

Opening of the 7th Parliament



Upeksha



Chandrani



Thalatha



Nirupama

Women representatives elected to the Seventh Parliament of Sri Lanka



Sumedha



Pavithra



Rosy



Sudarshani

Fewer women were elected to the Seventh Parliament at the April 8 general election.

Only 10 women representatives were elected this time in comparison to 13 in the Sixth Parliament.

From around 70 women who contested the 2010 parliamentary poll, the 10 women who secured seats in Parliament are: Sumedha G. Jayasena – Moneragala (UPFA), Pavithra Wanniarachchi – Ratnapura (UPFA), Chandrani Bandara Jayasinghe – Anuradhapura (UNP), Nirupama Rajapaksa –

Hambantota (UPFA), Rosy Senanayake – Colombo (UNP), Upeksha Swarnamali – Gampaha (UNP), Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle – Gampaha (UPFA), Thalatha Atukorala – Ratnapura (UNP), Vijayakala Maheswaran – Jaffna (UNP) and Sriyani Wijewickrema – Digamadulla (UPFA).

Sri Lankan women have the highest literacy rate in South Asia, but their participation in national and local legislative bodies in the region have been significantly low, according to recent statistical surveys. Bangladesh reserves

19% of the total seats for women in Parliament while Pakistan and Nepal reserves 22% and 33% of the total seats, respectively.

Going a step further, India recently passed a quota system also known as the 'Panchayatraj system' which reserves one-third of seats for women. Sri Lanka produced the world's first woman Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo R. D. Bandaranaike. Later, her daughter, Chandrika Kumaratunga created history by being elected the country's first woman President in 1994.

In 1981, Sri Lanka signed and ratified the UN convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in which Article 7 (b) notes: "State parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in public and political life of the country by ensuring the right to participate in the formulation and implementation of government policy".

In 2000, Sri Lanka joined with 191 other countries to sign the Millennium Development Goals which pledges to uplift and protect gender equality in all spheres of life.

The Senate Days of Ceylon

At a time the first session of the first meeting of the Seventh Parliament is being inaugurated today, it is interesting to look back at the time the Senate functioned in Ceylon, as Sri Lanka was then known.

The Senate was the Upper House of Parliament constituted under the Soulbury Constitution. It was established in 1947.

The Senate was housed in the old Legislative Council building, which was opened by Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon on December 6, 1883.

It consisted of 30 members of whom 15 were elected by the House of Representatives and 15 nominated by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The Senate was intended to act as a revising chamber, scrutinizing and amending bills, which had been passed by the House of Representatives. The model for the Senate's role was the House of Lords in the United Kingdom.

The term of office of a Senator was for six years except in the



The Senate Building in Colombo Fort.

first Senate when the period was shorter for some Senators.

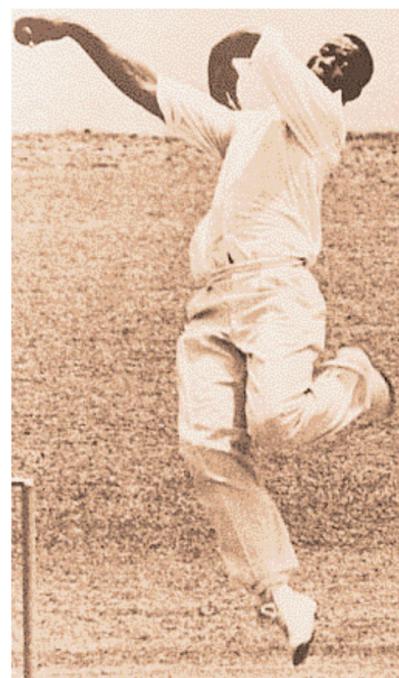
The Senate was abolished in 1971 prior to the adaptation of the new Constitution of the Republic of Sri Lanka in 1972.

