

## JOB FOR ALL UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES

PROGRAMME UNDERWAY SUCCESSFULLY | LETTERS ALREADY SENT TO 60,000 GRADUATES | THOSE NOT SELECTED CAN APPEAL

SANDASEN MARASINGHE and CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The Government will recruit all unemployed graduates to the Government Service in keeping with the pledge given by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in his election manifesto, Foreign Relations Minister and Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena yesterday.

He made this observation yesterday in Parliament in response to the query made by Opposition Leader and Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) leader Sajith Premadasa under Standing Order 27(2). Minister Gunawardena said that 60,000 graduates have been sent letters and the Cabinet of Ministers led by the Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa

decided that all would be recruited for employment.

He added that those who have not been recruited could make appeals which would also be considered by the Government.

Minister Gunawardena further said that applications from graduates who have passed out from Government uni-

versities and institutions which the University Grants Commission accepts would be considered in the recruitment process.

He said that as clearly stated in President Rajapaksa's Policy Statement at the ceremonial sitting of the 9th Parliament, the Government has a clear solution for all unemployed graduates. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Govt's Policy Statement passed without a vote

SANDASEN MARASINGHE and CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The motion moved to debate the Government's Policy Statement which was presented by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Parliament on Thursday at the ceremonial sitting of the 9th Parliament was passed in the House yesterday.

The motion moved by Matar District Sri Lanka Podujana

Peramuna (SLPP) Parliamentarian Nipuna Ranawaka on the Policy Statement presented by the President in terms of Articles 32(4) and 33(2) of the Constitution was passed without a vote being taken.

A number of Government and Opposition Members joined the debate which lasted until 4.30 pm yesterday.

The Sittings were adjourned until 9.30 am on August 26.

## Ramanna Chapter urges EC to cancel AJP National List seat

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

The Executive Committee of Ramanna Maha Nikaya has reportedly requested Election Commission to cancel the National List Parliament seat obtained by the Ape Janabala Pakshaya (AJP) at the recently concluded General Election.

Ramanna Maha Nikaya Chief Sangha Nayaka and its Executive Committee media spokesman Ven. Dr. Omalpe Sobhitha Thera yesterday told the *Daily News* that they have requested this action from Election Commission Chairman Mahinda Deshapriya after observing the un-Buddhist and uncivilized actions of the leaders of that political party, which had already left a black mark on the Buddhist community and the nation as a whole. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Parliamentary Committee on Selection appointed

SANDASEN MARASINGHE and CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The members to serve in the Selection Committee during the first session of the 9th Parliament were appointed yesterday.

As per the provisions of Parliamentary

Standing Orders 114, the Selection Committee consists of 12 members including leaders of political parties or their nominees with Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena as the Chairman.

The Parliament's Committee on Selection will appoint members to other Par-

liament Committees. The proceedings of the second day of the first session of the 9th Parliament commenced at 9.30 am yesterday while Leader of the House Minister Dinesh Gunawardena informed the House regarding the appointed Selection Committee. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## 19A suppressed people's will- Dinesh

SANDASEN MARASINGHE and CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution passed by the former Government prevented the people from electing a new Government at the earliest while replacing a regime which had failed them, Foreign Relations Minister and Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena yesterday. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## PCol on Political Victimization Ranil issued notice

ROSHAN THUSHARA and DILSHAN THARAKA

Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has been issued notice to appear before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry investigating allegations of Political Victimization on September 4 and 7.

Former Prime Minister Wickremesinghe was summoned to appear before the Commission yesterday with regard to a complaint filed by the former Secretary to the Economic Affairs Ministry Nihal Jayathilaka and the Commission was informed that the former PM failed to appear before the Commission yesterday.

Therefore, the Commission issued notice on the former Prime Minister to appear before the Commission on September 4 and 7. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



The underground New Muthuwella Storm Water Drainage Tunnel in Colombo North aimed at mitigating the impact of floods in the Colombo metropolitan area was declared open yesterday. This is an initiative mooted by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa when he was Secretary to the Ministry of Urban Development. The tunnel lined with a thick concrete inner layer is 3 metres in diameter and 778 meters in length. The capacity through the tunnel is 15,000 litres per second. The opening of the tunnel was attended by several State Ministers, Parliamentarians and Government officials. Here, a Chinese worker involved in the construction of the tunnel greeting Dr. Nalaka Godahewa, State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Public Sanitation, before the opening.

## Australian PM congratulates PM

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison called Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday morning to congratulate him on the victory at the recently-concluded General Election.

The two leaders discussed several areas of mutual cooperation and expressed the desire to enhance relations between Sri Lanka and Australia. (See page 06) **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Monkeys, a threat to crops - former President Sirisena

SANDASEN MARASINGHE and CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Participating in the debate on the Government's Policy Statement, former President Maithripala Sirisena said that farmers were confronted with a serious problem where their crops were being destroyed by animals, particularly monkeys. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## COVID-19 recovery rate: Sri Lanka surpasses 95%

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

While all the other countries in the world suffer with high fatality rates and low recovery rates related to COVID-19, Sri Lanka has recorded a recovery rate of 95.58 percent, the Epidemiology Unit sources said.

According to the sources, the Global recovery rate of COVID-19 is just 67.88 percent and it is only 74.23 percent in India which has more developed medical facilities. The United States recorded a recovery rate of 53.87 percent which is much lower than in Sri Lanka. The recovery rate of Russia is 80.4 percent.

"The COVID-19 fatality rate reported from Sri Lanka is 0.38 percent while it is 3.49 percent in the world (the Global rate). The fatality rate in India is 1.89 percent, 3.09 percent in the United States and 1.71 percent in Russia," sources said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Policy Statement commendable but difficult to implement - Sajith

SANDASEN MARASINGHE and CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The Government has to explain the people as to how it would implement the clauses in the Policy Statement presented to Parliament on August 20,

2020, Opposition Leader and Samagi Jana Balawegaya leader Sajith Premadasa said yesterday.

He said that the Policy Statement has commendable moves but they are difficult to implement. He

made these observations joining the debate on the Policy Statement in the Parliament yesterday.

He said further that the country is facing a high inflation rate at the moment. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Probe into fire at furniture storage near Parliament

SANDASEN MARASINGHE and CAMELIA NATHANIEL

An investigation has been launched regarding the fire which erupted at a furniture storage shed at the Parliament premises on Thursday while President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was delivering the new Government's Policy Statement, Parliament sources said yesterday.

According to initial reports, it has been revealed that the fire had been ignited by a cigarette butt thrown by a driver onto a plastic container. The fire had been promptly extinguished by Parliament employees. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Pettah Floating Market renovation to start on Monday

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

On the instructions of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, the renovation of the Pettah Floating Market is scheduled to commence at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, August 24 under the patronage of Urban Development and Housing Ministry Secretary Sirinimal Perera.

According to the shop owners, more than 80 percent of the shops in the Fort Floating Market have remained closed for the past 4 1/2 years due to improper maintenance. Considering the current situation of the Floating Market, the President and the Prime Minister instructed the Urban Development Authority to expedite the renovation. The Floating Market was opened in August 2014 as a concept initiated by the then Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

## Saudi Arabian firm sends Lankan in coma on special jet costing \$58,000

MOHAMMED RASOOLDEEN

A private company in Saudi Arabia has repatriated a Sri Lankan patient, who is in a coma to Colombo in a special jet costing a sum of \$58,000 to the establishment. Andrew, his pet name, had been working in Riyadh as a manager of Gulf West Company in Jeddah for several

years and went into a coma when he suddenly fell ill two months ago. "The patient was flown to the Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake in a special aircraft equipped with a team of medics and paramedics," Faseeh Marikar, a Sri Lankan working in the same company said on Friday. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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# 'Proposed Constitution-making process should strengthen democracy'

Former Speaker Karu Jayasuriya issuing a statement yesterday said he hoped the proposed Constitution-making process of the new Government will strengthen Sri Lanka's democracy and provide an inclusive platform for the country to achieve prosperity for all.

Jayasuriya while extending his good wishes to the new Parliament said it embodies the strong mandate given to the Government. "It is also welcome that more than a third of the Parliamentarians are first-time members, reflecting the people's wish for a fresh start".

The statement: "The observations made here in good faith are based on the 2/3 mandate sought and received by the Government at the Parliamentary elections held this month.

In his policy speech, Gotabaya Rajapaksa announced the wish of his government to abolish the 19th Amendment to the Constitution and, subsequently, to introduce a new constitution to the country. The 19th Amendment was a near-unanimous amendment to the Constitution. It was passed with an unprecedented 215 votes in favour.

"As a person who has dedi-

cated the whole political career to the cause of strengthening Sri Lanka's democracy, I would like to draw the attention of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Government to the need to protect and enhance the essence of democracy embedded in the 19th Amendment.

"The 19th Amendment to the Constitution embodies the democratic aspirations of the people at the time of its adoption. The only progressive reform before the 19th Amendment was the 17th Amendment to the Constitution that was passed in 2001.

"The 17th Amendment was born as a result of the public outcry during the famous Wayamba Elections where several malpractices, killings, arson and harassment took place. Members of the clergy of all faiths, academics and members of the opposition, civil society and professionals voluntarily formed in to a 'citizens committee' that drafted the first document.

"The committee was chaired by me when I served as the Mayor of Colombo. The JVP agreed to support the then PA/SLEP government on the basis that the



17th Amendment was introduced. Although independent commissions were formed the Elections Commission did not function due to the disagreement with regard to the Chair. Then the President was not agreeable to appoint the suggested name.

"The Elections Commission was established in 2015. As envisioned by Most Venerable Maduluwawe Sobitha Thera, the 19th Amendment could build on that and strengthened the Parliament, reduced excessive powers accumulated in the Presidency, re-introduced Independent Commissions to ensure that critical institutes of the country such as public service, judiciary, electoral system, human rights and Police etc. are protected from political influence. It also introduced the Constitutional Council, with the membership of the government, Opposition, and

the civil society to have a process by which appointments to important positions and independent commissions are made with a national consensus.

"In the spirit of the 19th Amendment, it is welcoming to note that the President appointed 26 Ministers to the Cabinet, thereby following the 30-member limit introduced under 19A. Further, the Right to Information Act, which is considered as one of the best in the world, has been integrated into the 19A, by way of recognizing Right to Information as a fundamental right. This is the only improvement to the fundamental rights introduced under the 1978 constitution.

"These reforms have been enacted after wide consultation and negotiation within the Parliament and the civil society. In fact, the majority of the approving votes came from the UPFA members, led by President Maithripala Sirisena in 2015. Besides, even the present Parliament consists of a majority of members who have voted for the 19th Amendment.

"In this situation, if the government abolishes the 19th Amendment, and a new Constitution is passed, that

must be done after wide consultation with all stakeholders, including all political parties, citizens' organizations, and eminent individuals and general public.

Democracy is a much-valued legacy of Sri Lanka and people treasure the freedoms they have. The 19th Amendment symbolizes this democratic spirit. I request President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to undertake to properly analyze and evaluate any technical shortcomings of the 19th Amendment while respecting and upholding the essence of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in future reforms. As the proverb goes, one should not 'throw the baby away with the bath water'. As such, respect for democracy and rule of law is mandatory for us to rise as a proud nation in the world.

"As a responsible and concerned citizen, I wish good luck to the new government and the proposed Constitution-making process, with the sincere hope that it will strengthen Sri Lanka's democracy and provide an inclusive platform for the country to achieve prosperity for all".

## BLESSINGS FOR NEW SPEAKER



The Maha Sangha held a special 'pirith' ceremony and delivered an 'Anusarana' to invoke blessings on newly-elected Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, yesterday. Narahenpita Abhayarama Chief Incumbent Ven. Murutthettuwa Ananda Thera was among the bhikkus who took part in the event.

## No power cuts from today

The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) stated that the temporary power interruptions that have been in operation islandwide due to repairs at the Kerawalapitiya and Norochcholai power stations will not happen from today.

There was a power outage island wide on August 17 due to a technical fault in the transmission system.

Accordingly, the CEB announced power cuts for one hour and 45 minutes during the day and one hour during the night for four consecutive days until the system was restored.

## NCPA implements new mechanism

The National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) has implemented a new mechanism to prevent the abandonment of newborns and children under the age of one.

Accordingly, the NCPA has already taken measures to establish a separate ward attached to the childcare wards in nine main hospitals in the nine provinces, to receive children rejected by their parents.

A statement issued by the NCPA states that they have taken measures to accelerate the investigations into child abuse related complaints and take the culprits into custody without further delay.

## 19A suppressed...From Page 01

Gunawardena said the 19A had delayed a General Election being held for four and half years and it was against the will of the people.

He said that it was introduced by the Good Governance Government led by the UNP to suppress the sovereignty and the freedom of the people. However, it was ironic that the UNP leader who pioneered the same move could not be elected to Parliament. The Minister made these observations in response to the queries made by SJB Parliamentarian Lakshman Kiriella during the debate on the Government's Policy Statement, moved by MP Nipuna Ranawaka.

He also said that although Kiriella said that there was not a single word on the COVID 19 pandemic, the first page of the Policy

Statement is on COVID 19. "Kiriella at least had not read or listened to it," Gunawardena said.

The Mahinda Rajapaksa Government left the country with 7 percent development rate in 2015 but the former government dropped the development rate to 2 percent.

He also said the Policy Statement clearly states that the Constitution will be formulated to give the people what the previous Government did not give them. It clearly says that the electoral system would be changed and a strong Parliament would be set up.

He also said that the President has proposals to strengthen the economy of the farmers, and those engaged in small industries and self-employment.

## Australian PM...From Page 01

Commenting that there is "a lot going on in our part of the world," Prime Minister Morrison said he looks forward to working closely with Prime Minister Rajapaksa and the new Government.

The Australian Prime Minister also inquired about the well-being of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and conveyed his best wishes.

Prime Minister Rajapaksa extended an invitation to Prime Minister Morrison to visit Sri Lanka after the COVID-19 situation is brought completely under control.

Thanking Prime Minister Rajapaksa for the invitation, Prime Minister Morrison recalled his previous visit to Sri Lanka, calling it a "beautiful country," and said he hopes he will be able to visit again soon.

## Parliamentary Committee

...From Page 01

Accordingly, the first meeting of the Committee was held under the leadership of Minister Dinesh Gunawardena at 2.00 pm yesterday.

The Committee members are Ministers Nimal Siripala de Silva, Dinesh Gunawardena, Johnston Fernando, Douglas Devananda, Dadas Alahapperuma, Wimal Weerawansa, Prasanna Ranatunga, MPs Lakshman Kiriella, Gayantha Karunatilake, Rauff Hakeem, Vijitha Herath and Selvam Adai-kalanathan.

## COVID-19 recovery...From Page 01

At present, only 118 COVID-19 patients (4 percent from the total number of COVID-19 patients reported from Sri Lanka so far) are in selected hospitals in Sri Lanka under medical treatment (active cases) while all the others have fully recovered and discharged.

"Only 65 ordinary patients (not diagnosed as COVID-19 patients) are receiving treatment in selected hospitals for further investigations," the sources added.

## Probe into fire...From Page 01

Assistant Serjeant-at-Arms Achintha Cooray had visited the site to investigate the matter and it has been decided to scrutinize the video footage obtained from the CCTV cameras in the vicinity.

"Disciplinary action would be taken against the suspect driver following the investigations," Parliament sources said.

## Saudi Arabian...From Page 01

The patient was flown to Colombo on Thursday morning and was admitted to a private nursing home for further treatment.

According to Ismath Ali, members of the family of Andrew were happy to see the patient despite his serious health condition.

