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ISSUE 1213

If SLFP fails to co-operate in implementing govt's proposals

PM to seek dissolution of Parliament

(DailyNews.lk) - Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe is determined to seek the dissolution of Parliament, if the SLFP fails to co-operate in implementing the government's proposals. He said that if the Opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) were to insist that electoral reforms should go hand in hand with the proposed constitutional changes, and that Parliament should not be dissolved until all the reforms are carried out, he would seek the dissolution of Parliament. Speaking at NuwaraEliya on Sunday, Premier Wickremesinghe charged that Opposition Leader Nimal Sripala de Silva



was seeking the postponement of Parliamentary elections only to protect wrong doers in the earlier SLFP regime headed by Mahinda Rajapaksa. The SLFP has 126 MPs out of the 225 members in the House, while the UNP has only 41. Therefore, the SLFP has the ability to stall implementation of the promises made by President Maithripala Srisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in the run up to the January 8 Presidential election. Currently, the SLFP is trying to stall constitutional reform by insisting that electoral reforms such as the partial introduction of the "First Past the Post

System," should be taken up simultaneously. "But the UNP considers it prudent to go step by step. It wants to take up the pruning of the Executive Presidency and the restitution of the Independent Commissions first. It wants the more complicated issue of electoral reforms to be taken up after the June elections by a "National Government". Electoral reform is complicated and time consuming because the interests of the small parties and parties of the minorities have to be protected, and constituencies have to be delimited to ensure equity. The UNP wants early parliamentary polls also to cash in on the public goodwill of its 100-day programme had got at the Presidential election, in which President Sirisena was its candidate.

When Wickremesinghe meets Nimal Sripala de Silva on Monday, he is expected to submit his plans on a "take it or leave it" basis. He also expects President Sirisena to keep his electoral pledge to dissolve Parliament at the conclusion of the 100 programme. The Prime Minister also elaborated the corrupt deals of the previous government and said that the people were querying whether there was a deal between the government and the previous regime. "If we catch the sharks without concrete evidence, we would be similar to the Rajapaksa regime, but, I am sure that we would be able to accomplish much of these tasks before April 23. I have directed the Finance Minister to fill the vacancies at the Bribery Commission, though the ... CONT ON P12

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Sri Lanka beat England by 9 wickets

By Channaka de Silva

(DailyMirror.lk) - Kumar Sangakkara registered his fastest career century for the second time in successive matches and also put on an unbroken double century stand for the second wicket in successive matches as Sri Lanka chased down England's challenging total of 310 with surprising ease at Westpac Stadium here in Wellington. Opener Lahiru Thirimanne struck an elegant unbeaten 139, becoming the youngest Sri Lankan to score a World Cup century at 25 as team appeared to be peaking at the correct time with their nine-wicket triumph which is their third successive win of the tournament after losing the opening game against New Zealand. After another impressive start between Thirimanne and Tillakratne Dilshan who put on a century opening stand for the

second time in a row, Sri Lanka never looked at any difficulty of reaching the big target on a warm and sunny, cloudless day while the wicket too looked ideal for batting. It was a total contrast to the previous match at the venue, when New Zealand destroyed England's batting for just 123 runs, before knocking up the target in a mere 12.3 overs. Sangakkara who has announced his retirement from the ODI format of the game after the tournament is increasingly proving to be getting better and better, as reached his century in just 70 balls, three less than his effort against Bangladesh two days ago in Melbourne. The elegant left hander who turned back the clock at 37 was later adjudged the player of the match for his match winning knock that ... CONT ON PAGE 30

Kumar Sangakkara & Lahiru Thirimanne - The unbeaten centurions



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