageing spots and wrinkles. Before going in to direct sun light, use a good sunscreen lotion. This will slow down skin ageing and prevent early onset of wrinkles.
3. Exercising: Exercise daily till you start sweating. It opens up your skin pores and the toxins escape from your skin. An ancient time organic skincare tip.
4. Avoid smoking and too much of alcohol: You may take moderately good quality alcoholic drinks. A natural beauty tip.
5. Moisturizer: Use a good moisturizer every day, especially on the facial area to make your skin look healthy and glowing. An effective natural beauty tip, especially useful if you are prone to dry skin.
6. Make-up products: Try to use natural or organic

skin care make-up products. Chemical based make-up products are very harmful for your skin.

7. Before you sleep: Rinse off and cleanse your face before the bed-time to remove make-up and dirt from your face. Otherwise your skin will remain clogged up for long hours while you are sleeping. Your skin also needs breathing time. Sleeping with make-up on your face can cause acne and zits.
8. Avoid stress and have adequate sleep.
9. Eat healthy natural food: This will provide you the required vitamins and minerals that are good for your skin. Have moderate spicy and fried food.
10. Exfoliate once in a week: Use a facial exfoliation product that suits your skin type. The exfoliation will get you rid of dead skin cells that are clogging up on the top layer of your skin and bring the hidden more youthful skin to the top.



Railway employee prevents great tragedy

Duminda Senarath

(dailynews.lk) An employee of the Railway Department reportedly had prevented a massive train accident by acting wisely and efficiently on August 4.

An officer in the Hatton railway station said the employee was assigned to check the railway line from the Kotagala to Hatton. When he was travelling on foot, he had noticed a disconnected rail track near the Singimala railway tunnel.

A train from Hatton was to run through the tunnel within a few minutes. Realizing the destruction it would cause if the train reached the tunnel, he had run over a half km on the rail



tracks towards the approaching train signalling the driver to stop the train. He managed to get the attention of the engine driver at last and stop the train on time. Thereafter, he informed the situation to the Hatton railway station and taken necessary steps to repair the track. The brave employee, P.M. Bandara, is attached to the Hatton railway station. The incident delayed the up-country train service about two hours.

Sri Lanka ruling United National Party marks 71st anniversary

(colombopage.com) Sept 06, Colombo: Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party (UNP) marks the 71st anniversary of the party today and a religious ceremony will be held at the party headquarters Sirikotha today under the patronage of party leader and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. The Main ceremony will be held in Seewali grounds in Ratnapura on Sunday (10) at 3 p.m. under the patronage of Prime Minister Wickremesinghe.

United National Party General Secretary, Minister Kabir Hashim said the party decided to hold the anniversary celebrations out of Colombo this year.

The UNP was founded on 6 September 1946 by amalgamating three right-leaning pro-dominion parties from the majority Sinhalese community and minority Tamil and Muslim communities under the leadership of D.S.

Senanayake, who became the island's first Prime Minister, in a bid to gain independence from the British rule.



Ratmalana Airport

(dailymirror.lk) With the number of tourist arrivals set to increase, Tourism Promotion Minister John Amararatunga has requested the government to make arrangements to ready the Ratmalana Airport to handle international flight operations. Minister Amararatunga told Daily Mirror that the Bandaranaika International Airport (BIA) would not be able to cope with the demands of having to cater to increased influx of tourists into the country. "Until the BIA is expanded and developed we will have to come up with an alternate plan to ensure that we can handle the extra arrivals comfortably. We can easily land small aircraft at the Ratmalana Airport and for this to happen it would have to be developed. An aircraft with around 100 passengers on board, originating from nearby countries can land at the airport in Ratmalana," he said. Asked about the Mattala International Airport, he



said it too would have to be used one day to accommodate the increase in incoming flights. "There is a lot of congestion being experienced at the BIA at present. That is why I suggested that we look at landing some flights in Ratmalana as an option," he said. (Kelum Bandara)

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CRIMES & ACCIDENTS



Three dead in car-double cab collision

N.P.Rajadarei

(dailynews.lk) Three persons of the same family died when the car they were travelling in collided head-on with a double cab at Batugedara junction in Ratnapura on the Colombo-Batticaloa Road, Police said. One critically injured person was admitted to the

Ratnapura General Hospital. According to Ratnapura Police sources, the deceased were from a family of five travelling to Colombo from Ampara for a wedding while the other vehicle was a double cab plying from Ratnapura to Pelmadulla.

Of the passengers in the double cab, five persons including two children aged five and eight were critically injured. The deceased were identified as D. Gunapala (77), Pushpa Ranjani (65) and the driver of the car D. Susantha (46), residents of Jayawardanepura in Ampara. Police sources said that there was heavy rain at the time the accident occurred.



Perpetual Treasuries Chief Dealer

(dailynews.lk) Chief Dealer of Perpetual Treasuries Limited (PTL) Nuwan Salgado alleged PTL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kasun Palisena to have instructed him to delete phone call recordings which were harmful to the company. He said this before the Presidential Commission appointed to probe into the Central Bank Bond issue today. It was revealed that the PTL has tampered with telephone call recordings which they handed

over to the Treasury Bond Commission on August 29. The evidence was led through Metropolitan Communication Limited Chief Engineer Nalin Dharmaratne which installed the call logger system at the PTL in June 2015.



Booby-trapped cassette player

By Sarath de Silva

(island.lk) A child residing in Pittugala, Malabe was admitted to the National Hospital, Colombo after sustaining severe injuries he received when a cassette player he tried to operate exploded yesterday.

The injured has been identified as Himath Wijesekera from Bandarawela. He had come to his grandmother's house in Malabe to spend the school vacation. The child found the cassette player abandoned near a mound of trash opposite a shop, police said. Upon returning home, the child attempted to operate the cassette player by connecting it to a power outlet when it exploded. After inspecting the explosion scene police found evidence such as granite and iron balls which had been packed inside the player leading to



Policemen inspecting the explosion site.
Pic by Sarath de Silva

suspicion that the player had been an improvised explosive device. Athurugiriya police are conducting further investigations.

Trial against Namal and four others on Sept 18



MP Namal Rajapaksa leaving court
(Pic by Kamal Bogoda)

By Chitra Weeraratne

(island.lk) Colombo High Court, Judge Piyasena Ranasinghe, yesterday fixed the trial against UPFA Parliamentarian Namal Rajapaksa and four other accused, for September 18.

The second accused, Buddhika Karunajeewa and the fourth accused Iresha Silva, have been absconding. The trial will be conducted without these two accused, according to section 241 of the criminal procedure code. The accused have been indicted for money laundering to set up the Gowers Corporation Private Limited. The amount allegedly laundered is Rs. 30 million. Jayantha Weerasinghe President's counsel and Anil Silva, PC appeared for the accused.

Alleged killer of President's brother

By Ranjith Pathmasiri

(sundaytimes.lk) The Polonnaruwa High Court will hold a jury trial between November 20 and 30 to hear the case against the main suspect in the murder of Priyantha Sirisena, the brother of President Maithripala Sirisena. The suspect, Don Ishara Lakmal Saputhanthri (34), who appeared before Polonnaruwa High Court Judge Nimal Ranaweera, has pleaded not guilty to the crime. Priyantha Sirisena who was also known as "Weli Raju," was attacked with an axe and died of his injuries in March 2015. The Judge ordered that the case be heard from November 20 to 30 continuously and concluded within the set dates. Among the witnesses is Dudley Sirisena, another sibling of the President. State Counsel Krishan de Alwis Gunatillake and Senior State Counsel Madhawa Tennakoon will appear for the prosecution while attorney Ashok Weerasuriya will appear for the defence.

Lighting kills wife, injures husband

By Dinaseena Rathugamage

(island.lk) A woman was killed and her husband injured in Kilinochchi by lightning accompanying torrential rains that ended a protracted drought in the North Central and Northern provinces. The deceased was Ruben Leticia Pradeepa (40) of Iranamatha Nagar, a mother of six and the injured man was Peter Ruben (42). He is being treated at the Kilinochchi. The incident occurred when the couple was bathing at a well.

Pedestrian killed

(island.lk) A pedestrian died recently after being knocked down by a three-wheeler when he was crossing the road in Ja Ela. The deceased was identified as Kulathunga Arachchige Amarasinghe Appuhami Perera (60), a resident of Yagodamulla, Miriswaththa.

Declared out of bounds

By Nilantha Madurawela

(island.lk) The students of the Engineering and Technological faculties of the North Eastern University at Oluwil have been barred from entering university premises. University sources said the students of the engineering faculty had assaulted 15 technology faculty students on Tuesday and the victims were being treated at the Akkaraipattu Hospital and one of them had been transferred to the Ampara Hospital. Two female students who were returning from the hospital after visiting the injured colleagues on

Wednesday were also attacked and one of them was hospitalised. The Technology Faculty students had been assaulted after being pulled out of a bus transporting them from their hostel to the university. They said they had been assaulted by engineering students without any provocation. They said the engineering students had attacked them the previous month as well and though a complaint was lodged with the authorities no action had been taken.

Sharjah family suicide leaves 3 dead

Husband, wife and son die while 2 female relatives survive group suicide in hotel apartment.

(gulfnews.com) Sharjah: Sharjah Police confirmed to Gulf News that the deaths of three people in a hotel apartment in Sharjah on August 29 was the result of suicide.

The incident, described by the police as a group suicide attempt, involved a man, a woman and a youth along with two female relatives, in which the latter two survived. Police said that three people, a man, his wife and their son, died while two female relatives — the sister and niece of the woman — failed at the suicide attempt. All of them are Sri Lankans.

The bodies of the 55-year-old man identified J.K. and his 54-year-old wife, B.S., and their 19-year-old son, J.N., were moved to Al Kuwaiti hospital and then to forensic laboratory for autopsy. The two women who survived, identified as D.I. 17, and P.I. 27, received treatment at Al Kuwaiti hospital and were transferred to Obaidallah Hospital in Ras Al Khaimah for psychological assessment.

The incident came to light on August 29 at 2.30am when the man jumped to his death from the 7th floor of the building and a witness in a neighbouring building immediately reported the incident to the police operations room.

Police and forensic experts rushed to the scene of the incident. Upon checking the identity of the man, police found that he had been residing in the same building from which he jumped to his death. The police immediately visited his seventh floor

apartment and found it doubled locked from the inside upon which they obtained permission from public prosecution and broke the apartment's front door and entered the house.

Inside, they found an older woman and two young women in a pool of blood with their wrists slashed while a young boy's body lay on the ground covered with a white sheet.

On a table, police found different kinds of medicines and cups containing red liquid and small white balls. Initial indications suggested that the boy died first and followed by suicide attempts by the three women, and finally, the man who jumped to his death.

Police said that it was a planned suicide. The hotel apartment management's spokesperson told Gulf News that the family had been living in the building for more than a year and had paid a monthly rent of Dh6,250. He described them as a friendly family.

He added that recently, the woman recently approached the owner of the hotel apartment and requested him to reduce the rent as her husband, who worked as gold designer in Dubai, was facing financial problems and that he had not received his salary for three months.

She also informed the owner that a foreigner had conned her husband. Consequently, the owner reduced the rent to Dh5,750 per month.

Police said that as they were carrying the bodies of the victims out of the room, one of the young women who survived the suicide attempt began to cry, saying, 'Why am I still alive'. Investigations into the incident are continuing.

Aloysius received sensitive intel from CBSL

By Yusuf Ariff

(adaderana.lk) Telephone conversation recordings obtained from Perpetual Treasuries Limited have revealed that Arjun Aloysius had received sensitive information from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and other state institutions regarding bond auctions.

The unedited versions of the phone conversations between Aloysius and Perpetual Treasuries CEO

Kasun Palisena were played for the Presidential Commission of Inquiry, investigating the controversial treasury bond issuance, during the hearing today (6).

The recordings had revealed that Aloysius had received confidential insider information which he in turn passed on to Palisena with instructions on how to bid based on this information from a certain "powerful friend."



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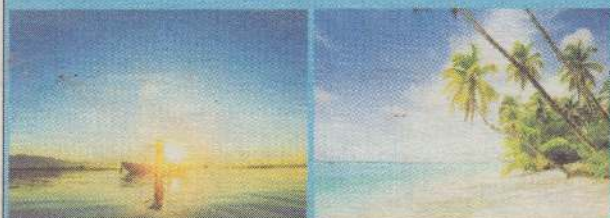
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ANNITE JUBILEE WALK



(sundayobserver.lk) The young and the old, present and past students of St. Anne's College, Kurunegala flocked in their numbers to the college premises and participated in the Annite Jubilee Walk held on Saturday 5th August 2017 starting at 10.00 am.

It was indeed a spectacular pageant. A procession or a walk of such a magnitude was never seen before in the city of Kurunegala.

The college premises, the approach road to the college, St. Anne's Street, Puttalam Road, Negombo Road, Bazaar Street etc. were all decorated with beautiful jubilee flags in college colours (green, gold and blue), depicting "St. Anne's 150 years", which gave a magnificent sight to the city.

All participants were clad in college T-shirts and college caps specially tailored for the occasion. It was gorgeous to see them all assemble at the college grounds, occupying a large area of the vast expanse of land.

There were present students, old Annites of both Kurunegala OBA and the Colombo OBU, present teachers including the Rev. Brothers, a few past teachers, some parents, invitees representing the Holy Family Convent Kurunegala, Maliyadeva Girls and Maliyadeva Boys Colleges etc. The Chief Guest was the Provincial Visitor of De La Salle Brothers, Rev. Bro. Christy Croos. The other distinguished guests were the Bishop Emeritus of the Church of Ceylon Kurunegala Rt. Rev. Dr. Kumara Ilangasinghe (an old Annite),

Deputy Minister Indika Bandaranayake (an old Annite), Principal of St. Anne's Rev. Bro. Tarcisius, President of OBA Kurunegala Felician Perera, President of OBU Colombo Cyril Victor.

The proceedings of the day started with playing the National anthem and the St. Anne's College anthem followed by the hoisting of the National Flag and the College Flag. The hoisting of the flags was done by Rev. Bro. Provincial Visitor,

Rev. Bro. Principal, Hon. Deputy Minister, and the President of the OBA Kurunegala.

The length of the procession was over 4 km. with over 4,000 participants. The shop workers, inmates of houses, pedestrians and passersby were all lined up to see the pageant and were enthralled with it. The procession started from the college premises and St. Anne's Street, wending its way along Puttalam Road, Negombo road up to the Puwakgas handiya. From there turning into Circular

Road, leading up to Kadurugas handiya, turning to Colombo Road, Clock Tower and again turning to Puttalam Road and finally ending up at St. Anne's Street.

Each grade in the school and each old boys batch group had a float to lead them adding eye catching attractions such as limousines, vintage cars, horse carriages, dance troupes and DJ's etc. After the walk which ended at about 2.00 pm, the crowd was entertained to a musical session. Bandula de Silva and Mohan Dayaratne St. Anne's College OBU Colombo.



Watermelon wonders



1) Promotes Hair Growth

Arginine (an amino acid) is essential in our bodies and helps with blood circulation in the scalp. Watermelon naturally contains a lot of citrulline that increases the level of arginine and is therefore good for promoting hair growth.

2) Prevents Hair Loss

Watermelon is packed with Vitamin C, which helps your body to use non-heme iron - this ensures that enough iron is in your red blood cells to assist in carrying oxygen to your hair follicles, promoting healthy hair. Collagen is also needed for healthy hair growth and watermelon helps promote collagen formation.

3) Moisturises Hair

Watermelon Seed Oil is a very light oil, which helps to moisturise and works very well in watermelon shampoo.

4) Hydrates Skin

Dehydrated skin can lead to a dull and dry appearance, but watermelon has such a high water content that it helps to keep the skin hydrated and moisturised. This can help to keep your skin supple and looking great.

5) Acts As A Skin Toner

Watermelon contains a natural substance that helps to shrink body tissues. This essentially means that watermelon is a natural toner that can help to refresh the skin.