## IN REMEMBRANCE



**LAKSAPATHIYA MAHAVIDANALAGE LILIAN CATHERINE DE MEL**

**MRS J.L.D. PEIRIS**

Born : 29th July 1906 Died : 22nd Aug. 1992

Remembered with Undying Affection and Eternal Gratitude, Requiescat in Peace

Yahala House, Colombo 02.

## 10th Death Anniversary

of **Susima Lilani Peiris**

(November 21, 1936 - August 22, 2010)



The music lingers, the piano remains, testament of her legacy;

Everyone - whose lives she touched, remembers her with love, and her love.

No absence is greater for her husband, sons and their families.

Years have flown and it's a decade. Evergreen music still flows from that piano; An absence tugs at our heart strings, lumps in our throats...

Requiescat in Pace - beloved wife, precious mother, caring sister, doting grandma, diligent teacher, faithful friend...

Surely goodness and mercy surround you now in our Lord's abode, and we give thanks!

Fondly remembered by her loving husband - Rex; sons - Heshan, Ranesh and their wives - Lanthie, Shehani; grandchildren - Navin, Nuwan and Sheran; the Silva and Peiris families.

248/193, Lotus Grove, Hill Street, Dehiwala.

## Monkeys, a threat...From Page 01

Sirisena said that the monkey population in the country has increased phenomenally and has become a serious problem in the country.

"When I was the Agriculture Minister there were around one million monkeys in Sri Lanka. However, today the number has increased to over two million monkeys," Sirisena said adding that the increased monkey population has become a threat as they destroy the crops and plants. He noted that the growing monkey population in the country is not harmed due to religious reasons as Sri Lanka is a Buddhist Country.

"Moreover, the animal rights groups would be up in

arms if a decision was taken to destroy these monkeys despite these animals posing a threat to farmers' crops. Sri Lanka is the only country where such animals are protected despite them causing such grave damage to crops."

He said that coconut cultivations were the most affected by the monkeys. According to Sirisena, monkeys destroy an entire coconut tree by trying to pluck just one nut.

"Suppose a single monkey destroys the harvest of a single tree to pluck one coconut, we would have to forego the harvest of around 1.5 million trees. This would result in shortage of coconuts," he said.

In response to Sirisena's claims that monkeys are destroying coconut trees, SJB Gampaha District MP Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka said that Sirisena's assumptions were far from the truth.

"It is wrong to assume that monkeys have nothing else to do but to engage in a campaign to destroy coconut trees. According to him, monkeys eat only coconuts and thus are destroying all the coconut trees. That is far from the truth. Monkeys destroy other crops too. It is ironic that he chooses to disregard all other burning issues in this country and is fixated only on monkeys," Field Marshal Fonseka said.

## Ramanna Chapter urges EC to cancel AJP...From Page 01

"The three Buddhist monks who led the party, and the office bearers who had steered it, have displayed unacceptable characteristics. They have acted in explicit violation of contextual code of ethics not to mention those monastic codes of ethics," he said.

Former Parliamentarian Ven.

Athuraliye Rathana Thera and Bodu Bala Sena Movement Secretary Ven Galagoda Aththe Gnansara jointly led the Ape Janabala Pakshaya. Ven. Vedinigama Wimalatissa Thera was its General Secretary. They contested the election under the flag symbol.

"The clashes between the

members of the Ape Janabala Pakshaya to choose from among them who will be appointed to the National List slot, have disheartened and shocked the Sri Lankan public," he said.

Asked what if they were going to solve their problems and choose someone to sit on the National List MP chair of

the Parliament, Ven. Dr. Sobhitha Thera said, "If so, there will be a question in everyone's minds as to whether they deserved that seat for what they said they would stand for in the election, because they themselves have broken the very foundation that is needed to promote their policies."

## Policy Statement...From Page 01

It is estimated that the inflation rate would reach 20 or 22 percent in the next two years, which is an economic catastrophe. Inland Revenue has dropped to 8 percent from 13 percent.

The Government lost a tax income of Rs. 600 billion due to the decrease of the tax rates. The economic development rate has dropped to minus during the first quarter of this year. How can the

Government achieve development goals with this minus development rate, he asked.

One solution for economic development is to attract foreign investments to the country.

However, the government has no mechanism to attract investors from China. Due to import controls, there is a shortage of cars, turmeric and batteries in the market.

## Ranil issued notice...From Page 01

However, former Ministers Rajitha Senarathne, Mangala Samaraweera, Malik Samarawickrama and TNA Parliamentarian M.A Sumanthiran who were present before the Commission yesterday sought another date to record statements.

Parliamentarian Anura Kumara Dissanayake also sought another date from the Commission by letter to record a statement. Meanwhile, it was

noted that the notice had not been issued to the former ministers Rauff Hakeem, Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka and R. Sampanthan.

Accordingly, they all were informed to appear before to appear before the commission on September 9 and 11.

The Commission was also informed that the other members of the Anti Corruption Committee, President's Counsel J.C. Weliamu-

na and Jayampathi Wickramaratne are abroad.

Former Secretary to the Economic Affairs Ministry Nihal Jayathilaka had filed a complaint before the commission alleging that he had been politically victimized over the providing of compensation and gratuity to employees who had voluntarily resigned when establishing the Department of Divin-neguma Development.

## Obituaries

**BARTHOLOMEUSZ - MOLLY** Safe in the Arms of Jesus. Dearly beloved wife of loving late Collin Bartholomeusz, loving mother of Sylvia De Dodwell (Los Angeles) and mother-in-law of late Anton De Dodwell, sister of Wilfred, Norbert, Arthur, Denzil (late) & Eric, grandmother of Elvina (Dubai) Suraine (Los Angeles) and Sasheen (Dubai), loving aunt of Charles, George, Harold, Christy, Roy and Felicia, grand-in-law of Jude and Mianne, great grandmother of Juene and Shamia. Cortege leaves residence @ 10.30 am on Saturday 22nd. **Daravella Road, Dickoya.** 047391

**SENANAYAKE - LALITHA SWARNAPALI BATANGALA.** Beloved wife of Wijerathne Senanayake (retired NIE), loving mother of Dr. Mahi Senanayake, Damitha (Australia) and Senaka (Australia), mother-in-law of Dr. Kaumadee, Lalindri (Australia) and Sajini (Australia), daughter of late Disanayake Batangala and late Latti Kamala Marambe Kumarihami, sister of Dr. Yamuna Rathnayake, Sumith Batangala and Ramani, daling aththamma of Naath, Manula, Jinali and Hiyasa. Remains will lie at "The Respect Home", Jayarathne's until 22nd August 2020 at 10.00 p.m., thereafter will be at Mattegoda residence. Cremation will take place on 23rd August 2020 at Mattegoda Crematorium at 3.00 p.m. **IF/41, 2nd Lane, National Housing Scheme, Mattegoda.** 047855

**SENEVIRATNE - DR DAMAYANTHI (nee NANAYAKKARA).** Beloved wife of Mohan, loving mother of Milinda and Devinda. Affectionate mother-in-law of Dharshyni and Kelly, doting grandma to Andrew, Sabrina and Whitley. A private funeral was held on July 30th, in Apple Valley, California. In the past 35 years, Dr Damayanthi lived and worked in California, USA. 046943



# Ranawaka commends Government's Policy to involve youth in development process

The government's policy to involve the youth in the country, which is one-fourth of the population in the development process of the country, is commendable, Mataru District Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) Parliamentarian Nipuna Ranawaka said yesterday.

He made this observation in Parliament, moving that the Government's Policy Statement, which was presented by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in the House of Parliament on Thursday in terms of Articles 32(4) and 33(2) of the Constitution, be debated.



He moved it as a Private Member's Bill.

MP Ranawaka said that Sri Lankans could see a silver line in the COVID-19 pandemic's dark cloud as it has created an environment for all to rely on local inventions, production, and

crops. This could be a commencement to strengthen the domestic production that was severely and continuously affected by the open economy introduced by the UNP government in 1977.

He added that the President, in his Policy Statement, said that stopping the import of crops that could be cultivated in the country and encouraging value-added minor crops and the manufacturing of drugs would enhance the country's economy.

The Parliamentarian said that as the country has been

able to control the COVID-19 epidemic successfully, the world's attention has been drawn to it. Hence, this could be utilised to improve the tourism in the country. He added that even the beaches in Mataru, the Sinharaja Rainforest, as well as wildlife, could be promoted as major tourist attractions.

MP Ranawaka also pointed out that the Gin-Nilwala Project to provide water to the Hambantota District has been delayed for years. It should be resumed immediately, he said, adding that the same project would be

a solution to the floods in the Mataru District, and that in turn, the barren lands in the district could be used for irrigational purposes.

The Parliamentarian also said that the measure to formulate a new Constitution by the government is commendable as the existing Constitution, and certain amendments, have put the country in a "labyrinth of chaos". He added that considering all the constructive measures in the Policy statement, all the Members should assist to make it a reality.



## Government will ensure prosperous future: Semasinghe

The new government is the only government which is sensitive to the issues faced by the people, and this is why the people have elected this government, State Minister Shehan Semasinghe said. Joining the debate on the Policy Statement in Parliament, yesterday, he said that within the next five years, the government would develop the country to ensure a prosperous future.

"Through this Policy Statement, our government will address all the issues faced by the people. The President now has a government which could work with him in implementing his Policy Statement. During the previous government, they selected people for employment based on their height and laughed when graduates were assaulted," the MP said.

"Now, they find it hard to stomach the victory of



the government and its productive progress. But President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has devised a plan to provide employment opportunities to graduates, irrespective of their political affiliations," he added.

MP Semasinghe also noted that the government has taken steps to provide employment to 61,000 graduates and, in addition, to provide employment to 100,000 who have failed to get through their Ordinary Level Examinations. Accordingly, he said that in total, 161,000 will receive state sector

employment opportunities.

The Parliamentarian said there is a drinking water shortage in the Anuradhapura District, and that solutions would be provided very soon to ensure that the people of the district would have no shortage of water for drinking or irrigation.

He also assured that solutions would be found to resolve the human-elephant conflict in the Anuradhapura District, which is an issue that is affecting lives and agricultural activities.

MP Semasinghe said that the current government is the only government which has devised measures to provide proper solutions to issues faced by the youth.

He assured that the "drug scourge that has plagued the country" would be eradicated under the leadership of the President and Prime Minister.

## Ranawaka commences debate on Policy Statement

Mataru District SLPP MP Nipuna Ranawaka commenced the debate on the Policy Statement of the Government, which was presented to the House by the President on Thursday.

MP Ranawaka, who entered Parliament from the Mataru District,

got the opportunity to commence the important debate during his maiden speech to the Legislature. He also made use of this opportunity to thank his voters and extend support to the President's economic policies, which would focus on strengthening the local industry.

Leader of the House, Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, said a large number of young MPs have been elected to the House for the first time this year, and that the President and Prime Minister are keen to see them develop as proficient lawmakers.

There are 26 new newly-elected MPs between the ages of 25 and 40, this year; of which five are between the ages of 25 and 30, which makes up around 13% of all the MPs. There are 67 MPs between the ages of 41 and 50.

## 13th Amendment cannot be stripped arbitrarily: Vigneswaran

India was a part of initiating the 13th Amendment. Therefore, India should be party to any attempt made to remove the 13th Amendment, which was inserted consequent to an international agreement, Tamil Makal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) Parliamentarian C.V. Vigneswaran said in Parliament, yesterday.

Joining the debate on the President's Policy Statement delivered yesterday, he said the President cannot strip away the 13th Amendment arbitrarily. "However feeble it may be".

Referring to the President's "claim" that he represents the aspirations of the majority, Vigneswaran asked whether it meant that he would take into account the aspirations of the

majority of the North and the East, namely the Tamil-populated areas, as well. "Otherwise, it would amount to arbitrary hegemony of the majority of the country, over the majority of the North and the East," he added.

Vigneswaran claimed he carries no "isms" that conditions or motivates him. "I have no prejudices; neither against the President, nor against any party or racial lines. My sole purpose in participating in this discussion is to investigate the effects the Policy Statement might have on the people of the North and the East."

"I would find no difficulty in either praising the President for the good statements his policy, or in pointing



out its negative or prejudicial comments," the MP said.

Referring to the Policy Statement of the government, the Parliamentarian said that the most glaring aspect of the Policy Statement is that it puts

forward a centralised perspective of a government "of the Sinhala Buddhist, by a Sinhala Buddhist, for the Sinhala Buddhist".

"There is no reference to the decades-old problems of the Tamil citizens of the North and the East. The North and the East, whilst being part of Sri Lanka, has a Tamil-speaking majority. It would have been ideal if the President had a holistic attitude towards the island, keeping in mind the necessity to view the problems of the periphery from the standpoint of subsidiarity. Unfortunately, this isn't seen in the President's Policy Statement," Vigneswaran said. "Nevertheless, let me refer to some of the salient features of the Policy Statement,

which we agree with since they form the substratum of the policies of the TMVP, which I represent today."

Referring to the part of the statement which says the prime responsibility of a people's representative is to serve the public, Vigneswaran said he was glad that the President considers their positions as responsibilities and not privileges. "That is our view, too. We also agree with him in saying that jobs should not be distributed but generated. The generation of job opportunities is the need of the hour."

"We also agree that our basic aim should be to strengthen the local economy and encourage local entrepreneurs to introduce modern technology, in order to increase value

addition and the urgent need for organic farming," the Parliamentarian said.

He also appreciated State Ministers being given monetary provisions to carry development projects, which in turn, is an effect of subsidiarity. "We fully agree with the steps taken to eradicate waste in all ministries and state institutions."

Referring to the President's statement that he would not violate the trust placed on him by his voters, Vigneswaran said that it is an admirable sentiment; "but while carrying out his responsibilities, the President must be aware of the checks and balances placed on him by law and social expectations."

## Nanayakkara asks Speaker to remove Vigneswaran's statement from Hansard

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena observed that he would find whether or not the statement made by Jaffna District MP C.V. Vigneswaran had breached the oath which was taken by him in the House of Parliament on Thursday.

He made this observation in response to a privilege issue raised by Galle District Samagi Jana Balawegaya Parliamentarian Lakshman Kiriella said.

question in Parliament regarding the speech made by MP Vigneswaran on Thursday, MP Nanayakkara called on the Speaker to expunge it from the Hansard, the official record of the Parliamentary proceedings.

Nanayakkara pointed out that the former Northern Provincial Council Chief Minister's reference that Tamil is the language of the first indigenous inhabitants of this country was wrong.

He added that anyone could have opinion, yet it was wrong to include it in the Hansard. He added that it was wrong to tell it at a time when the terrorism is defeated and peace is established for all to live peacefully in the country.

The Parliamentarian said, "MP Vigneswaran made these statements under oath; which pledged not to directly or indirectly, in or outside Sri Lanka, support, espouse, promote, finance,



encourage, or advocate the establishment of a separate state within the territory of Sri Lanka. His speech here is a violation of that oath."

## Dayasiri says criticism against him is a blessing in disguise for Batik industry

Batik, Handloom, and Local Apparel Products Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara said that the criticism levelled against him by the Opposition is a blessing in disguise for those engaged in the Batik industry.

The minister made said so while participating in the debate on the government Policy Statement in Parliament, yesterday.

Jayasekara noted that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, with his economic vision, granted a large tax concession package as soon as he assumed office. He said that consequently, loans could now be obtained at very low interest rates of 4%, 6%, and 8% under the initiatives of the new government. As a result, businessmen who were trapped in tax bur-

dens are now focusing on new ventures.

Accordingly, State Minister Jayasekara noted that within the next few months, a special mechanism would be initiated to uplift the country's domestic industry.