The Senate building in Colombo Fort now houses the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The elected members of the first Senate in 1947 were:

- S. Nadesan (later re-elected)
- Dr. E. M. V. Naganathan
- D. W. J. Perera
- Dr. M. G. Perera
- Barnes Ratwatte Dissawe
- Sir. Razik Fareed
- Sir. Bennet Soysa (later re-elected)
- Peri Sunderam (later re-elected)
- Sarath Wijesinghe
- The appointed Senators were:
 - C. Coomaraswamy
 - Miss. Cissie Cooray
 - Charles A. M. de Silva
 - Sir. Chittampalam Gardiner
 - Sir. Oliver Goonetilleke
 - Sir. Frank

- Gunasekera
- Sir. Mohamed Macan Markar
- Sir. Lalitha Rajapakse
- Mudaliyar A. B. Rajendra
- Dr. V. R. Schokman (resigned due to ill-health)
- H. E. Jansz (Succeeded Dr. Schokman)
- Sir. John Tarbat
- Sir. Donatius Victoria
- Sir. Gerard Wijeyekoon
- Sir. Edwin Wijeyeratne
- Col. T. Y. Wright
- Sir. Gerard Wijeyekoon served as the first President of the Senate in 1947.



Wesley Hall

Butcher's brilliant 133. Except for Butcher, the West Indies struggled against the fiery Freddie Trueman. In the second innings, his analysis read 26-9-52-5.

Trueman returned figures of 70 overs, 25 maidens, 152 runs and captured 11 wickets in the match.

In the second innings, England scored 228 runs for nine wickets and saved the game. M. C. Cowdrey remained unbeaten with 19 runs and D. A. Allen was not out four.

In the second innings, at one stage, England were struggling - the scoreboard read 31 for three and Colin Cowdrey, retired hurt with a broken wrist. He had been hit by a vicious rising delivery sent down by Wesley Hall. When this unfortunate incident happened to Cowdrey, he was 19 not out.

When things looked gloomy for England,

the gutsy Brian Close (60) pulled England back into the game. The brave Brian Close faced the lighting quick rising deliveries, which hit him on the chest and shoulders. Close put country before self. He never took a chance in his fighting innings of 70. Bruised and unbowed, finally Close's innings came to an end, when he offered a catch to wicket keeper Derryck Murray, off the bowling of Charlie Griffith. He brought England close to the victory target of 234 runs.

England were eight wickets down and needed eight runs to win. Tailenders David Allen and Derek Shackleton were at the wicket. In an emergency, if a wicket fell, Colin Cowdrey sat padded up in the Lord's Pavilion. His left arm was plastered.

In the final over, the first ball was a dot ball. Off the second and third balls, they got singles. Six runs needed. Everyone, including the players, were excited. Through excitement, Shackleton missed the fourth ball. He was trying to steal a single, which was not there and was trying to obtain a single through a bye. Wicket keeper Murray collected it and threw at the stumps. It missed. Skipper Frank Worrell collected the ball. He dashed to the far end like the fastest sprinter in the world and Worrell won the race, beating Shackleton.

Colin Cowdrey, walked slowly to the non-striker's end. He was a plastered Colin Cowdrey. A few minutes ago, Cowdrey was practising shadow batting in front of a mirror. He was practising to bat left-handed.

David Allen played the last two deliveries. The Test ended in an exciting draw.

It was one of the most exciting drawn games ever witnessed at a Lord's Test match. The ultimate winner was not England or the West Indies, but cricket.

For many people, this was the greatest Lord's Test ever. Throughout the Test match, the sides had been very evenly matched. There were no players new to Test cricket; only 38-year-old Derek Shackleton was recalled after 11 years. He did not let England down.

Another noteworthy performance was the bowling of Wesley Hall in the second innings. Worrell bowled his two pacies, Hall and Griffith for 70 overs. Wesley Hall bowled unchanged for 40 overs, captured four wickets for 93 runs and Charlie Griffith bowled 30 overs and took three wickets for 59 runs. For a 'man of peace', Wesley Hall's feat was unparalleled.

The West Indies became the first team to play the first ever Test at Lord's. Even England did not manage that since 1928, only India in 1932 joined this exclusive club.

The England versus West Indies first Test was played in June 1928 and England won by an innings and 58 runs.

England scored 401 in the first innings. E. Tyldesley scored 122 runs and Learie Constantine returned figures of 26.4-9-82-4 for the West Indies.