6) Prevents Skin From Ageing

As we get older our skin becomes thinner and less able to recover from damage. Our body is full

of 'free radicals' that damage cells over time and can attributed to the cause of aging skin.

Watermelon is full of antioxidants such as lycopene and also vitamin C and A which helps reduce these free radicals that can slow down the signs of ageing. The consumption of Vitamin A can encourage growth of collagen and elastin cells that helps your skin stay young and supple.

7) Prevents Oil Production In Skin
Sebacous glands secrete oil that can be troublesome for keeping skin clear. Watermelon is packed with Vitamin A, reducing skin pore size and the amount of oil that your sebaceous glands secrete. Watermelon is believed to help with acne due to these properties.

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Sri Lanka Police celebrates 151st Anniversary on September 7

(dailynews.lk) Sri Lanka Police will mark its 151st Anniversary with a ceremony under the patronage of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe at the Police Field Force Headquarters, Bambalapitiya, on Thursday (September 7).

The ceremonial parade consists of police parachute displays, police band performance, tattoo drill and drill squad. A magnificent display will be given by the Kennels Division and the Mounted Division that will add colour to the event. Measures have been taken to facilitate the public to participate in the ceremony and to watch the drills. The Police was formally established in Sri Lanka on September 3, 1866. When considering world history, the Sri Lanka Police could be considered as one of the foremost. Sir Robert Peel, known as the Father of Modern Policing, established the Metropolitan Police in England in 1829, which is deemed the first formally



established Police in the world. Thirty seven years later, the Sri Lanka Police was established in 1866, governed by Ordinance No. 16 of 1865, and today, marks its 151st Anniversary. The Sri Lankan Police, which serves day and night on 365 days of the year, comprises about 87,000 officers and 484 police stations. Expeditious steps are being taken to increase the organizational structure to 600 functional police stations.

Motorist urged to drive at 60 kmph

(dailymirror.lk) The Road Development Authority (RDA) requested motorists using expressways to maintain an average speed of 60 kmph and switch on headlights due to heavy rains. Director of Expressway Management and Maintenance, S. Opanayake urged motorists to take necessary precautions to avoid accidents. He said the roads could be slippery due to the rains and driving at high speeds might cause motorists to lose control of the vehicle, even while breaking.



Meanwhile, Mr. Opanayake said many of the accidents which occurred on expressways was due to motorists not keeping a sufficient distance between the other vehicle while overtaking.

"You can't overtake on an expressway as you do on normal roads because of the high speed the vehicles are travelling at. Motorists should keep a good distance when they overtake another vehicle to avoid accidents," he said. (Darshana Sanjeeva)

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Eid-UI-Adha Celebrations



Muslims gathered at Galle Face Green on Saturday to pray and celebrate Eid-UI-Adha (the religious festival of Hajj) conducted by Haji Hafiz Esheshan Qadri. The event was organised by the Memon Association of Sri Lanka - Pic by Shehan Gunasekara


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NFF wants Fonseka sacked

(island.lk) National Freedom Front leader Wimal Weerawansa yesterday demanded that Regional Development Minister Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka be removed from the Cabinet forthwith for making unsubstantiated allegations against former Army Commander Gen. Jagath Jayasuriya. Addressing the media at party office at Pita Kotte, the MP said that because Justice and Buddha Sasana Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakse had been unceremoniously removed on the basis of him

violating collective cabinet responsibility, Fonseka, too, should be sacked. Weerawansa said that if he had possessed evidence against Jayasuriya, he should have complained to law enforcement authorities. The former minister alleged that Fonseka had thrown his weight behind those hell bent on prosecuting armed forces and political leaders for alleged war crimes which never took place.

WPC postpones debate on draft 20A

(dailymirror.lk) The Western Provincial Council (WPC) today postponed the debate and the vote on the draft bill on the 20th Amendment to the Constitution till next Monday.

The Governor had requested the Council to convey its decision on the draft Bill before September 12.

However, Chief Minister Isura Devapriya said today more amendments are to be included in the Bill and therefore, the debate should be postponed till the amendments were finalised.

The postponement was approved by 77 councillors while five members objected to it. Two members did not vote. (Muditha Dayananda)

NPC too postpones draft 20A

(dailymirror.lk) The Northern Provincial Council (NPC) too today postponed the debate and the vote on the draft 20th Amendment to the Constitution till Thursday.

Earlier, the Western Provincial Council (WPC) postponed the debate on the draft bill till next Monday. (Romesh Madushanka)

JO calls for no-confidence motion against Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

(colombopage.com) Sept 06, Colombo: The Joint Opposition, a group of parliamentarians of United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) is preparing to file a no-confidence motion against Minister of Regional Development Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka over a statement he made criticizing the President.

Member of Parliament Prasanna Ranatunga told local media that the Joint Opposition plans to file a No-Confidence Motion against Minister Fonseka.

He said the members of the Joint Opposition will hold a discussion in Parliament today (6) on whether to bring a no-confidence motion against the former army commander.

Ranatunga said there are a number of

(Contd: on P16)



Trustees of Lankan school in Doha make defamation claim against Ambassador

(island.lk) The Trustees of the Stafford Sri Lanka School, Doha, Qatar have instructed a legal firm, in Colombo to send a Letter of Demand against Mr. A S P Liyanage who is the current Ambassador for Sri Lanka in Doha, Qatar.

The Letter of Demand was a consequence to media statements made by Mr. Liyanage to several Sri Lankan newspapers last Tuesday. Liyanage who is not a career diplomat but a political appointee had been brought down to Sri Lanka by the Foreign Affairs Ministry which is investigating and mediating a dispute between the trustees of the Stafford Sri Lanka School, Doha and the Sri Lankan Embassy in Doha.

On this occasion, Ambassador Liyanage had called a press conference at which several media units including leading newspapers were present. At this news conference he had said that the Foreign Office in Colombo had given specific instructions to him to take over the sponsorship and management of the Stafford Sri Lanka School, Doha and to exercise supervisory jurisdiction over the school.

Liyanage also alleged that the current Trustees of the school have not utilized the monies collected for the education of the children or their benefit and have not provided the required amenities to

the children. It was also alleged that the trustees had managed the school for several years without any liaison with the Sri Lankan Embassy in Doha and that they were collecting monies for purposes other than school fees.

He also stated that there had been dereliction of functions by the trustees and that he had been asked by the Sri Lankan Foreign office in Colombo to take over the overall sponsorship and custody of the school from the first week of September 2017.

In their Letter of Demand claiming Rs.500 Million from Mr. Liyanage, the trustees allege that they had contacted the Sri Lankan Foreign office in Colombo to verify these facts and the foreign office had informed them that there had been no such directive issued to the Ambassador to take over the management of the school.

The Stafford Sri Lanka School, Doha which was started in 2001 has a long history and currently has over 1,200 students and over 100 teachers and staff. It caters mainly to the children of Sri Lankan professionals working in Qatar and has been highly successful and much sought after educational institution under the supervision of the Supreme Council of Education in Qatar.

Membership tops 2 million - Podujana Peramuna

(dailymirror.lk) The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) had recruited more than two million members to the party, it said in a statement today.

"In a special two month membership drive, initiated under the patronage of former Parliamentarian Basil Rajapaksa, the SLPP had achieved the target. This is also shown by the record attendance at the May Day rally held at the Galle Face Green," the statement said.

The SLPP's membership drive titled "Samaajikathwaabhishekaya", under the theme 'Build a village that protects the country' was held islandwide followed by a series of conferences. "Through seminars, we were able to set several new political trends. The SLPP is the only party in the country to carry out an active political

campaign country wide," it said.

"In each electorate people showed willingness to get membership. It is a victory to get this type of a

massive response from the general public which helped to reach the target of two million members," it said.

Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa said yesterday the Joint Opposition, in alliance with like-minded parties, would contest the next election under the Flower Bud

symbol of Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna.

He was addressing an electoral organizer's meeting in the Deniyaya area.

Former JVP MP for the Matara District Premasiri Manage joined hands with Mr. Rajapaksa at this event.



20A to be amended to hold polls by next year: PM

(dailymirror.lk) The government will hold elections to the nine provincial councils before the end of 2018 by re-wording the 20th Amendment which was rejected by several provincial councils, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said. He said this during a function at Malkaduwa in the Kurunegala District on Saturday.

"We are ready to introduce a fresh clause to the 20th Amendment to the Constitution compelling the government to hold the provincial council elections before the end of next year," the Prime Minister said. "The 20A was prepared to ensure that elections to the nine PCs will be held under the mixed electoral system on a single day prior to the end of 2018."

He said government would introduce legislation shortly to appoint another delimitation commission to demarcate the constituencies at the provincial level and that there would be wards at local government level and constituencies at provincial and national level by 2020.

The Prime Minister assured all stakeholders that



PC elections before the end of 2018 and that the government would not postpone elections indefinitely. He said the LG elections will be an experimental exercise 60 per cent of the representatives elected under the first-past-the-post system and 40 per cent under the proportional representation system. "It is essential to have a mixed electoral system so that there would be representatives to each constituency while the smaller parties will be represented as well. Constituencies are essential as myself and others such as late Lionel Jayatilake who represented this area came into Parliament in 1977 from a constituency," the Prime Minister said. (Yohan Perera)

Geetha suffers severe burns

(island.lk) Sri Lanka's former actress and legislator Geetha Kumarasinghe was being treated at a private hospital in Colombo Saturday following severe burns, police said.

Kumarasinghe, 62, was rushed to hospital on Friday night in what appeared to have been an accident involving a gas stove at her home, police said.

"She has suffered extensive burns and her condition is serious, but she is getting all the medical attention she needs," a hospital source said.

Kumarasinghe's election as a member of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party representing the district of Galle was declared invalid by the Court of Appeal, but she petitioned the Supreme Court which fixed a hearing for September 25.



Abortion to be legalised on two critical conditions

*Minister awaits text of proposals for Cabinet discussion

*Rape victim have right to chose whether to conceive or not

*Catholic Bishops oppose termination of pregnancies

By Dilanthi Jayamanne

(island.lk) Health Minister Dr Rajitha Senarathne yesterday said that the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka (PNSL) had proposed that abortion be legalised on two critical conditions.

Dr Senarathne said the proposals had been put forward during the academic sessions of the PNSL on August 23 and 24. The association had proposed that abortion be legalised if the mother was a rape victim or if a severe deformity which would affect the child that was to be born had been detected in the foetus, the minister said. Although the proposals were made to Minister Dr. Senarathne during the Academic sessions, the Health Ministry has not yet received the text of the two proposals. Senarathne said he needed the document so that he could refer them to the

Cabinet.

The Minister observed that giving birth to children with severe deformities was a transgression which would have dire effects on the parents and the child. Therefore, steps should be taken to detect such deformities in a foetus, which had to be removed.

Former Chairman of the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) and Vice Chairperson UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Dr Hiranthi Wijemanne during an interview in the Pethikada TV programme on Sirasa TV yesterday (3) morning said that a rape victim had the right to decide whether to conceive or not. Further, rape victims from poverty stricken families should have the right to have a safe abortion if she chose not to have the child. She stressed that the laws on rape

should be reviewed and updated.

However, the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka has condemned any move to legalise abortion in any form whatsoever. The Catholic Church believes that life begins at the very moment of conception and is sacred and that no one has the right to manipulate human life.



Rajitha Senarathne

Mixed electoral system for all elections

Amali Mallawaarachchi

(dailynews.lk) Local Government and Provincial Councils Minister Faizer Mustapha will table a cabinet memorandum proposing to apply the new mixed electoral system introduced for the local government bodies, to Provincial Council and parliamentary elections. Mustapha says he will table the memorandum at the Cabinet meeting today.

The new mixed electoral system for the Local Government bodies follows a First-Past-the-Post (FPP) representation 60 percent and Proportional Representation (PR) 40 percent ratio.

"The Constitutional Steering Committee has already proposed to hold the parliamentary election under this 60:40 ratio electoral

system. Introducing the same system to Provincial Councils will ensure that we have a consistent method applied to all elections," Minister Mustapha said.

All political parties in parliament have consented to this proposal.

Mustapha said the new electoral system will pave the way for a better political culture and said he is willing to discuss the proposal with all political parties and other parties concerned.

The Local Government and Provincial Council Ministry will seek recommendations from an expert committee on the proposal as well.



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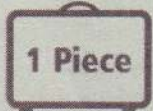
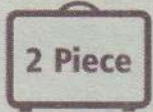
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TNA leader meets with visiting US Assistant Secretary of State

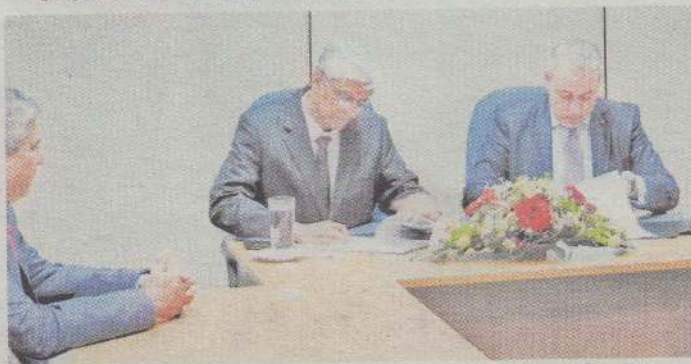
(island.lk) TNA and Opposition leader, R. Sampanthan met with visiting US Assistant Secretary of State, Ambassador Alice Wells at the residence of the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Atul Keshap last week. Sampanthan apprised Ambassador Wells on the current political situation in the country, especially

matters pertaining to the Constitution making process. Briefing on the background of the conflict, Sampanthan said: "every Tamil person in this country has been affected by violence". Continuing, he said: "We have been deprived of our rights in this country, and as a result of it, over 1.5 million Tamils have fled Sri Lanka. We want the remaining Tamil people in this country to live with dignity and those who have left the country to return". He also highlighted the need to frame a new Constitution which will preserve and protect the dignity of all people in Sri Lanka. "Unlike earlier, this time there has been much ground work done with regard to framing the new Constitution and we cannot afford to allow these processes to fail". Speaking on the power sharing arrangements in the new Constitution, Sampanthan said a genuine power sharing arrangement is important and people should be able to decide on matters affecting their day to day life, in places where they have lived continuously.



Palestinian MOU

Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) Director General Imad Zuhairi and Strategic Enterprise Management Agency (SEMA) Asoka Abeygunawardena Director General had signed a MoU in the presence of the Representative of Sri Lanka in Palestine M. Fawzan Anver, Palestinian Ambassador to Sri Lanka Zuhair Hamdallah, Hisham Taha (from the Embassy of Palestine), Harsha Navarathne (Sevalanka) and Reverent Ananda Sagara.



Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) Director General Imad Zuhairi and Strategic Enterprise Management Agency (SEMA) Asoka Abeygunawardena Director General signing the MoU.