Countering certain criticism levelled against President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's vehicle crossing the white line while arriv-

ing at Parliament on Thursday for its inaugural session, Jayasekara said that compared to the pagantry of previous Presidents when arriving for inaugural sessions, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's decision to do away with wasteful spectacles was the important highlight, as the former was a waste of public funds.

## Government's Policy has no solutions to people's problems: Kiriella

The Government's Policy Statement presented by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Parliament on Thursday does not have any solution to the burning issues of the people, Samagi Jana Balawegaya Parliamentarian Lakshman Kiriella said.

He made this observation in Parliament, yesterday, joining the motion moved by Mataru District MP Nipuna

Ranawaka on the Government's Policy Statement.

He said that the same statement does not include a word on the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected the entire world. The economy of the country has immensely been affected with the health hazard, he added. Kiriella also questioned as to why the 19th Amendment to the

Constitution should be repealed and a 20th Amendment presented.

The Parliamentarian said that the 19th Amendment was introduced to curtail the powers of the Executive President. However, as there was no opportunity to go for a referendum, the government decided to curtail the powers that could be done at the Parliament level. "The government, at

that stage, had only 42 seats, while the Opposition had the majority seats. They all agreed with the 19th Amendment, except for one Member, but now they all stand against it. Why?"

Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena, raising a Point of Order, said that MP Kiriella was misleading the Parliament. He added that the former government, at that stage, had

promised to bring the 20th Amendment to the Constitution the following week to change the electoral system; and that based on that promise, the Opposition members assisted in the passing of the 19th Amendment.

"However, the Good Governance Government cheated and misled the Members," Dr. Gunawardena said.



"They did not move the 20th Amendment to change the electoral system."

## Puttalam MP pledges to usher in 'unprecedented development'

Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) Puttalam District Parliamentarian Sanath Nishantha Perera, who topped the preferential votes in the district at the recently-concluded General Election, has said that he would bring 'unprecedented development' to Puttalam in the next five years.

MP Perera, who led the SLPP team in the Puttalam District, was speaking at a series of meetings organised by supporters to welcome him in Puttalam following the election victory, recently, a

press release issued by his media unit stated.

"This time, the people have sent me to Parliament with the highest number of preferential votes ever given to any candidate from the Puttalam District. In the 1989 General Election, the then United National Party (UNP) candidate Festus Perera polled 76,390; but this time, I was able to set a new record by polling 80,082," Perera stated.

"What is special about this is that it has been done in the midst of various mudslinging



attacks on me by not only opposition parties, but also by several colleagues due to the 'preference war,' he added.

The Parliamentarian said, "I extend my gratitude to the people of the Puttalam Dis-

trict who have placed their full trust in me by giving me such a massive number of votes, even when a number of forces were working against me to destroy my political career. Today, I promise not to limit myself to words, but to prove it in action before long, for I understand that it is my duty."

Perera said the Puttalam District is a multi-ethnic/multi-religious community, and that the manner in which the election was held, as well as the end result, showcased the interest and enthusiasm

of the people for peace and unity.

"It is not difficult to lead such people to prosperity. All that is needed is an intelligent and efficient leadership. For that, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the leadership of the SLPP are keen to reaffirm the trust you have placed in me," the MP added.

Perera said that as a Member of Parliament representing the district, he will always strive to fulfill his pledges to the people and bring unprecedented development to Puttalam.

## Over 100 expats return from Qatar, Thailand

### MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

More than 100 Sri Lankans stranded in Qatar and Thailand due to the COVID-19 pandemic, returned to the country yesterday morning.

Around 40 passengers arrived on a Qatar Airways flight from Doha and landed at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) at around 1:00 a.m., yesterday.

Meanwhile, another 85 Sri Lankans were repatriated from Thailand on a SriLankan Airlines (UL 403) flight, which arrived from Bangkok.

All the passengers and crew were subjected to Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests and later sent to quarantine centres.



Sri Lankan expatriates at the Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok.

Foreign Relations Ministry Secretary Admiral (Rtd.) Jayanath Colabage said yesterday that in the weeks to come, repatriation will take place in large numbers, with the national carrier travelling to many regions to bring back those who are stranded.



# PRESIDENT TELLS NATION: JOIN HANDS TO MAKE OUR DRIVE FOR PROSPERITY AND SPLENDOUR A SUCCESS

We have arrived at an important landmark in history. The people have given the current government a massive mandate. We have been given the responsibility to take the country towards prosperity while safeguarding the people and protecting the sovereignty of the country without succumbing to any force. The present generation must fulfill that responsibility for the sake of the future generations, stated President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, delivering the new Government's Policy Statement at the inaugural session of the Ninth Parliament.

The following is the full speech made by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa:

“The election held on August 5th marked a turning point in the history of Parliamentary Elections in Sri Lanka. We asked the people to give us a 2/3rd majority to form a stable government.

First of all, I would like to thank and extend my gratitude to all the patriotic Sri Lankans for giving Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna and its allied parties a historic and resounding 2/3rd majority for the first time in the history in an election held under the Proportional Representation System.

Universal suffrage is a democratic right that we must all respect and uphold. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Sri Lankan voters who exercised their voting right in this election.

During the Presidential Election held last November, over 6.9 million people gave me a decisive mandate, placing a very high confidence in me. So far through my actions, I have proved that I will uphold the promise that I will not violate the trust they placed on me.

The period between the Presidential Election and the Parliamentary Election has been very challenging for us. What we inherited was an economy that had collapsed. Since we did not have a majority in Parliament we were compelled to function with a minority government. In addition, we had to face the COVID-19 pandemic that disabled the entire world during that period. At a time when even the most powerful countries in the world were left helpless in the wake of COVID - 19 catastrophe, we were able to successfully face the challenge. Even foreign nations praised our efforts to prevent the spreading of the pandemic.

The historic mandate received by Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna has proven that people are impressed with the way we have governed the country during the past 9 months despite various obstacles.

People appreciate the change taking place in the political culture of this country.

As representatives of the people, we always respect the aspirations of the majority. It is only then that the sovereignty of the people can be safeguarded.

In accordance with the supreme Constitution of our country, I have pledged to protect the unitary status of the country and to protect and nurture the Buddha Sasana during my tenure. Accordingly, I have set up an advisory council comprising leading Buddhist monks to seek advice on governance. I have also established a Presidential Task Force to protect places of archeological importance and to preserve our Buddhist heritage.

While ensuring priority for Buddhism, it is now clear to the people that freedom of any citizen to practice the religion of his or her choice is better secured.

The Government has paid special attention to the protection of national heritage, culture and our identity as well as the protection and promotion of performing arts and folk arts.

## NATIONAL SECURITY

When we took over the government, the confidence of the people in the security of the country had been severely dented due to the Easter Sunday attacks that occurred in 2019. Establishing firmly that the prime policy of our Government is national security, we have restructured the security apparatus and intelligence services, eliminating the fears of the people thereby restoring the security of the country. We have re-created an environment where any citizen can live freely without any fear for the safety of themselves and their families.

As I have pledged, the launch of the methodical mechanism to protect the people against social evils such as the activities of the underworld and the drug menace that have been a hindrance to the



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and First Lady Ayoma Rajapaksa welcomed by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena on arrival in Parliament. Picture by Gayan Pushpika

day-to-day lives of the people has also increased the confidence of the public.

Accordingly, a virtuous and a law-abiding society is emerging as we promised.

We are working towards a significant transformation of the political culture of this country.

After I assumed office as the President, changing the existing system, a methodical procedure was introduced to appoint heads of Government institutions whereby qualifications of prospective appointees were examined through a panel of experts. A well-experienced team of professionals, entrepreneurs and academics was appointed instead of relatives, acquaintances and followers. This policy will continue in the future as well.

We also took measures to build a production economy. Paddy farmers were given a higher guaranteed price for their products. We took steps to protect local farmers by halting importation of exportable produce for re-export as well as banning importation of crops that could have been grown locally. Farmers were provided with required fertilizer free of charge. People were encouraged to re-cultivate abandoned lands throughout the country. Through all these, we provided a new lease of life to the agricultural sector in this country.

After we assumed office, we provided tax concessions targeting local entrepreneurs. Interest rates were brought down to encourage businesses. Competitive imports were restricted in order to protect local entrepreneurs and industrialists.

It is clear that people enthusiastically supported us in this election due to the trust we have been able to build in them in this manner. We will continue to serve the people in a manner that affirms this trust.

It is equally important to precisely interpret the mandate given by the people. We respect the trust that the people have placed in me and the Prime Minister and the newly elected people's representatives. We have a clear understanding of the expectations with which the people gave such a powerful mandate to the government. We will leave no room for such expectations to be dashed for any reason.

It should always be remembered that the prime responsibility of a people's representative is to serve the public. We will be sensitive to fulfilling the needs of the people, keeping in mind that all these positions are responsibilities and not privileges.

I travelled all over the country to support every candidate who represented our group in this election. Instead of holding political rallies, I went to the people during these visits and listened to their grievances directly.

A large majority of issues presented by the general public were not personal, but they were common issues.

Even after 72 years of freedom, simple issues have not been resolved.

There are people who do not possess proper deeds for the lands on which they have lived for many years. We will provide them with legitimate deeds utilizing a swift and due process. I assure you that without a proper alternative we will not evict people from their ancestral homes or farmlands.

Human-Elephant conflict has become a major issue to the people. A group of experts has already been appointed to craft a feasible solution for this issue. A separate state ministry was established solely for this purpose because we are aware that this issue needs a sustainable solution.

An incredible percentage of people across the country suffer from a shortage of drinking water. We will take necessary steps to address these humane issues. As a national policy, we will enact procedures to provide drinking water to every part of the country.

Parents request for their children's education suitable schools. The shortage of national schools was evident in every area. Most schools have significantly inadequate facilities. The shortage of teachers, laboratories, libraries and sports facilities was frequently mentioned. Although we request students to

shutting down of tea factories, tea estate owners have encountered a number of difficulties. We will restart these factories and eliminate existing irregularities simultaneously encouraging the export of high quality tea products. We will reclaim the global brand name we held for Ceylon Tea.

We will also encourage planting of new coconut saplings. In order to enact a reasonable price for rubber, local rubber industrialists will be encouraged to utilize local rubber. Plantation of palm oil trees will be stopped completely.

We promote the production of export crops such as pepper and cinnamon. We will provide opportunities to generate substantial foreign exchange by providing a stable price to the farmers through value addition to agricultural products and exporting them. In assigning responsibilities to ministries, special attention was paid to the development of urban as well as rural infrastructure facilities and to find solutions to the issue of housing for the people.

We have taken measures to identify several sectors that can directly contribute to the development of the country and to appoint State Ministers responsible for these tasks and to assign them the relevant subjects and activities.

As human resource development has been identified as a priority, the subject of education has been brought under one Ministry and four State Ministers were appointed for different responsibilities therein. Separate State Ministries for Pre-School, Education Reforms, Skills Development as well as Dhamma School and Bhikkhu Education have been set up due to their importance.

In achieving our future objectives, special attention needs to be paid to technical education. We will pay special attention in education reforms in respect of Grade 6 to Grade 13.

We will increase the capacity of Universities enabling all students who pass the Advanced Level Examination to pursue university education. Further, we will take measures to improve the Open University network and Distance Learning methods. The curriculum will be revised to ensure that these degree subjects would directly contribute to the growth of the economy.

The cost of electricity is an important factor that impacts the economic development process of the country. Therefore, a separate State Ministry has been set up to promote renewable energy sources.

Focus of relevant ministries will be directed to assist entrepreneurs to use modern technology for value addition, to encourage innovation and to explore new market opportunities in a creative manner.

Although our country is rich in natural resources, the value adding industries are not yet on par with international standards. Measures are afoot to earn a large sum of foreign exchange by adding value to the export of natural resources such as gems and minerals. Methodical development of our traditional industries such as Batik, local apparel, brass, cane, pottery, furniture, gem and jewellery will pave the way for the country to promote self-employment, to generate new employment opportunities as well as to build businesses and earn a large amount of foreign exchange.

One third of country's population depends on agriculture, plantation and fisheries as their livelihood. We should raise the living standards of these people. The development of these industries requires a new approach based on technology that goes beyond traditional methods. This is why ministries directly targeting several sectors related to agriculture, plantation and fisheries have been set up to focus attention on this matter.

We will take measures to introduce high quality packaging as well as proper transport facilities to deliver the best quality produce, minimizing wastage while taking steps to produce high quality seeds locally with the aim of providing such seeds to the farming community. We will take necessary measures to develop dairy and poultry industries.

We will also target to increase the production of organic fertilizer locally with the aim of producing toxin free foods and in the next decade to ensure total organic farming in Sri Lanka.

We are targeting a massive progress in the fisheries sector. We should halt the importation of fish into our country as our motherland is surrounded by the ocean. We will introduce a comprehensive programme to provide new technology and equipment needed to enhance the fisheries sector. All the fishery harbours will be modernized to provide facilities for multi-day fishing boats that fish in deep seas. Similarly, we will take steps to build new harbours as per any necessity.

We will bring a halt to the plundering of our oceans by unlawful foreign fishing vessels.

It is part of our strategy to introduce new technology to develop the inland fresh water fisheries industry.

The scopes and responsibilities of each Ministry and State Ministry have been demarcated very clearly. Through this initiative it is expected that the relevant Ministers will implement policies for related fields as well as to take steps to monitor the functions, activities and efficiency of State Ministries. The State Ministers are able to fulfill their respective duties and responsibilities without any hindrance as the monetary provisions required to implement development projects and financial responsibility are directly placed with them.

People are of the view that they are not getting the expected service from the public service in an efficient manner. Therefore, I request all the Ministers and State Ministers to take steps to provide fast and efficient service to the public via Ministries, Departments and Institutions that come under their purview. During my recent visits to several State institutions, I observed that some institutional procedures of those institutions do not add any value to the government or to the public but only waste the time of the public. You should identify new methods to provide efficient, speedy and convenient service to the public instead of continuing with prevailing traditional methods. You need to re-engineer the processes for greater productivity and customer satisfaction. We should find new technological solutions in this regard.



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa addressing the inaugural session in Parliament on Thursday. -AFP

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## WASTE AND CORRUPTION

In the National Policy Framework 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour', we promised the people that we would eradicate waste and corruption. This is a core responsibility of all of us. We will take steps to completely eradicate waste and corruption in all the Ministries and institutions. In future I will not hesitate to enforce the law against those who are involved in fraud and corrupt actions, irrespective of the status of any such perpetrators.

Constantly I will review the progress of the achievement of the goals of the Government that are implemented through Ministries and the public sector. If I find any Ministry failing to achieve its set targets, I will not hesitate to effect necessary changes to implement policies of the Government.

In the current political culture, most of the people's representatives, after they get elected, neglect the prime duty of going to the people.

When I travelled round the country in the recent past, this was confirmed by the people who voiced their grievance on this matter. Henceforth, ministers, state ministers as well as members of Parliament will fulfill this expectation of the people by visiting them often to understand their issues and find solutions to their issues.

The basis of the success of a democratic state is its constitution. Our Constitution, which has been amended 19 times, from its inception in 1978, has many ambiguities and uncertainties, presently resulting in confusion. As the people have given us the mandate we wanted for a constitutional amendment, our first task will be to remove the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. After that, all of us will get together to formulate a new constitution suitable for the country. In this, the priority will be given to the concept of one country, one law for all the people.

An unstable Parliament that cannot take firm decisions and succumbs to extremist influences very often is not suitable for a country. While introducing a new constitution, it is essential to make changes to the current electoral system. While retaining the salutary aspects of the proportional representation system, these changes will be made to ensure stability of the Parliament and people's direct representation.

