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ISSUE 1017



Sunday 10th July 2011

9.00 am - 9.00 pm at
Winchmore Hill Cricket Club
Fords Grove, London N21 3ER
www.festivalofcricket.org

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Govt's priority reconciliation process

(DailyNews.lk - 31/0511) - The process of reconciliation is a priority for the government as it has everything to do with the people, who have now begun to enjoy the dividends of peace, Plantation Industries Minister and Presidential nominee for Human Rights Mahinda Samarasinghe told the 17th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday. He said the process needs to be sustained and gradually built upon. In addition to the comprehensive programme of socio-economic development in the former theatre of conflict, the government has commenced discussions with Tamil political parties examining constitutional, legal and democratic reform. "The government has also extended an invitation to the Tamil diaspora to harness resources and talent for the betterment of Sri Lanka especially in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. We believe that of the challenges we place in the post-

conflict phase healing the wounds of the recent past is important to sustained reconciliation," the minister said. The following is the full text of the minister's speech: "I wish to commend the constructive manner in which you, Mr President, have been conducting the work of the Human Rights Council. Our deliberations have been guided by you with sagacity and sensitivity, aimed at achieving the objectives of our agenda in a fair and equitable manner. You have the fullest cooperation and support of my delegation for the work of the Council. "Consequent to the liberation of our people from the clutches of terrorism in May 2009, and mindful of the insurmountable challenges faced in its aftermath the Government of President Rajapaksa has embarked upon several initiatives in the areas of resettlement, rehabilitation, economic development, reconstruction and reconciliation to benefit those whose

lives were affected by 30 years of conflict. In the immediate aftermath, the government's priority has been the resettlement of the approximately 290,000 IDPs, while ensuring that they are provided adequate shelter, food, security and livelihood support. Today, 95 percent have been resettled. It is envisaged to resettle the remainder, once the de-mining process is completed. "In addition to catering to the needs of the IDPs, considerable action has been taken by the government to facilitate the restoration of normalcy in the lives of the returning IDPs. To support the returnees in their original areas of habitation, a large number of houses have been constructed in the former theatre of conflict and distributed among the resettling IDP families. "With regard to rehabilitation, former child combatants have been rehabilitated and have been beneficiaries of...**CONT ON P2**

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Maalu Maalu Resort & Spa
Minister of Economic Development Basil Rajapaksha, ceremonially inaugurated the Maalu Maalu Resort & Spa in Pasikuda yesterday. The Maalu Maalu Resort & Spa is the first hotel project to be completed in the East under the Nagenahira Novodaya Programme. The Investment for the Maalu Maalu Resort & Spa is said to be US\$ 3.5 million. The Resort & Spa has been designed inspiring Sri Lankan authentic traditional and eco-friendly architectural style. Nearly 1000 rooms are to be constructed in the Pasikuda tourist zone, with an investment of Rs.5483 on the construction of hotels. The government has allocated Rs. 800 million to develop infrastructure facilities in the area.

NewsLanka would like to wish all the best to the Sri Lanka cricket team
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