Don't betray people by protecting so-called war heroes: SF

(dailymirror.lk) Provincial Development Minister, Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka said that it is unjust to protect wrongdoers for the sake of being war heroes clad in military attire and that every politician and every leader of the government should understand that fact. Addressing a meeting at Kiribathgoda on Monday, Field Marshal Fonseka said soldiers who committed murders and rapes were punished and hanged and former leaders of the government had punished wrongdoers on behalf of the people. Addressing journalists, later he said: "We are

aware that the soldiers who committed rapes and murders were punished. Those who were accused of murder and rape of Manamperi and the murder of Embilipitiya students were hanged to death. Then the leaders of the government took decisions in favour of the people. The leaders should always be on the side of the people. Some people say that I am a traitor. Those who say so were afraid of going beyond Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa. The people breathe in freely because I finished the war. That is why the media also write at their will. If I am a traitor who has finished the war, then are those who robbed the properties of the country and those who killed the people using white vans and their disciples who committed corruption and frauds patriots? There are such disciples in Kelaniya also. I have a problem of understanding them in the true sense of the word: patriots. I gave orders to an army of 200,000 soldiers. One person who was in that army was Jagath Jayasuriya. He was not involved in the operations. The president should be held responsible if he had involved such a cowardice which affected the people when I was giving orders to an army of 200,000. The Army commander is responsible for lawful acts only. The ministers and members of the parliament act as the representatives of the people. There is no change in the army in the past or present. The majors and captains were punished and hanged for wrongdoings," he said. He also pointed out that the leaders of the government in the past took actions in the name of the people and that the expectations of the people should be fulfilled. It is not acceptable to shatter the aspirations of the people for the sake of a person being a war hero. Every leader should understand it, he said. He also said what is said in every media channel and newspapers cannot be believed because they are fabricated and spread distortion among the people. (Lal S. Kumara)

Unity Gov. helped usher new political culture



Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) Chairman and President Maithripala Sirisena waving to thousands of enthusiastic and fervent party supporters who participated in the SLFP's 66th Anniversary Convention at Campbell Park, Borella. Pictures by Sudath Silva.

Dharma Sri Abeyratne

(dailynews.lk) President Maithripala Sirisena said that many international allegations, especially the allegations levelled on human right violations were mitigated by implementing a new political culture through the Unity Government. The President added that with the forming of the Unity Government, the country showcased to the world that human-rights, democracy, equality, ethnic harmony and many more advanced human qualities had been established. Several sanctions had been imposed against Sri Lanka when the Unity Government was formed ie; European Union fish ban and curtailing of GSP Plus concessions. However, as a result of the people-friendly and democratic governance of the Unity Government, those sanctions were lifted. "As we were able to strengthen democracy and protect human rights, many world leaders extended their fullest support to Sri Lanka's forward march," the President said. President Sirisena was addressing the Sri Lanka Freedom Party's 66th Anniversary Convention under the theme 'Janabhalaya Hari Athata' at Campbell Park, Borella yesterday. Addressing the huge gathering, the President stressed that no one will be allowed to bring the War Heroes, who were actively involved in defending and safeguarding the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty into disrepute. "I will never allow anyone including international elements to harass not only former Army Commander Lt.Gen.Jagath Jayasuriya but any War Hero. I never dance to the tune of NGOs, which have become a cat's paw of LTTE supporters. Lt. General Jayasuriya's case is an international issue," the President said. The President highlighted that when looking from a global context, every political party unites when a country has to overcome a challenge. "It can be observed that our challenges and threats were overcome by uniting and setting aside minor issues. That is the concept of the Unity Government. The Unity Government was formed with the United National Party to overcome several international challenges," the President said. The President pointed out that Sri Lanka was defeated at international councils including the United Nations' Human Right Council.

"The country was side-lined," he said.

The President reminded the people to think of the fate the nation would have faced if he was not elected as the country's President in 2015. President Sirisena said that he was able to protect democracy in the SLFP unlike in the past when no one dared to speak against the decisions of the then Chairman at party meetings including the Central Committee Meeting. Everyone is free to air their views in the SLFP today. President Sirisena said that the SLFP will undergo radical change and will be transformed into a vibrant political force which would help it regain its past glory.

"The SLFP should be further strengthened as it is a people-friendly party aiming to achieve future political victories," the President said. This year's SLFP Convention which coincides with President Maithripala Sirisena's 66th birthday, started at around 2.30 pm with the multi-religious observances and the singing of the SLFP theme song.

SLFP General Secretary Duminda Dissanayake pledged to make the party a pure, corrupt-free, progressive and democratic political force that could emerge victorious. SLFP leaders including former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and former Prime Minister D.M.Jayasuratne too were in attendance. Representatives from 42 political parties also attended the Convention. Former Prime Minister late S.W.R.D Bandaranaike was the founding leader of the SLFP. Since its inception in 1951, the party's base has been the 'Pancha Maha Balawegaya' (Five Great Forces) comprised of the 'Sanga, Weda, Guru, Govi and Kamkaru' (Buddhist monks, native doctors, teachers, farmers and workers). The SLFP which first came to power in 1956 and has been in Government on a number of occasions contributing to the country's development.

Catholic Bishops

(island.lk) Catholic Bishops Conference in Sri Lanka has, in a message said the Catholic Community has been disturbed by the distorted image of Jesus Christ superimposed with the face of a politician now being circulated through the electronic media. The message said: "It is a cowardly act by whosoever is behind this disrespectful and insulting action against the founder of Christianity who is loved and worshiped by millions of people worldwide. "The last 2000 years have witnessed many a martyr who have sacrificed their lives for His name. "While we express our hurt and disgust towards this action we urge those in authority to ensure that no religious founder be unjustly insulted in this manner and invite our faithful to pray for the renewal of the secular and temporal order especially the social media, for the well being of the human family."

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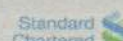
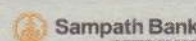
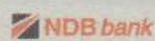
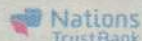
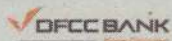
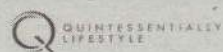
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SLFP celebrates 66th anniversary

Shirone Fernando National Organiser SLFP Media Forum

(dailynews.lk) The SLFP which is eternally etched in the hearts of the self sufficient rural masses donning the cloth and banian, claims a proud history of 66 years.

There was an intellectual who probed the economic, social, cultural and political developments in this country during the middle and latter half of the 1940 decade. He was Queen's Counsel H. Sri Nissanka who was a linguist and an eminent legal personality rich with Buddhist values. He was a colleague of late S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike who studied law at the Oxford University in England. During their university life, Nissanka used to brief Bandaranaike on Buddhist and Cultural values maintained in the country from time to time. The two of them exchanged views in a friendly dialogue. Sri Nissanka who had a matured intelligence outstripping his age, made Bandaranaike shun his Western culture and habits and imbibe local cultural values and get accustomed to them.

On their return to Sri Lanka after their studies, both Bandaranaike and Sri Nissanka got involved in the legal and political section Sri Nissanka and Bandaranaike started a discussion at the 'Yamuna' residence at Kirillapone to build the SLFP on the theme of social democracy. The end result was the formation of the SLFP in 1951 with the participation of more progressive individuals.

It was Sri Nissanka who proposed the party name as the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and its colour as 'Blue', symbol as the 'Hand' and drew up its constitution. Nissanka who entrusted Bandaranaike with the responsibility of leading the party, cleared his path by acting as a theoretician.

The furniture including chairs and desks and the pen used at this inaugural ceremony of the party are still preserved at the Yamuna residence (presently called Yamuna Sadaham Ashramaya). Spearheaded by the five fold forces. The Sangha, Native Physicians, Teachers, Farmers and Workers, the SLFP proliferated into rural areas with great public appeal, gaining the blessings of the rural masses. Turning a new leaf in the history of Sri Lanka's politics Mr Bandaranaike was able to set up a new government in 1956 with the support of left parties.

Prime Minister Bandaranaike steered the country towards a revolutionary change by changing its Western oriented foreign policy into one friendly towards the Socialist Bloc led by China and Russia. At a time he was steering Sri Lanka towards development with new energy by



Prime Minister
S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike



Queen's Counsel
H. Sri Nissanka

launching nationalised services and receiving the unstinted support of the masses, he was gunned down and stilled by an assailant in 1956 marking the most tragic incident in the country's history.



Former Prime Minister
Sirimavo Bandaranaike



Former President
Chandrika Bandaranaike
Kumaratunga



Former President
Mahinda Rajapaksa



President
Maithripala Sirisena

Although Wijayananda Dahanayake inherited the Premiership he was not able to maintain the party with the same energy. It was the same with later C.P. de Silva. Late Sirimavo Bandaranaike was installed as the Leader of the Party on the invitation of all sections and she managed to take the party forward by protecting Bandaranaike policies and overcoming all challenges systematically. Late Bandaranaike rendered a great service as the World's First Woman Prime Minister. She conducted foreign policy with great aplomb and finesse. Facing various threats and challenges she managed to protect the party even better than her own children.

The strategies adopted by her quelled the 1971 youth uprising earned plaudits from friend and foe alike. The SLFP which had been trodding a difficult path after overcoming various crises which erupted from time to time is today endeavouring to endear itself to the rural masses by protecting ourness.

Today we are passing a period where democracy is overflowing in the party ensuring great freedom

within it. It is most praiseworthy to see incumbent SLFP Chairman President Maithripala Sirisena acting with great patience and steer it with greater energy. Entrusting party responsibilities to youth he has launched a training facility to provide them with political education.

At this important juncture it is the duty of grateful party members and supporters to spare a thought and remember Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa who ended a 30 year war and former President and Party Chairperson Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga who laid the foundation towards gaining minority support and votes to the party by promoting communal unity and harmony.

As the SLFP celebrates its 66th anniversary on September 3, it is memorable and most significant to see President Maithripala Sirisena donning the party leadership with the support and representation of this five fold forces and the leadership of the country.

Long live the SLFP which celebrates its 66th anniversary.

V2025

Cont from P1

...the President said. "Now that the most difficult years are behind us and socioeconomic stability has been created, investment will flow in. We are a country without conflict where businesses can invest without fear. What we need to do is become more competitive and in tune with the rapidly changing world. Then Sri Lanka can match anyone in the world," the Prime Minister said. Despite the glossy launch, the policy document, which also contained a 'Three Year Economic Delivery Programme', was short on specifics. Both leaders also stuck to overarching statements that underscored election pledges such as creating one million jobs and highlighted past achievements including regaining GSP+ and increasing wages of public servants. "Over the next years, within the 2025 Vision, we will implement a comprehensive economic strategy to address constraints to growth. We will aim to raise per capita income to \$ 5,000 per year, create one million new jobs, increase FDI to \$ 5 billion per year and double exports to \$ 20 billion

per year. These intermediate targets lay the foundation for our Vision 2025: Sri Lanka to become an upper-middle income country," read the page titled 'A Three Year Economic Delivery Programme'.

Other sections such as Constraints to Growth identified persistent fiscal deficits, poor investor confidence, poor export performance and limited public finance as culprits. The booklet also reiterated previous Government pledges to increase direct taxes, increase public revenue to 16% of GDP, allow a floating exchange rate and continue fiscal consolidation. "We will maintain public investment at 5-6% of GDP for the period 2017-2020. We will use this for economic infrastructure development and for human resource development projects in education, healthcare, R&D and vocational training instead of buildings as has been done in the past," the document said.

Under rationalisation of Government expenditure, the policy statement said state-owned enterprises (SOEs) would be restructured with the pricing of their goods and services to be at market clearing rates. Subsidies by SOEs will be provided directly to the targeted population. "We aim to bring the debt to GDP ratio down to 70% by 2020. To this end we have formulated a forward-looking liability management strategy for domestic and foreign debt under the medium term debt management strategy. This will address the

high public debt stock while focusing on meeting Government cash flow needs using an appropriate composition of domestic and foreign debt instruments and maturities." In the Strengthening Growth Framework section, the policy document recaps the Government's intention to put Sri Lanka among the top 70 Ease of Doing Business countries on the World Bank index. It then says the Government will "clarify and reform investment incentive policies to improve investment policy predictability" but gives no timelines or specific steps. Under this section the document also details intentions to encourage public-private partnerships, integrate SMEs into the formal sector and identifies the need to reduce para-tariffs. "We have formulated a new trade policy, along with an original National Export Strategy. These aim to create a more liberal, simple, transparent and predictable trade regime. These policy changes will attract more export-oriented FDI, improve trade logistics, make customs procedures transparent and quicker, and boost firms' abilities to compete in global markets." Ongoing discussions for trade pacts with India, Singapore and China will continue but the Government will develop a trade adjustment program to mitigate competition impacts. "The Government will ensure anti-dumping laws are passed to protect domestic firms....By implementing these trade adjustment packages we will enable all domestic enterprises

to become competitive while mitigating any negative impacts of liberal imports." The policy framework also touches on positioning Sri Lanka as a global logistics hub, expanding tourism, reforming land labour and capital markets, establishing economic corridors, developing agriculture, social safety nets, technology and digitalisation and governance. "The Government will review key legislation and make necessary amendments to free up land for economic activities and introduce a unified legal framework. We will establish a land bank to facilitate these efforts." The policy framework pledges to usher in "an era of economic prosperity for all Sri Lankans" that will see a "new growth framework underpinned by a clear and transformative process of economic policy reforms" and establish "a strong macroeconomic foundation to lay the basis for a broader reform effort." "We Sri Lankans can look forward to a prosperous period ahead with higher living standards and the social mobility that comes with it. Efforts to diversify, upgrade and deepen Sri Lanka's production and export base will help the transition to meet the legitimate aspirations of our citizens for better living standards. The changes emerging from these structural social changes will result in the formation of a strong and influential middle class that can propel Sri Lanka to successfully make that leap to a rich country," the documents said in its conclusion.

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CONT FROM P1

... Provincial Councils and Local Government Minister Faiszer Musthapha, who participated in the meeting, is to present a Cabinet Paper at the special Cabinet meeting summoned today. The Cabinet Paper is likely to recommend the implementation of the Mixed Member Proportionate System with 60% held under the Westminster (First-past-the-post) system and 40% under the Proportional Representation (PR) system - which was introduced through the Local Authorities Elections (amendment) Bill passed by Parliament - for the Provincial Council Elections. The Steering Committee of the Constitutional Assembly has already made a decision to employ the same electoral system in Parliamentary Elections as well. While there is no necessity to amend the Constitution to change the electoral system, an amendment is needed to hold all Provincial Council Elections on the same day, Sumanthiran said.

"Although the amendment looks like an attempt to postpone the elections, the bona fide exercise is to ensure that elections are held on the same day and to bring about the change in the system," he said.

"The delimitation process will also take about a year. So there is no need to postpone the elections to 2019. A decision was taken to hold elections in a year's time when the process is complete."

However, Sumanthiran highlighted that these reasons have not been communicated to the public clearly. Following the discussions, elections of three provincial councils, whose terms will expire in October, will be postponed by one year, while the elections of three others will be advanced by one year.

Further, provisions brought in the 20th Amendment to control any Provincial Council which is dissolved before its term through Parliament will also be amended. The discussion has focused on two options - appointing a caretaker Government or opting for an election to appoint councillors for the remainder of the term.

"We are not agreeable to the current provision. The control has to stay within the province. However, it cannot be in the hands of the Governor either. So it has to be either a caretaker government or an election to appoint members for the unexpired period," Sumanthiran said.

The 20th Amendment has already been defeated by the Southern and Uva Provincial Councils, while the Western Provincial Council has decided to postpone the debate on the matter. The Northern Province, controlled by the TNA, and the Eastern Province, where the TNA holds a majority, will decide on the amendment on 7 September.

"On our request the Northern Province postponed its decision to 7 September and the Eastern Provincial Council will decide on the same day. If an agreement is reached on the changes to the 20th Amendment which can be incorporated during the committee stage of the Parliamentary debate then we can vote in favour of the amendment," Sumanthiran said.

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Fonseka

from P10

accusations against Minister Fonseka including making a statement on the contrary to the President regarding the war crime allegations against the war heroes as a responsible minister in the government.

Minister Fonseka has come under criticism for disagreeing with President Maithripala Sirisena's statement that he will protect the war heroes and will not allow any foreign organization to "touch" them.

Field Marshal Fonseka criticizing the President Sirisena's statement said a leader should be on people's side and not on the side of the

wrongdoers' who dressed in uniforms and are called war heroes. The Joint opposition also plans to bring a no-confidence motion against the Minister of Health Dr. Rajitha Senarathne.

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Judge Weeramantry wins posthumous award

(island.lk) Judge Christopher Weeramantry was posthumously awarded the inaugural Paik Choon Hyung Prize at the 6th Biennial Conference of the Asian Society of International Law in Seoul, Korea, recently.

Judge Weeramantry shared the prize with three other Asian giants of international law: Professor R. P. Anand of India, Professor Wang Tieya of China, and Judge Florentino Feliciano of the Philippines.

