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## Trilingual Lanka, recipe for unity - Former Indian President Kalam

**Rasika SOMARATHNA**  
addressing the launch of the Trilingual Lanka initiative in Colombo on Saturday. Dr Kalam was the chief guest at the launch of the 10-year National Action Plan and the Declaration of 2012 as the Year

(DailyNews.lk) - The initiative for a Trilingual Sri Lanka will enable the country's youths to achieve cultural and socio - economic unity, former Indian President Dr Abdul Kalam said

of Trilingual Sri Lanka at Temple Trees held under the auspices of President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The President on the occasion declared 2012 as the Year for a



**Former President of India and world-renowned aerospace engineer Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was warmly welcomed at the National Eye Hospital in Colombo yesterday. He visited the Eye Bank of the hospital to explore the possibility of providing Indian assistance to upgrade the hospital. Here the Additional Secretary, Health Ministry Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Director of the Hospital Dr. Sisira Liyanage and Consultant Dr. Charith Fonseka accompany Dr. Kalam to the hospital. Pic: Vipula Amarasinghe**

Trilingual Sri Lanka. Delivering a special lecture, former Indian President Kalam said that he was inspired by the landmark initiative, a brain child of President Rajapaksa, which sought to make Sri Lanka a trilingual nation by 2020. "It would be a continuation of the efforts in quality education for all, which was pioneered by the first Education Minister and the father of Sri Lanka's free education system C W W Kannangara whose efforts are reflected in the very high

literacy rate in Sri Lanka," the former Indian President said. Secretary to the President Lalith Weeraratunga said that as bridges link islands, it is the vision of President Rajapaksa to make use of language to bring together ... **CONT ON P2**

### Mahela back as SL captain

(DailyNews.lk) - Mahela Jayawardene has been appointed as captain of the Sri Lanka team for next month's tour of Australia. His re-appointment as Sri Lanka captain comes after the resignation of explosive opener Tillakaratne Dilshan, who stepped down immediately after their disappointing tour of South Africa, losing both the three-Test and five-match One Day International series.



Thirty-five-year-old Jayawardene, a veteran of 128 Tests and 359 ODIs, regains Sri Lanka captaincy at a crucial juncture. Since the resignation of Kumar Sangakkara, Sri Lanka has lost four successive Test series and fared miserably in all ODI series after the last ICC World Cup. Dilshan, who was under tremendous pressure due to various reasons, finally decided to step down though he regained his form as a batsmen by the last two ODIs in South Africa with back

to back half centuries. Leading Sri Lanka is nothing new for Jayawardene who had aggregated over 10,000 runs in both forms of international cricket. He had a successful stint as Sri Lanka captain before an injury... **SEE P30**

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Opening of Daya Mina  
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## 'Community based bi-lingual programme, a great success'

### Chamikara Weerasinghe

(dailynews.lk) Post-war reconciliation has progressed steadily over the past few years as a result of a highly successful bilingual movement with better communication skills being established at public sector institutions to serve the public with the official language of their choice, National Language and Social Integration Ministry sources yesterday said. The Ministry's National Education Training Institute Director General Prasad Herath told the Daily News, they are in need of teachers as at present to facilitate the needs of over 500 language societies that wish to learn Sinhala and Tamil languages. "There is a

considerable number of language societies in the North and East that have registered with us. We have sent teachers to assist them," said Herath.

"The Social Integration Ministry's community-based bilingual programme has become popular across the country," he explained. As pointed out by him, promotion of community-based language programs to elevate levels of bilingualism among the masses have shown a greater degree of success than bilingual programs introduced to train public servants.

He said although it has been made law that public servants should acquire proficiency in the other official language other than the language through which they entered the service, most of them have shown very little interest or no interest in the acquisition of these skills.

"Contrary to this, language societies which are formed by villagers among their communities show greater interest to develop their second language skills," he said.

National Language and Social Integration Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara has reportedly agreed to recruit some 7000 persons having Tamil and Sinhala Language skills to be trained as language teachers. They will be sent to village societies at the request of their heads to teach their desired language to interested parties.

"It must be mentioned that the program has become so effective since anybody can participate these language programs, be they children or adults.

The children and youth seem to get along very fast," he added.

Herath also said, "I can say with my three and half years experience that community based language programs are going to play a major role in national and social integration.

## Ground being prepared for int'l war crimes probe

Steven Ratner addresses Geneva-based diplomatic community  
by Shamindra Ferdinando

(island.lk) In the run-up to the Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva next month, those pushing for an international war crimes inquiry targeting Sri Lanka are stepping up pressure, with a key member of UNSG Ban Ki-moon's Panel of Experts (PoE) on accountability in Sri Lanka, Prof. Steven Ratner reiterating the demand for an international investigation. Last week, US national Ratner in his address to a gathering of diplomats and representatives of several NGOs, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch in Geneva, emphasized the need to go ahead with an international inquiry, regardless of Sri Lanka's stiff resistance. The PoE comprised former Indonesian Attorney General Marzuki Darusman and South Africa's, Yasmin Sooka. The meeting took place while a section of the international community was pressuring the Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to set up an international inquiry. External Ministry sources told The Island that the so-called round table discussion, 'Delivering on

the commitment to accountability,' was nothing but an attempt to step up pressure on Sri Lanka ahead of the HRC sessions.

