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ISSUE 1319

Draft resolution on Sri Lanka submitted to UNHRC

(ColomboGazette.com) - The followup draft resolution on Sri Lanka was submitted to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) today. Titled "Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka" the draft text has, as its main sponsors, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The resolution calls on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to assess progress on the implementation of its recommendations and other relevant processes related to reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka, and to present a written update to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-seventh session, and a comprehensive report followed by discussion on the implementation of resolution 30/1 at its fortieth session.

The resolution also "Takes Note with Appreciation the comprehensive report presented by the United Nations High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fourth session, as requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 30/1, and requests the Government of Sri Lanka to fully implement the measures identified in Human

Rights Council resolution 30/1 that are outstanding."

The deadline for submission of draft resolutions for the ongoing 34th session of the UN Human Rights Council is Thursday 16 March and the deadline for amendments after submission is March 21.

It also requests the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant special procedure mandate holders, in consultation with and with the concurrence of the Government of Sri Lanka, to strengthen their advice and technical assistance on the promotion and protection of human rights and truth, justice, reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka. (Colombo Gazette)

Full text of draft resolution:

A/HRC/34/L.1

Item 2

Received from (main sponsors): Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Date and time: 13/03/2017, 10:20

Initials: MR

Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka

Item 2

The Human Rights Council, Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, (PP1 HRC/30/1) Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments, (PP2 HRC/30/1)

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 of 1 October 2015 on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka, (NEW)

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 19/2 of 22 March 2012, 22/1 of 21 March 2013, 25/1 of 27 March 2014, (PP3 HRC/30/1)

Reaffirming that it is the responsibility of each State to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of its entire population, (PP5 HRC/30/1)

Reaffirming its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka, (PP4 HRC 30/1)

Welcoming the visits to Sri Lanka from 6 to 9 February 2016 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and from 31 August to 2 September 2016 by the United Nations

Secretary-General, (NEW)

Welcoming also the visit from 9 to 18 November 2015 by the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances, the visit from 26 January to 2 February 2016 by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, the joint visit from 29 April to 9 May 2016 by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the visit from 10 to 20 October 2016 by the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, (NEW)

Welcoming the steps taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to implement Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 of 1 October 2015, and recognizing in this context, the need for further significant progress,

1. Takes Note with Appreciation the comprehensive report presented by the United Nations High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fourth session, as requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 30/1, and requests the Government of Sri Lanka to fully implement the measures identified in **CONT ON P14**



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

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Sri Lanka win 1st Test

By S.R. Pathiravithana from the Galle International Stadium

(SundayTimes.lk)- It was one worst batting displays in recent times. Bangladesh started the chase with their heads up high and came in the morning session with determination on their faces, but, after a little after a session of play it was proved that it were the Lions who had the bite in them. Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by 259 runs a little after the lunch break. As expected the hero of the game was skipper Rangana Herath himself.

First he justified the prolonged second inning of the Lankan batsmen. Then he proved that he was not afraid of the inclement weather. Then finally it was he who finished with the best figures of 6 for 59.

Bangladesh on their path had no zest in their quest.

Almost all the wickets that fell during that session and a little, were out because of

meek batting. I wonder what was running through the professional head of Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusinghe who stood to prove point during this tour. Now there is only one match left.

After the game Herath explained that with bowlers like Dilruwan Perera and Lakshan Sandakan in his arsenal he was confident that he could run to victory in spite of the rain threat. He said "Still the wicket was good for batting, and the wicket was not spinning in squares, but, we knew against the backdrop of a 400 plus chase Bangladesh may flounder".

Bangladesh in their chase batted for 15 overs and ended up at 67 for no loss thus leaving themselves a task of scoring 390 runs in a

day's possible play. At the same time they were scoring at the plausible rate of 4.46 runs per over.

Yet, the heavy cloud cover looked ominous even in the at the initial stages of the day.

But, it was more ominous for the

Bangladeshis when Asela Gunaratne found the edge of Sarkar's bat as early as the second ball of the day. The Bangladesh plot began to fail further when Haque was trapped leg before by Perera for 9. Bangladesh lost a wicket and a review in one ball. **SEE P24**



Commonwealth Day Message by the Queen

This Commonwealth Day, a baton will set out from Buckingham Palace and begin a long and extraordinary journey. Over the



next twelve months, the Baton will visit people living in the nations and territories of our Commonwealth family in every continent and

ocean. Carried on its way by thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds, by the time it reaches its final destination, The Queen's Baton will have brought together through its route and symbolism, almost 2.5 billion people who share the special connection of being Commonwealth citizens.

Contained within the Baton will be a written message that will be opened and read at the Commonwealth Games in Australia next year. However, there is an even more powerful message to be seen

and experienced as the Baton passes from hand to hand, from seashore to mountaintop, through cities, towns, and villages. It is the message of a peace-building Commonwealth.

The cornerstones on which peace is founded are, quite simply, respect and understanding for one another. Working together, we build peace by defending the dignity of every individual and community. By upholding justice and the rule of law, and by striving for societies that are fair and offer opportunities for all, we overcome division and find reconciliation,

so that the benefits of progress and prosperity may be multiplied and shared. As members of the Commonwealth family we can find much to be thankful for in the inheritances we have received from those who came before us. Through consensus and cooperation great things have been achieved.

We can find further reward and fulfilment by continuing to collaborate with others in a spirit of goodwill to build a peaceful and abundant future for all Commonwealth citizens.

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