I love my country. I am proud of my country. I have a vision for my country. Our ardent desire is to build a prosperous nation with a productive citizen, contented family and a righteous society. What we have done so far as well as the plans we propose to implement in future will be aimed to achieve this objective.

This is the Motherland of all of us. Hence, the time has come for all of us to join hands for the sake of the country irrespective of race, religion or party differences.

I extend my hand of friendship to everyone to join me in building the prosperous nation we promised to our people.

May the Noble Triple Gem bless you all."



# INDIAN, LANKAN SLEUTHS TRY TO SOLVE CROSS-BORDER MYSTERY

**A man dies in Coimbatore and leaves a trail leading to Colombo. Was he Angoda Lokka?**

LAKSHMI SUBRAMANIAN

**A**ROUND THE TIME Sri Lankans gifted the Rajapakas a landslide victory in the national elections in early August, the Tamil Nadu Police were hot on the trail of a crime story with roots in the island nation. Investigators suspect that a Sri Lankan history-sheeter, with links to the underworld and ambitions of being an actor, had been hiding in India for about three years. He was apparently running his drug network in Sri Lanka through WhatsApp.

It all started on July 3, when a Pradeep Singh died of cardiac arrest in Coimbatore. Curiously, even the police seemed to have been ignorant about the life and death of Angoda Lokka, originally Maddamage Lasantha Chandana Perera, until a journalist raised a question at a briefing, quoting a Sri Lankan newspaper. Lokka, aka Pradeep Singh, was reportedly living in a rented house at Cheran Ma Nagar on the outskirts of Coimbatore.

"He was here for the past one-and-a-half years," Inspector General of Police (Crime Branch Criminal Investigation Department) K. Shankar told THE WEEK. "The investiga-

tion is going on. We have taken Amani Thanji and Sivakami Sundari, who were with him, into custody. We will have to ascertain the facts."

He added that Sri Lankan officials had not sought any details about Lokka yet. "Once they request, we will definitely share it," he said. Sources said that investigators have asked Sri Lankan law enforcement agencies for Lokka's fingerprints and DNA samples.

Apart from the CB CID, which has formed seven special teams for the case, the Research and Analysis Wing is also involved, and has held marathon meetings with the police.

According to case details THE WEEK accessed from Angoda, Lokka's hometown just outside Colombo, the 35-year-old was a drug peddler and an underworld operative with several murders to his name. His first arrest was on January 18, 2011, for a murder committed within Wellampitiya police station limits. Several other murder cases followed. Then, in 2017, after a bus shooting in Kalutara that he was suspected to have engineered, Lokka went missing.

Soon after Lokka went missing, the Interpol issued a Red Notice against him. "We could



Angoda Lokka

not trace his whereabouts," said a source in the Sri Lankan police. The source said that he had fled the country on a fake passport. It is not clear if he came to India directly.

On September 25, 2019, history-sheeter Konda Tharaka was shot dead at Hanwella, about 30km from Colombo. The shooters were allegedly Lokka's associates; police suspected that he stayed in touch with them through WhatsApp calls. "He is the prime suspect in the Tharaka murder case," said Deshabandu Tennakoon, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Western Province.

After arriving in India, Lokka stayed in Bengaluru for a few months and then in Madurai. His final stop was Coimbatore, where he first lived in Saravanampatti and then in Cheran Ma Nagar. He had been living in the last location for at least three months, police sources said.

"He landed first in Bengaluru with his fake passport and forged documents," said a police source. "He took the help of T. Sivakami Sundari, a lawyer from Madurai. He was referred to her by a Sri Lankan friend living in Dubai." He then moved to Tamil Nadu, Sivakami, who had friends in the Sri Lankan refugee camp near Madurai, reached out to a Thiyaneswaran for help; together, they got Lokka an Aadhaar card and other documents under the alias Pradeep Singh.

Lokka then moved to Saravanampatti. Thanji, 27, began flying in from Colombo to visit him here. Reportedly, she was married to one of Lokka's rivals, whom he had allegedly



The Apartment in Green Gardens, Cheran Me Nagar, Coimbatore, where Lokka allegedly stayed

bumped off years ago. When Thanji's visits made neighbours suspicious, the duo moved to Cheran Ma Nagar.

Thiyaneswaran helped them rent a house owned by an NRI living in the US. They moved in in March 2020. Thiyaneswaran had apparently told the owner that the two were from Dubai and were stuck in Coimbatore because of the pandemic.

Sources said Lokka was earning a living in Coimbatore by supplying protein supplements to gyms in the city. And, unlike in Saravanampatti, no one noticed the couple in Cheran Ma Nagar, largely because of the lockdown. However, a few neighbours had seen Lokka smoking and talking on the phone in his balcony, and walking the quiet streets.

On July 3, however, Lokka reportedly had a cardiac arrest. Thanji and Thiyaneswaran took him to the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH), where he died. His name was recorded as Pradeep Singh.

The following day, Sivakami rushed to the Peelamedu police station, identified herself as Singh's relative and took the body for cremation in Madurai. By this time, the Sri Lankan police had been tipped off.

Meanwhile, the Coimbatore City Police

found that the Aadhaar card was fake and they arrested Sivakami, Thiyaneswaran and Thanji. The local police seized all electronic devices used by them, and handed the case over to the CB CID. The police, however, said that Lokka's phone and laptop had been wiped clean.

While Sivakami and Thiyaneswaran have been remanded to judicial custody, Thanji is in Puzhal prison near Chennai. In a twist, Thanji was first taken to the CMCH; she was two months pregnant, and the pills taken to terminate it had caused profuse bleeding.

While the Sri Lankan police said that Lokka had recently undergone rhinoplasty, ostensibly to get acting gigs, the Coimbatore police dismissed it as speculation. They also said it was difficult to establish whether he did go under the knife and even whether the man who died was indeed Lokka. The CB CID might isolate his DNA from blood samples collected during autopsy.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan authorities said they have approached Indian authorities, seeking more details about Lokka and his aides. "Our state intelligence officials," said Tennakoon, "have approached the Indian High Commission in connection with Lokka's death". (The Week)



Coimbatore Police

# UNICEF commends SL's efforts to reopen schools safely

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Representative in Sri Lanka, Tim Sutton, commended Sri Lanka's efforts taken to reopen schools safely amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, through a press release issued on Wednesday.

"We congratulate Sri Lanka for its effective response to the Coronavirus, as well as its achievement of being one of the first countries in South Asia to reopen

schools during the pandemic," the statement read.

Sutton stated, "Although education continued during school closures, we know that the best place for children to learn is in a safe school environment, with their friends and teachers."

"However, the risk of COVID-19 remains, and that's why our message is simple: follow these '7 new lessons' from the new campaign and we can limit the spread of COVID-19 among children, teach-

ers, parents, and communities and get back to learning," he added.

"The 'COVID-19: New Lessons in the New Term' campaign is the latest phase in UNICEF's ongoing support to the Government of Sri Lanka in response to COVID-19—that has also seen UNICEF procure essential medical items, support the development of safe school operation guidelines, promote 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene' (WASH) facilities at schools, develop learning materi-

als for home-based learning, support 'catch up' education; as well as provide expertise in the areas of health, nutrition, education, child protection, social policy, and communications," the statement read.

"UNICEF will continue to work closely with the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure the safety and well-being of children and youth across the country during and after the COVID-19 pandemic," Sutton stated.

## Discussions on expanding exports to US

Sri Lankan Ambassador to the United States Rodney Perera and Export Development Board (EDB) Chairman Prabhath Subasinghe discussed ways to further diversify and increase Sri Lanka's exports to the US through a webinar conducted on Wednesday.

Export Development Board (EDB) Director-General Chitrnanjali Dissanayake, along with officials from the Embassy and the EDB, also took part in the meeting, a press release issued by the Embassy stated.

The Chairman briefed on initiatives taken by the EDB to promote several products in the recent months, as well as the opportunities available in the United States, being the single largest buyer of Sri Lankan goods.

While acknowledging the new initiatives of the EDB to promote exports through practical strategies, Ambassador Perera outlined the role played by the Embassy on the key

facets of economic diplomacy to strengthen the efforts of the government to brand Sri Lanka as a trusted supplier in the US.

Ambassador Perera emphasized the importance of working closely with Sri Lankan-American professionals and entrepreneurs who are well-established in the US in the promotion of Sri Lanka's business interests.

He also highlighted the need to further strengthen links with key eco-

nomics centres such as Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Miami, Seattle, and San Francisco, which offer more opportunities for Sri Lankan products and services.

## Corruption case against Priyath fixed for trial

SHAVINI MADHARA

A corruption case filed against former Urban Development Ministry Secretary Priyath Bandu Wickrama and two others was yesterday fixed for trial by Colombo Chief Magistrate Lanka Jayaratne.

They defendants were charged with allegedly causing a Rs.65-million loss to the government by employing 319 employees of the Ports Authority for election work during the 2015 Presidential Election.

The Director-General of the

Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) filed this case against Priyath Bandu Wickrama, R.B. Sanjaya Kumara, and Nihal Keppetipola under Section 70 of the Bribery Act, on three charges.

The Bribery Commission alleged that the first accused, Priyath Bandu Wickrama, had unlawfully employed 319 employees for election work between October 20, 2014, and January 7, 2015, while he was serving as the Ports Authority Chairman.

### MASSIVE VEHICLE AUCTION SALE

**23<sup>rd</sup> of August**  
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ADA KOTIPATHI - SATURDAY  
Draw No.: 1918 Colour: YELLOW  
Date: 22.08.2020

**Today's Jackpot**  
**Rs. 62,822,630/-**

Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.  
Development Lotteries Board  
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2  
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Fax: 0112 333 545-4566 www.dlb.lk  
Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

Date : 20-08-2020  
Draw Number : 2897 | Colour : Brown

**Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 2,578,947/-**

Winning Numbers: 04 36 37 48  
Pisces

**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 9,686,780/-**

Development Lotteries Board  
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2  
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Hotline: 0114 824 824  
Result Hotline: 0112 333 778  
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

**SUPER BALL**  
Draw Number: 1195  
Draw Date: 20.08.2020  
Thursday

Winning English Letter and Numbers: L 30 36 39 77

**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 3,800,960/-**

**Next Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 52,242,736/-**

Development Lotteries Board  
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02  
Tel: 0112 333 546-47  
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919  
SMS: DLB=space=LOT=space=SB & send to 1919  
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 011 4 825 825

The purple, green, blue and red tickets are respectively valid on Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.  
The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

**ADA KOTIPATHI**  
Date: 20.08.2020  
Draw No.: 1016  
Colour: BLUE

**THURSDAY**

**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 5,793,640/-**

Winning Numbers: 18 19 21 62  
English Letter: A

Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: 1641  
Winning number for Rs. 100/- cash prizes: 259

Development Lotteries Board  
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Tel: 0112 333 546-47  
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919  
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 011 4 825 825

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Date : 20-08-2020  
Draw Number : 1682 | Colour : Orange

**Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 52,240,104/-**

Winning Numbers: 25 39 56 57  
ENGLISH LETTER: J

**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 4,785,000/-**

**Next Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 52,428,592/-**

Development Lotteries Board  
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Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Hotline: 0114 824 824  
Result Hotline: 0112 333 778  
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.





Then President and present Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and then Defence Secretary and present President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with then Australian Immigration Minister and present Prime Minister Scott Morrison at the Colombo Port commissioning the "Mihikatha" and "Ratnadeepa" Patrol Boats gifted by Australia to the Sri Lanka Navy in 2014

## AUSTRALIA AND SRI LANKA:

# AIR CONNECTIVITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION

The success of the two countries' naval cooperation shows the potential for expanded partnership.

GEORGE I. H. COOKE

Australia and Sri Lanka's recent experience working together to prevent people smuggling from Sri Lanka has been one of the more significant, and largely unreported, wins in regional security cooperation. After almost a decade of close collaboration, largely focusing on naval operations, now is an opportune time to extend that cooperation into the realm of air power.

The two countries' efforts addressed an important domestic issue for Australia, while enhancing bilateral relations. For its part, Sri Lanka received close and consistent support from Australia in safeguarding its territorial waters and in multilateral forums such as the Commonwealth.

Realising the futility of trying alone to counter people smuggling and to stop boats entering its territorial waters, Australia undertook to address the problem at its root. Close cooperation with the Sri Lankan Government under then President Mahinda Rajapaksa helped Australia to halt the practice by encouraging those engaging in it to pursue legal methods of migration, while at the same time supporting the Sri Lanka Navy and Coast Guard to detect illegal vessels and better monitor the maritime domain.

These cooperative arrangements, involving representatives from the police, immigration and military, helped both countries recognise each others' potential as partners in addressing a common threat. That success could now be expanded to other sectors.

### Maritime security challenges

Many of Sri Lanka's threats emanate from the surrounding seas. In April 2020, following the closure of ports of entry due to Covid-19, the Sri Lanka Air Force deployed Y-12 aircraft and Bell 212 helicopters to detect illegal entrants. This is just one of the main transnational maritime security challenges the country faces. Others include illegal and unregulated fishing, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, data gathering by maritime expeditions and the threat of accidents in its territorial waters that cause environmental damage.

Sri Lanka is becoming more strategically important. China and the United States are increasingly interested in its geographical position, given the country's proximity to international shipping lanes and to India. China is providing much needed development assistance, especially in the maritime sector, with projects implemented through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Australia identifies Sri Lanka, an Indian Ocean neighbour, as a key regional node in terms of maritime security. Its geographic position and good infrastructure make it an excellent hub for access to South Asia and much of the Northern Indian Ocean. The growing relationship between Australia and India may be just the first step in an expanded South Asian engagement by Australia, resulting in greater presence and purpose in the Indian Ocean region through closer cooperation with Sri Lanka.

The geographic positions of Australia and Sri Lanka as entry points into their respective regions also provide opportunities for cooperation, including exploring the enhancement of air power by establishing key



Australian Prime Minister  
Scott Morrison



Australian Air Force Commander  
Mel Hupfeld



Sri Lanka Air Force Commander  
Sumangala Dias

nodes of connectivity in neighbouring regions. Sri Lanka is already the most important shipping hub in the Northern Indian Ocean and by virtue of its geography could easily become a pivotal air hub.

As an initial step, a meeting by the two Air Force Commanders to identify objectives for joint action could lead to the establishment of a working group to determine activities for implementation. In the medium to long term, joint manoeuvres, training activities, increasing goodwill visits and exchange programmes, and launching a biennial Air Force Commanders' Dialogue, would lead to higher levels of cooperation.

### Australian expertise

Sri Lanka would gain expertise and seek much-needed high-altitude maritime surveillance of its extensive territorial waters. This could be coupled with Australian expertise in developing an advanced maritime domain awareness system. Such measures could help generate significant air power for Sri Lanka and contribute towards governance of its entire air space.

For Australia, increased air connectivity would open another window into South Asia and the Indian Ocean, and diversify its strategic relationships in the region. Australia could establish a deeper defence cooperative mechanism and open the way for further collaboration. The potential is enormous, from using Sri Lanka's newly reopened Southern international airport in Mattala as a refueling stop point to undertaking joint measures to respond to transnational threats, generating faster responses to humanitarian emergencies and disaster relief activities, simulating air operations and improving telecommunications awareness in aerospace, as well as guaranteeing supply and logistics.

