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Britain to sponsor resolution on Sri Lanka at UNHRC

(ColomboGazette.com) - Britain is to sponsor a new resolution on Sri Lanka at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) at its upcoming session in Geneva. The decision was communicated to the Council at the organisational meeting for the 34th session of the UNHRC held in Geneva yesterday. The resolution will look to give Sri Lanka time to address the accountability issue on the

war. Ahead of the resolution being tabled, Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera will address the UNHRC during 34th session. Samaraweera is to brief the council on the latest developments in Sri Lanka during the high level segment of the session on Tuesday February 28. The 34th session of the UNHRC takes place in Geneva from 27th February to 24th March.

During the session an interactive dialogue will be held on Sri Lanka on March 22. The discussion will be based on the report on Sri Lanka submitted to the UN Human Rights Council last year by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Al Ra'ad Al Hussein. In his report Zeid had expressed satisfaction on the efforts taken by the Government to address reconciliation issues.

However, he had raised concerns over the slow progress on releasing more land held by the military. He had also raised concerns over the failure to abolish the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). The United States had sponsored previous resolutions on Sri Lanka but with a change a Government in the US this year there is no clear policy yet on how the US will deal with Sri Lanka on the human rights issue.



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



69th Independence anniversary commemorated at SL HC London



Address by High Commissioner Amari Wijewardene
See page 16

Drought conditions spreading



United Nations World Food Program (WFP) Executive Director Ertharin Cousin meets people as she visits the village of Tanamalwila in Monaragala district, 210 kilometers southeast of Colombo. Cousin visited Sri Lanka for the launch of the "National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition Towards Zero Hunger" program and to see the effects of the ongoing drought in Sri Lanka - AFP

By Chamodi Gunawardane (FT.lk) - The Disaster Management Ministry warned of the drought conditions spreading across more areas in the country in the coming months, with it creating possible drinking water shortages, bushfires and further crop damage.

The prevailing dry weather conditions have already affected the Maha season of paddy cultivation with part of the cultivated crop being damaged, reducing the predicted yield for the year to 1.3 MT from 1.7 MT. SEE P 10

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Jayasuriya back in business - SLC CEO Ashley de Silva

By S.R. Pathiravithana (SundayTimes.lk) - Bringing an end to all speculation about the tendering of the resignation of Sri Lanka National Cricket Committee Chairman Sanath Jayasuriya, now it is reported he is as usual back in business. There were speculations on Thursday that the four-member Cricket Selection Committee, headed by Sanath Jayasuriya had resigned citing interference. The news item stated that the reason for the Jayasuriya resignation had been the attempt by cricket administrators to include seven under-performing national players in the Sri Lanka 'A' Team for the home series against the England Lions.

On Wednesday there was a media conference unveiling the 'A' team series between the two countries, but no captain's name was announced. The unofficial Test series begins on February 17 in Pallekelle. It was stated that experienced players in the calibre of Dimuth Karunaratne, Kaushal Silva, Dinesh Chandimal, Lahiru Thirimanne, Dhananjaya de Silva and Jeffrey Vandersay were among the seven players SLC wants to try out during the England 'A' series against the wishes of the selectors. On Thursday SLC chairman Thilanga Sumathipala stated "Yes, we agree that it is their business to select the respective players, but, it is the job of the SLC to lay down the policies. ... SEE P24

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