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T: 020 7978 9030

E: info@newslanka.net

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PM promotes peace and reconciliation at annual feast of Madhu Church

(FT.LK) - Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the Unity Government is working to deliver long-term peace to the island nation, and that religious festivals are important to promote peace and reconciliation. The Prime Minister made this observation while participating in the annual festival of the historic Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu in Mannar, presided over by the Archbishop Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith and Bishop of Mannar Emmanuel Fernando. Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the Madhu feast is a symbol of reconciliation in the country. "Our large religious festivals are important moments to promote and embrace the values of peace and reconciliation as we work to deliver long-term peace in Sri Lanka," the Premier said. The Prime Minister said that the Madhu Church has been venerated by all the quarters of Sri Lankan society, irrespective of their religious backgrounds, and it is an important place to strengthen ethnic and religious ties. He also said that no room should be allowed for hatred to conquer the society. The Prime Minister also made a donation for the future development activities of the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu.

A number of Government ministers, officials and a large number of devotees attended the event.



Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe participated in the annual feast of Our Lady of Madhu, becoming the second state leader to participate in the feast. A large number of people participated in the annual feast of the historical Church of Our Lady of Madhu in Mannar yesterday. Archbishop of Colombo Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith led the festive mass. Bishop of Mannar Emmanuel Fernando and several other bishops were also present - Pic by Pradeep Pathirana

Sri Lankan shares fall for 7th session in thin trade

(Bizenglish.adaderana.lk) - Reuters - Sri Lankan shares extended losses into a seventh session on Monday and posted their lowest close in nearly seven weeks, as foreign investors continued to reduce their holdings, while confusion over new tax measures weighed on the market as well. Lacklustre corporate results and a Moody's report saying Sri Lanka could face significantly tighter external refinancing conditions in the next five years, also dented investor appetite for riskier assets, analysts said. A local daily reported on Friday that a number of



the proposed taxes," said Jaliya Wijeratne, CEO, First Capital Equities. "Foreigners have been selling since last week and that has been a concern for the market."

changes proposed in the Finance Act will impose new levies on several sectors including telecom, vehicle imports and tourism. "Confidence level is the issue. There is confusion over new taxes and the market still is confused about

Foreign investors sold shares worth a net 11.7 million rupees (\$72,965.4) on Monday, extending the foreign outflow to a net 840 million rupees in the last four sessions, and a net 3.48 billion rupees worth of equities so far this year. The Colombo stock index edged down 0.11 percent to 6,044.23, its lowest close since July 4. It has declined about 5 percent so far this year. Turnover stood at 193.2 million rupees on Monday, less than a quarter of year's daily average of 827 million rupees. Most Asian share markets, however, crept cautiously higher as investors awaited developments on proposed Sino-U.S. trade talks and the Chinese yuan rallied away from alarming lows. Top mobile phone service provider Dialog Axiata fell 2.1 percent, while top lender Commercial Bank

of Ceylon closed 0.8 percent weaker. The central bank left its key policy rates unchanged, as expected, on Aug. 3, citing its goals of stabilising inflation and fostering sustainable economic growth. Central bank Governor Indrajit Coomaraswamy said the economy was unlikely to grow more than 4 percent in 2018, falling short of an earlier estimate of 5 percent.

Sri Lanka beat S. Africa in T20

(FT) - Spinner Lakshan Sandakan starred in Sri Lanka's hard fought three-wicket win over South Africa in the only Twenty20 international after bowling out the visitors for their lowest total in the game's shortest format. Electing to bat in the only T20 match of the tour, South Africa were bowled out for 98, a total the hosts surpassed with four overs to spare. The Proteas, who lost the two-Test series 2-0 and then came back to clinch the one-day internationals 3-2, were two runs less than their previous low score of 100 against Pakistan in 2013. Dinesh Chandimal, who returned from his ban for breaching the spirit of the game, remained unbeaten on 36 to guide the team home in a tricky chase. Chandimal's 53-run third-wicket partnership with Dhananjaya de Silva, who made 31, was key in Sri Lanka reaching their target in 16 overs. "I realised it was not a T20 wicket and just rotated strike. I just played like Test cricket," Chandimal said after the win. "It's really good to come back after (the) ODI series. The boys showed a lot of

character and attitude and finished it on a winning note. It's good for the Asia Cup (upcoming 50-over tournament in September)," Chandimal said of his side. But it was Sandakan's bowling figures of 3-19 with his left-arm wrist spin that set up the win. He was ably supported by fellow spinners de Silva and Akila Dananjaya who took two wickets each. Wicketkeeper-batsman Quinton de Kock top-scored with 20 before being run out but the rest of the South African batting fell flat in 16.4 overs. Sri Lankan batsmen also made heavy weather of their 99-run target as the South African bowlers led by paceman Kagiso Rabada made the hosts work hard for their win. Rabada, fellow paceman Junior Dala and spinner Tabraiz Shamsi took two wickets each. From a comfortable 59-2 the hosts slipped to 88-7, but Chandimal kept his calm during his 33-ball stay

that was laced with 3 fours and 1 six. Chandimal, 28, was banned for two Tests and four ODIs after refusing to take the field against West Indies following ball-tampering allegations in June. "We will take a lot of positives from this tour... I think coming here and after losing 2-0 in Test matches, we had to change our mindset and fortunate enough we put our best foot forward in the ODIs," South Africa's T20 skipper Jean-Paul Duminy

said. "We have a few weeks off to rethink and get better. End of September, we have a series against Zimbabwe, hopefully we do well there," Duminy added. Sri Lanka now host England for a full series in October-November while South Africa travel to Australia for three ODI matches and one T20 during the same period.



The winning Sri Lankan team and Man of the Match - Dhananjaya de Silva - Pics by Reuters

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