The prize was posthumously awarded to these eminent jurists for their work in promoting human rights, the rule of law and the judicial settlement of disputes in Asia.



Dr. Romesh Weeramantry, left, accepts the Paik Prize on behalf of the Weeramantry family. Judge Paik, President of the Society, is on the right.

BRONZE AT BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD 2017

The IBO is an annual event where students from all over the world compete on their knowledge of Biology. The participants are Pre-University school students. To take part in the IBO, the students must be among the top four in the National Biology Olympiad in their individual countries.

Dilshan Weerasinghe, a student of St. Peter's College, Colombo, won the Bronze medal at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2017 held at the University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom, recently.

Over 250 talented young students and Jury members from 61 countries participated in this competition. IBO 2017 was organised by the

Royal Society of Biology in partnership with the University of Warwick. Nisal Punsara from Rahula College Matara, Anagi Kottahachchi from Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo and Sachini Mayanka Hettiarachchi from Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy, also participated in this competition with three Jury members, Prof. M. J. S. Wijeyaratne from the University of Kelaniya, Prof. Hiran Amarasekera and Prof. Nissanka de Silva from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura.

The Sunday Observer spoke to Dilshan Weerasinghe about his interest in Biology and his achievement. Having studied at St. Peter's College, Colombo from Grade one to Grade 13, he said, "I sat the GCE A/L examination in August 2016 in the Biology stream and was able to obtain 3 As and was placed 5th in the Colombo District and 14th in the island. I am currently selected to the Medical Faculty of the Colombo University and awaiting admission," he said.

"I have heard of the Biology Olympiads since Grade Nine and how challenging it is even to the brightest students. I was always enthusiastic to participate in the IBO. In 2016, my Biology teacher Tissa Jananayaka handed out application forms for the Sri Lanka Biology Olympiad (SLBO) 2017. This made me apply for the competition. There was a national round of exams called, SLBO held in July annually, to select students for the IBO. I applied, and was placed 2nd and obtained a Gold medal. The Gold and Silver medalists, totalling



Dilshan Weerasinghe with his Bronze Medal at the International Biology Olympiad

24 had a second round of exams to select nine students out of them. I got selected to this group as well. Then, the nine of us were given a third round of exams including theoretical and practical tasks. Along with me three students were selected for the final round to represent Sri Lanka at the IBO 2017," Weerasinghe said.

He said, they had a short training period at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura and Colombo. "Many Professors, doctors and University personnel, namely, Prof. M. J. S. Wijeyaratne, Prof. Hiran Amarasekera, Prof. Nissanka de Silva, Dr. Pradeepika



Sri Lankan participants at the opening ceremony of IBO 2017

Saputhanthri, Dr. Hashendra Kathiriarachchi and Dr. Jagathpriya motivated us and supported us throughout the whole process to prepare for the IBO. My fellow participants helped each other and studied together, so that my achievement was actually the result of teamwork," he said.

Weerasinghe said, the International Biology Olympiad Competition is based on theory and practical examinations on knowledge and expertise in Biology. "In addition to providing scientific challenges and the chance to win medals, the competition gave the young Bio enthusiasts a unique opportunity to get together with other young people with an interest in Science. A total of 68 countries, including, China, Denmark, India, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, United Kingdom and United States of America participated in the competition. Haoyu Zhou from China won the first place," he said.

Weerasinghe said that when he was in Primary School he was curious about the extinct Dinosaurs, their fossil remnants and how human evolution was affected. "This made me love the subject of Biology. Currently I am mostly interested in Genetics, Human Anatomy and Molecular Biology. My future ambition is to become a doctor and specialize in the neurology field. I would then be able to work in a field that I am interested in and save many human lives. I want to

enjoy my profession, that is why I chose it. During my leisure I read books, mainly science fictions, fantasy and thrillers, watch movies and TV series but mostly I enjoy trying to learn new things like different languages," he said. He says, following one's passion will lead to many great things in life. "I had a huge interest in Biology; that is why I chose to pursue this path and what I want to tell all my brothers and sisters is to follow their passion. I believe this will lead you to many great things in life. My parents help me tremendously. They are my great supporters who helped me to obtain a bronze medal at the IBO. My teachers too helped me throughout the years. I wish to especially mention the professors and university demonstrators at the Universities of Sri Jayawardenepura and Colombo, along with my fellow teammates who helped me obtain this medal at IBO. I am thankful to all of them," he said.



From right: Sachini Hettiarachchi, Anagi Kottahachchi, Prof. M. J. S. Wijeyaratne from University of Kelaniya, Prof. Hiran Amarasekera, Prof. Nissanka de Silva from University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Nisal Punsara and Dilshan Weerasinghe.

Jaffna Intl Cinema Festival – 2017

By Rishnini Jayarathna

(ceylontoday.lk) Agenda 14, in collaboration with the Fine Arts Department of the University of Jaffna (UoJ) and Ceylon Theatres, is planning to hold the Jaffna International Cinema Festival (JICF) for the third consecutive year. Their theme is 'Celebrating independent cinema in the peninsula.'

According to the Festival Director, Anomaa Rajakaruna, the JICF 2017 will be held at the Majestic Cineplex at Cargills Square in Jaffna, Kailasapathy Auditorium – UoJ, and Hatton

National Bank Auditorium – Jaffna. It will commence on 15 September at 10:00 a.m. and end with an awards ceremony on 20 September at 6:30 p.m.

"One hundred films including feature films, documentaries, and short films will be presented. Countries such as France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Czech Republic, Poland, Croatia, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, China, Singapore, the United States of America, Slovakia, Switzerland, Belgium, Chile, Pakistan, Nepal, Colombia, Vietnam,

Canada, and Australia will participate in the JICF 2017," noted Rajakaruna.

She said: "Four awards will be presented at the JICF 2017 for Lifetime Achievement, Best Debut Film, Best International Short Film, Best National Short Film, and Audience Award for the Most Popular Short Film. Dr. Pathiraja will be honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his immense contribution to the Sri Lankan Cinema Industry. Ceylon Theatres is to present a Rs 100,000 cash prize for the Best National Short Film."

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary

(Never known to fail)

O Most Beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruit of the vine, splendour of heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. Oh! star of the sea help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh! holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Show me here you are my mother. Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times) Thank you for your graces towards me and your devotees. AMEN

This prayer must be said three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published. Chryst

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Buddhist Cultural Centre releases 'Western contribution to Buddhism' book

(dailynews.lk) The Buddhist Cultural Centre has just released a new book titled 'Western contribution to Buddhism' authored by William Peiris. The publication of this volume will be a welcome addition to the literature in English on the subject of Buddhism and the Buddha. A foreword by the late Venerable H. Saddhatissa Maha Thera, a distinguished Professor Emeritus of the Benares Hindu University and of the University of Toronto, Canada, is evidence of the importance of the new publication. The author has been a journalist and broadcaster for over half a century and is well qualified to speak with authority on his chosen subject. The preparation of this work had entailed an enormous amount of research, for it is an account of the great services which Western scholars have rendered in the last 150-200 years to the noble cause of Buddhism and truth. The book, which has 48 portraits of famous scholars, is made up of 11 chapters in which the author deals with the work of scholars from England, France, Germany, Russia and America. Schopenhauer, the famous German philosopher who early in the nineteenth century, drew the attention of the Western hemisphere to the importance of Buddhism, occupied a prominent place in the work and is honoured with a portrait. Sir Edwin Arnold, author of the world-famous Buddhist poem 'The Light of Asia' also ranks as one of the outstanding Western contributors to our knowledge of Buddhism.

Author William Peiris had written a most readable biography of Arnold which was published by the Buddhist Publication Society of Kandy. The Rhys Davids husband and wife, who contributed greatly as founders of the Pali Buddhist Tripitika, occupy a prominent and well-merited place in William Peiris' book. The author has pointed out that Buddhist Asia owes a great deal of gratitude to Western scholars for their enormous contribution to Buddhist scholarship and the spread of Buddhism in the West. William Peiris enumerates the facts relating to this growth and achievement.

According to William Peiris, of all the countries in the West, Britain has rendered the greatest service to Buddhism. The name of Rhys Davids heads the list of British scholars who dedicated their lives to the study of Buddhism and the propagation of its tenets and doctrine. The name of Rhys Davids is remembered and honoured as the founder and first president of the Pali Text Society. His missionary zeal for Buddhist studies made him the staunchest champion in this sphere. He helped the Society to publish almost the whole of the Pali canon and a considerable number commentaries and English translations. Rhys Davids' wife will always be remembered as the greatest expositor of the Buddha's doctrine. She was also given an equal tribute and by their combined endeavour, they have established a place for Buddhism in the Christian world. Rhys Davids once mentioned, "I have examined every great religious systems of the world and in none of them have I found anything to surpass in beauty and comprehensiveness of the noble, eightfold path of the Buddha. I am content to shape my life according to that path."

Rhys Davids was committed to organize Pali studies in the West and to pave the way for Buddhism to become a household word in the West. The contribution made through Sir Edwin Arnold's poem 'The Light of Asia' was practically helpful for the propagation of Buddhism in the West. The book achieved a phenomenal success and its sales exceeded one million copies in Europe and America. Its circulation has been wider than any other book on Buddhism. Buddhism became widely known in the West by its publication in 1879.

Friedrick Max Muller, was another who contributed to Buddhism from England, where he spent the greater part of his life and earned a high reputation as a competent editor and translator of Buddhist texts. The name of I.B. Horner, as the president of the Pali Text Society, prominently stands out among the benefactors of Buddhism in the West. She was a Pali scholar of the front rank. Dr. Edward Conze was another outstanding English Buddhist scholar and author, well-versed in Pali, Sanskrit, Chinese, Tibetan, Mongolian and Japanese. He was a practicing Buddhist for thirty years and was one of the world's greatest Buddhist scholars.

Christmas Humphreys was another well-known British pioneer and propagandist who believed in World Buddhism and was convinced that only in a combination of all schools of Buddhism can the full grandeur of Buddhist thought be found. His numerous writings indicate that he had a wide knowledge of Buddhism. William Peiris confirms that Germans can claim to be the first Westerners to gain an insight into

Buddhism and to extol it. He comments, the number of those who practice Buddhism without publicly announcing is believed to be very much high. Schopenhauer, the philosopher, assigned Buddhism the highest place among world religions. He had been since the first quarter of the 19th century the most widely read German philosopher. He was the first to tell the West about Buddhism. "If I wished to take the results of my philosophy as the standard of truth, I should have to concede to Buddhism pre-eminence over the others. It must be a pleasure to me to see my doctrine in close agreement with a religion that the majority of men on earth hold as their own, for these numbers for more followers than others," Schopenhauer said. The founder of the Buddhist House in Berlin, well-known all over the world as a thinker of great originality, Paul Dhalke said, "Buddhism has a great mission to fulfil in the life of mankind that cannot be performed by any other religion or philosophy. Irreplaceable for the seeker after truth and entirely unique in its mental structure for the thinker. The Buddha Dhamma stands secure in the power of its inner truth, waiting serenely for that recognition of its worth which other religions seek to obtain

by eager propaganda."

The late Ven. Nanatiloka Maha Thera, who spent 54 years of his life in Ceylon, was among the Western pioneers of Buddhism. He was the first German to enter the Order and selected a small island in south Ceylon in 1911. This island hermitage became famous throughout the world and in it, many westerners, specially Germans, were ordained.

"The credit for beginning the systematic and scientific study of Buddhism in the West goes to France," said William Peiris. It was the French orientalist Eugene Burnouf who may be described as the Father of Buddhist Studies in Europe. He published scholarly pioneer work of Buddhism. He was the first to make Pali, the language of Theravada Buddhism, known in Europe. V. Trencher initiated the massive Critical Pali Dictionary which was compiled with international support and collaboration. It was Dr. Paul Carus who pioneered a vigorous movement to popularize Buddhism in America. His first book, 'The Gospel of Buddha,' published in 1894, was a best seller. What appeals to him in particular is the freedom of thought and expression underlined in Buddhism, its invitation to the

inquirer to investigate its doctrine and to believe nothing until the inquirer is fully satisfied about the truth enshrined in it. It is worth quoting the words of the Ven. Saddhatissa Maha Thera who wrote that "this fascinating chronicle should become a textbook for all who wish to pursue a study of Buddhist history. This book is essential reading for all who are interested in the development and range of influence of Buddhism and the Buddha. As it is written in English, it will appeal to millions of potential readers—good auspices in the present deplorable state of morality in the world of today."

Dr. Edward Conze said, "Dear Professor Peiris, rather belatedly I have just studied your book. It gives a most fascinating account of the many gifted people who took up Buddhism in the West."

The publisher, the Buddhist Cultural Centre in Nedimala, Dehiwela, deserves a word of praise for the excellent get-up of the book. Copies of this book are available for sale at 125, Anderson Road, Nedimala, Dehiwela; Sri Sambuddhathwa Jayanthi Mandiraya, 32, Sri Sambuddhathwa Jayanthi Mawatha, Colombo 5 and www.buddhistee.com



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Light-bearer: Musaeus College

Ishara Jayawardane (dailynews.lk) Musaeus College is a prestigious institution with a history of 126 years where it has nourished Sinhala Buddhist girls. Jayawickrama embraces the post of Head Girl with passion feeling privileged and fortunate for the opportunity. The message of the founder Marie Musaeus Higgins is always in her heart and this message is what sustains and strengthens her. This is how every Musaeite is trained within those walls. They follow the light and aspire to these objectives.

Head Prefect Dasuni Jayawickrama has followed the light her whole life. It has given her life powerful meaning. Perfect Prefects features Head Girl Dasuni Jayawickrama whose understanding of what it means to follow the light has enabled her to command a student population of nearly over 6000. That has enabled her to make others follow a vision. This vision is that of the Founder of Musaeus Marie Musaeus Higgins who said "My Dear Daughters, go forward with courage, go forward to your destiny, love your native land, honour your culture and your costumes, never falter by the way in your life's mission and educate yourselves".

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Exemplary character

Being in command at times is a daunting task for any school leader, and this is the same for Jayawickrama. She has to have an exemplary character, where the whole student body of Musaeus should be able to look up to. Being in a Buddhist school which is 126 years old, her behaviour must be of a high standard, because you need to live up to these Buddhist ideals. She must have an unblemished personality. She must be beyond reproach. She cannot give excuses, she must make sure her responsibilities are fulfilled some way or the other. She has to be a very understanding and character, that any student can approach and should have a down to earth personality. She must be firm as well, otherwise, it will be difficult for her to live up to the role expected of her.

A Head Girl should have intelligence as well as courage. One's reputation and character mean everything. This is because you are judged according to the content of your character. And your character is tested in how you handle situations. And if you handle the situation while being true to the values inculcated within you then you have succeeded. So the Head Girl should have the ability to take correct decisions. But she also needs to be

flexible according to the situation and needs proper understanding to make correct decisions. So in addition to intelligence, she needs the courage to face the challenges.

"My Alma Mater has made me a passionate character and we need to dream big. That is what a Musaeite is being trained for, to dream big one day. A lot of values are being inculcated in our girls. Being a Musaeite has made me want to go out into the world and make a change. Our values have trained us to treat everyone equally. If we all treated each other equally, the world would be much better than it is now. The Head Girl should also have a balanced personality," said Jayawickrama.

Ultimate goal

Jayawickrama is on track when it comes to her education. Currently, she is doing her A/L in the physical science stream in the UK curriculum. She is interested in doing her Bachelors in Information Systems and Cyber security related. One day she wants to make a difference in the world.

"As a Head Girl I don't really give orders, instead I prefer to discuss matters and get other peoples' ideas. I give them the opportunity to bring their

the sacrifices they have made. The teachers at Musaeus College play a huge role, cultivating good values in Jayawickrama and the girls', building up balanced personalities, academically as well as quality wise. They help produce proper ladies with good qualities.