The West Indies in their first essay collected 188 and in the second innings scored 166. For the West Indians, F. R. Martin top scored with 44 in the first innings and in the second innings, J. A. Small scored 52 runs.

Memorable Test at Lord's

Ultimate winner – the game of cricket

From the first ball to the last, the second Test between England and West Indies, played on June 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 1963, was a classic.

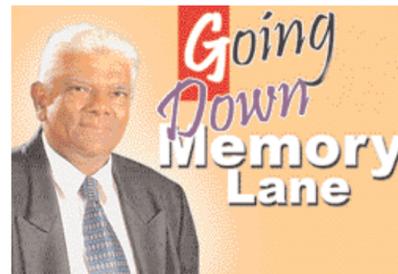
As the giant West Indies fast bowler Wesley Hall (Tests 48, Innings 66, unbeaten 14, runs 818, HS 50 n.o. Av. 15.73, two 50s, catches 11, balls 10421 - runs - 5066, wickets 192, Av. 26.38) prepared to bowl the final over, excitement filled the air, as anyone of four results was possible - a win for either side, a draw or a tie.

After the match, Wes Hall stated: "just before I started to bowl my last delivery, skipper Worrell said something to me. The noise of the crowd was so great I couldn't hear a thing. Afterwards, Frank told me: "make sure you don't ball a no-ball."

England were outplayed in the first Test. They were defeated by 10 wickets. England first struggled against the pace of Hall and Charlie Griffith. Later, they fell to the spin of Lance Gibbs (Tests 79, Innings 109, unbeaten 39, runs 488, HS 25, ct 52, balls 27,115, runs 8989, wickets 309, Av. 29.09) whose match bag of 11 wickets for 157 was the best in his 79 Test career.

West Indies, batting first at Lord's, scored 301 runs, with Rohan Kanhai top scoring with 73. Joe Solomon chipped in with 56. The West Indians struggled against Freddie Trueman, one of the fastest bowlers produced by England. F. S. Trueman played in 67 Tests, bowled 15,178 balls, gave away 6625 runs and collected 307 wickets at an average of 21.57.

In a closely contested first innings, England replied with 297. Ken Barrington top scored with 80 runs. (Barrington's Test career - Tests 82, Innings 131, runs 6806, HS 256 - Av. 58.67) and skipper E. R. (Ted) Dexter Collected 70



runs (Dexter's Test Career - Tests 62, Innings 102, runs 4502, HS 205 - Av. 47.99).

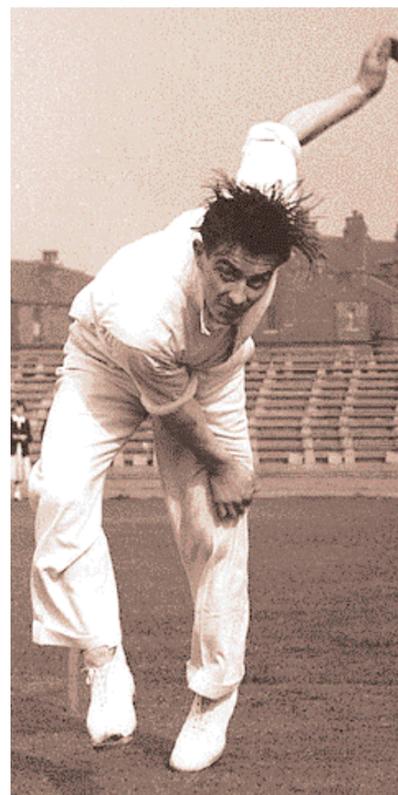
For the West Indies, Charlie Griffith returned best figures of 26-6-91-5. In his Test career, Griffith played in 28 Test matches, bowled 5631 balls, gave away 2684 runs and captured 94 wickets.

In the second essay, the West Indies did not fare that well. They made 229 runs. The highlight of the innings was Basil

Ken Barrington (70) and Brian Close (60), pulled England back into the game with a fighting chance of a defeating the West Indies.

This Test match was of special significance and showed the guts, determination and commitment of the English players, especially Colin Cowdrey, Brian Close and Ken Barrington.

In a game of fluctuating fortunes, Barrington (70) and



Freddie Trueman