Cooperation between middle and small powers would also convey a positive and powerful message to the Indian Ocean region and beyond. Air connectivity

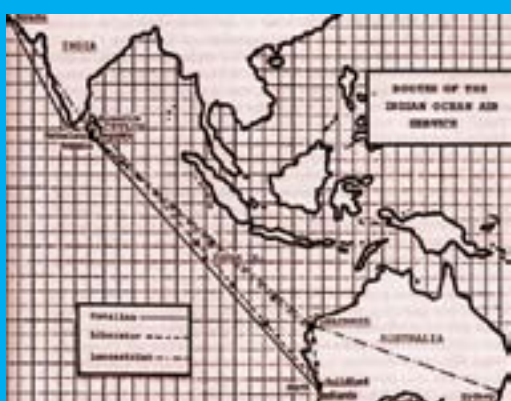
played a pivotal role in bilateral relations during the Second World War. After Australia effectively lost overseas air connections in early 1942, it had to rely on the "Double Sunrise" flights between Perth and what was then Ceylon for air connections to the outside world.

In March 2021, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) will reach a century, while the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) notches seven decades since its establishment. These anniversaries are an opportunity to renew bilateral collaboration, and enhance multilateral engagement through innovative cross-regional measures.

Maritime and air connectivity have been mutually beneficial in the past. Prime Minister Scott Morrison was one of the first foreign leaders to congratulate Mahinda Rajapaksa on his recent return to Government as the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, with Rajapaksa calling the two countries "steadfast partners for many years on a number of issues". Now may be the moment to build a strategic partnership that aims yet higher.

(This piece is part of a two-year project being undertaken by the ANU National Security College on the Indian Ocean, with the support of the Department of Defence)

- The Interpreter



Double Sunrise flight route through Sri Lanka



SLAF Y-12 Surveillance Aircraft



SLAF Bell Surveillance Helicopter

Australia identifies Sri Lanka, an Indian Ocean neighbour, as a key regional node in terms of maritime security. Its geographic position and good infrastructure make it an excellent hub for access to South Asia and much of the Northern Indian Ocean. The growing relationship between Australia and India may be just the first step in an expanded South Asian engagement by Australia, resulting in greater presence and purpose in the Indian Ocean region through closer cooperation with Sri Lanka.



Sri Lankan illegal immigrants intercepted by Australia



A Double Sunrise flight in operation



One of the vessels gifted by Australia



A boat used for people smuggling





# JASTECA AWARDS - 2019

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020 at Hotel Galadari - 5.30 pm



TAIKI AKIMOTO "5S" AWARD



NAGAAKI YAMAMOTO KAIZEN AWARD



Ian Dias Abeysinghe Memorial JASTECA CSR AWARD



### Message from H.E. Akira Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan

First and foremost, I would like to extend my good wishes to all the participants and winners of the JASTECA Awards 2019. The growing participation by Sri Lankan entities in these competitions over the past two decades indicates their incessant interest in upgrading overall productivity in accordance with globally accepted Japanese management systems, also known as "5S" and "Kaizen". It gives me a great pleasure to be part of this momentous occasion for the second successive year since my assignment in Sri Lanka.

With increasing interest of Japanese private companies in seeking business opportunities in Sri Lanka, JASTECA has played a pivotal role in promoting the economic relationship between Japan and Sri Lanka. Furthermore, the untiring efforts made by JASTECA in disseminating Japanese management systems among Sri Lankan entities are highly commendable. I am delighted to learn that "5S" and "Kaizen" are currently being implemented with enthusiasm by both employers and employees nationwide in Sri Lanka. The fact that His Majesty the Emperor of Japan conferred prestigious decorations upon several outstanding leaders of JASTECA shows our heartfelt appreciation for their valuable contribution.

I hope that the conferment of the JASTECA Awards would further inspire all the participants and winners as well as other business entities to upgrade overall productivity, which will go a long way in advancing the higher economic development of Sri Lanka. The Government of Japan will continue to extend support to the initiatives of the Government of Sri Lanka in enhancing productivity, including training programs conducted by AOTS (Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships). I strongly hope that today's participants and winners would continue to play a leading role, hand in hand with JASTECA, in furthering the economic relationship between Sri Lanka and Japan towards the new horizon.

Last but not least, on behalf of the Government of Japan, while commending the strong leadership of the Government of Sri Lanka in tackling successfully the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19, I would like to express our solidarity with the people and government of Sri Lanka in this joint combat against COVID-19.

H.E. Akira Sugiyama  
Ambassador of Japan



### Congratulatory Message for JASTECA Awards Ceremony

It is a distinct pleasure to deliver a message of congratulations on behalf of the Association for Overseas Technical Corporation and Sustainable Partnerships (AOTS) to Japan Sri Lanka Technical and Cultural Association (JASTECA) on the occasion of the August 22nd conferment of JASTECA Awards.

The fame of JASTECA as an evangelist of Japanese-style management has reverberated across Sri Lanka. Consistent with the support of all walks of life, JASTECA has made a great stride in human resource development in the country. The 24 consecutive years of awards conferment is an empirical evidence of the great success of their undertaking. This largely owes to the efforts and engagement of the leaders and member of JASTECA. They have put their heart into reaching their goals, and deserve the highest praise.

JASTECA has been an inspiration for their peer AOTS alumni Societies who have pursued human resource development at home. There has been a steady flow of newcomers creating their own version of JASTECA Awards. We are proud of our partnership with JASTECA, and will remain committed to providing assistance to their work.

Needless to say, the great accomplishment of JASTECA could not have been achieved without the warm and strong support of the government and industries of our country. I would also like to thank all the organizations and individuals concerned.

Lastly, we would like to express our sincere congratulations to this year's award winners, and hope for the continued success of the event in the future.

Sincerely Yours,  
Shinya Kuwayama  
President, the AOTS



It's with great pride I convey this message on the occasion of JASTECA Awards 2019, which is being held for the 24th consecutive year. JASTECA Award is an annual event to recognize the achievers of Taiki Akimoto 5S competition, Nagaaki Yamamoto Kaizen competition and Ian Dias Abeysinghe Memorial CSR Sustainability Award Scheme.

Prime objective of forming JASTECA was to promote Productivity and Quality culture in our country using very effective Japanese Management concepts such as 5S and Kaizen, hence Taiki Akimoto 5S competition was introduced 24 years ago.

Improving of productivity and Quality will have a big impact on the bottom line of any private sector organization while the beneficiaries of improving performance in Government Organizations would be definitely the society.

We have also observed incredible innovations under CSR Sustainability projects undertaken by the competing organization and the country could look forward to some amazing benefits through these innovations in time to come.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the Winners including all the participants of JASTECA Awards and wish to state that even if you could not achieve any position, benefits gained would be immense by implementing these magical Japanese concepts in any organization.

Nimal Perera  
President JASTECA

## TAIKI AKIMOTO 5S AWARD WINNERS

### LARGE CATEGORY

GOLD AWARD	GPV Lanka (Private) Limited
SILVER AWARD	MAS Kreedaa Synergy Division - Avissawella
BRONZE AWARD	MAS Active - Asialine
BRONZE AWARD	Penguin Sportswear (Pvt) Ltd - Panwila

### MEDIUM CATEGORY

GOLD AWARD	Sri Lanka Telecom PLC - Kurunegala
SILVER AWARD	NOLIMIT - Kurunegala
BRONZE AWARD	Premium Exports Ceylon (Private) Limited

### SMALL CATEGORY

GOLD AWARD	Vidullanka PLC - Nilwala Vidulibala Mini Hydro Power Plant
SILVER AWARD	Dialog Axiata PLC - Jaffna Experience Center
BRONZE AWARD	Vidullanka PLC - Walagamba Balashakthi Mini Hydro Power Plant

### CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Dialog Axiata PLC - Nawala Experience Center	NOLIMIT - Wellawatta (IMAGE)	NOLIMIT - Maharagama
Glitz - Hyde Park Corner	NOLIMIT - Borella	NOLIMIT - Ratmalana
Keells Food Products PLC	NOLIMIT - Dehiwala (Ladies)	Uni Dil Packaging Ltd
New Vithanakande Tea Factory (Pvt) Ltd		

### CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

Ansell Textiles Lanka	MABL - Pathfinder Group of Companies	Sri Lanka Telecom PLC - Kelaniya
Camso Loadstar Track Division (MTD 2)	NOLIMIT - Dehiwala (Gents)	Sri Lanka Telecom PLC - Kotte
Camso Loadstar - Ancillary Product Division	NOLIMIT - Negombo	Sri Lanka Telecom PLC - Maradana
Dialog Axiata PLC - Anuradhapura Experience Center	NOLIMIT - Nugegoda	Sri Lanka Telecom PLC - Nugegoda
Glitz - Negombo	Penguin Sportswear (Pvt) Ltd - Palleshawinna	Sri Lanka Telecom PLC - Ratmalana
Glitz - Nugegoda	PNB Holdings (Pvt) Ltd	Sri Lanka Telecom PLC - Kandy
Lanka IOC PLC	Smithkline Beecham (Pvt) Ltd	Teejay Lanka Prints (Pvt) Ltd
MAS Active - Kreedaa Division Shadeline	Sri Lanka Telecom PLC - Dambulla	
MAS Kreedaa - Vaanavil	Sri Lanka Telecom PLC - Havelock Town	

## NAGAAKI YAMAMOTO KAIZEN AWARD WINNERS

GOLD AWARD	Premium Exports Ceylon (Private) Limited
SILVER AWARD	Penguin Sportswear (Pvt) Ltd - Panwila
BRONZE AWARD	MAS Kreedaa Synergy Division - Avissawella

## CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

CEAT Kelani International Tyres (Pvt) Ltd
MAS Kreedaa - Vaanavil
Unilever Sri Lanka Limited - Horana Manufacturing Site

### JASTECA AWARDS 2019 - COMMITTEE

Mr. Mangala Samarajeewa - Chairman	Mr. Chandana Amaratunga
Mr. Nishan Fernando	Mr. Ranjit Jayewardene
Mr. Niros De Silva	Mr. Athulla Edirisinghe
Mr. Dayasiri Warnakulasooriya	Mr. Nihal Seneviratne
Mr. Nimal Perera	Mr. Sunil Rathnayake
Mr. Gamini Marambe	Mr. Anuruddha Gamage

### JASTECA 5S AUDITORS

Mr. Nimal Perera
Mr. Gamini Marambe
Mr. Chandana Amaratunga
Mr. Niros De Silva
Mr. Anuruddha Gamage
Mr. Chethana Kahandugoda
Mr. Nihal De Silva
Mr. Lakshman Amaratunga

### JASTECA KAIZEN AUDITORS

Mr. Chandana Amaratunga
Mr. Niros De Silva
Mr. Naresh Pieris
Ms. Shyama Perera
Ms. Chamani Jayasekara
Mr. S. M. P. Bandara
Mr. Wasantha Gunawardane



Sri Lanka is one of the world's leaders in implementing 5S/KAIZEN activities. Business around the world are not only looking at how 5S/KAIZEN is integrated into Sri Lanka's manufacturing industry, but are also noticing how important and influential 5S/KAIZEN activities are in Sri Lanka's service industries, financial institutes, and public sectors. I believe in the very near future, 5S/KAIZEN activities will also play a key role in the tourism business attracting many visitors to this beautiful country of Sri Lanka.

Prof. Seichi Fujita  
Chief Auditor



The 24th annual JASTECA Awards ceremony marks another milestone in our mission of contributing to the economic and social development of Sri Lanka as a responsible corporate citizen. We will be recognizing, rewarding and celebrating exceptional achievements in 5S, Kaizen and sustainability among Sri Lankan enterprises by presenting the Taiki Akimoto 5S awards, the Nagaaki Yamamoto Kaizen awards and the Ian Dias Abeysinghe JASTECA CSR/Sustainability awards.

I congratulate all award winners who have practiced the concepts of Japanese productivity and demonstrated the benefits for their organizations as well as to their individual contributors. I also commend the enthusiasm and dedication of all participants in their journey towards becoming more productive. I encourage organizations who have not participated in JASTECA Awards 2019 to take part in our next award programmes and benefit from the boost in productivity and team engagement.

I take this opportunity to recognize the eminent panel of auditors led by Prof. Seichi Fujita for their fair and independent evaluations and also the eminent panel of judges led by Prof. Lakshman Watawala who evaluated the participants of CSR/sustainability competition.

I also sincerely thank all our sponsors, members of the organizing committee, the JASTECA secretariat, and all those who supported us to make this event a tremendous success.

Mangala Samarajeewa  
Chairman-JASTECA Awards Committee 2019  
Vice President-JASTECA

## Ian Dias Abeysinghe Memorial JASTECA CSR/SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS 2019

GOLD JOINT AWARDS	Dynawash Limited
BRONZE AWARD	Premium Exports Ceylon (Private) Limited
	Hemas Manufacturing (Pvt) Ltd

### 10 BEST CSR / SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

- Citizens Development Business Finance PLC
- Derana Macro Entertainment (Pvt) Limited - Manusath Derana
- Dynawash Limited
- Hemas Manufacturing (Pvt) Ltd
- Linea Aqua (Pvt) Ltd
- Link Natural Products (Pvt) Ltd
- MAS Active Trading Pvt Ltd - MAS Kreedaa Division
- People's Leasing & Finance PLC
- Premium Exports Ceylon (Private) Limited
- SANASA Development Bank PLC
- Sri Lanka Navy

### CSR / SUSTAINABILITY AWARD PANEL OF JUDGES

Professor Lakshman Watawala	Mr. Ganaka Amarasinghe
Mr. Suthesh Balasubramaniam	Mr. B. R. L. Fernando

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# Daily News



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Saturday, August 22, 2020

## The President's timely warning

**P**resident Gotabaya Rajapaksa's firm insistence to the new Government's Ministers to buckle down to work and give the highest priority towards serving the people who had given his Government a massive majority is perhaps a definite signal that he means business and no mediocrity or half-hearted measures on their part would be tolerated.

In the past Ministers and MPs once elected were left to their own devices with hardly any supervision as to their functions and the quantum of work put in. Most Ministers were confined to their air-conditioned rooms in their ministries and hardly ventured out to look into the problems of the people who elected them.

Addressing the opening session of the Ninth Parliament on Thursday, President Rajapaksa sent out a clear warning to the shirkers and time wasters in his Government that nothing short of hard work was expected of them. If he found any ministry failing to achieve its set targets, he will not hesitate to effect the necessary changes to implement Government policies. He would constantly review the progress of Ministries and any lapses and neglect would be dealt with firmly.

This is as it should be. There is hardly any follow up action to monitor the work at ministries. Usually, ministers only make themselves visible when they cut ribbons at opening ceremonies and State functions in the glare of television lights. Many plaques and foundation laying stones done with much fanfare remain where they are and work is at a standstill even years after the event. These include drinking water projects, school buildings and irrigation works which are essential to ordinary folk. Hence the President's move to review the work of the ministries would be most welcomed by the people who have not received the desired benefits from their elected members.

Besides, the Ministers ought to show tangible results for the salaries, perks and privileges they enjoy at public expense. Ministers and Government politicians travelling in luxury vehicles with pilot cars and security details, riding roughshod over road users, too should be called to a halt. The President had shown the way in this respect arriving for the opening ceremony in all simplicity with no entourage and security accompanying his vehicle.

He has already dispensed with much of the trappings attached to the Presidential office and adopted simple ways in going about his business. There is no reason why his Ministers cannot follow suit. The President was firm in his insistence on eliminating waste and corruption in ministries and state bodies underscoring that no mercy would be shown to those who resort to corrupt practices irrespective of their status or position.

Corruption and waste have been the twin evils that have bedeviled the State sector and Government Ministries and President's warning at the very outset of coming down hard against those found guilty is indeed a positive development that augurs well for clean governance.