"I got 9 As for my GCE O/L examination without going to a single tuition class. It sounds impossible but because of the sacrifice and hard work of the teachers who helped me I have been able to achieve this. Even for my A/Ls, they are helping me manage my work," said Jayawickrama.

Jayawickrama has a power base and that is her 56 senior prefects and 36 junior prefects in her Prefects Guild. They are 56 wonderful individuals.

Effective and essential

"The bonds we have built and our friendships will last forever. To face my challenges, my prefects have always been with me. Good correct decision making is a very effective and essential way of handling pressure. One should not panic, but be very calm when one is a Head Girl," pointed out Jayawickrama.

Once you are a Musaeite you are always a Musaeite. That spirit never leaves you. Every girl entering the portals of Musaeus and leaving it carries something of that spirit.

"I can proudly say that I am a Musaeite. From my very small days, I have done extracurricular activities in addition to my school work. So I am used to Multi-tasking. For example, I was a squash player until the last year. I was able to represent the school squash team. I was the President of the Musaeus College Media Unit last year, and currently, I am in the editorial of the Musaeus College English Magazine. I have completed all the speech and drama graded exams of the Trinity College London Syllabus. I am doing Speech and Drama ATCL this year. I am also engaged in Model United Nations," said Jayawickrama.

Time is just not enough for this young lady. 24 hours is not enough! And she does not waste a single second. Time Management and speed are her powers. No matter how tired she is, when she goes home she works for at least an hour.

"A leader must be behind the scenes when people are celebrating but must be with his people when they are facing a great problem. I also look up to my current principal Nelum Senadira when it comes to motivation and also our founder Marie Musaeus Higgins. They have helped me become a balanced leader. I have been fortunate to also work with S Dandeniya. Both of these principals were perfectionists, who moulded my personality so much. My leadership qualities were enhanced because of them," stated Jayawickrama.

Musaeus college is well known for its' perfection.



Giving a token of appreciation to the former principal S Dandeniya

Every function in Musaeus irrespective of its scale has its own grandeur and prestige. Every minute detail is taken into consideration in its planning. Every single aspect of its function is being allocated to a particular teacher and a duty list is being made under the supervision of the principal.

Respective duties

It is Jayawickrama's duty to meet each and every teacher in the list, and know how the prefects are required for the respective duties. Having recognized the talents and the abilities of her prefects, she allocates duties to them and has to make sure those duties are fulfilled. This must be done in such a way that the flow of the function is not affected in any way.

"For example throughout these 125 years, thousands of strong women were built under the care of mother Musaeus. Each and every one of them is successful today. As we walked into this paradise we found discipline, guidance and friendships in one place. I cannot imagine where I would be if not for my school. One of the greatest privileges I have gained in life is being a Musaeite. I owe mother Musaeus a lot for what I am today. All the Musaeites without any hesitation would agree with me if I say that Musaeus has played a vital role in their lives," explained Jayawickrama. Jayawickrama certainly has noble ambitions. The Model United Nations has provided her with the correct platform to unleash her skills. It has provided her with the opportunity to develop her personality and natural

charisma.

"Model United Nations is an activity where we play the role of a typical delegate to the United Nations in committees participating in the active debate to come up with solutions relating to his or her foreign policy. I have engaged in model UN since 2015. I was able to improve my public speaking ability through it. It helps the youth to think out of the box and come up with effective solutions for the current global issues. It requires a lot of research which in return helps to enhance our general knowledge. I was able to win an honorary mention award in 2016 representing the nation of Philippines at the Sri Lankan Model United Nations," summed up Jayawickrama.



Accepting the head prefectship at the prize giving 2016



Giving a floral tribute to the principal Nelum Senadira

Giving a floral tribute to the principal Nelum Senadira

ideas to the table," said Jayawickrama. Jayawickrama's vision is impressive, exciting and inspirational. For her, the school comes first. It is the vision of a leader. She serves Musaeus College without expecting anything. To see Musaeus prosper is her ultimate goal. She says that you need to work for the school without expecting anything in return.

Her family and teachers have been her pillars of strength. Being a Buddhist she stresses that she cannot pay them back even in this lifetime. Her family have never hesitated to give her what she needs. She is indebted to all of them because of

Celebration of 15th UK annual Big Match of Holy Cross College vs Maris Stella College

It is with great pleasure we announce the 15th annual cricket encounter between the old boys of Holy Cross College (Kalutara) and Maris Stella College (Negombo) in the UK. It first started in the summer of 2002 as a result of great enthusiasm and dedication of the senior old boys of both schools paralleling the famous "Battle of the Lagoons" annual big match between the two schools in Sri Lanka. Over the last 14 years, the cricket encounter thrived into a great get-together for the old boys and for their families. We mark the 15th anniversary of the UK big match as the old boys of the mother schools in Sri Lanka plan to revive the Battle of the Lagoons after a lapse of 22 years. On this occasion, we would like to

extend our sincere gratitude to all the members and players of both OBA's and to the others who contributed in many ways to make this event a success. The event will be held on the 17th of September 2017 at Stanmore Cricket grounds, Stanmore Hill, Middlesex H47 4LB from 10.30 am onwards. The attractions include 20/20 Cricket, Football encounter, kids' activities, live music and a Sri Lankan style buffet dinner. We, on behalf of the members of both OBA's, invite all past alumni and members of both OBA's and their families to attend this great event and support our OBA's. Press information please contact - Shanaka - 07342965072, Tarindu - 07810833571

15th Battle of the Lagoons

Contact: Reginald 07723377314

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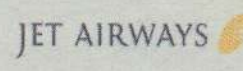
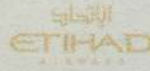
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Fairway National Literary Awards shortlist

By Tarini Pilapitiya

(sundaytimes.lk) The eagerly anticipated shortlist of the Fairway National Literary Awards was announced at a news conference at JAIC Hilton on August 31.

The first announcement for the evening was from the Sinhala category. Five novels were shortlisted. "Handa Paluwa Thani Tharuwa" by Nishshanka Wijemanna, "Yakada Silpara" by Wimal Udaya Hapugodarachchi, "Garuda Muhurthaya" by Keerthi Welisarage, "Pandaka Puthra Wasthuwa" by Anurasiri Hettige and "Nikini Kaluwara" by Deepthi Mangala Rajapaksha.

The Sinhala judging panel was made up of academic, critic, writer and lecturer at the Department of English in the University of Kelaniya Dr. Prabha Manuratne, translator, critic and writer Gamini Viyangoda and writer, poet and make-up artist Buddhadasa Galappatty.

Mr. Viyangoda commented that the Sinhala category had an outstanding number of applicants - 85 entries being received. The shortlisted novels showed a great sense of cultural and historical pride - the contexts and circumstances in which the novels were set in were both enlightening and inspiring, he said. The Tamil Shortlist category was shortlisted as follows: "Thazhumbu" by M. Balasingham, "KulaiMurali" by C. Wahabdeen,

"Ethanam" by Theniyaan and "Neenthikkadantha Neruppaaru" by N. Yogenthiranathan. The judging panel for the Tamil category was made up by Prof. V. Maheshwaran, retired professor,



translator and writer Dr. M.S. N Anes and actor, writer, film director and Professor at the Department of English of the University of Peradeniya Prof. Sivamohan Sumathy. Prof. Sumathy commented on her disappointment at the lack of entries for the Tamil novel category-

they received eight entries of which they selected four. Nevertheless, Sumathy was elated at the issues and themes the selected novels addressed from the "life and lifestyles of its people" to the "position of a woman", "gender stereotypes" and the destruction of a society due to the advancements of new technology. She admired and appreciated the "craft of the composition."

Echoing the disappointment of the lack of entries, ArunWelandawe-Prematilleke on behalf of the English judging panel (there were 10 submissions) acknowledged the four chosen shortlisted novels -

"Dutugemunu: Prince of Destiny" by Rukmani Samaranyake (Sarasavi Publishers), "The Other One" by Amanda Jay (CreateSpace), "Song of the Sun God" by Shankari Chandran (Perera-Hussein Publishing House) and "Word of Kali: The Dark Side of God" by Mario Perera (S. Godage & Brothers Pvt. Ltd)

The English panel of judges was made up of academic and author Dr. Ranjani Obeysekere, theatre director, actor and writer ArunWelandawe-Prematilleke and reader, critic and retired civil

servant M. Somasundaram (Jolly). "The role of an editor is paramount in a novel," ArunWelandawe-Prematilleke commented noting the lack of an editor in the majority of the novels in the category. Editors, he said, "are instrumental in shaping the structure and overall narrative arc. We read far too many novels that were crying for a sharper hand," he noted.

He went on to praise the works they considered. "It has been very satisfying to see writers of all ages and backgrounds present work in a myriad of styles," he said. "I speak for the whole jury when I say we cannot wait to delve back into these worlds over the next few months."

Fairway Holdings is the title sponsor of the well-established Fairway Galle Literary Festival. Deputy Chairman of Fairway Holdings Kavinda Dias Abeysinghe remarked that they are "conscious about the arts and culture of the country as a civilizing influence". The Fairway National Literary Award was initiated to reward local novelists and aims not only to acknowledge the efforts of outstanding writers, but also to inspire and encourage upcoming local writers as well. "There is crying needs for programmes like this," Mr. Dias Abeysinghe added.

The final award ceremony will be held during the Fairway Galle Literary Festival in January 2018.

Insufficient skills to stop island from drowning in sorrow

By Akash Widanapathirana

(sundaytimes.lk) Youngsters who are mostly drunk and who do not have basic survival skills in water are continuing to pay a heavy price with their lives, while Sri Lanka is struggling with training more life savers, both professional and volunteer.

Sadly, for millions who are fighting to survive day to day in a country with hundreds of thousands of jobless people and many millions in debt with dreams of going to West Asia for menial jobs to earn a living, swimming lessons are not on the top of the household things-to-do list.

There are close to a million school children for whom there are no toilets or water in schools. Swimming pools in schools are as rare as drinkable water, teachers and desks and benches.

The Government and the Ministry of Education admit that there are only 40 swimming pools in the country - 15 of them in Colombo.

Back in 2010, The Sunday Times revealed how in 35 schools in the Matara District with 18,391 students and 1,206 teachers - half the total number of toilets in were unusable.

In such a backdrop, a few thousand life savers have so far been trained by an Australian organisation - Life Saving Victoria.

Back in December 2014, the Life Saving Association of Sri Lanka and Life Saving Victoria launched the Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Report, compiled jointly with Life Saving Victoria and the World Health Organisation country office for Sri Lanka. The report proposed a national policy and proposed water safety training and rescue skills, guidelines on safety at beaches and pools, and gathering drowning related data, among 10 recommendations.

Already the Life Saving Association of Sri Lanka is carrying out a program to teach swimming for safety in four districts covering 830-plus students.

So, now a national plan is in the works, while more than two people have died every day by drowning in the first six months of this year. The National Plan on Drowning Prevention and Water Safety expects to cut drowning by 10% annually. It also plans to maximise water related economic development.

A national governing entity led by the Disaster Management Centre will also be established to implement the plan and to monitor progress. S S Miyanawala, secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management, said the national plan is being formulated.

Many drowning incidents were reported in the past 14 days where youths became victims. In addition to the Jaffna incident where six Tamil students died, several others have also died, while life savers have rescued a few. Two school children between 13 and 16 years old, Imesh Pramod Lakshan and Iresh Pramod Lakshan who were brothers in a family in Minuwangoda, drowned in Deduru Oya reservoir two weeks back.

A week later, another incident was reported in Payagala where a 14 year old student lost his life while bathing off Payagala beach while four aged 20, 21, 24, 26 were reported missing or dead in Raththota, Kolonna near Ging Ganga, Weligama near Mirissa beach, and in Jaffna respectively between Aug 20 and 31.

Most victims are males and the majority are between 8 and 25 years old. According to police statistics, 877 people drowned last year, compared with 688 and 859 in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

According to the Drowning Prevention Report produced by World Health Organization the average number of deaths per year in Sri Lanka was 855, from 2001 to 2009.

In the first six months this year, 373 people have died - 299 are males. Police said the highest

number of deaths are reported in February, March and April.

Police Sergeant, P H Anura an instructor and a life saver at Hikkaduwa beach said, overconfidence in youth in their ability to swim is a key reason for deaths along with being drunk.

He said, often young people tend to select less crowded and hidden places for fear of being found out by parents. "While some die due to [underlying] diseases like high blood pressure and blood clots," many are careless, he said.

Mr Anura said both locals and foreigners become victims of drowning at sea and sometimes they ignore warnings of life savers.

Senior Superintendent of Police H H Chulasiri, an international instructor and the director of the Police Marine Division, said people should be taught to float or to swim, while first aid techniques could help someone save another person.

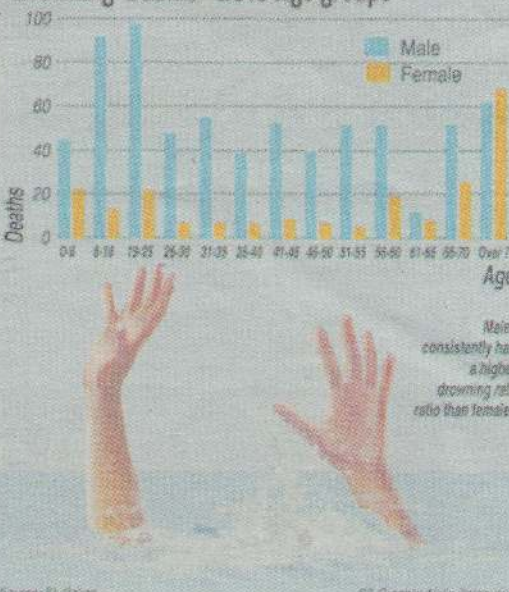
Mr Chulasiri emphasised the need for lifejackets when using watercraft. It is estimated that more than 400 people are saved each year from drowning in various locations by life savers.

Asanka Nanayakkara, president of Sri Lanka Life Saving, said although nearly 1,500 qualified life savers are available, the number of voluntary life savers is not sufficient. He also added that parents are not willing to let children become life savers. More than 1,000 qualified life savers are working abroad, contributing a significant amount of foreign exchange to the indebted country. Life saving should be promoted, Mr Nanayakkara, said stressing the important role they played during the recent deadly flooding.

