



NEWSLANKA



WE CARRY THE BROADEST SELECTION OF SL NEWS FOR THE BROADEST CROSS-SECTION OF SRI LANKANS

Established since 1991. FREE, WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

THURSDAY - 09 FEBRUARY 2017

T: 020 7978 9030

E: info@newslanka.net

ISSUE 1314

Strive collectively for economic freedom

(SundayObserver.lk) - The foremost freedom one must focus on today is establishing economic freedom in Sri Lanka, President Maithripala Sirisena said on Saturday.

Addressing the nation at the 69th Independence Anniversary celebrations at Galle Face, he pointed out that to achieve economic freedom, the country must strive for it collectively along with the knowledge of the educated, new inventions, efficiency of the work force, and the strength as well as the dedication of blue collar workers.

"Achieving economic prosperity is paramount to protect democracy," he said adding that greater importance and focus will be on the youth of our nation. The president also promised to guide the country's youth who yearned for new knowledge and technology.

President Sirisena said that the main focus should be political stability and social development through a collective effort to rebuild Sri Lanka. "To achieve this task, ensuring religious coexistence and reconciliation is of utmost importance," he said, adding that the government is committed to achieve this goal.

He called upon all politicians to set an example through good character and lead the way in the country's development. "I believe all government officials will also act in a similar manner," he said. According to the President, various opportunistic elements with ulterior motives are attempting to derail the government's plans. "These elements are working against the best interests of our country," he said.

Sirisena outlined the government's efforts to alleviate poverty calling all Sri Lankans to also join hands in the ongoing process. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Speaker of Parliament Karu Jayasuriya, Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, former First Lady Hema Premadasa, Government Ministers, Commanders of the Tri Forces, Inspector General of Police, Parliamentarians, Ambassadors and distinguished guests attended the dignified celebration. The President in his speech also paid tribute to national heroes belonging to all communities who strived, struggled, sacrificed and laid down their lives to gain the independence we now cherish. "It is

important to remember those leaders" he said, adding that, however, the freedoms we now speak of are diverse and many, such as that of the freedom of humans, speech, media among others.

"The word 'freedom' has great significance in every language in the world," the President said, adding that the concept of 'freedom' is understood in a different context today and has changed since the time between 1505 and 1948.

President Sirisena also paid tribute to military and policemen who sacrificed their lives to protect the dignity and sovereignty of the nation during the 30-year conflict.

"We must never forget the lessons learnt from our warring past," he said.

The Nation celebrated its 69th Independence Day with pomp and pageantry in a dignified celebration held



President Maithripala Sirisena stands to attention while the students recite Jayamangala Gatha during the 69th Independence Anniversary celebrations at the Galle Face Green. (Pic Sudath Malaweera)

the Galle Face Green in Colombo on Saturday. Held on the theme of 'National Unity', the official celebration saw the might of the country's military through 7,500 military personnel representing the three security forces, Police, Civil Security Department, National Cadet Corps and National Youth Corps, in the National Day parade.



Festival of Cricket 2017



FOC 2017 has been confirmed & will take place on Sunday 9th July 2017 at the Hainault Recreation Ground, Forest Road, Hainault, Essex, IG6 3HX.

For any more information, please call President of FOC 2017, Ravi Raveendran on 07723 312 422.

Email: president@festivalofcricket.org, Facebook: www.facebook.com/festivalofcricket, Twitter: twitter.com/foc_uk

