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## Meethotamulla garbage mountain collapse - death toll reaches 31

The garbage dump at Meethotamulla collapsed on adjoining houses at about 1.30 pm on New Years day (April 14).

The number of deaths reported following the collapse of a part of the Meethotamulla garbage dump, had increased to 31, said Army Media Spokesperson Brigadier Roshan Seneviratne. He further said it was no longer a rescue mission, since more than 72 hours have passed. "We are working to find the bodies now and 1,060 members

of the Tri Forces, along with 500 police personnel are stationed at Meethotamulla," he said. The National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) said that they have identified at least another 159 houses as risk-prone in the Meethotamulla area.

NBRO Media Spokesman R.M.S.Bandara said the immediate vicinity of the garbage mountain remained an active zone and there were a likelihood of it further collapsing if the weight and

the stress on the dump keep enhancing. According to NBRO findings, the subsurface below the dump has several different soil layers. Prominent among them is a peat layer which is above a hard soil layer. Subsequent to heavy rains, rain water penetrated into the waste pile and the additional load caused by the infiltration of rain water in to the garbage mass may have caused the instability in soft soil underneath, resulting a deep seated failure in the garbage fill.

This resulted in a lateral movement of the peat layer in the direction of houses and the significant ground up heading has taken place at the toe region and houses situated there were severely damaged.

There is still a possibility reactivating of such movement and with heavy rains, a similar situation can occur again.

Colombo's garbage saga is really a tale of two cities. The affluent neighbourhood in Colombo 7 is cleaned not once but several times a day. At one O' clock in the afternoon, street cleaners can be seen assiduously picking up a few stray leaves on Horton place. Environment Police is seen placidly patrolling as there is really nothing much for them to do. On the contrary, in the other City of Colombo ( for example Colombo North ) roads are blocked by wayside eateries and repair shops, garbage is piled up on the roads and slung into canals, open drains are man traps, sewage lines illegally directed to ... **SEE P4**



### SLC throws weight behind national side

(Colombogazette.com) - Preparations are in full swing for the hotly contested and coveted 2017 ICC Champions Trophy taking place in England and Wales in 2017, with the Sri Lankan national team undertaking a six-day high intensity endurance and performance program to better prepare for the matches ahead.

National Captain Angelo Mathews commenting on the preparations was appreciative of the technical and resource support from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). National Captain Angelo Mathews commenting on the preparations was appreciative of the technical and resource support from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). "The ICC Champions Trophy will be an important event for Sri Lanka as we are going through a transition and the young but

extremely talented cricketers are learning to adapt to the challenges and demands of top-level cricket. I am sure this training program will provide them the experience and opportunity of acclimatization which we will find invaluable in our Champions Trophy campaign." National Head Coach Graham Ford was confident that this young side has the talent and capacity to beat any team in the Champions Trophy and commented that all it needs is for the team to gel into a winning outfit. Ford was also appreciative of the SLC administration stating that "we lack for nothing in terms of resources. It is just about getting the mind set right now." Meanwhile Manager Cricket and selector, Asanka Gurusinha said that the climatic conditions in Kandy and Diyatalawa where the

team will spend time in altitude training will simulate the conditions the players will play under when they are in England. This is in addition to the best of facilities which are on offer in Kandy. "The team will also leave eight days early to England where they will play two warm-up matches against the Scotland National Cricket Team which the management of Sri Lanka Cricket has secured at its own cost. This initiative from SLC will go a long way in ensuring that the national team has a better feel of the pitch and conditions in the UK." The two matches against Scotland are in addition to the other practice matches that the ICC has organized for all participating teams ahead of the Champions Trophy. (Courtesy Yahoo Cricket)

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