



NEWSLANKA



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

Established since 1991. FREE, WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

THURSDAY - 23 FEBRUARY 2017

T: 020 7978 9030

E: info@newslinka.net

ISSUE 1316

Won't press for merger of North, East: India

(DailyMirror.lk) - India will not be pressing Sri Lanka to merge the Northern and Eastern Provinces to form a single Tamil-majority, as envisaged by the India-Sri Lanka Accord of 1987, the visiting Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar has told the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) on Monday. According to the Indian Express, the Foreign Secretary was reacting to a demand made by the



Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar

leader of the Eelam Peoples' Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) Suresh Premachandran, that India should honor its promise to keep the North and East united. It had even said that it would not allow a referendum to be held on the issue. Jaishankar has told Premachandran that much

water has flown down the bridge since 1987 and as the situation has changed it will be better for all concerned to make use of the various windows of opportunity which have opened up recently with the change of regime and secure the rights of the Tamils. He argued that it would not be wise to hold every other matter hostage to one issue - the merger of the North and East. However, he added that India would not mind if the Tamils kept the issue alive and kept it on the table for talks with the Sri Lankan government. Premachandran had highlighted the issue of the merger of the North and East partly because it had been the main theme of the Ezhuga Tamil rally held recently in the Eastern town of Batticaloa. He pointed out that India has a moral responsibility to ask the Sri Lankan government to re-merge the

North and East as it is part of the India-Sri Lanka Accord of 1987. If the Accord is still valid, every part of it should be deemed to be equally valid and implemented, he argued. He recalled that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had solemnly promised that the merger would remain and that the proposed referendum would not be held. He also recalled that the EPRLF had fully cooperated with India on the implementation of the Accord, and like the Indian Peace Keeping Force, had lost many men in the fight against the LTTE which opposed the Accord. India has a moral responsibility to keep its promise and persuade the Sri Lankan government to re-merge the North and East, Premachandran has said.

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

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



Sapphire 2017 - The event of the Year
See page 17



Watch your favourite Sri Lankan programmes
See page 15

Lyca TV



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. £388
 Call 0208 748 3535

LycaFly
 CALL US 24x7 on 0207 132 32 32
 Colombo Best offers! SEE PAGE 9

FAST CASH
 MONEY IN MINUTES TO SRI LANKA
 See Page 7

CARLTON LEISURE
 Worldwide Travel & Tours
 020 8100 0000
 www.carltonleisure.com
 SEE PAGE 5

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.

By Sa'adi Thawfeeq
DailyNews.lk) - Domestic cricket in Sri Lanka has been thrown into chaos with Sri Lanka Cricket unable to get their much vaunted and spendthrift Major limited-over tournament off the ground when Negombo Cricket Club obtained a stay order last Friday to suspend the tournament because of their 'unfair' exclusion from it. The much hyped Major limited overs tournament was launched in a glitzy ceremony at R Premadasa Stadium last week with estimated costs running to over Rs. 5 million according to reliable sources. Dunstan Goluhewa, president of Negombo CC relating the events that led to them obtaining an interim injunction against SLC going ahead with the tournament told the 'Daily News': "We played the 2015/16 Sara trophy final against Sebastianites in August and lost it by 52 runs. Subsequently it was brought to our notice that Sebastianites had played six higher division players in their team and we lodged a protest regarding that. "The interim committee under Sidath Wettimuny which was running SLC at the time inquired into our protest and found that Sebastianites were guilty of the

offence and afterwards awarded us the Sara trophy which brought us promotion to play in Tier B of the Premier tournament for 2016/17. This was confirmed to us by letter by SLC. Prior to the start of the 2016/17 season we were called up for the fixtures meeting for the Premier Tier 'B' 3-day Emerging tournament and subsequently issued match fixture schedules for the Major limited 50-over and Major T20 tournaments. We were also presented with a cheque for Rs 1.6 million for expenses during the season by SLC. We were due to play our first match in the Premier Tier B but the first weekend of matches was washed out by bad weather. "In the meantime Sebastianites had filed a court case against SLC asking to be reinstated as Sara trophy champions of 2015/16. The court requested SLC to intervene and settle the issue. The SLC tournament committee requested us to replay the final after one year and six months (which was a joke) to which we refused. The SLC subsequently withdrew us from participating in the 2016/17 Premier Tier B tournament. "The Premier Tier B tournament went ahead without us. We filed action in the



Colombo District Court against the decision to deprive us of playing and sought an order to make the Premier Tier B tournament null and void. The case is due to be taken up on March 3. Subsequently we were also kept out of the two Major tournaments (limited over and T20) which the SLC is due to conduct this month. We obtained a stay order from the Colombo District Court on our unfair exclusion from these tournaments and SLC have been informed by the court to show sufficient reasons for keeping us out and given time till February 23 to file their answers. The action of the SLC has deprived our club and players whom we recruited because of our promotion from showcasing their talent and gaining national recognition." SLC CEO Ashley de Silva confirmed that they had been informed by court that there is an interim injunction brought against SLC conducting the major one-day tournament and that the matches scheduled for Saturday did not take place. "We are waiting for a written confirmation on the interim injunction to make an official statement," said De Silva. The SLC are already under a cloud with a case of match-fixing in the Premier Tier B

league tournament between Panadura SC and Kalutara PCC being investigated by a three-member panel. The allegation brought against the two clubs by Sri Lanka Ports Authority CC (SLPA) is that the match was "fixed" to allow Panadura SC to emerge victorious and become champions of Premier Tier B which would automatically grant them promotion to Tier A the following season and also bigger funds from SLC. It was more of a win-win situation where in return Kalutara PCC were also given the opportunity to avoid relegation to a lower division. According to sources, on a rain-hit final day both Panadura and Kalutara teams had lost 24 wickets and had recorded a run rate of over 10 runs per over. It has been revealed that in 20 minutes, 13 overs have been bowled allowing Panadura to chase a target of 165 within a mere 13.4 overs scoring at a run rate of 12.21 per over. SLPA who were also in the running to win the Tier B title but failed, allege that due to the tactics adopted by the two teams they have been deprived of the honour and promotion. The scores of that first-class match: Kalutara PCC 390 in 103 overs and 197 in 22.5 overs; Panadura SC 423 in 68.3 overs and 167-7 in 13.4 overs. See P24

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