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THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 03 - 2011

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ISSUE 1039

LLRC report on Nov. 15

Sri Lanka will publish for the public the LLRC report into the end of the civil war with the Tamil Tigers, the foreign minister said on Tuesday.

The West has in the past pushed for an international probe into war crimes allegations.

According to certain reports, diplomats, from Western nations, India and others, have told Reuters that a credible report by the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) would, in conjunction with political concessions to minority Tamils, obviate the need for an outside inquiry.

Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister G.L. Peiris said the LLRC's findings, due to be presented to President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Nov. 15, would be released to the public.

"The president has categorically stated it will be a public document," Peiris said during a press briefing after what he said was a successful summit of Commonwealth countries in Perth where the spotlight was on Sri Lanka, the next summit host.

An advisory report for Ban Ki Moon, UNSG, on Sri Lanka, alleged that there was "credible evidence" that the military killed thousands of civilians as well as LLTE leaders at the climax of a quarter-century war with the Tamil Tigers, which ended in a Sri Lankan victory in May 2009.

Sri Lanka rejects the allegations as a concerted PR campaign by the global supporters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), as well as a few human rights groups and some Western nations that host significant Sri Lankan Tamil populations.

Sources said that the pro-LTTE lobby has been able to pressurise local western politicians because of the large scale of refugees living in one area. In the UK, ex-Labour leader, David Milliband, revealed that he would support the anti Sri Lankan government lobby as the Labour party needed their support in local UK elections. The sources went on to say that many of the refugee communities live in very high concentrations and have a large influence on local politics and impose their agenda

on the host countries.

Asked if he thought the LLRC report would make substantial enough conclusions and recommendations to satisfy Western pressure for accountability, Peiris said: "Of course we think the LLRC report will dispel doubts and answer the questions."

Peiris called the Commonwealth meeting that ended on Sunday "an unqualified success for Sri Lanka".

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper warned Canada, with one of the highest concentrations of Sri Lankan refugees, would boycott the next summit due to be held in Sri Lanka in 2013 if Colombo did

not address human rights matters. A host of rights lobbies and pro-LTTE groups also pushed for a venue change.

"The question of venue was never revisited for one moment," Peiris said of the attempts. "It was dead in the water." He also said Sri Lanka was happy that an attempt to create a Commonwealth human rights monitor was defeated, and that a "vexatious attempt" to sue Rajapaksa over war crimes by a self-admitted LTTE supporter was quashed by Australia's government.

Sri Lanka however will next face concerted Western pressure over war crimes at the March session of the U.N.

23rd AGM of FOC

"At the 23rd Annual General Meeting of FOC held on 09th of October at Lihiniya Restaurant, the following were elected as executive officers of FOC 2012:-
President - Wickrema Waidyanatha (Richmond OBA)
Secretary - Gnana Sankaralingam (Royal OBA)
Treasurer - Natkunam Wimalendran (De Mazenod OBA)
Following the election, the newly elected President addressed the gathering"

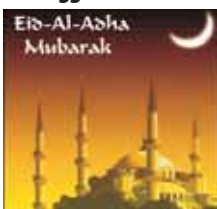


Hony. Treasurer
Natkunam Wimalendran (De Mazenod OBA)

Hony. President
Wickrema Waidyanatha (Richmond OBA)

Hony. Secretary
Gnana Sankaralingam (Royal OBA)

Hajj Festival day declared a Public Holiday



Ministry of Public Administration has declared the day of Hajj festival, Monday, 7 November, a public holiday. The Colombo Grand Mosque Inc., in a media release says according to an unanimous decision taken at the moon-sighting conference held on the 27th of last month, it has been decided to celebrate this year's Hajj festival on the 7th of this month. Therefore the decision to declare 7th November as a public holiday has been taken as the festival falls on Monday.

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PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS IN SRI LANKA THAT THEY CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR OFFICE IN COLOMBO FOR ANY ADS OR INFORMATION THEY MIGHT NEED.

WE ALSO ACCEPT PAYMENTS IN RUPEES AND CAN HELP THEM WITH ARTWORK. IF THEY ARE DOING GOOD WORK IN THE COMMUNITY.

Bank of Ceylon (UK) e-CASH RAFFLE DRAW

The second e-CASH raffle draw of a series of 12 draws introduced by Bank of Ceylon (UK) Ltd was held on 19-10-2011 at the bank premises in the presence of Directors and members of staff. The raffle was drawn by Mr David Swanney, Independent non-executive Director of the bank. **SEE PAGE 5**

Among the individuals who remitted money through the bank during the month of September, Mr J D Weerakoon of Hampstead, London was randomly selected as the lucky winner. Mr Weerakoon is a long standing customer of the bank who regularly uses BOC e-cash remittance service. His remittance made on September 16th earned him the return air ticket offered under the raffle draw for September.



Mr David Swanney,
Independent non-executive
Director, BOC (UK) Ltd

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COLOMBO COLUMN
By Reggie Fernando
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Bank of Ceylon (UK) Ltd.
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