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SL, Cuba and Pakistan seek resolution on transparency at UNHRC

Kelum Bandara reporting from Geneva

(DailyMirror.lk) - Sri Lanka, along with Cuba and Pakistan, will co-sponsor a resolution seeking transparency in funding and staffing the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) here in Geneva, during its 19th session starting this week, diplomatic sources said. According to diplomatic sources, 80 per cent of the UNHRC's funding requirements are supplied by powerful nations such as the United States and its allies. Also, key positions in the UNHRC are mostly held by those who have served in the foreign services of such countries. Diplomatic sources said that there are serious concerns about the

partiality of the UNHRC activities as a result when dealing with the developing world. In this endeavour to move a resolution at the UNHRC sessions seeking transparency in financial activities, the co-sponsoring countries are backed by numerous countries such as China, Russia and Algeria. At the last UNHRC session, Sri Lanka tried to move the same resolution. However, it was deferred later following a request from the supporting countries. Instead of moving the resolution, Sri Lanka's Ambassador in Geneva Ms. Tamara Kunanayakam made a statement

at the last session. In that statement, she stressed the need for equitable geographic representation in the staffing, equitable appropriation of funds to the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner and the accountability of such appropriation. "Any procedure that falls short of these ideals is wholly inappropriate. It is only timely that we would urge this Council to take serious note of whatever shortcomings that detracts from achieving these ideals and put in motion a process that would address these issues in a meaningful and responsible manner so as to achieve the ideals of equitable and

efficient distribution of funds and symmetrical mobilisation of human resources. This process can only begin if the Office of the High Commissioner permits access to information in a spirit of candour. It is sincerely hoped that this resolution too should not be regarded by some as procedural trivia. May we respectfully observe, that this kind of critique, is symptomatic of the re-emergence of the ghost of the trend that might be right, a trend that must be discouraged at all costs," she said in her statement last time.

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SLA launches probe on LLRC findings

SLA launches probe on LLRC findings. A Court of Inquiry, appointed by the Commander of the Army Lieutenant General Jagath Jayasuriya, to inquire into the observations, made by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) in its report on alleged civilian casualties during the final phase of the humanitarian operations and probe the Channel-4 video footage irrespective of its authenticity or otherwise, is now in full progress. The five-member Court of Inquiry appointed on 2 January 2012 by virtue of the powers, vested in the Army Commander by Regulation 4 of the Courts of Inquiry Regulations, read with the Regulation 2 of the Army Disciplinary Regulations, is headed by Major General Chrisantha De Silva, the present Commander of the Security Forces Headquarters, Kilinochchi. Lt. Gen. Jayasuriya said that in view of a consistent policy, followed by the Sri Lanka Army from its inception in 1949 of maintaining Zero Tolerance towards any breach of Humanitarian Laws by its members during engagements such an inquiry was warranted, especially in view of the observations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC). A Court of Inquiry is an initial fact-finding inquiry, akin to a non-summary inquiry by a Magistrate. If there is any prima facie evidence against any person it would be led before... **SEE P4**

US believes war crimes should be probed - Blake

By Ravi Ladduwahetty

(Island.lk) - Visiting United States Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Robert Blake said Monday that he believed there should be an investigation by the Sri Lankan government into war crimes in the final phases of the conflict in 2009. We think that a very important part of this whole process of reconciliation will be accountability and investigating what happened throughout the course of the war, but particularly at the end of the war, he said. Visiting United States under Secretary for Civilian Security for Democracy and Human Rights Maria Otero also said that

the US has expressed concern about the safety of women and that proper protection was provided to them to enable them to operate within society. Blake's and Otero's responses to the questions posed to them at the media briefing at the Hilton Colombo on Monday evening. Q: You said that there were shortcomings in the LLRC report. Will you elaborate? Will you support or not support Sri Lanka at the forthcoming United Nations Human Rights Commission sessions in Geneva on February 27? Blake: We've explained in some detail our views on the LLRC report, both on its

merits and also on its shortcomings. As you know, there have been a number of other reports such as the UN Panel of Experts Report that describe in some detail some of their concerns about human rights violations and potential war crimes that occurred, particularly at the end of the conflict from January to May of 2009. You all are familiar with those. I don't need to address them. In our view the LLRC report did not cover in sufficient detail some of those allegations. So again, we think it's very important as part of finally achieving a just and durable settlement and reconciliation process that those be fully... **SEE P4**

3rd Sri Lankan to pass 10K Sanga passes 10,000 ODI runs

Kumar Sangakkara, in the 7th CBI series, against Australia, reached 10,000 ODI runs in his innings of 30 off 29 balls and became the 10th batsman to reach the milestone.



CBI Series - 8th Match - India vs. Sri Lanka Lanka beats India

(DailyNews.lk) - The Sri Lankan cricketers continued their winning ways and strengthened their chances of entering the best of three Commonwealth Bank Tri series finals when they beat India by 51 runs here at the Gabba under lights. After the Lankan batsmen obliged, the bowlers and fielders played their roles to perfection and this victory should spur them on to more victories. Nuwan Kulasekera was the player of the match. When India began their unlikely chase for victory, they were off to a shock start losing Virender

Sehwag for no score. Sehwag cut a ball from Lasith Malinga only to see Nuwan Kulasekera dashing from third man to deep point to take what was going to be a match winning catch. Every time Sachin Tendulkar walks out to bat, the Indians expect him to make that elusive 100th 100. He played some of his trade mark cuts and drives and when he seemed to be settling down, played on to the hard working Nuwan Kulasekera for 22 in 23 with 3 fours with the score on 38. Gautam Gambhir who came in one drop was threatening scoring 29 in.... **See P25**

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By Reggie Fernando - OUR MAN IN COLOMBO
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