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NewsLanka final issue!

By
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Editor/MD

It is with deep regret that we announce that this weeks issue will be the final publication of NewsLanka. Unfortunately I am having to do this due to ongoing health problems. As we are a small outfit we do not have someone to take over the sensitive duties of editorial. As most of you know, the founder of NewsLanka, Mr Reggie Fernando, my father, passed away earlier this year. We had many discussions about the tone of the paper and have always tried to give a broad spectrum of news.

This is so that the readers can make



up their own minds regarding various topics be it politics, ethnicity or the current state of the Sri Lankan cricket team! I want to thank our loyal advertisers who have made the publication possible and wish them continued good fortune for the future. Then comes our staff. Most of you must have spoken with Malen in the UK office. She deals with the day to day enquiries and also has the unenviable task of chasing up payments. Then in our Sri Lankan office we have Chandika who handles all the graphics, ads, news features, etc. Nilantha handles the website. Finally our little band has the boys

who deliver the paper around London, Sam, Ahmed and Kanchana. I would like to thank them all. Now our subscribers who get the paper where we are not able to deliver. Malen will be in touch with you and we will be refunding the unused part of the subscription. The phone numbers will be live until the end of October. The website as well will be up till the end of October. Once again I would like to say thank you to everyone and hope that we aided the Sri Lankan community. (ED)

Buy more local products, limit the importation of luxury items and vehicles

(FT.LK) - In a bid to curtail further rupee depreciation, Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera called on people to buy more local products, limiting the importation of luxury items and vehicles. Releasing a statement to the media, the Finance Minister said that curtailing imports would help in stabilising the economy. "We cannot say for how long



this will go on as it depends on the global economy. But we can now observe that the Sri Lankan rupee, just like the other currencies, is slowly stabilising, especially the Indian rupee, which depreciated by 11%, is now stabilising. Samaraweera expected the Sri Lankan rupee to stabilise at around Rs. 167-Rs. 168 against the dollar. However, he

warned that the global political and economic situation would seriously impact the value of the rupee. Reading a silver lining in the gloomy economic climate, the Minister said that the situation could be made favourable for the country's exporters, which can help it work towards creating an export-oriented economy. "There are people who are benefiting, especially those who are earning in foreign countries. The money sent by them in rupees has increased. Exporters

will be able to record a higher income; this has given the push needed for us to transition to an export-based economy," he said. Hitting back at the statements made by former president and finance minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, he said that the highest depreciation rate of the rupee was recorded during the Rajapaksa era. "Let me remind him if he doesn't remember - in 2012 President and Finance Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa could not prevent rupee ... SEE P16

Taking refuge in the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha

Peter Harvey, retired Professor of Buddhist Studies, and meditation teacher at the Samatha Trust Tradition, UK, delivered the Anagarika Dharmapala memorial lecture at a ceremony held at the London Buddhist Vihara, on Sept 15, 2018 to mark the Founder's Day. Here are excerpts of his speech on 'Reflections on the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha':

The London Buddhist Vihara goes back to 1955, and before that to the period 1926 to 1939, having been founded by Don David Hewavitarne (1864-1933), who took the title Anagarika Dharmapala. He was a Sinhalese man who took up the new role of the Anagarika that is half way between that of a layperson and a monk, entailing permanent adherence to the eight precepts, and he is seen by many as having been a bodhisatta. He helped revive Buddhism in Ceylon, founded the Mah Bodhi Society in India, worked for the return of Bodhi-Gaya to Buddhist hands, and spoke inspiringly at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893. He later visited the US and the UK several times.

He can be seen as a key force for revivifying the Sasana and hence strengthening and spreading respect for the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha in Sri Lanka, India and the West, being a key figure for Buddhism in Sri Lanka and the wider world. Like all things, knowledge and practice of the Dhamma is subject to decay, so we should all do our bit to live by it and deepen our understanding of it, while guarding against distorting it by misinterpretations, one-sidedness or clinging attachment to it and 'Buddhism' or 'Buddhists' as alone right.

Taking the 'three refuges'
Chanting the three refuges is a way of expressing gratitude, appreciation and commitment to the Buddha, his teachings, and those who live in accord with them. 'Taking refuge' looks to three sources of guidance, inspiration, and aids to developing inner strength. It is an expression of trust; not a blind trust but a discerning and exploratory trust. The notion of a 'refuge' is not that of a place to hide, but of something the thought of which calms, purifies, uplifts and ... CONT ON P14



The Anagarika (seated left) with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle of Sherlock Holmes fame (seated second from the right) at an interfaith meeting in London. The photo appeared in The Graphic, a British newspaper, on October 8, 1927

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