Sanath calls for a long term strategy

(DailyMirror.lk) - Chairman of National Cricket Selectors, Sanath Jayasuriya, urged local cricket authorities to work out a long term strategy which will help players perform better outside their comfort zone. Jayasuriya, a legendary Sri Lankan cricketer admitted that Sri Lankans have historically struggled in South African conditions but said he was disappointed by how tamely the players squandered their chances. "We should be able to play under any conditions, not just at home. There's no point giving excuses or blaming our domestic structure after we lose a series. It's just that the players did not adjust to these conditions. Your success depend on how fast you adjust to

these conditions but sadly we have taken too long to do that," explained Jayasuriya. "We need to prepare ourselves better, not that we don't, but we need to find out whether we need a longer period of preparations for tours like this. Whether we need to come here early and prepare is something that we should really look at," he added. Sri Lanka lost the Test series 0-3, four years after they won their first ever win in South African soil and now faces a 5-0 whitewash in the five-match one-day



series. Sri Lanka managed to win the T20 series but it came against a second - string South Africa side, after hosts decided to rest most of their big guns to keep them fresh for the ODI series. "If we can do a player programme at least at the Under-19 level that will do a world of good for the players. We sent Kusal Mendis to England and we all know how well he performed in England last year," he said.

"We have seen South African players being sent to India to get use to spin wickets. This is one area we could really

look at in the future," he added. A similar sentiment was shared by Coach Graham Ford following the Test series defeat. "Another option may be to try and get young lads on exchange programmes to these countries and give them time to develop," Ford said. Sri Lanka have done decently in English conditions and Jayasuriya believes, the county experience of Sri Lanka cricketers have played a major role in the success. "Look we have done well in English conditions. We have won Test and ODI series there. This is because our cricketers are more accustomed to those conditions. Lot of our cricketers used to play in counties in the past and that ... SEE P19

Help. Save a life

Rajee, a 33-year-old Tamil software engineer living in London, has been



battling Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML) since she was 12. Her ailment took a turn for the worse recently and is in urgent need of a match from a blood stem cell donor (you can read her story on www.HealRajee.org). There are registries across the world working to register potential blood stem cell donors to increase the pool of donors available to patients suffering from blood cancer or blood disorders that need a matching donor. In Rajee's case, ethnicity is important and South Asians are significantly under represented on the world registry of blood stem cell donors. So if you are South Asian and are interested in registering as a donor please register online at

www.dkms.org.uk or in person at: **The London Sri Murugan Temple** (78 Church road, London E12 6AF) on: Thursday 9th February between 6:30pm and 9:30pm, Saturday 11th February between 8:30am and 2:00pm; and between 5:00pm and 9:30pm, Regardless of your ethnicity, if you would be interested in becoming a potential blood stem cell donor please do register and spread the word. The registration process involves checking the eligibility criteria, completing a simple cheek swab and a consent form. If you are picked as a potential donor you will be asked to go for a blood test and complete a medical questionnaire. After

this, if you are the best match for the patient, you will be asked to donate in one of two methods: - in 90% of the cases this is done by peripheral blood stem cell collection - in 10% of the cases by bone marrow collection Please help us spread the word: Facebook fb.me/HealRajee Twitter @HealRajee Instagram #HealRajee Please find link to an article printed in India that covered stem cell donation. http://www.kochipost.com/2017/02/01/donate-cells-save-life/ Contact us: 07584418889 / 07428550420 / 07729864217

REGGIE FERNANDO - IS NOW IN COLOMBO Give him a call on 00 94 11 2 500 124

FAST CASH MONEY IN MINUTES TO SRI LANKA

CARLTON LEISURE 020 8100 0000 www.carltonleisure.com

Brightsun TRAVEL SEE P11 24x7: 0203 603 2044

Taprobane Travel Great offers on flights & hotels. See page 3. 0207 434 3921

DUKE'S COURT TRAVEL Fly to Colombo fr. £369 Call 0208 748 3535

LycaFly CALL US 24x7 on 0207 132 32 32 Colombo Best offers!

NEWSLANKA COLOMBO OFFICE: + 94 77 446 40 90 CALL CHANDIKA NOW We can accept payment in SL rupees & we can help with artwork. Tell your friends.

FREE PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS NOW YOU CAN ADVERTISE YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY RENTALS IN UK & SRI LANKA, TUITION, ECT... FREE OF CHARGE AND IF YOU ARE A BUSINESS, IT ONLY COSTS £6 PER WEEK. FOR FULL DETAILS GO TO PAGE 26 OR WWW.NEWSLANKA.NET