Drowning Deaths



Drowning Deaths - 2016 Age groups



A Buddhist Nun's Ordination in London

On the gloriously sunny morning of the Bank holiday Monday, 28th August 2017, several hundred people gathered to witness the rare event that took place at the Sri Saddatissa International Buddhist Centre (SSIBC), Kingsbury. It was that of a fellow human being donning the precious yellow robes for the first time and going forth in the Noble dispensation of Gotama the Sammasambuddha as a 'Dasa Pabajja' or a ten-preceptor nun. Following in the footsteps of the Maha Arhant Maha Prajapathi Gothami, Dr Shirani Gunawardena reverentially requested the Head of the Centre, the Most Venerable Aggamahapanditha Galayaye Piyadassi Nayake Thero and the Mahā Sangha present on this auspicious occasion, for admittance into the Order for the Noble aim of attaining 'Nibbanassa Saccikiriya' - liberation from Samsara. The ceremony commenced at 9.00 am when the Upāsika, Dr Gunawardena was presented to the Maha Sangha by her relatives. This customary practice was carried out by Mr Samarasinghe Methuen accompanied by his wife Mrs Vinitha Methuen and children, Daneeta and Rasiha, Mrs Lakshmi Samarasinghe, Mr Rodney Liyanage, Mrs Indrani Liyanage, Mrs Indrani Gunawardena, daughter Dinesha, son-in-law and other relatives and friends. Ajahn Sundara, the Head nun of the Amaravati Buddhist Monastery, Hemel Hempstead, Sister Muduta of Nepal, Sister London Dhammadinna of SSIBC and Oxford Buddha Vihara, Sister Khemaka also from Amaravati and Sister Seela Mani from UK and Sri Lanka assisted in performing the traditional rituals to transform the white-clothed lay Upasika to a shaven headed, yellow robed Buddhist nun. Ajahn Sundara administered the ten precepts following the ancient format, unique to Pabajja Dasa sil which the Upasika repeated and thus entered the Gotama the Samma Sambuddha's

dispensation of monks and nuns. The newly ordained nun, conferred with the Sasana name of 'Karuna' meaning Compassion, humbly requested the Most Venerable Vahamuwe Wijewansa Nayake Thero to be her Teacher and the Most Venerable Galayaye Piyadassi Nayake Thero to be her Preceptor, both of whom graciously consented. The dignified occasion was blessed by the presence of a number of prominent and highly respected monks from all over the UK, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar and Italy. Namely, Most Venerable Wahanuwe Wijeyawansa Nayaka Thero, Principal Maha Vihara Pirivena, Ruwanweli Mahaseya, Anuradhapura; Ven Dr Handuelpola Mahinda Nayake Thero of SSIBC; Ven Dr Kabalewe Sirisumana Nayaka Thero, Head of Buddha Vihara, Barking; Ven Makure Mangala Thero, Head of Lumbini Vihara, East London; Ven Gunnepane Sumanarama Thero of the Samadhi Meditation Edmonton; Ven Madugalle Mahanama Thero of Sri Sambodhi Vihara, Plaistow; Phra Ajahn Sujana, Abbot of Varapunya Meditation Centre, Aberdeen; Ven Dodangoda Sumedha Thero of the Athula Dassana Vihara, Hounslow; Ven U. Withuta Thero of Britain Burma Buddhist Trust Vihara, Wembley; Ven Nepal Indrasak Thero of Lumbini Buddha Vihar (Nepalese), Greenford; Ven Dhammasila Thero of Italy; ably supported by the resident monks of SSIBC, Ven Nepale Sumana Thero, Ven Nepale Tissa Thero and Ven Galayaye Dhammadassi Thero. Ven Wijewansa

Nayake Thero spoke of the difference between 'entering the Order knowingly' and 'entering the Order because of respect to elders'. Ordaining as a child, he said he himself did not fully understand its significance until some time later. Sister Karuna he said, fell into the first category but there was much for her too to learn.

Ven Dr Kabalewe Siri Sumana Nayaka Thero spoke of what constituted the 'Sasana' - the dispensation. The Teaching (Dhamma) and the Monastic Rules (Vinaya) together made the Sasana, he said.

Ven Nepale Sumana Thero was the compere for the occasion and spoke of the ten reflections (Dasadhmma) that his own teacher taught him

over quarter of a century ago. He mentioned that at the end of each day one should quietly reflect on the day's activities; to name but a few, to reflect on whether he had transgressed any of the precepts, whether he had caused anyone hurt, upset or distress that day either intentionally or unintentionally, and whether he had behaved in a manner that would leave him open to criticism from others. Following the mid day "Buddha Puja", Maha Sangha were offered the Dana and Pirikara by the Dayaka committee and supporters of the SSIBC and lunch for all the lay devotees present, which ran into many hundreds.

Photographs by Tissa Madawela



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Bodhi Pooja organised by the PPA St Paul's Milagiriya UK Branch

The Bodhi Pooja Pinkama organised by the PPA St Paul's Milagiriya UK Branch to invoke blessings on the 130th anniversary of the School and the 10th anniversary of UK branch was held at London Buddhist Vihara on 27th August 2017.

We thank all those supported us in numerous way

Photographs by Mr Kumar Wickramasinghe



Let us revive equality and peace among all beings this Hajj

By A.H.M. Azwer

(sundaytimes.lk) What is Hajj and what takes place during the annual pilgrimage? Let us turn to an English scholar who inscribed the following epitaph in late 19th Century, when British rule dominated much of the world:

"But above all – and herein is its supreme importance in the missionary history of Islam – it ordains a yearly gathering of believers, of all nations and languages, brought together from all parts of the world, to pray in that sacred place towards which their faces are set in every hour of private worship in their distant homes. No stretch of religious genius could have conceived a better expedient for impressing on the minds of the faithful a sense of their common life and of brotherhood in the bonds of faith. Here, in a supreme act of common worship, the Negro of the West coast of Africa meets the Chinaman from the distant East; the courtly and polished Ottoman recognises his brother Muslim in the wild islander from the farthest end of the Malayan Sea. At the same time throughout the whole Muhammedan world the hearts of believers are lifted up in sympathy with their more fortunate brethren gathered together in the sacred city, as in their own homes they celebrate the festival of 'Eed al-Ad-haa...'"

– T. W. Arnold, *The Preaching of Islam*

I am yet to find a more eloquent expression on Hajj even from a Muslim source than this by Sir Thomas Walker Arnold, who penned his observations in his book *The Preaching of Islam*, in 1896. Arnold, a prominent civil servant in India was awestruck by the rituals of Hajj. Any impartial observer would have

felt the same at any given Hajj season be it in 1896, 1996 or even 796.

The format and rituals of Hajj have remained virtually unchanged since its inception 15 centuries ago, the rituals that signify the universal brotherhood that are enjoined in Islam. Although advances in technology may have changed and modes of transport have never been more comfortable, a time traveller from the Seventh Century would have found himself or herself at home in the Plains of Arafat in 2016 and in Makkah despite all the modernisation that has taken place.

Schams Elwazer, a producer covering the event of Hajj for CNN in 2012 found herself in an identical situation to that of T.W. Arnold. Under the caption 'A Non-Pilgrim at the Hajj: A Memoir,' in her blog she had this to say:

"Sitting there on the white marble floor of the Grand Mosque, it was difficult not to be blown away by the diversity of the people passing by. Groups of Indonesians in crisp white wearing coloured headbands for identification and moving in tight phalanx formations quietly chanting the mantra of the Hajj (which translates approximately to 'Oh God, I have obeyed your call'); Groups of West Africans in colourful garb almost singing verses of Islam's Holy Book the Quran; Old Chinese couples, groups of blonde Europeans and Americans; it felt as if we were literally watching the entire world walk past. The effect was nothing short of

hypnotic." (28.10.2012) It all began, or should I say the tradition established by our great Patriarch Abraham (A) was revived 15 centuries ago after a single commandment of God, "and proclaim to the people the Hajj, they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel, they will come from every distant pass." (Quran 22:27) The practical aspect of it was taught by Prophet Mohamed (S) in his lifetime when he undertook the pilgrimage. He emphasised on equality

of humans in the presence of God, regardless of man-made social and economic barriers. This scenario is repeated year in and year out at Hajj, where in addition to promoting universal brotherhood of mankind, the spirit of sacrifice to achieve it is also emboldened in the hearts and minds of pilgrims.

The modern world is plagued with racism and intolerance which Islam prohibits in no uncertain



Muslim pilgrims gather in the holy city of Mecca. Courtesy AFP

terms. Hajj is an ideal occasion to rebuild lost ground and revive the brotherhood and tolerance which is sanctified in Islam. In his final pilgrimage Prophet Mohamed (S) addressing a crowd of 100,000 people declared:

"An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety (taqwa) and good action." These words dispelled the myth that some races and classes of people are superior to others and established the fact that all humans are equal, for which Prophet Abraham (A) struggled in his life. We are all equal human beings in the eyes of God. It is for this same noble cause that Prophet Mohamed (S) worked tirelessly during his lifetime. When he left this world at the age of 63 he had no worldly belongings. Instead of living a life of luxury, he sacrificed all for the sake of humanity. His parting advice was to follow the Quran and his traditions and he vowed if we abide by them we will never go astray. In his own words "you will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity."

Today's Muslims are tested in various ways, latest being the fearmongering by certain groups that they will be ruled under Shariah or Islamic law in Sri Lanka and they stand to lose their freedom. This is a

baseless allegation, thus it is imperative for Muslims of Sri Lanka to clear this misunderstanding among non-Muslims. It is forbidden to force anything on others.

Let it be known that under an ideal Islamic government, 'non-Muslims will have the same political and cultural rights as Muslims. They will have autonomy and freedom of religion.' This clause was enshrined in the Constitution of Medina, also

known as the Charter of Medina under the instructions of Prophet Mohammed (S) when it was drafted in the year 622 CE.

Dr. John Andrew Morrow, author of *The Covenants of Prophet Muhammad* (Angelico Press 2013), commends this exemplary conduct of Prophet Mohammed (S) and opined that under the Constitution of Medina:

"identity and loyalty were no longer to be based on family, tribe, kinship, or even religion: the overriding identity was membership in the ummah (nation) of Muhammad. The Constitution of Medina decreed that the citizens of the Islamic state were one and indivisible regardless of religion. Be they heathen, People of the Book, or Muslims, all those who were subject to the Constitution belonged to the same ummah (nation). In doing so, he created a tolerant, pluralistic government which protected religious freedom.

The importance of this is so extraordinary that it is often misunderstood."

This may come as a surprise to some, but it is the fact. Tolerance is important in Islam, and justice is equal to all as Andrew Murray stressed 'even Muhammad the Messenger of Allah was not above the law.' Had Muslims taken a little effort to spread this message, we would not have seen the misconceptions about Islam that are prevalent in society today. On this blessed day I urge my fellow Muslims take this as a religious duty and make a sincere effort to clear the doubts that exist among non-Muslims, not only on this issue but on countless others.

The events that T.W. Arnold observed will continue by the Grace of God but what takes place in Makkah should trickle down into our daily lives and the same should be reflected in the Muslim world at large. Then only can one proclaim that it has been a success. This is the true spirit of Hajj. While celebrating the Hajj festivities, Eid ul Adha, let us pray for forgiveness, peace and prosperity of Mother Lanka and peace and prosperity of the world.

(The writer, a former Minister of Muslim Religious & Cultural Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs passed away a day after he sent this article to the Sunday Times)



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Old Thomians continue winning streak

(dailynews.lk) The 34th Annual Royal-Thomian Cricket Encounter - UK, held on August 6, once again provided a day of an enthralling and nail-biting game for the old boys and their families who live in the United Kingdom. The iconic Walker Cricket Ground in London, which boasts of a 162 year history, was the venue for this event for the third consecutive year.

This year's encounter was a star-studded affair as the two teams included six former college captains, 15 former 1st XI players and nine cricketers who had gone on to play first class cricket. The Thomians were determined to defend the coveted Amerasekara Shield for the sixth consecutive year when they beat Royalists by 26 runs.

Reluctant to change the winning formula, the Thomian skipper decided to bat first after winning the toss. The Thomian innings purred into motion as the dashing opener Sacha Seneviratne thwacked a towering six over deep mid wicket.

It didn't take too long for the Royal seamers to mute the scoring through impeccable line and length. The early departure of Dilshan Manamperi brought Lloyd Paternott, the star from the previous encounter, to the crease. Lloyd announced his arrival with a brace of boundaries and looked to be in good nick. Chamika Karunaratne, a former Royal and SL U19 captain, was introduced into the attack and immediately started causing trouble with some pace and bounce. In his

second over, Lloyd latched onto a nugget of width on the off side just to be caught brilliantly by Devind Padmanathan at backward point.

Pathmanathan joined Karunaratne to claim another couple of scalps in no time sending the Thomians into a nosedive. Leaving the usual flamboyance aside, Skipper Mendis played a subdued knock and tried to revive the innings by forging a partnership with Madhushan Ravichandrarum, the 2014 Thomian skipper. After the departure of

this pair, the dashing all-rounder, Shashrika Pussegolla joined Nirrushan Raveenthiraraja to take over the responsibility of steadying the ship. The former Thomian captain Nirrushan, who is remembered for one of the best fight-backs in the Royal Thomian history, once again displayed his indomitable grit against a testing spell of bowling. The spin sensation, Pathmanathan managed to break this partnership by taking the prize wicket of Pussegolla hampering the chances of the Thomians reaching 200. The speedsters were brought back into the attack by the Royal captain with the intention of knocking the tail off. Nirrushan soon departed lobbying a catch to the keeper off the bowling of Karunaratne and the lower order failed to add many runs before being bundled up for 153. Given the quality of the Royal batting, a Thomian victory seemed a far cry. The veterans, Navin Samarakoon and Malinda Thotiwillage opened the batting for Royal. Samarakoon in particular was in

sublime form dispatching the ball to all corners of the field in the early overs.

An immediate change to the length by Sacha Seneviratne following a tactical mid-field chat with the skipper, managed to bring the much needed breakthrough for the Thomians. The departure of Samarakoon brought the all rounder Hashen Ramanayake, the

elder son of the former Sri Lanka paceman Champaka Ramanayake, to the crease. Thilaksha Sumanasiri was soon introduced into the attack to peg back the scoring rate and he rose to the occasion by bowling 4 tight overs just for 7 runs with utmost control. The former Big Match winning captain Vidhyesh Balasubramaniam, rolled back the years with an exhibition of leg spin from the other end. This spin wizardry left Royal reeling at 31 for 3 after 10 overs when Dhanushka Perera,



The Old Thomian skipper receiving the champions shield



the 2001

Royal College captain and big match centurion joined Hashen in the middle.

Perera started to use his feet nimbly against the spinners and was dispatching them at ease to all parts of the Walker ground taking the game away from the Thomians.

The Thomian skipper introduced himself into the attack and immediately produced the breakthrough. Perera departed for a well made 32, spooning a return catch to Shami Mendis. Another former Royal skipper, Pathmanathan joined Ramanayake and started hurtling towards the target. The Thomian skipper turned to the off spin prodigy, Pussegolla expecting a miracle turnaround. Thereon, it was a masterful display of off-spin conceding only 17 runs off the next 6 overs of his spell. Under the astute leadership of Mendis, the Thomians attacked relentlessly in the field with swallow dives and slides that ensured even rare loose balls were punished minimally. However, Ramanayake was outstanding in the face of wickets falling around him. Uncowed by the pressure, he continued to hold the fort for the Royalists as he has done over the years.

The Royalists entered the last 10 overs needing 45 runs with only 3 wickets in hand. Pussegolla and

Ravichandrarum managed to squeeze in another 5 overs just for 15 runs ratcheting up the pressure on the lower order. In a desperate quest to keep up with the run rate, Pasindu Chamikara tried to clobber a full length delivery from Pussegolla down the ground only to find the hands of Sumanasiri at long on. In the 36th over, a direct hit from Ravichandrarum found a languid Rangana Rajapaksha when scampering for a single marking the 6th consecutive victory for the Thomians. Pussegolla was named man of the match for his match winning spell with 4 wickets. Dan Whiting, the General Manager of the Walker Cricket Ground and a renowned cricket writer, said "It was a pleasure for the Walker Cricket Ground to host such a prestigious and long standing fixture. The quality of the cricket was excellent, especially some of the fielding and as a ground that has hosted players in the past such as WG Grace, Ricky Ponting and Graeme Smith, it was a pleasure to see such fine cricket".

Chief scores -

Old Thomians UK 153 (Paternott 24, Karunaratne 5/15)

Old Royalists UK 127 (Ramanayake 39*, Pussegolla 4/34)

Singer Under-19 Division I Cricket

By M. Shamil Amit

(sundaytimes.lk) Royal and Anuradhapura Central relegated to Division II

The U19 inter-schools cricket league tournament 2017/2018 conducted by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA) and sponsored by Singer Sri Lanka Ltd will get underway from early September with 36 teams divided into four groups of nine in each in the fray.

From the 36 teams the notable absentee is Royal Colombo who along with Anuradhapura Central has been demoted to the Division Two this year.

The two teams have been replaced by St Thomas's Matara and St John's Panadura who have been promoted by virtue being the two finalists of the Division Two category in 2017.

Ananda who emerged the league champions defeating Richmond have been placed in Group D. The teams in the four groups have been seeded from the points that they gained after the completion of the group stage matches of the 2018/2017 cricket season.

In the league stage each team is scheduled to play eight matches. Apart from that each school should play five more traditional matches to be considered for nomination of awards at the end of the league season.

