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Human Rights Council 36th session

Opening Statement regarding Sri Lanka by Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

(ohchr.org) - ".... In Sri Lanka, I urge the Government to swiftly operationalize the Office of Missing Persons and to move faster on other essential confidence building measures, such as release of land occupied by the military, and resolving long-pending cases registered under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. I repeat my request for that Act to be replaced with a new law in line with international human rights standards. In the North, protests by victims indicate their growing frustration over the slow pace of reforms. I encourage the Government to act on its commitment in Resolution 30/1 to establish transitional justice mechanisms, and to establish a clear timeline and benchmarks for the implementation of these and other commitments.

This should not be viewed by the Government as a box-ticking exercise to placate the Council, but as an essential

undertaking to address the rights of all its people. The absence of credible action in Sri Lanka to ensure accountability for alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law makes the exercise of universal jurisdiction even more necessary...."

Gazette to operationalise Office on Missing Persons

President Maithripala Sirisena, in his capacity as the Minister of National Integration and Reconciliation, signed a gazette notification to operationalise the Office on Missing Persons, the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation revealed.

In a statement, the ministry said: "The Office of the Missing Persons (establishment, administration and discharge of functions) Act No. 14 of 2016 and amended by Act No. 9 of 2017 comes into implementation and operation with effect from 15 September as the President has placed his signature for the Gazette Notification."

"Accordingly, the OMP will be established and its functions, duties and mandate will come into operation with effect from 15 September," the statement read. This initiative comes one week after the President spoke to family members of the missing.

"The operationalisation of the OMP marks another significant step taken forward in Sri Lanka's path to reconciliation by the Good Governance Government," said Secretary to the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation, V. Sivagnanasothy.



SRI LANKA ISLAMIC (UK) ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 45 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY 1972 - 2017 (see pages 18/19)



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President Jazal Marzook with his Exco team from left to right: Jezri Mohideen (Chair, Building Subcommittee), Sadat Sadiq (Assistant Secretary), Azhar Salahudeen (Secretary), Alan Wahab (Vice President), Jazal Marzook (President), Ishreen Bradley (Chair, Charity Subcommittee), Latiff Abdeen, Fazly Wahab (Treasurer), Rafat Hashim (Chair, Religious Events), Khalid Malhar (Assistant Treasurer)

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SLC looks to get de Silva, Jayawardene on board



(DailyNews.lk) - Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Brendon Kuruppu, Graeme Labrooy, perhaps even Mahela Jayawardene - these are the names Sri Lanka Cricket is attempting to align itself with as the board looks to arrest the decline of the national team. Even more crucially for SLC, getting former players with good reputations on board may also help turn around its ailing public reputation. The board is now not only widely

believed to be detrimental to the development of cricket, it is also seen as one of the most toxic governing bodies in the country. Whether these former players are willing to become associated with SLC given its present state remains to be seen. But as far as some board officials are concerned, they have several vacancies to fill, and would like for these men to be installed in those positions. **SEE P29**



Madawala Hemananda launches new book
See page 25



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