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President Sirisena issues gazette to prorogue Parliament

(Colombogazette.com & island.lk) - President Maithripala Sirisena issued an extraordinary gazette notice on Thursday 12th to prorogue Parliament with effect from midnight. Parliament was scheduled to meet on April 19 after the Sinhala and Tamil New Year holidays. The next Parliament session will commence on 8th May 2018. The prorogation is the period between the end of a Parliament session and the opening of the next Parliament session. Sudarshana Gunawardana, Director General of the Government Information Department

said that under Article 70(4) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka "All matters which, having being brought before Parliament, have not been disposed of at the prorogation of Parliament, may be proceeded with during the next session" Therefore, Gunawardana said that the prorogation of Parliament has no negative impact on the functioning and operation of the Government. The UNP and the SLFP will enter into a new partnership, after President Maithripala Sirisena's return from London, where he is

attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Minister of Public Enterprise Development Lakshman Kiriella said on Monday. Asked to describe the pact, Kiriella said that it would prioritise the governments development plans for the next two years and set out the guidelines under which the two parties would work together, without having to encounter problems, such as the ones witnessed in the recent past. He explained that a committee, headed by Special Assignments Minister Sarath Amunugama, appointed by the President,

prior to leaving for London, had been tasked with drafting the new agreement. Asked whether the national unity government would continue, Kiriella said: "Yes. What the Amunugama Committee would do is outline the ground rules which the UNP and SLFP, will be required to follow." The Minister emphasised that a commitment to collective responsibility was of paramount importance, if the government was to achieve its objectives. Unwarranted side shows were a big distraction and counter-productive, he added.

Politicians are destroying cricket in Sri Lanka: Muttiah Muralitharan

(economictimes.indiatimes.com) - Muttiah Muralitharan is a soft-spoken man, not one to get agitated easily. It was a rare sight to see him lose his cool when asked about Sri Lankan cricket's downfall. In a conversation with ET, the Sri Lankan legend talks about what is wrong with Sri Lankan cricket, why wrist spinners offer better dividends in good batting conditions (referring to Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal) and more. Excerpts. **What is wrong with Sri Lanka cricket?** From the days of Sanath Jayasuriya, Kaluwitharana, Aravinda de Silva and Arjuna Ranatunga to today, it has undergone a sea change. Don't go so far back. In 2014, we won the World T20 beating India in the final in Dhaka and in 2011 we made the final of the 50-over World Cup in India. So what we are seeing today is a very

recent development. To tell you the truth Sri Lankan cricket is currently in a mess. Politicians have taken over the running of the game and with little or no knowledge of the game they are destroying the institution with every passing day. Cricket is all about confidence. Giving the players the confidence to perform. Making them feel great when they wear Sri Lankan colours. I did not become a champion bowler in one day. For 4-5 years, Arjuna kept giving me the confidence. That's how I became who I am. Now every time a batsman goes out to bat he is told you have to score or else we will bench you. The same is true for bowlers. In the last one year Sri Lanka has fielded some 60 players

seem to be the flavour. Your take on this. Wrist spinners will always give you better dividends in overseas conditions. Or more simply put in good batting conditions. There can't be any debate on this matter. They are expected to pick more wickets and I can clearly see and understand why the Indian selectors have done what they have done. There's always an element of mystery to wrist spinners and until this mystery is decoded they will deliver for the captain. I don't know whether Ashwin or Jadeja will be back but the reasoning behind the call is fairly obvious. And both Kuldeep and Chahal have done well and justified the faith shown in them.



Murali *Are you saying that to be successful every spinner today will have to have something mysterious in his repertoire?* While that is correct I'm also saying you have to keep your core intact. I always emphasised on bowling off-spin first and then trying out other things. Bowling too many doosras, for example, can impact your off spin bowling and it has happened to people in the past. That's what modern day spinners need to keep in mind. **Coming to IPL, very good start to the season for your team.** It is a marathon and the race has just started. What we've done is create a team that has real good balance. Many people asked why we chose Wriddhiman Saha. It was a clearly thought out strategy. Last year we did not have good spin back-up options after Rashid Khan. This year we do. We have picked Sakib Al Hasan as our first

choice left-arm spinner. When you have two quality spin bowlers in your team, it's essential you have a good keeper. Else, the chances created by the spinners are wasted more often than not. So in that sense we've done what we could have. Now only time will tell if the planning gives us the results we are hoping for. **A word on David Warner's absence — you must be missing him.** His are big shoes to fill. He has been an exceptional player for us and for any team he has played for. But there is little that can be done and I have to say Kane Williamson has led the team very well in Warner's absence. He has the experience and has held the dressing room together quite nicely.

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President at London Buddhist Vihara



President Maithripala Sirisena, who is in London to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018, took part in the Oil Anointing Ceremony held at the London Buddhist Vihara, on Monday (16th). Ven Bogoda Seelawimala Nayaka Thera, the incumbent Head Priest of the London Buddhist Vihara and the current Chief Sangha Nayaka of Great Britain anointed oil on the head of the President and others.

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Presidents' keynote address at the Commonwealth Business Forum

(pmdnews.lk) - Our Government's "Blue-Green" economic plan will ensure the full utilization of the ocean and other natural resources of Sri Lanka in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner', said President Maithripala Sirisena delivering the keynote address at the Commonwealth Business Forum, today (18 April).

I call upon everyone present here to join hands with the Commonwealth countries as well as others to bring prosperity with best business practices that will promote social responsibility and ensure social inclusiveness, the President further said.

President Sirisena also stated that in 2015, the world came together and agreed upon a common vision for a

sustainable future in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in order to create a world that is socially just, prosperous and sustainable. Following is the full text of the Keynote Address by H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, at the Commonwealth Business Forum, 18 April, 2018:

"Delivering the SDGs: Aligning Business, Societies and Governments"

Excellencies, Commonwealth Secretary General, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

I am pleased to join the key stakeholders of government, business community and ... SEE P10

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