The SLSCA has made it compulsory for each team to play a minimum of three tournament matches before the GCE O/L exams which is scheduled to be held in December and on resumption the remaining five tournament matches have to be played before February 15 2018 and all the traditional matches too should be completed by the end of February 2018.

The knockout tournament is scheduled to be played thereafter and the SLSCA has decided include four teams from each group instead of the two teams that were taken from each group. This has been done with the aim of giving opportunities and to make the knockout tournament more competitive.

The Groups

Group A:

Thurstan, St. Sebastian's Moratuwa, Trinity, St. Thomas Matara, Dharmasoka MV, Ambalangoda, Moratu MV, DSS, St. Benedict's, Bandaranayake College, Gampaha.

Group B:

Maris Stella Negombo, St. John's Panadura, St. Aloysius' Galle, Isipathana, Prince of Wales', St. Mary's Kegalle, President's Kotte, St. Anthony's Wattala, Mahanama Colombo.

Group C:

Richmond, St. Peter's Colombo, Nalanda, Gurukula MV, Kelaniya, Dharmaraja, St. Joseph Vaz Wennappuwa, Dharmapala Pannipitiya, St. Servatius' Matara, Wesley.

Group D: Ananda, S. Thomas', St. Joseph's Colombo, Zahira Colombo, St. Sylvester's, Mahinda, De Mazenod Kandana, Lumbini MV, Maliyadeva.



Royal were relegated not because of their performances - File pic

St. Servatius' rout St. Anthony's

(island.lk) St. Servatius' stunned formidable St. Anthony's with some late order batting heroics and quick wickets to record a thumping 209 run victory and clinch their maiden Under-17 Division I cricket title at the Moors Ground on Wednesday.

Chasing an imposing target of 279 runs to win, the Anthonians crumbled like a pack of cards to be bowled out for a meagre 69 runs inside 23 overs.

Spinner and skipper Kesara Nuwantha ripped through the top order batting line up and was joined by their semi-final hero Shashika Dulshan later to mop up the tail.

St. Anthony's openers skipper Theeksha Gunasinghe (22)

and Mohamed Rukshan (17) looked set to lay the foundation for a victory when they added 40 runs without being parted. But once Nuwantha came to bowl the ninth over things took a dramatic turn as the Anthonians slid from 40 for no wicket to 52 for four by the end of the 13 over.

Nuwantha completed a five wicket haul in just 5.3

overs giving away just 10 runs. Spinner Dulshan, who took a hat trick in the semi-final, came almost close to repeating the same feat when he took consecutive wickets in the 20 over to hasten the collapse. He ended up with a three wicket haul. Except Gunasinghe and Rukshan others failed to reach double figures.



St. Servatius' cricketers celebrate after they beat St. Anthony's by 209 runs to win the Under-17 Division I cricket title at the Moors Ground on Wednesday. (Pic by Gamini Munasinghe)

Earlier, late order heroics propelled St. Servatius' to their eventual total after the St.

Anthony's contained them to 127 for 5 wickets.

Pushpitha Dilshan played the anchor role top scoring with 56 runs in 86 balls (6x4s, 2x6s).

Shashika Dulshan (45 in 26 balls, 4x4s, 1x6s),

skipper Nuwantha

(28 in 27 balls, 5x4s) and Chihan Kalindu (39 in 32 balls, 3x4s, 2x6s) all made vital less-than- run a ball contributions. But it was the number ten batsman Pasan Thathsara, who really took the game away hammering 48 runs in 16 balls (6x4s, 3x6s). (RF)

Moratuwa win at Inter University Volleyball

(island.lk) Moratuwa University clinched the Inter University Volleyball Championship recently at Rajarata University, Mihintale.

The event was held in both men's and women's segments. In the men's, where there were 13 universities taking part, Moratuwa beat Colombo while Kelaniya beat Sri Jayawardenepura in the semi-finals.

The final was a evenly-contested one which Moratuwa won 32-30, 27-25, 22-25, 20-25 and 15-12 after a gruelling five-set tussle. Sri Jayawardenepura won third place.





Aries (the Ram) 21st March - 20th April

Any financial limitations will probably have to be dealt with on your own. You'll be tempted to spend extravagantly this week. Your anger may be impossible to contain if you get into debates with family members. Don't overspend on friends or children. Your lucky day Monday.

Taurus (the Bull) 21st April - 20th May

Your charm will mesmerize members of the opposite sex this week. Maybe it's time to look into ways you can improve your health. Make changes that will enhance your appearance. Put something away in case of an emergency. Your lucky day Monday.

Gemini (the Twins) 21st May - 20th June

Don't hesitate to go ahead with any plans for entertainment. You need to look into ways to change your self-image. Try to bend but by no means should you give in completely. Make amends if you can. Your lucky day Sunday.

Cancer (the Crab) 21st June - 20th July

Any contributions you make to organizations will enhance your reputation and bring you offers. Change will be required to make your life more harmonious. A new you could help your attitude. Before you proceed be sure to talk your plans over with those they will affect. Your lucky day Thursday.

Leo (the Lion) 21st July - 19th / 22nd Aug

Get domestic chores out of the way early. Things will be emotional with your mate. This is not the day to be extravagant. Keep your eyes and ears alert for any evasive or deceptive statements. Your lucky day Saturday.

Virgo (the Virgin) 20th / 23rd Aug - 22nd Sept

Your ideas are good and career moves can be realized. Try to put your money away for a rainy day. Exhaustion combined with overindulgence could result in minor health problems. Problems with skin, bones, or teeth may mess up your schedule. Your lucky day Wednesday.

Libra (the Scale) 23rd Sept - 22nd Oct

Don't do something silly just to get back at your mate. Sign up for courses that will bring you more skills. You will be extremely sensual; take precautions and don't take any risks. Travel will stimulate your need to experience exciting new things. Your lucky day Wednesday.

Scorpio (the Scorpion) 23rd Oct - 21st Nov

A lot can be accomplished if you organize your time. The emotional state of peers may cause a problem for you. Avoid getting involved with married individuals. Don't be afraid to pursue unfamiliar grounds. Your lucky day Thursday.

Sagittarius (the Archer) 22nd Nov - 20th Dec

Disappointments are likely if your mate embarrasses you in front of friends. Travel, although enticing, will cost more than you expect. Focus on forming business partnerships. Find out more, if you want to start your own business. Your lucky day Monday.

Capricorn (the Goat) 21st Dec - 20th Jan

You will be able to contribute a great deal to organizations that you join. You can make favorable real estate offers this week. You need time to make things better. You'll stay out of trouble if you pick projects that will benefit the whole family. Your lucky day Monday.

Aquarius (the Water Carrier) 21st Jan - 19th Feb

Your creative input will be appreciated by your boss. Changes in your domestic scene are evident. Try looking into new ways to make extra money. You can enhance your reputation if you treat family and friends with respect and dignity. Your lucky day Friday.

Pisces (the Fishes) 20th Feb - 20th March

You need to be careful not to make promises that you can't fulfill. Home improvement projects will go well if you delegate work to all your family members. Control your anger. This is a great day to beautify your living quarters or to entertain at home. Your lucky day Wednesday.

ABEYWARDENE NALAKA - 100, Pirivena Road, Mount Lavinia.
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ISAAC PAUL PETER. - No. 77/47, Castle Street, Borella, Colombo 08.
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JAYASURIYA - GAMINI - UK.
JAYASURIYA - GAMINI - 30/63J, Longdon Place,

Colombo 07.
JAYAWARDENA - DEVARI (nee JAYASUNDERA). - No. 108/9, Salgaha Mawatha, Beddegana, Pita Kotte.
JOSEPHINE - VICTORIA - 119/15, Gurugewatte, Weliamuna Road, Hekitta, Wattala
KASTURIARACHCHI - WIMAL - No.18, Chandra Wettasinghe Mawatha, Nawala
KODIPPILY - THERESA (RITA) - SUWARIS - No. 34, Quinlon Avenue, Rajamahavithara Road, Kotte.
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PERERA - M.A. STANLEY
PERINPANAYAGAM - Dr. RUTH
MANORANJITHAM (nee WALTON) - UK
RANASINGHE - SARATH - 635/3A, Panagoda, Homagama.
SANDANAM - SHIRANEE (Nee CASIECHITTY) - No. 90/6, Alwis Place, Colombo 13.
SATHIANANTHAN - VEERASINGHAM
SELVARATNAM - SRIGUGANESAN - No. 17/3, St. Anthony's Mawatha, Colombo 03.

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Dante Jeganayagam (UK). Died 1st September 2017
Funeral Mass was held at Roman Catholic Church, followed by burial on Wednesday 6th September 2017. Friends and Relatives please accept this intimation.

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Sri Lanka suffer worst-ever series defeat

by Rex Clementine

(island.lk) As if the whitewash in the Test series



Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli (R) celebrates with coach Ravi Shastri (L) after victory in the final one-day international between Sri Lanka and India at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. (Ishara S. Kodikara / AFP)

wasn't bad enough, Sri Lanka suffered another humiliating clean sweep in the five-match ODI series against India yesterday at R. Premadasa Stadium giving a clear indication that this is undoubtedly country's worst phase in cricket. It was Sri

Lanka's maiden series whitewash at home.

More than the margin of losses, how Sri Lanka succumbed to defeat in each game without even a fight was hard to stomach. Yesterday's total of 238 was Sri Lanka's highest in the series, but that was not going to test the strong Indian side even after they did four changes from the last game.

India cruised to win with six wickets in hand and 21 balls to spare as captain Virat Kohli smashed back-to-back hundreds. Yesterday Kohli completed his 30th ODI century and 1,000 runs in calendar year, a milestone he completed in his 18th innings in 2017.

Prior to yesterday's game, seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar had failed to take a wicket in the series, but he compensated for it with a maiden five-wicket haul. He was named Man of the Match. Upul Tharanga, who returned to lead the side after a two-match suspension for a slow over-rate offense, looked solid as he raced away making 48 off 34 deliveries with nine fours before falling to a good ball.

(Contd: on P25)

Best Athletes

By Susil Premalal

95th Athletics Nationals

(sundaytimes.lk) Olympic athlete Manjula Kumara Wijesekera and E. W. U. Rathnakumari won the Men's and Women's Best Athlete Award respectively at the 95th National Athletics Championships which concluded at the Mahinda Rajapaksa Sports Complex in Diyagama. Wijesekera, representing Sri Lanka Air Force clinched the men's high jump title while producing a fine performance of 2.21 metres. He also had the satisfaction of winning two other special awards, the Best Jumper as well as the Best High Jumper at this meet. Meanwhile, Rathnakumari of Sri Lanka Army took the Best Athlete Award in the women's category for her effort in the 400m event where she returned a time of 53.63s. However, this year's Nationals produced only three Sri Lanka records as most of the elite athletes decided to skip the event after the Sri Lanka Anti Doping Agency (SLADA) decided to conduct random doping tests during the meet. Anitha Jegatheeswaran (Women's pole vault) of the Jaffna District Athletic Association, Ajith Karunathilake (Men's decathlon) from Sri Lanka Army and Lakshika Sugandi (Women's heptathlon) of Sri Lanka Army were able to

establish new Sri Lanka records.

In addition, eight new meet records were shattered while one meet record was equalled.

Special awards

Best Athlete (hurdles events): A. L. A. L.

Rathnasena (Air Force)

400m hurdles 51.05s

Best Athlete (throwing

events): D. S. Ranasinghe

(Army) javelin throw

76.92m

Best Jumper: Manjula

Kumara (Air Force) 2.21m

Best Sprinter (Men's):

Dilip Ruwan (Army) 400m

46.66s

Best High Jumper:

Manjula Kumara (Air

Force) 2.21m

Best Sprinter (Women's):

E. W. U. Rathnakumari

(Army) 400m 53.63s

Best Athlete Middle

Distance (Women's): G. T.

A. Abeyrathna (Navy)

800m 2:05.69s

(Contd: on P25)

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Naturally gifted leader

Indika Welagedara

(dailynews.lk) The 2017 Bradby shield and inter-schools league winning Royal college first fifteen Rugby captain who is vastly a popular rugby star thus remains humbled by his achievements with loving and caring family behind him has a tremendous passion when it comes for the a sport of Rugby that keeps him pushing forward in life together with having a fabulous academics background behind him after obtaining 7 As and 2 Bs in his GCE O-L exam as well. Today we go off the field with this passionate rugby star Ovin Askey.

Q: What made you enter the world of sports?

A: As a youngster hunting to fly high in sports I look into my famous father who has excelled in athletics breaking many records in the 800 and 400-metre individual events while representing

Royal College Colombo in the "Sir John Tarbet All Island Athletic Meet" in Sri Lanka. He is my inspiration. He was behind me and motivated me to get into the world of sports.

Q: Who has supported you the most?

A: All my immediate family members along with my coaches Sanath Martis, Dushanth Lewke, Akila Perera, Sunimal Manamperi, Supun Warnakulasuriya, our team manager, my under 18 head coach Buddhika Kulathunga, Sashika Cooray (under 18 coach), Fereti and all my past junior coaches. In fact, everyone who has supported me.

Q: What are your favourite leisure time activities?

A: I love to read books and watch movies in my leisure time.

Q: What are the top priorities in your life?

A: My whole family is my main priority and then to complete my higher studies in the future.

Q: What were your most unforgettable memory/



incident?

A: My most unforgettable memory/ incident is when I lifted the Bradby Shield and the inter schools rugby league this year under my

captaincy for Royal College Colombo.

Q: What's your favourite holiday destination?

A: It will be undoubtedly USA, Australia and New Zealand

Q: What is the greatest accomplishment in your life?

A: While playing rugby for my school Royal College Obtaining 7 A's and 2 B's for GCE O/L's exam

Q: If you had one day left to live, what would you do?

A: That day I will spend time with my whole family.

Q: Who do you sometimes compare yourself to?

A: I don't compare myself to any one as I do like to be who I am.

Q: What's the best compliment you have received?

A: It was when my head coach Sanath Martis said: "Bradby Shield remains with our school Royal yet again because of you". I put over the difficult touch line penalty in the last minute of play.

Q: Are you happy with all your achievements?

A: Yes, thus far am totally happy with all my achievements in such a young age.

Q: What's your favourite movie?

A: It's a movie called 'Brooklyn'.

Q: Are you doing what you believe in, or are you settling for what you are doing?

A: I am definitely doing what I believe in doing and will not settle in which will come my way

Q: How would you describe yourself in two words?

A: Natural Leader.

FULL NAME - OVIN SENIYA ASKEY
HOMETOWN - COLOMBO
STATUS - SINGLE
BIRTHDAY - SEPTEMBER 20TH
PASSIONS - STUDIES & RUGBY
FAVOURITE COLOUR - BLUE

Situation much worse than 1999 – Wettimuny

by Rex Clementine

(island.lk) Ex-Test cricketer and former head of Sri Lanka Cricket Sidath Wettimuny says that the predicament country's cricket team is facing is much worse than the team's status in 1999. Sri Lanka's disastrous World Cup campaign in 1999 prompted an angry response from then President Chandrika Kumaratunga who sacked Thilanga Sumathipala's Executive Committee and brought in an Interim Committee of which Wettimuny was part of. Defending champions Sri Lanka were knocked out from the first round itself in 1999 and Kumaratunga brought in reputed banker Rienzle Wijeytilleke as the new head of the cricket board. Wijeytilleke, who was the Managing Director of Hatton National Bank had a solid team that comprised Michael Tissera, S. Skandakumar, Kushil Gunasekara and Wettimuny. The latter was made the Chairman of Selectors as well and sweeping changes were made to make the national team competitive again.

"The situation at present is definitely much worse than the situation that we were in 1999," Wettimuny told The Island when asked to compare

the state of two eras.

"In 1999 it wasn't that we didn't have the talent. Some of our players needed a wake up call. They were being complacent. Plus we had so many cricketers waiting on the wings. I would say that 1999 was a piece of cake compared to the situation we are in at the moment," noted Wettimuny.