His insistence on going for the perpetrators no matter their status or position leaves no doubt that the President is going to have zero tolerance towards acts of corruption. His military background and discipline associated with it also give out hope that the President will not confine his warning to mere words but follow this up with firm action. Today corruption has assumed humongous proportions largely due to the powers that be turning a Nelsonian eye to the goings on at ministries and Government institutions. Usually political loyalties prevent leaders from taking action against ministers and their catchers leaving the cancer to grow unchecked. Now we have a leader who has flashed the red light against would be perpetrators of acts of corruption even from his own stable. The President is aware of the heavy toll taken on State institutions as result of waste and corruption, with some Government bodies having fallen to bottomless financial pits as a result.

The economic certainly cannot withstand this any longer particularly at a time we are in dire straits as a consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic and the President is wise to draw the line under this aspect from the very outset.

The President's policy speech no doubt centred on serving the needs of the people and he has left no doubt as to the role of his Ministers and ruling party MPs towards this end. His advice to MPs to go to the people and attend to their multifarious problems is therefore very timely. He said most people's representatives after they get elected neglect their prime duty of going to the people. "When I travelled around the country in the recent past, this was confirmed to me by the people who voiced their grievances on this matter," he said. They can now rest assured that Ministers will actually live up to the old adage of being Servants of the People.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Power has only one duty - to secure  
the social welfare of the People.  
- Benjamin Disraeli



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

VAISHALI BASU SHARMA

**I**n a letter to Edwina Mountbatten in 1950, C. Rajagopalachari, the last Governor General of India before the nation became a Republic, wrote, "A country without material, men or money - the three means of power - is now fast coming to be recognised as the biggest moral power in the civilised world ... her word listened to with respect in the councils of the great."

Is India still the reservoir of that moral influence? Recently it was widely reported that Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, has not met India's High Commissioner despite repeated requests for a meeting in the last four months. Eventually, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla had to rush to Dhaka to mend ties. Many commentators say Bangladesh is tilting toward China. This is also true for Sri Lanka and Nepal. As one after another of India's immediate neighbours in South Asia turn away from India, it is time to contemplate where the country's foreign policy might be failing us and the expectations of our neighbours?

#### BIG BROTHER

In school, I recall being taught that India is a 'big brother' to its smaller neighbours. Whether this 'smaller' meant geographical size or was a metaphor alluding to an inferior status remains lost. The entire academic grounding of international relations calls for a serious reckoning. When we don't view our neighbours as equals and assume an air of superiority, even though it may come from a supposed sense of responsibility for the region, it automatically negates any possibility of friendship. Rather, it becomes a relationship of 'give and take' or one that tenuously hangs on to historical and cultural associations.

Of late, our preoccupation has become China and the millions that it is spending on South Asia, disregarding the predicament this creates for our neighbours. The India or China cleft stick leaves them subject to scorn by either of the two powers in Asia. With each of our South Asian neighbours, the potential for accommodating bilateral relations is immense. But our relations with nearly all of them are predominantly discordant, which should mortify us as a nation aspiring to be a global power. How has this come about? It is the culmination of decades of insensitivity towards the cultural uniqueness and predilections of the nations that abut India. In our references to Bangladesh, there is often an arrogance rising from the fact that India was the midwife of its caesarian birth and expects eternal gratitude in return.

Closer economic ties and people-to-people relations would be more beneficial in strengthening the cultural ties that already prevail. Remarks from among the political class which alluded to the supposed one crore undocumented Muslim immigrants in West Bengal who are "thriving" on the government's Rs 2 per kg subsidised rice and are involved in arson should have been censured for their lack of sensitivity by the larger political establishment. Statements like "half of Bangladesh will be empty (vacant) if India offers citizenship to them (Bangladeshis)" reek of an arrogance that is distasteful in its implications. In the face of these repugnant announcements by politicians, it becomes difficult for the leaders of our neighbouring nations to consider warmer relations.

At the height of India's spat with Nepal in late May, Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar

# INDIA: THE NEED TO REDEFINE SOUTH ASIA TIES



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

India looms as the largest nation in South Asia and in many ways the subcontinent is defined by her. It is natural that our neighbours feel insecure about their "independence and identity". Setting aside the obsession with the huge amounts that China is investing in our neighbourhood, let's begin by simply respecting the complexities of our South Asian neighbours. It may be prudent to revisit the aspects of the Gujral doctrine, which emphasise the need for good faith and trust as the basis of India's relations with its South Asian neighbours.

Gyawali's view was that Nepal had been pursuing the Foreign Secretary-level mechanism that was mandated by the prime ministers of the two countries to work on outstanding boundary issues. But that "did not happen, as there was no confirmation from the Indian side." Indian Army chief M.N. Naravane's remarks on Kathmandu acting on the "behest of someone" over the Lipulekh issue were needlessly unrestrained.

#### INTERNATIONAL BORDERS

There are indications that Bhutan might be tempted to partner with China over the settling of border disputes. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 and the subsequent sealing of the international borders, the simple matter of accepting Bhutanese currencies in India has become a nuisance for traders in eastern Bhutan who deal in both Indian and Bhutanese currencies. If these minor irritants are left unresolved, it begins to hurt India's soft power diplomacy.

India may have lacked comprehension of Sri Lanka's unease with groupings like the "Quad" and concepts like the "Indo-Pacific" association which could imply taking sides against China. Amidst the current Coronavirus pandemic, Sri Lanka has made three requests to India for a postponement of its debt repayment, a debt moratorium and for a currency swap facility. India holds only about 2% of Sri Lanka's total foreign debt of approximately US\$ 55 billion, yet no decision has been taken more than four months after the request was made personally by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It shouldn't then be a surprise if Sri Lanka seeks reprieve from China.

India sets much store by BIM-STEAC (the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), in juxtaposition to the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) regional grouping, but this has not delivered much

success either. Its summits have been woefully infrequent and its permanent secretariat in Dhaka is chronically understaffed and underfunded. Apart from Thailand as the other most influential member, India has a special responsibility in terms of financing, leadership, and connectivity towards this regional grouping, especially because it is often touted as a rebound from SAARC. Without tangible benefits for the other nations, it becomes just another forum for anti-terrorism rhetoric, with no real worth.

News of India extending financial support for infrastructural projects in the Maldives was tail-pieced with views that it was done to preempt any Chinese move to woo the country.

For a very long time, India's rivalry with Pakistan and the resultant hyphenated identity marked the impression the country made internationally. With poised diplomatic engagement, the slant of an antagonistic hyphenated India-Pakistan relationship was dissolved at the start of this millennium, only to be supplanted now with a hostile India-China relationship.

#### SOUTH ASIAN NATIONS

This India-China conflict reverberates in the rest of South Asia, changing existing equations. But while India may not be able to match China's deep pockets, this can be outclassed by creating trust and engaging in non-prescriptive development assistance. And despite China's spending capacity, India is uniquely placed to appreciate the disparities and paradoxes of the region because it shares borders with all the other South Asian nations.

Some foreign policy analysts have argued that India cannot 'help its size or strength' and 'we are damned if we do and damned if we don't.' But setting aside policy decisions, the need of the hour is finer receptivity towards the dispositions of our neighbouring nations. Propagandistic content on social media platforms whose purpose is to create a mob mentality on foreign policy issues needs to be handled with care. Recently, Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar agreed that the "sharp positioning" of the Nepalese leadership may have been "magnified by the media". As long as serious bilateral issues are kicked around and 'forwarded' lightly on social media apps, a subliminal appreciation of the neighbourhood's cultural and strategic links will fail to develop.

India looms as the largest nation in South Asia and in many ways the subcontinent is defined by her. It is natural that our neighbours feel insecure about their "independence and identity". Setting aside the obsession with the huge amounts that China is investing in our neighbourhood, let's begin by simply respecting the complexities of our South Asian neighbours. It may be prudent to revisit the aspects of the Gujral doctrine, which emphasise the need for good faith and trust as the basis of India's relations with its South Asian neighbours.

To be a true leader in the region, it's time for India to stop the berating and the belittling.

In the pursuit of better regional relations, the foremost aspect would be to inculcate respect for our South Asian neighbours in our political establishment, which filters into the collective psyche of the nation.

(Vaishali Basu Sharma has worked as a consultant with the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) for several years. She is presently associated with the think tank Policy Perspectives Foundation).  
- The Wire



## ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

The European Union does not recognize the re-election of President Alexander Lukashenko in Belarus, and will impose sanctions on those involved in election fraud or the repression of protests by the citizens.

This was said by German Chancellor Angela Merkel at an emergency summit on Wednesday, and the European Council President Charles Michel said the bloc would impose the required sanction to protect democracy.

President Alexander Lukashenko, who has run Belarus for 26 years, is facing massive protests after winning 80% of the vote in elections that some sectors of the population believe were rigged.

After the emergency video summit with EU leaders, Angela Merkel said "There is no doubt that there were massive rule violations in the election." ... "The election was neither free nor fair. And that's why the result of the election cannot be recognised."

"We stand with the peaceful demonstrators," she added. Germany currently holds the six-month rotating EU presidency.

European Council chief Michel said EU sanctions would soon be imposed on the country. "The EU will impose shortly sanctions on a substantial number of individuals responsible for violence, repression and election fraud."

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that EU funds slated for Belarus would be rerouted to civil society instead of the government. Approximately €53 million in European Commission funds earmarked for Belarus will be funnelled towards civil society, victims of the state crackdown on protesters, and the country's fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

The Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Slovak presidents – whose countries comprise the EU's four-member, Eastern European Visegrad Group – said in a joint statement that the Belarusian authorities should "open the way for the political solution". They also called on "any foreign actors to refrain from actions that would undermine Belarus's independence and sovereignty" – a reference to Russia, which has promised assistance to Lukashenko.

In response to the forthcoming EU measures, President Lukashenko ordered his government to relay "the official point of view" on the post-election protests to the leaders of France, Germany, Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine and to "warn them – no need to be shy – about the responsibility for fomenting unrest."

Russia echoed his sentiment, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov alleging "attempts of direct interference" in Belarus' internal affairs.

Western officials are trying to head off an escalation along the lines of the crisis in Ukraine six years ago, when a violent crackdown by pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich led to his downfall in a popular uprising followed by a Russian military intervention that gave rise to Europe's deadliest ongoing conflict.

"Violence has to stop and a peaceful and inclusive dialogue has to be launched. The leadership of #Belarus must reflect the will of the people," Michel, the EU summit chairman, wrote in a tweet announcing the start of the video summit, adding that he had spoken to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron also spoke to Putin ahead of the EU summit in light of Russia's close economic and military ties to Belarus.

Merkel told Putin that authorities in Minsk must "enter into a national dialogue with the opposition and society to overcome the crisis" while Macron urged the Russian leader to foster "calm and dialogue".

In Kremlin readouts of the two calls, Putin emphasised that interfering in Belarus and putting pressure on its authorities would be "unacceptable".

EU leaders' diplomatic efforts come as Lukashenko ordered his police on Wednesday to put down protests in the capital Minsk, signalling an escalation after a week and a half of mass demonstrations against his rule. "There should no longer be any disorder in Minsk of any kind," Lukashenko said. "People are tired. People demand peace and quiet." He ordered the border to be tightened to prevent an influx of "fighters and arms". Workers at state media who have quit in protest against the government's policies would not be rehired, he said.

Meanwhile, the Belarusian central election committee has said that Lukashenko would be inaugurated for a new term within the next two months, according to Russia's TASS news agency.

## MALI COUP

Army colonel Assimi Goita on Wednesday introduced himself as Mali's new military strongman a day after a coup that was condemned by the international community but won support from the country's opposition.

The African Union, European Union, the United States and the UN Security Council have all demanded the junta free President Ibrahim Boubacar, Prime Minister Boubou Cisse and others taken captive in Tuesday's coup that followed months of protests.

In the Malian capital Bamako, Goita said after meeting top civil servants that he was the leader of the "National Committee for the Salvation of the People" that had seized power.

"Mali is in a situation of socio-political crisis. There is no more room for mistakes," Goita, surrounded by armed military men, told journalists. Goita, who is in his forties, had until now headed Mali's special forces based in the centre of the west African country, torn for the last five years by jihadist and sectarian violence.

Fellow coup chiefs meanwhile called on the public to return to normal life, warned against acts of "vandalism" and threatened to punish any soldier found guilty of extortion.

The opposition coalition M5-RFP said in a statement that "it took note of the commitment" the junta has made to "open a civilian political transition" and would work with it on "developing a roadmap." The coalition's Choguel Maiga told journalists "we will organ-

# EU WARNS OF SANCTIONS ON BELARUS



Two boys walk past the damaged building of Mali's Justice and Human Rights Ministry in the Coura district in Bamako. Protesters looted and set on fire to several buildings following the coup in Mali.



Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden.



Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko gestures to supporters.

**The dramatic events in one of Africa's most volatile countries began early Tuesday, when rebel officers mutinied at a base near Bamako and headed into the city, where they detained President Keita and PM Cisse. Hours later, Keita—beset by angry protests over economic stagnation, corruption and a brutal Islamist insurgency—announced his resignation. He said he had been given no other choice but to quit, and sought to avoid bloodshed.**

ise the biggest patriotic rally on Friday" in Bamako and nationwide in order to "celebrate the Malian people's victory".

The dramatic events in one of Africa's most volatile countries began early Tuesday, when rebel officers mutinied at a base near Bamako and headed into the city, where they detained President Keita and PM Cisse. Hours later, Keita—beset by angry protests over economic stagnation, corruption and a brutal Islamist insurgency—announced his resignation. He said he had been given no other choice but to quit, and sought to avoid bloodshed.

Jubilant crowds had cheered the rebels on Tuesday as they arrived in the capital Bamako. Troops had not been deployed en masse despite the coup leaders announcing a night-time curfew.

The 55-nation African Union (AU) blasted the "unconstitutional change of government" in Mali. The bloc announced that it was suspending Mali—a rare move that bars a member from attending all summits and meetings—"until restoration of constitutional order". It also called for the release of Keita and other officials, a demand also made forcefully by Brussels and Washington.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States "strongly condemns the August 18 mutiny in Mali as we would condemn any forcible seizure of power...The freedom and safety of detained government officials and their families must be ensured," he said.

The 15-nation West African bloc ECOWAS, which had tried in vain to mediate in the long-running political crisis, also said it would suspend Mali from its internal decision-making bodies. It pledged to close land and air borders to Mali and push for sanctions against "all the putschists and their partners and collaborators".

The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the arrest of Mali President and

PM and members of the government, calling for their immediate release. He called for immediate restoration of constitutional order and rule of law in Mali. The UN Security Council is to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the situation in Mali, following a request by France and Niger; which meeting will take place behind closed doors.

The coup leaders had appeared on television overnight to pledge a political transition and new elections within a "reasonable time". In a brief media appearance, junta spokesman and Air Force deputy chief of staff Ismael Wague called on Malians to "resume their activities in a healthy manner." Civil servants were "invited" to return to work on Thursday, and said no people had died during the coup, despite unconfirmed reports of several deaths.

With Mali the cornerstone of French-led efforts to roll back jihadists in the Sahel, President Emmanuel Macron reiterated Wednesday his call to return to civilian rule.

"The fight against terrorist groups and the defence of democracy and the rule of law are inseparable," he tweeted. Macron added that for French forces "to leave is to provoke instability and to weaken our fight. It is not acceptable."

Russia has said it is concerned about the situation in Mali.

The junta spokesman said "all past agreements" would be respected, including Mali's support for anti-jihadist missions such as the UN force in Mali (MINUSMA), France's Barkhane force, the G5 Sahel, and European special-forces initiative Takuba.

Swathes of Mali's territory are outside of the control of central authorities and years of fighting have failed to halt an Islamist insurgency that has claimed thousands of lives since emerging in 2012. The failure to roll back the jihadists was a major factor in fuelling frustrations with Keita's rule, say analysts. Tensions

flared in April after the government held long-delayed parliamentary elections, the results of which are still disputed.