Among those invited in the discussion were US Ambassador to the HRC, Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe, Canadian Permanent Representative, Elissa Golberg, British Permanent



Representative, Peter Gooderham, Norwegian Permanent Representative, Steffen Kongstad, French Permanent Representative, Jean-Baptiste Mattei, German Permanent Representative Hanns H. Schumacher, Australian Permanent Representative, Peter Woolcott, EU Permanent Representative, Mariangela Zappia, Rory Mungroven (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), Peter Splinter (Amnesty International),

Pooja Patel (Forum Asia), Philippe Dam (Human Rights Watch), Alex Conte (International Commission of Jurists), Ms Beris Gwynne (World Vision International).

The relationship between accountability and reconciliation, too, had been discussed, which the organizers called an academic project on standard of proof in humanitarian and human rights fact-finding, with special focus on UN Inquiry Commissions.

## Trilingual

CONT FROM P1

.... different communities.

Describing how the initiative came to be, the secretary said that it was not recently that the President mooted such an idea but as way back as 1971 when he was the youngest MP in Parliament. "In December 22, 1971 (at the age of 25), participating at the Education Ministry expenditure head at the budget debate, he said that every Tamil child in the country should be taught Sinhala and every Sinhala child Tamil. He also said that for us to take English to the villages we needed teachers from the villages itself (who think like villages) instead of English educated elites from the urban settings. He advocated to choose students who had excelled in English at examinations and train them as teachers of English," the secretary recalled.

He also pointed out that later in the President's first manifesto Mahinda Chinthana, he had said: "I will take early steps to teach Tamil language to Sinhala speaking children and Sinhala to Tamil speaking children".

"Later in 2010 in the Mahinda Chinthana forward vision he said: 'Every education division in the country will be provided with a state-of-the-art language laboratory, not only for English but for Sinhala, Tamil and other languages as well'."

The secretary also recalled a part of the speech made by the President at the ninth international conference of language and development in Colombo last year where the President said: "Sri Lanka needs to be a knowledge hub in the region. Our primary focus however is to ensure that the people of this country, irrespective of their ethnicity will learn the main languages Sinhala and Tamil to communicate with each other."

(Contd: on P4)

## Court acquits former UNP organiser

(R. S. Keeriyawatte)

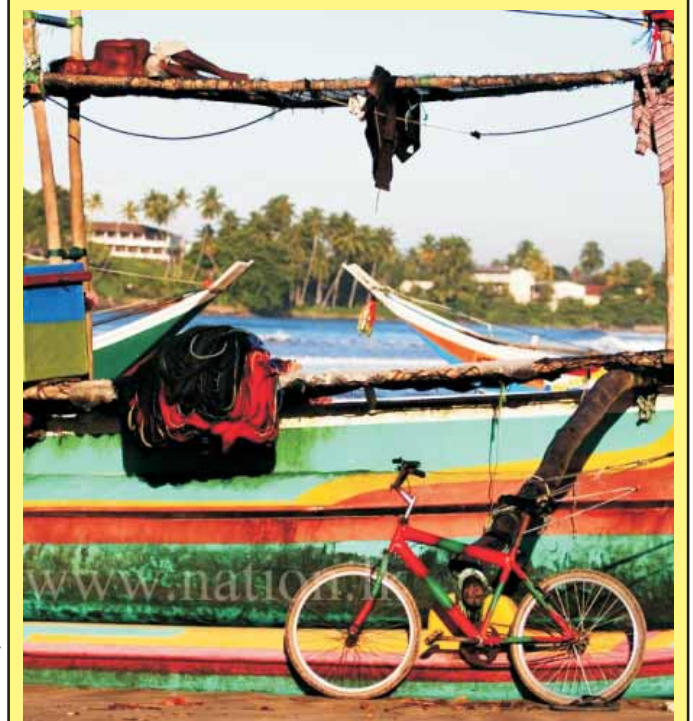
(dailymirror.lk) Former UNP organiser of Nawalapitiya and two others who were indicted for attempted murder of the Chairman of the SLFP branch in Nawalapitiya, Nuwara Paksha Gedara Amarasuriya during the 2001 General Election, were discharged by the Kandy High Court Judge W. C. Pushpamalie on January 19, and the second accused was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

The case dragged on for several years. The accused in this case were Basil Wilson Harley, the former UNP organiser of Nawalapitiya, former vice chairman of a Pradeshiya Sabha (PS) Hemaratne Udagedara, former PS member P.P. Senaratne and Peter Fernando. They were charged for the attempted murder of the chairman of the SLFP branch in the Thambarawalli colony of Dolosbage in the Nawalapitiya electorate in December 2001. The attorney general had indicted four suspects and action was filed in the Kandy area High Court.

During this long period the case had been called up on several occasions, but no determination had been made. However when this case was again taken up for hearing before the High Court Judge W.C. Pushpamali on January 19, she passed the judgment on the second accused Hemaratne Udagedara sentencing him to two years imprisonment.

He was also ordered to pay Rs.25,000 to the complainant and was further fined Rs.5,000. The first accused, former UNP organiser Basil Wilson Harley, third accused PS member (UNP) P.P. Senaratne and Peter Fernando, a UNP supporter were acquitted.

## Sri Lanka is colour-made



(nation.lk) Red, orange, green and yellow of the National Flag, scramble and unite in innumerable ways. Rukshan Abeywansa captured the nation's bright colours, untitled in their diversity in Galle.