Although President Kumaratunga's prompt action addressed the issue in 1999 and prevented the sport from declining further, the present government has backed the current administration to the hilt despite cricket hitting new lows. Sports Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara recently ruled out the possibility of appointing an Interim Committee.

Prominent officials of SLC's Executive Committee stand accused of interfering with the selection process. Some other Ex-Co members are alleged to have been involved in match fixing in domestic cricket to earn their respective clubs promotions to higher divisions or prevent relegation to lower divisions.

(Contd: on P30)

Sri Lanka from P24

Jaspreet Bumrah squared up the left-hander and the thin edge was neatly collected by M. S. Dhoni. Young batsman Kusal Mendis had made way to the captain as Sri Lanka decided to stick with Dilshan Munaweera ahead of the 22-year-old. The official verdict was that Mendis had been rested, but Munaweera with a domestic one-day average of 24 doesn't deserve a place in the side. Is that payback time for his decision to ditch Bloomfield and join CCC? It remains a valid question to ponder.

The preference that players from CCC receive to represent the national team despite their mediocre records is outrageous to say the least. The message the selectors are sending to the cricket fraternity is loud and clear. If you want to play for Sri Lanka, come and play for CCC! Yesterday, Dhoni entered the record books by

becoming the first wicketkeeper in ODI cricket to complete 100 stumpings when Akila Dananjaya gave Yuzvendra Chahal the charge but failed to connect. Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara had done 99 stumpings in ODIs. From 63 for three, Sri Lanka recovered through a 122-run stand between Angelo Mathews and Lahiru Thirimanne, the team's only century-stand in the series. Their stand had taken the total to 185 and with 11 overs remaining, Sri Lanka looked set to post a decent total, but they collapsed and were bowled out for 238 with two deliveries to spare. Sri Lanka lost their last seven wickets for 53 runs.

Sri Lanka seamers dismissed the openers cheaply, but from 29 for two, India recovered. Kohli added 99 runs for the third wicket with Manish Pandey and a further 109 runs with Kedar Jadhav (63), who was dismissed with India two runs short of victory.

Kohli was unbeaten on 110 that came off 116 deliveries with nine fours.

Vadnersay in T-20 squad

(island.lk) Sri Lanka have named leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay in the squad for the one off T-20 match against India. The game will take place on Wednesday at RPS. All-rounder Dasun Shanaka and fast bowler Vikum Sanjaya were also named in the squad. The one-off Twenty20 match is being played after Sri Lanka suffered a whitewash by India in the five-match ODI series. It compounded a

humiliating three-nil defeat in their three-match Test series on home soil.

Sri Lanka squad: Upul Tharanga (Captain), Angelo Mathews, Niroshan Dickwella, Dilshan Munaweera, Dasun Shanaka, Milinda Siriwardana, Wanidu Hasaranga, Akila Dananjaya, Jeffrey Vandersay, Isuru Udana, Seekkuge Prasanna, Thisara Perera, Lasith Malinga, Suranga Lakmal and Vikum Sanjaya.

Sri Lanka rugby sevens

FAWZ MOHOMED

(dailynews.lk) Sri Lanka rugby sevens captain Sudarshana Muthuthanthri praised his team mates and said they all delivered their best for the country at the first leg of the Asian Rugby Sevens tournament concluded in Hong Kong recently.

"They showed their prowess, but unfortunately lost to China in the Cup quarter-finals due to mistakes at crucial stages. China has improved a lot in recent times and beat experienced Sri Lanka side in last year's Asian Sevens in Colombo," Muthuthanthri mentioned. "Our youngsters lacked experience and were unable to win kick off balls and made blunders in the rucks. But the experience gained in this Sevens tourney will stand them in good stead in the second leg in Korea in two weeks time.

Sri Lanka finished fifth in the first leg in Hong Kong after beating Malaysia in the semi-finals and Philippines in the final of the Plate Championship. This was as a result of fielding a young side but even winning the Plate

Championship was a big achievement.

The second leg of the Asian Rugby Sevens will be worked off in South Korea on September 23 and 24 in which some senior players are likely to return to the Sri Lanka side.



Sri Lanka Sevens skipper Sudarshana Muthuthanthri making a break in the match against Malaysia with Hirantha Perera in support. Picture courtesy: Sameera Peiris

Athletes from P24

Best Athlete Long Distance (Women's): U. K. N. Rathnayaka (Army) 3,000m steeplechase 10:25.25s
Best Performance Women's (hurdles): E. K. Madushani (Army) 400m hurdles 1:00.89s
Best Performance Jumps (Women's): H. D. Vidusha Lakshani (Army) 13.43m NMR

Best Performance Throwing (Women's): W. K. T. Fernando (Air Force) shot put 14.52m
Best Men's Athlete Middle and Long Distance: H. D. M. I. G. Idunil Madushan Herath (Army) 800m 1:48.83s
Best Athlete (Women's): E. W. U. Rathmakumari (Army) 400m 53.63s
Best Athlete (Men's): Manjula Kumara (Air Force) 2.21m
Best Athlete (Men's and Women's): Manjula Kumara (Air Force) 2.21m

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Academically and professionally qualified kind-hearted groom working in UK is sought by B/K professional retired parents resident in UK for their daughter qualified as a doctor and working in NHS hospital. Born in 1984 is family orientated and inherits assets. Reply with details of family, education and employment. tps4953@gmail.com

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B/G 65 years old female, (professional chef work for reputed hotels, "5" tall, good looking, well mannered, affectionate and caring), looking for a loving and caring, British Citizen who lives in UK for marriage. Ethnicity and cast are immaterial. Please contact with a photograph. attapathu.M52@gmail.com

B/G parents living in UK seek well mannered, education professional Son for their only Daughter. She is age 22, pretty, fair, 5'5" tall grown up with Sri Lankan values British citizen second year in university Sussex. Please reply with recent photograph and horoscope. Contact 07837299881 E-mail: pugamage@yahoo.com

Box room - is available in Queensbury, contact 07405141136.

British Citizens Mother G/B, father Hindu Vellala seek a professionally qualified partner with sober habits for their lawyer daughter age 28, height 5'3", working in a leading Law firm. Please apply with horoscope and photograph. Email: Edmonton1944@yahoo.com

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September 2017

Hounslow

Sunday 10th Sep 2017
There is NO Mass due to
Walsingham Pilgrimage

St Michael and St Martin Parish

94 Bath Road, Hounslow
Middlesex, TW3 3EH

Nearest Tube [Hounslow Central](#)

Woolwich

Sunday 17th Sep 2017
Holy Mass at 3pm
Rosary at 2.30pm

St Peter the Apostle Parish
103 Woolwich New Road,
London SE18 8EF

Nearest DLR [Woolwich Arsenal](#)

Willesden Green

Sunday 24th Sep 2017
Holy Mass at 4.30pm
Rosary at 4pm

St Mary Magdalene Parish
Peter Avenue, Willesden Green
London NW10 2DD

Nearest Tube [Willesden Green](#)

Chaplaincy Website www.schatholicchaplaincy.weebly.com

Chaplain Rev. Father Daya Perera - 07921820357

*Those who wish to bring any refreshments for the after mass
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Baptist Church
Western Road, Southall, UB1 3DS
Mob: 0790 494 0788 - 0793 726 0078

Kenton
5:00pm English & *Hindi*
Methodist Church
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Mob: 0795 073 5417 - 07553 372644

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Age Limit: Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 50 years of age on the closing date for the application.

Experience: Minimum of 06 months experience.

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High Commissioner, Sri Lanka High Commission, 13 Hyde park Gardens, London, W2 2LU to be received on or before 15 September 2017. Only short listed applicants will be called for an interview.

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High Commissioner
Sri Lanka High Commission - London.



Trinity College Kandy Old Boys' Association UK

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30th September 2017

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7.30 PM - 1 AM

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DRESS CODE: LOUNGE

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In Aid of
APSL Cancer Relief Fund in Sri Lanka

Dinner Dance: 7pm till midnight
Registration opens: 6.15pm



For further information and tickets:
Thushara Madurasinghe - 07737307314
Mahesh de Silva - 07872 985396
Suraj Wijendra - 07798 617764
Leslie Dep - 075858 99538
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Association of Old Josephians in the UK

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On Saturday 21st October

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Tissa Somarathne, tissa.soma@gmail.com
or visit SLGS website www.srilankangolfingsociety.uk

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DATE: SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2017

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TIME: DOOR OPENS AT 06:00 PM

SINGLE £30 CHILD £15

CONTACT:
Sanjeevan 07715658176
Seelbaran 07971969302
Amathan 07903019303
Kenesb 07883556370
Dharamah 07939283596

Old Josephians' Association in the UK

Autumn Extravaganza 2017

with Sky High Live Band

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M25 Jct 25 Barnet By Pass, Borehamwood,
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Saturday 7th October 2017
7.00pm - 11.00pm

Tickets:
Adult £55
Child 5-12 £15
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For further information:
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Poor turn outs – we failed our fans says Tharanga

Sa'adi Thawfeeq

(dailynews.lk) Sri Lanka's one-day skipper Upul Tharanga admitted that his team had let their fans

down by not performing to their potential during the five-match one-day international series against India and called for them to continue backing them despite the recent losses. For the first time in their history Sri Lanka suffered the ignominy of a 5-0 whitewash at the hands of India in the ODI series that concluded at the R Premadasa Stadium on Sunday. This followed at the heels of a 3-0 drubbing in the three-match Test series against the same opposition.

Following a near capacity turnout of 21,000 at Pallekele for the third ODI where spectators vented their anger at the loss and pelted plastic bottles onto the field, the fourth and fifth ODIs at the 35,000 capacity R Premadasa Stadium was played in front of half empty stands.

"We have to admit that as a team we weren't up to the mark. The Test series was a huge disappointment and then we failed in the ODIs as well. When we lose, the fans move

away from us. They would like to see us winning," said Tharanga at the post-match press conference. "We all want to win games, but there are mistakes that happen. We saw that in the series. We need the backing of the fans. The nation has to back us. That is our biggest strength. We failed to do well as a team. We'll try to do well from the next series onwards. We have a month's break before the next ODIs and we need to rectify the mistakes and move forward."



'We need the backing of the fans. The nation has to back us. That is our biggest strength' – Sri Lanka ODI captain Upul Tharanga.

275. We were well placed, games we collapsed. "We lost seven wickets for 53 runs. That has been

something that is happening frequently now. Throughout the series, our batsmen failed after getting starts. We have to be concentrating more on making big ones. One of the top four batters need to make a century then only we can go and get something like 280 or 300. Most of our players have played less than 30 matches. That's something that you gain with experience. Virat Kohli's batting was a good example for us. We talk about these things. We need someone who is set to get a big one. But we failed to achieve that. In ODIs, if you fail in one department it is very difficult to compete."

Tharanga cited the bowling of Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar as the reasons for Sri Lanka's batting debacles.

"Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah bowled really well. They are very good white ball bowlers. They have played a lot of IPL matches. They are playing with the world's best players. They have improved because of that. Slow balls and yorkers, their bowlers were very crafty," said Tharanga.

"When you play against good teams, you cannot bowl four good balls and give away two bad balls. When you are playing against quality batsmen, you have to be consistent with your line and length. Akila Dananjaya tried to mix things up and we planned things as well. But we couldn't execute them," he said.

From an overall point Tharanga stated, "We lacked consistency. We didn't bat well. We didn't bowl well and we didn't field well. We were outplayed in the series. Disappointed with the batting. India were very consistent. We failed to get big scores. The Indian top order was making plenty of runs." Tharanga spoke of the need to strengthen the

lower order batting that India outshone Sri Lanka. "When we are playing white ball cricket we should have eight or nine guys who can bat. We need to have a couple of all-rounders. There was little support from the tail. Moving forward that will be a vital thing we need the tail to fire and that didn't happen in this series. We will need all-rounders." Tharanga said that he didn't see any reason for him to step down as captain and said, "The next set of selectors will decide how we will move forward. The last two years we have not played well. Only this set of players can make us come out of it. We need to plan better. We need to identify what are the areas we can improve on." For the current 2017 calendar year Sri Lanka has won only four of the 21 ODIs they have played to-date and they are precariously ranked eighth in the ICC ODI standings awaiting the outcome of the West Indies-England five-match ODI series to see whether they will have to qualify for the 2019 World Cup.

"As a player and captain I feel very bad about it. If you take the last two years we were not up to the mark. We were not consistent," said Tharanga. "In ODIs you have to read the game well. By reading the situation only you adjust to situations. We have to try and get out of it." Tharanga who returned to lead his country in the final ODI against India after missing out on the third and fourth through suspension for slow overrate said, "Not only the bowlers, the entire team is responsible. Bowlers need to quicken things up and the fielders need to back them up. Bowlers take some time and fielders take time. Not only the captain but the entire team should come under the spotlight."

Wettimuny from P25

Wettimuny, a former opening batsman and one of the most respected voices in the sport, criticized Sri Lanka's First Class structure. Sri Lanka had 14 teams competing in First Class cricket, but the current administration increased the number into 24. "Thanks to a terrible First Class structure, we don't have anyone waiting on the wings. Then, we could lose five players and bring a good combination, but

not right now," noted Wettimuny. Sri Lanka were completely outplayed in the ongoing bilateral series against India, where they were whitewashed 3-0 in Tests and 5-0 in ODIs. The first two Tests ended inside four days while the last Test lasted less than three days. During the ODI series, Sri Lanka were bowled out thrice without utilizing their full quota of 50 overs. "The mindset of the players are in disarray. There's lack of direction and confusion. I don't think they are playing with same sort of positivity."

Wettimuny also criticized some of the selections that have been made in recent times. Dinesh Chandimal has been Sri Lanka's best batsman in ODI cricket in the last two years, but strangely he was left out of the Zimbabwe series and for the current series. He was only brought back into the squad as injury replacement. "Even very good players like Dinesh Chandimal are left out and I struggle to find reason as to why. There is erosion of confidence and that's the biggest problem I see at the moment," noted Wettimuny.

Dhammika Prasad named in provisional Test squad for Pakistan

(dailynews.lk) Sri Lanka Test fast bowler Dhammika Prasad has been named in the 25-member provisional squad for the forthcoming two-Test series against Pakistan from September 28 to October 10 in the UAE.

Prasad has been out of action for 16 months recuperating from a shoulder injury to his right bowling arm which he sustained while bowling in Sri Lanka's tour match against Essex in May 2016. Also named were fast bowlers Suranga Lakmal and Nuwan Pradeep who missed out on the Indian series with injuries, Shaminda Eranga who's bowling action was found to be legal by the ICC after being reported in May last year and leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay who has been recovering from a fractured ring finger of his bowling right hand since April last year. Test opener Kaushal Silva who was overlooked for the Tests against Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and India has also been named in the squad. Dinesh Chandimal who is also recovering from

a hairline fracture of his right thumb from the recently concluded ODI series against India has been named captain for the two Tests, one of which will be a day-night that Sri Lanka will play for the first time.

SRI LANKA PROVISIONAL TEST SQUAD:

Dimuth Karunaratne, Kaushal Silva, Kusal Mendis, Dinesh Chandimal (captain), Angelo Mathews, Lahiru Thirimanne, Niroshan Dickwella, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Rangana Herath, Suranga Lakmal, Nuwan Pradeep, Lakshan Sandakan, Vishwa Fernando, Lahiru Kumara, Jeffrey Vandersay, Milinda Siriwardana, Dhananjaya de Silva, Dushmantha Chameera, Dilruwan Perera, Malinda Pushpakumara, Roshen Silva, Akila Dananjaya, Charith Asalanka, Shaminda Eranga, Dhammika Prasad. Sri Lanka white-ball captain Upul Tharanga has informed SLC of his unavailability for selection for Tests

for a period of six months as he wishes to concentrate on his white-ball skills, states an SLC media release.



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