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Excavations at Mannar mass grave find 104 human skeletons

By Tharindi Pabasara

(adaderana.lk) - The excavations at the mass grave discovered at the old CWE building (Sathosa) in Mannar has unearthed skeletal remains of 104 persons, according to Judicial Medical Officer Dr S. Rajapaksa, who is in charge of the inspection. He stated, last evening (27), that the skeletal remains of 104 individuals have been

unearthed systematically and 96 of them were removed through excavations. During the first and second stages of the excavation process, soil mounds have been removed from the grave, and the perimeters of the location of excavations would have to be further expanded, Dr Rajapaksa said. He further stated that skeletal remains of 96 individuals, which are currently in his custody,

have been placed inside a special chamber at Mannar Magistrate's Court complex. The excavated skeletal remains are slated to be sent over to a laboratory in California for carbon dating. Dr Rajapaksa said that he has requested the Ministry of Justice

for permission to send the skeletal remains to California for carbon dating.

However, the Ministry has not yet granted the necessary approval.

Several skeletal remains had been discovered on March 26 from a mound of soil in the Emil Nagar area in Mannar, which had been removed from the demolished CWE building and investigations regarding the location were launched subsequently.

The excavation process was launched under the orders of Mannar Magistrate A.G. Alexraja, following the submissions made by Mannar police.

The investigations, led by the officers of the Archaeological Department, Government Analysts and the Judicial Medical Officers, Mannar police officers, have been conducted for 58 days at the location, under the orders of new Mannar Magistrate T.G. Prabhakaran. According to Prof. Raj Somadeva, Professor of Archaeology at the Postgraduate Institute of the University of Kelaniya, the age estimation of the skeletal remains is not yet determined.



He stated that investigations have revealed some unearthed skeletal remains were placed in a methodical manner at one part of the grave, however, in another part of the grave, the placement of skeletal remains is irregular.

Previously, skeletal remains belonging to 85 human bodies were unearthed while installing a pipeline near the road to Thiruketheeswaran Kovil in Mannar. However, it was later revealed that the location had been an old cemetery, following the examinations of skeletal remains led by the former Judicial Medical Officer of Anuradhapura Hospital D.L. Vaidyarathna.



President tells forum elections in Sri Lanka are now free and fair

(Colombogazette.com) - President Maithripala Sirisena says the Government has taken steps to establish a strong foundation for free and fair elections in the country through the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

The President made the remarks while participating in the inauguration ceremony of the Asian Electoral Stakeholders Forum held in the Galadari Hotel, Colombo.

Expressing his views the President further said that, the objective of the present Government is to ensure democracy in the country by holding elections in a free and fair manner.

President Sirisena recalled that prior to January 08, 2015, the election system in Sri Lanka was

corrupt.

He said that today Sri Lanka is a country which has a strong democratic foundation and according to reports Sri Lanka has reached a high position among Asian countries

when considering the impartiality of the judiciary.

The President also said that the Elections Commission has been empowered to conduct impartial and free and fair elections.

In order to secure the broad establishment of democracy and security when holding elections within the region, the Asian Electoral Stakeholder

Forum is held to come in to terms with a common agreement which can influence the active stakeholders within Asia and outside the region.

This Conference creates a platform to hold a broad discussion on the elections and democracy within the region where it can be considered as a broad collection of the region connected with elections.

Invitees from 45 countries were present at the conference held under the theme, "A Collective effort for a broad establishment of democracy and security in election with transparency of excellence and order" where more than 15 Asian Regional Electoral

Commissions, more than 100 election monitoring organizations worldwide, a number of foreign Embassies and High Commissions in Sri Lanka, Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations, United Nation and Inter-Regional agencies were present.



SriLankan Airlines launches Pre-Order Meal Service

(FT.LK) - SriLankan Airlines has come up with yet another value addition for its passengers with the launch of its Pre-Order Meal Selection for Economy Class passengers flying out of Colombo to most destinations on its global route network, to complement its award winning service, high level of comfort and sophisticated entertainment systems.

Passengers can choose from a delectable range that includes breakfast items such as Western Breakfast, Arabic Breakfast, Indian Breakfast and Healthy Breakfast; or snacks and main items such as Oriental Style Meal, Salmon Steak, Chicken Lamprais, Fillet Steak, Hot Dog, Fish Fritter, Beef Burger and Seafood Pie. The items provide excellent value for

money as prices range from as little as \$ 10 upwards. Passengers can now pre-order a meal up to 48 hours prior to departure. This service is currently available for flights departing Colombo to London, Bangkok, Canton, Jakarta, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne,

Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dammam, Doha, Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait, Muscat, Riyadh and Seychelles. It is not yet available for flights bound for cities in India and the Maldives.

The meals can be pre-ordered through the SriLankan Airlines 24-hour Global Contact Centre on 1979 from any phone service in Sri Lanka. Overseas callers should dial +94 777 77 1979. Meals can also be pre-ordered at SriLankan Airlines ticket offices and travel agents using the Amadeus system. All dishes on the menu can be seen at http://www.srilankan.com/en_uk/flying-with-us/premium-meals, with helpful pictures to help passengers make their choice. A limited number of pre-ordered meals/snacks are provided on each flight. Meals, once reserved, are non-refundable and meal types cannot be changed. When a meal is pre-ordered from this menu, the passenger's standard meal will be automatically cancelled. This facility is not available on codeshare/interline flights operated by partner airlines.

Sri Lanka's national carrier is an airline with a Four Star Rating from the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX); and has won global accolades such as 'World's Leading Airline to the Indian Ocean' for two consecutive years at the World Travel Awards; 'Best Full Service Airline in Central & South Asia' for three consecutive years at the Future Travel Experience Asia Awards 2017; 'Leading International Airline' and 'Best in Class' at the South Asian Travel Awards 2017; and 'Innovation in Commercial Airline Cabins' at the In-flight Asia Pacific Awards.

SriLankan operates a route network of 114 cities in 48 countries from its hub in Colombo, with a fleet of modern aircraft with the latest comforts such as flatbeds in Business Class and sophisticated in-flight entertainment, to complement its world class service that is famed for the qualities of caring and warmth. As a member of the prestigious oneworld global airline alliance, SriLankan also connects its passengers to over 1,000 cities in 160 countries around the globe through its oneworld partner airlines.



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