## JOE BIDEN AND KAMALA HARRIS

Former US Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris have accepted the Democratic nomination for the US presidential election as President and Vice President.

Kamala Harris called on the country to elect Joe Biden president, accusing Donald Trump of failed leadership that had cost lives and livelihoods.

The first Black woman and Asian-American on a major US presidential ticket, Harris summarized her life story as emblematic of the American dream on the third day of the Democratic National Convention.

Former US President Barack Obama told the convention Trump's failures as his successor had led to 170,000 people dead from the coronavirus, millions of lost jobs and America's reputation badly diminished in the world.

The evening featured a crush of women headlines, moderators and speakers, with Harris pressing the case against Trump, speaking directly to millions of women, young Americans and voters of colour, constituencies Democrats need if Biden is to defeat the Republican Trump. "The constant chaos leaves us adrift, the incompetence makes us feel afraid, the callousness makes us feel alone. It's a lot. And here's the thing: we can do better and deserve so much more," Kamala Harris said. "Right now, we have a president who turns our tragedies into political weapons. Joe will be a president who turns our challenges into purpose," she said.

Two Democratic former presidents, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, and former Secretary of State Colin Powell, a Republican, had earlier endorsed Biden. Clinton said President Donald Trump had brought "chaos" to the Oval Office.

Trump trails Biden in opinion polls ahead of November's election.

The convention was largely virtual, amid the coronavirus pandemic. It is unclear whether a format of pre-recorded speeches and no live audience will generate the same levels of enthusiasm as the traditional party gatherings. Next week's Republican convention will also be mostly online.

Biden, the former vice-president under President Barack Obama, became his party's nominee on Tuesday night in a pre-recorded roll call vote from delegates in all 50 states.

This is Biden's third White House bid, having formerly run in 1988 and 2008. The 77-year-old's campaign appeared to be in danger of collapse back in February this year. He has picked up in recent months, after the failures of President Donald Trump on the coronavirus pandemic, and has also chosen Black American Kamala Harris, with Indian and Jamaican parents to be his running mate for Vice President.

## ME - PALESTINIAN PROTESTS

Palestinians continue to protest against the US-brokered agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to normalise ties between the two states.

Protesters on Wednesday in the besieged Gaza Strip rallied against the deal burning Israeli and US flags, trampled posters of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Trump, and chanted "normalisation is betrayal to Jerusalem and Palestine".

The protest was organised by the Hamas movement, which rules the Gaza Strip, and other Palestinian factions. The demonstrators voiced support for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, for his rejection of President Trump's Middle East plan, which the Palestinians say unfairly favours Israel.

Hamas officials denounced the deal stating: "Normalisation with the occupation harms us and doesn't serve us. It serves and promotes the occupation in its projects that target Palestine and the region".

The Palestinian protests come as Israeli fighter jets bombed the Gaza enclave for the eighth consecutive night. Israel has warned Hamas it was risking "war" by failing to stop incendiary balloons being launched across the fence with Israel.

Last week Israel banned fuel imports into Gaza as part of punitive measures over the launch of incendiary balloons from the Gaza Strip. Israel also banned fishing off Gaza's coast and closed the Karam Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) goods crossing - cutting off deliveries of fuel to the territory's sole power plant which was forced to shut down on Tuesday.

Gaza, home to more than two million people, has been under a crippling Israeli and Egyptian imposed blockade for 12 years that has severely restricted the movement of Palestinians.

Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) reached a deal leading to a normalization of diplomatic relations between the two Middle Eastern nations. The deal came after a phone call between US President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Sheik Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi. The White House has said the agreement will see Israel suspend its plans to annex Palestinian areas of the Israeli occupied West Bank.

The agreement has been accepted by most Western countries such as Spain, France, the European Union, and the UK. French President Macron welcomed the "courageous decision" by the UAE to normalise ties with Israel. "I salute the courageous decision of the United Arab Emirates and hope that it will contribute to the establishment of a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians", he said on Twitter.

Spain said it hopes "this agreement will contribute to regional peace and to the resumption of negotiations between Israel and Palestine, with a view to the establishment of two States living in peace and security, based on international parameters to achieve a fair, lasting and mutually acceptable solution for the parties".

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has thanked Egypt, Oman and Bahrain for this support to normalise ties with the UAE.

The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement condemned the deal as a betrayal of Islam and Arabs, saying it was done as a favour to US President Donald Trump. Hasan Nasrallah said that Trump announced the deal because he needed 'an achievement' ahead of US elections in November.

## US - CHINA

President Donald Trump wants to offer tax credits to entice US firms to move factories out of China.

He has also threatened to strip government contracts from firms that continue to outsource work to China. Trump vowed to create 10 million jobs in 10 months saying "we will end our reliance on China." This marks his latest attack on China, after moves that have involved tech companies TikTok, We Chat and Huawei.

The announcement came as tensions between Washington and Beijing have been escalating rapidly in recent months. The Trump administration is now casting its net beyond the Chinese technology companies it has accused of threatening US national security.

"We will create tax credits for companies that bring jobs from China back to America," Trump said. "We built the greatest economy in the history of the world and now I have to do it again."

Chinese communications giant Huawei has repeatedly come under attack by the US government and on Monday further restrictions were placed on the company to limit the electrical components it can buy.

The Trump administration has also threatened to include more Chinese technology firms on its blacklist of companies which face bans in the US, alongside TikTok and WeChat. As November's US Presidential Election approaches, Trump has upped the ante in targeting China, accusing its companies of stealing American jobs and intellectual property.

Many well-known US products are made overseas for American consumers, a business strategy known as outsourcing. America's most valuable public company, Apple, uses a Taiwanese firm called Foxconn to make the majority of its best-selling iPhones. Foxconn has factories in both China and Taiwan. Other iconic American brands, including Nike, also have large manufacturing plants in China as well as other parts of Asia.



# WIM, IFC launch 10th Professional and Career Women Awards 2020

Marking the 10th year of honoring inspiring Sri Lankan women, Women in Management (WIM), in collaboration with Women in Work, a partnership between IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and the government of Australia, launched the 'Top 50' Professional and Career Women Awards 2020 recently.

The move marks IFC's sixth consecutive year in co-hosting the awards which recognizes and celebrates Sri Lankan women who have excelled in their careers, businesses, and everyday life, inspiring others.

With over 420 past award winners, representing a wide array of professions such as banking and finance, hospitality, media, legal, logistics and supply chains, the 'Top 50' Professional and Career Women Awards, "demonstrates the significant role women play in bringing about transformational



Members in the head table

change as employees, entrepreneurs, and business leaders.

"The decade of recognizing women leadership in Sri Lanka by WIM has opened many closed doors for women as well as corporates to find best talents and it has delivered profitable results to the country economy," said Dr. Sulochana Segerera Founder/Chairperson of WIM.

For IFC, gender

equality is not only a social and moral imperative, but also makes business sense. Globally, companies are increasingly recognizing that they can gain greater competitive advantage and improve profits by targeting women as employees, entrepreneurs, consumers and business leaders.

"We believe recognizing women who have demonstrated success in their chosen career creates a legacy

that inspires others," said Sarah Twigg, Program Manager for Women in Work, IFC. "These awards challenge traditional views of women's roles as business leaders, and help prompt companies to take action to create more gender equal workplaces."

In IFC's 50-years of operations in Sri Lanka, WIM has been a longstanding partner. Together, IFC and WIM continue to provide

skills-building and training opportunities for women in senior management, middle-management and those entrepreneurs who lead, or work in, micro and small businesses in Sri Lanka. These initiatives, including the 'Top 50' Professional and Career Women Awards 2020, are instigated under the IFC-DFAT Women in Work program.

"Supporting women to participate the economy and build a sustainable future for their country is very important, particularly in the time of COVID-19. In Sri Lanka, this participation is celebrated through the Professional and Career Women Awards, and we are proud to partner with WIM in highlighting the achievements of Sri Lankan women," said David Holly, Australian High Commissioner for Sri Lanka. "It is exciting, alongside many high profiled judges, to be part of the Awards judging panel."

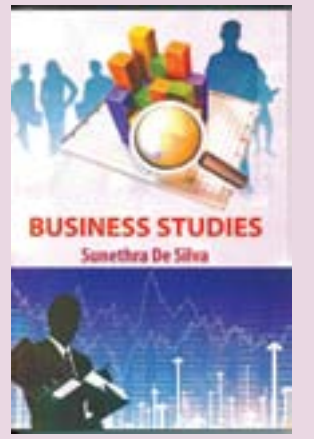
## 'Business Studies' book re launched

'Business Studies' a book useful for not only students but for all businesses and Business Management students and written by Sunethra De Silva has undergone a new reprint to cope with the demand.

The book covers all aspects of Business where owners of Business should take into consideration every aspect whether the objective is, to increase Sales Revenue, increase Brand Image or to increase the Productivity. The importance of Entrepreneurs in a society is also spelled out in the book.

This book is concise and complete and covers all topics of the A/L syllabus. This book can be used as a quick reference when students are revising.

This book available at a very nominal price and could be purchased from S. Godage and Brothers (Pvt) Ltd. The author may be contacted via email: sunethrasepali50@yahoo.com.au



## DirectFN Refurbishes the Colombo East Base Hospital Waiting Area

The waiting area of the Colombo East Base Hospital, Mulleriyawa was renovated and expanded recently. It was opened by Hospital Directors, DirectFN team and the officers of Sri Lanka Army.

The project was initiated by DirectFN, a leading ICT company in the country to coincide with its 20th anniversary celebrations and contributed to this timely project through the donation of materials to carry out the renovations which was much need with the emergence of COVID 19.

"The hospital had to carry out its operations even with the present situation of COVID 19 adhering to the health guide lines issued by the Health Ministry. As almost all the clinics of the are carried out in this area, it was pressurizing to treat the patients with the congestion," Colombo East Base Hospital Director, Dr. Priyath Karunaratne said.

"At this time of need DirectFN and Army stepped up to our assistance and completed this project in a short span of time. Hospital's Deputy Director Dr. Muditha Perera and Dr. Kasun Withana coordinated this project," he added.

Dr. Kasun Withana pointed out that the renovated area will be used not only as a waiting area but also to carry out promotional health education. "Responsiveness



DirectFN Director/ Chief Technical Officer Ruwan Aluthgedara, Director - Colombo East Base Hospital, Mulleriyawa Dr. Priyath Karunaratne, Deputy Director - Colombo East Base Hospital, Mulleriyawa, Dr. Muditha Perera and Dr. Kasun Withana at the opening ceremony.

in healthcare is a very important task, where little things make a big difference. With DirectFN's sincere assistance and unprecedented support of the Sri Lanka Army made this project successful. All the hospital staff was also involved in this project and 600 square feet area was transformed into a spacious place," Dr. Withana explained.

Speaking at the opening, DirectFN, Director/Chief Technical Officer, Ruwan Aluthgedara said that this project is a small stepping stone and many more projects will be carried out in the future. "We have done so many CSR projects in Panadura, Kalubowila and Colombo Hospitals. DirectFN has many plans for the hospital in the future such as making this place a carbon zero hospital and generat-



ing its own electricity," Aluthgedara said.

DirectFN is an ICT company with a track record of 20 years that caters to the Financial Service Industry, specializing in brokerage

solutions and housing over 200 developers with operation in 38 markets since 2000, dispersing from Europe, North Africa, Middle East, South Asia expanding to Far East.

## Land Rover Defender unveiled



(From L to R): Access Motors' Director Ayesh Fernando, Chief Executive Officer Ravi Perera, Managing Director Theo Fernando and General Manager Sales Sanjaya Jayasinghe with the New Land Rover Defender

Across seven decades of pioneering innovation, Land Rovers have earned a unique place in the hearts of explorers, humanitarian agencies and adventurers. Proven in the harshest environments on earth, the New Defender maintains this bloodline. Driven by a passion and respect for the original, it delivers transformational breadth of capability.

Advanced all-terrain technologies redefine adventure for the 21st century, remaining true to the pioneering spirit that has been a Land Rover hallmark for 71 years.

The New Defender will be available in 90 and 110 body

designs, with up to six seats in the 90 and the option of five, six or 5+2 seating in the 110. The model range comprises Defender, First Edition and top of the range Defender X models, as well as standard, S, SE, HSE specification packs.

Robin Colgan - Jaguar Land Rover Asia Pacific Managing Director, stated, "There is a strong emotional attachment to Defender. It was the only vehicle that could cope with this region's difficult conditions, which made it a unique proposition. We think of the Defender as part of our legacy, but it is also one owned by communities around the world. People

in this region consider this vehicle very much part of their own history."

Sharing his thoughts, Theo Fernando - Managing Director of Access Motors stated, "This is an extraordinary occasion in the history of both Access Motors and Land Rover. The New Defender is indeed an icon that has been built upon the tough foundations of the original Defender and reimagined to suit the needs of today's Land Rover enthusiast."

Access Motors, a member of the Access Group and the Sole Agent for Jaguar Land Rover in Sri Lanka.

## Retail innovation revolutionizing the trade

CLAUDE GUNASEKERA

The modern trade in Sri Lanka is rapidly growing, emerging a large number of supermarkets in every nick and corner of the country, revolutionizing the retail sector. At the inception, majority of consumers patronizing the modern trade were upper and upper middle class income earning segment. But it's now accepted, that irrespective of the social class, people of all walks of life patronize supermarkets. There is a strong loyal customer base for each and every supermarket and shoppers result in increased basket values.

The traditional brick and mortar groceries were the major source of fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) retailing for decades in the country while the modern trade is steadily capturing the share. Sri Lanka's supermarket penetration at present is around 17% compared to 31% for regional peers with similar social and economic characteristics, which indicates the potential for the industry to grow based on Fitch Rating. There are about 2500 supermarkets (small, medium and large) spread all over the country at least with two or more checkout counters and about 200,000 retail and wholesale trading establishments.

Despite the big names, Lanka Sathosa, CBL's SPAR, Softlogic GLOMARK, Cargills Food City, Keells Super, Super K, Arpico Super Centre, and LAUGFS Supermarkets there are several other large chains of small & medium scale supermarkets operated in the regional markets and they have positioned themselves as market leaders in their respective areas. To name a few, they are; COOP Super, Sampath Food City, Singhe Super, Salinda Super, Nihal Super, Hewage Super, Alankulama Supermarket, Food Corner etc. Apart from them there are also well-known stand-alone supermarkets such as Premasiri Supermarket, Branas Super, Sirilak Supermarket, Royal Mall, Ranjan Lanka Supermarket, Samudra Supermarket, Surapathi

Wholesale Supermarket, Seetha Supermarket, Best Life Supermarket, Anni Naga Food City and many more that contributes in revolutionizing the retail innovation. A state owned brand, 2 global brands, 5 national brands and over 10 leading regional brands along with a number of stand-alone brands are positioning themselves in capturing this massive modern trade or supermarket business at present.

"Private supermarket chains are rapidly growing in the country and are driven to rural areas. Supermarket industry is at the growing stage of its industry life cycle. Modern Trade is set out where 'convenience' as the key benefit. One of the best features that shoppers enjoy in super marketing is the 'everything at one place' concept. Stores with essential goods, house hold groceries, fresh commodities; containing meat, fish, poultry, dairy, vegetables, fruits, rice, grains, bakery food, frozen, canned and packaged goods, pharmaceuticals, day to day beauty & personal care products, household needs, stationery, housewares, builders' hardware items and other sundries with liquor & tobacco as optional are considered to be available in real supermarkets," said Amarasiri Wickramage, Director Retail Strategy of Fuchsia Retail S.A (Private) Ltd, a Singaporean Company engaged in retail by design.

"This format is extremely convenient to the busy working people who have less time to go place by place for marketing or shopping. Another fact is the payment options either by cash or cards, which is not a common facility in normal grocery stores. Online ordering and other shopping apps are major improvements, since customers can purchase without physically shopping. However, although there is a tremendous rise in name sake supermarkets across the country, the identical supermarket format is lacking in majority of so called supermarkets."

He said, even the leading national

supermarket chains does not comply by this criterion for most of their outlets. Wickramage described the main task of Fuchsia Retail as a consulting venture providing retail design, technology and solutions enabling retailers to unlock the live, sensorial and experiential quality of a physical retail store.

Wickramage also explained that "Modern trade format is more appealing, hygienic and in a comfortable atmosphere than the traditional 'Sillara Kade' - the retail shop. Initially consumers were apprehensive with trying out new shopping environments and straying from their trusted retail shops. Consumers also had preconceived notions about pricing; often consumers linked air conditioned store formats with higher product prices. As transitional economies evolve and as modern trade was capturing the market, they initiated various kinds of promotional gimmicks to attract the attention of consumers' and provide them with new, exciting and enriching shopping experiences. However, once households began shopping in clean and welcoming shopping environments and were still able to avail of promotional offers, they began to become comfortable with frequenting modern trade for their shopping needs."

"This has taken place due to the changes of lifestyles of the retail customers and due to the new social circle of the wealthy people in the outstation areas. The newly acquainted lifestyles of the people require them to seek such services. Now the local consumers are being influenced by the western lifestyles and they demand a greater convenience and a comfortable shopping experience. Such modern consumers are expecting a wide range of products and demand for quality and affordability with value-for-money offers. Due to the consequent entry of females to workforce they save time on shopping and substitute processed food instead of self-cooked foods to reduce cooking time. The modern retail formats fulfill all these requirements while taking

great efforts to satisfy or delight their customers' needs and wants" said Glenfrey De Mel, Director/Senior Vice President of STRAMMCO Corporation, a strategy advisor.

"The modern trade super-marketing has come to stay together with excellent state-of-the-art norms compared to traditional retailing. In order to keep in line with modern trade practices, the age old grocery store is also now being upgraded while do practice in similar fashion to the supermarkets, to stay in line with the competition. Those who are not shifting towards this trend are at a natural death while a significant number of such retail shops have been collapsed by now.

Although the traditional grocers are facing a serious rivalry with the modern trade, consumers have not fully ignored them. The neighborhood retail store is yet the only place for day to day and emergency purchase. Such retailers are surviving without any obstacle amidst the modern trade rivalry. However, the traditional traders both in retail and wholesale yet dominate the major share for consumer goods, while there is a significant transformation in to convenience shopping."

Consumers are searching for convenience more than ever as they say that convenience while shopping is more important today than it was before. They complain that checkout is the most important part of the in-store shopping which is less considered by majority of modern traders, with long checkout queues being a main pain point. Notably, they rank convenience as higher than brand values when it comes to their purchase decisions and they say that at least half of their purchases are influenced by convenience, while they are more likely to choose the retailer based on comfort of convenience. Convenience is particularly valued when shopping for groceries. Some elite and busy employees reported that they are willing to pay more even for convenience or for online purchasing, when shopping for groceries.



Ruchi Gunewardene of Brand Finance Lanka noted that there is enough space for new players to enter the industry; especially given the projected growth rate and to be at the right place at the right time and the importance of having a well-defined customer offering is critically important to build a successful retail business. He said "by defining their brand and what they provide, we are seeing a shift in going beyond advertising to offer a holistic customer experience. As the market gets more competitive and shoppers more sophisticated, focusing on the key brand drivers of price, convenience, product availability and service begins to play a crucial role". Brand Finance Lanka's Aliakber Alihussain added that "Sri Lanka's grocery retail is to grow in the coming years with possible plans for ambitious new entrants for modern trade, with potential multi billion rupee revenues up for grabs, while existing brands are racing towards redefining, positioning and fine tuning their operations to better serve the shopper.

"The convenience shopping trade is still in the development and expanding process and still to reach more contours in the country with a huge space of opportunity for about 83% portion of the retail trade. This is evident with the current modern retail's aggressive expansion plans and their strategies in attracting foot fall and increased basket values to achieve same-store sales growth while getting a substantial growth through new store openings, anticipating a growth of 20-25% in the next three years" said Aruna Mawilimada, Director - Customer Development at Unilever

Sri Lanka. He said "Over the past decade the retail landscape in Sri Lanka has changed with the evolving needs of shoppers. The ubiquitous traditional trade of yesteryear is slowly giving way to modern trade. This change will increase in the coming years and the need to change and adapt will become a must do for traditional retailers in order to avoid being made obsolete."

Mawilimada also said that Unilever is actively collaborating with local retailers in the general trade by sharing knowledge with the best practices of the world to face challenges caused by such changing market conditions and to transform their operations to stay in line with competition. "The ultimate beneficiary of this collaboration is the shopper who is given the experience akin to that of a modern trade store" he concluded.

The oldest and maiden supermarket style departmental store that was established in Ceylon was Cargill's and Millers, in 1844 by William Miller and David Sime during British colonial time. However, Cornel's was breaking new grounds in Sri Lanka as the first supermarket, located in Colpetty in 1980, set up by Cornel Perera in collaboration with Fitzpatrick's of Singapore. Cargill's established the first supermarket chain in Sri Lanka in 1983 with the opening of its first outlet "Cargill's Food City" at Staple Street, Colombo 2, but the expansion appeared from year 2000 onward. Thereafter, rest of the others began launching.



# Greenland ice sheet sheds 532 bn tonnes

**FRANCE:** Greenland's massive ice sheet saw a record net loss of 532 billion tonnes last year, raising red flags about accelerating sea level rise, according to findings released Thursday.

That is equivalent to an additional three million tonnes of water streaming into global oceans every day, or six Olympic pools every second.

Crumbling glaciers and torrents of meltwater slicing through Greenland's two-to-three-kilometre thick ice block were the single biggest source of global sea level rise in 2019, accounted for 40 percent of the total, or 1.5 millimetres, researchers reported in the journal Communications Earth & Environment.



Rivers of meltwater carve the Greenland ice sheet on August 4, 2020.

Last year's loss of mass was at least 15 percent above the previous record in 2012, but even more alarming are the long-term trends, they said.

If all of Greenland's ice sheet were to melt, it would lift global oceans by seven metres (23 feet). Even a more modest rise of a couple of metres would redraw

the world's coastlines and render land occupied today by hundreds of millions of people uninhabitable.

Until 2000, Greenland's ice sheet - covering an area three times the size of France - generally accumulated as much mass as it shed. In 2019, the ice sheet lost a total of 1.13 trillion tonnes, about 45 percent from glaciers sliding into the sea, and 55 percent from melted ice, said Sasgen. It gained about 600 billion tonnes through precipitation.

From 1992 to 2018, Greenland lost about four trillion tonnes of mass, causing the mean sea level to rise by 11 millimetres, according to a December 2019 study in Nature. - AFP

# Macron, Merkel offer EU mediation in Belarus

**FRANCE:** French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday offered EU-led mediation for Belarus, where police have cracked down on post-election protests against President Alexander Lukashenko.

"A dialogue between the authorities, the opposition and civil society is essential," Macron said as he hosted German Chancellor Angela Merkel for talks at his Mediterranean residential retreat.

"We hope that this dialogue can be established by the Belarusians themselves. But the European Union stands ready to accompany it, if our role of mediation can be useful and is desired by the Belarusians, with other institutions... and including Russia," Macron said. Merkel, for her part, said Lukashenko "has not sought to speak" to any EU leaders about the ongoing crisis.

Macron said Thursday that he, Merkel, and EU chief Charles Michel have had "several exchanges" with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the situation in Belarus. Meanwhile, France and Germany expressed



French President Emmanuel Macron (L) greets German Chancellor Angela Merkel as she arrives at Fort de Bregancon in Bormes-les-Mimosas, France on Thursday where a number of issues including the tense situation in Belarus were discussed. - AFP

concern Thursday for Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny, receiving treatment for suspected poisoning, and offered their assistance. "We are obviously ready to provide any assistance necessary," he added, while calling for "clarity" on what had happened to Navalny. - AFP

# Amazon indigenous protesters vow indefinite roadblock

**BRAZIL:** Armed with spears and bows, dozens of indigenous protesters in Brazil vowed Thursday to maintain a roadblock on a key highway until the authorities listen to their demands for help fighting COVID-19 and deforestation.

Members of the Kayapo Mekranoti ethnic group have been blocking highway BR-163 through the Amazon since Monday outside the northern town of Novo Progresso.

But they vowed that they would no longer lift their blockade periodically to let trucks through, as they had done for the past two days.

"We're going to stay right here until the government sends its representatives to talk with us," one protest leader, Mudjere Kayapo, told AFP.

The highway is the main artery to ship corn and soybeans, two of Brazil's main exports, from the country's central-western agricultural heartland.

A federal judge has ordered the protesters to stand down, citing the economic damage they are inflicting.

She rejected an appeal Wednesday, and has ordered the federal police to remove the protesters if they do not comply.

The Kayapo Mekranoti warned that would lead to violence.

"We do not want to fight. But we will not accept the army or police coming here and removing us by force. If that happens, there

will be blood spilled on the asphalt," they said in a letter to the government's indigenous affairs office, FUNAI.

Wearing feather headdresses and body paint, the protesters burned a letter from FUNAI rejecting some of their demands and calling for patience on others.

The Kayapo Mekranoti are demanding far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's government release funds they say they are owed for environmental damage the highway caused to their land.

They also want help fighting illegal mining, deforestation and the new coronavirus, which has hit especially hard among indigenous people in the region.

In Brazil, the country with the second-biggest COVID-19 death toll worldwide after the United States, 26,000 indigenous people have been infected and 690 have died in the pandemic, according to

the Brazilian Indigenous Peoples' Association (APIB).

"Our rights are being violated," the protesters said.

"Indigenous health is growing more fragile by the day... We are here to defend the Amazon and protect our territory. But the government wants to open indigenous lands to illegal projects, including mining, logging and ranching." - AFP



Members of the Kayapo indigenous group block highway BR163 during a protest in the outskirts of Novo Progresso in Para State, Brazil on Thursday. - AFP

DRAW NUMBER: 587

## OFFICIAL RESULTS

DATE 2020.08.20

English Letter  
**U**

Super Number  
**11**

Winning Numbers  
**02 22 33 50**

PRIZE STRUCTURE	PRIZE MONEY RS.	NO. OF WINNERS
GRAND SUPER PRIZE If the Super Number with all four numbers are correct	24,047,742.40	01
1st PRIZE If all 4 Numbers are correct	1,000,000.00	-
2nd PRIZE If only 3 Numbers with English Letter is correct	100,000.00	07
3rd PRIZE If all 3 Numbers are correct	1,000.00	156
4th PRIZE If only 2 Numbers with English Letter is correct	500.00	371
5th PRIZE Only 2 Numbers are correct	100.00	8,801
6th PRIZE If only 1 Number with English Letter is correct	40.00	5,706
7th PRIZE Only 1 Number are correct	20.00	143,748
8th PRIZE Only English Letter are correct	20.00	26,263

**BIGGEST PRIZE IN SRI LANKA**

**NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE**  
**Rs.229,773,553.95**

**NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE**  
**Rs.10,877,188.80**

**NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE**  
**Rs.10,000,000.00**

Total Prizes Won In This Draw  
**Rs.29,597,802.40**

**20.08.2020 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 745,900**

**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 53,812,432.40**

**RS. 24,047,742.40 GRAND SUPER PRIZE 01 | Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 | Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 | Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 25**

**Govisetha** OFFICIAL RESULTS

DRAW NUMBER: 2515 DRAW DATE: 20.08.2020

ENGLISH LETTER: **P** WINNING NUMBERS: **21 35 62 80**

COMBINATION	PRIZE	NO. OF WINNERS
1st Prize: IF ALL 4 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 1,000,000.00	01
2nd Prize: IF LETTER & ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 100,000.00	04
3rd Prize: IF ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 2,000.00	182
4th Prize: IF LETTER & ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 1,000.00	423
5th Prize: IF ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 100.00	10732
6th Prize: IF LETTER & ANY NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 40.00	7011
7th Prize: IF ANY NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	177144
8th Prize: IF ONLY THE LETTER IS CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	32398

**TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW 227,895**

**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW**  
**Rs. 7,731,480.00**

**SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW**  
**Rs. 60,933,175.20**

Winning tickets are valid for a period of six months from the date of the draw. Prizes of Rupees Five Lakh and above are liable to government taxes. To obtain prizes, Presenting National Identity card is a must.

DRAW NUMBER: 4220 OFFICIAL RESULTS

## MAHAJANA SAMPATHA

DATE: 20-08-2020

ENGLISH LETTER: **L** WINNING NUMBERS: **2 1 8 1 7 8**

Prize structure - from right to left

Prize	Combination	Prize	No. of winners
1st Prize	2 1 8 1 7 8	Rs. 2,000,000.00	01
2nd Prize	2 1 8 1 7 8	Rs. 100,000.00	11
3rd Prize	2 1 8 1 7 8	Rs. 10,000.00	109
4th Prize	2 1 8 1 7 8	Rs. 1,000.00	1,065
5th Prize	2 1 8 1 7 8	Rs. 100.00	10,715
6th Prize	2 1 8 1 7 8	Rs. 20.00	105,797

Prize structure - from left to right

Prize	Combination	Prize	No. of winners
7th Prize	2 1 8 1 7	Rs. 10,000.00	14
8th Prize	2 1 8 1	Rs. 1,000.00	107
9th Prize	2 1 8	Rs. 100.00	1,071
10th Prize	2 1	Rs. 50.00	10,555
11th Prize	2 1	Rs. 20.00	42,332

Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs.10,170,930.00

The Super Prize of next draw **Rs.23,467,060.00**

DRAW NUMBER: 2020/08/20 DATE: 015

ENGLISH LETTER: **F** WINNING NUMBER: **08 40 52 59**

Prize	Combination	Prize	No. of winners
1st Prize	If all 4 numbers are correct	Rs.1,000,000/-	Each
2nd Prize	If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct	Rs.50,000/-	Each
3rd Prize	If any 3 numbers are correct	Rs.1,000/-	Each
4th Prize	If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct	Rs.500/-	Each
5th Prize	If any 2 numbers are correct	Rs.100/-	Each
6th Prize	If English Letter and 1 number is correct	Rs.40/-	Each
7th Prize	If 1 numbers is correct	Rs.20/-	Each
8th Prize	If only Super number is correct	Rs.20/-	Each

**SPECIAL DRAW**

1st Prize	<b>2 2 9 7</b>	Rs.1,000.00	34
2nd Prize	<b>2 9 7</b>	Rs.500.00	276
3rd Prize	<b>9 7</b>	Rs.50.00	2,782

Total prize money won in this draw **Rs. 2,717,600/-**

**Super Prize for the next Draw**  
**Rs. 6,103,189/-**

**Vasana Sampatha** Official Results

Draw No. 1606 Date 2020.08.20

ONCE A HERO ALWAYS A HERO

ENGLISH LETTER: **W** WINNING NOS: **47 50 62 64**

Prize	Prize Structure	Prize Money	No. of winners
01 Prize	If only Four Numbers are correct	1,000,000/-	01
02 Prize	If Three Numbers and English Letter are correct	100,000/-	03
03 Prize	If only Three Numbers are correct	2,000/-	89
04 Prize	If Two Numbers and English Letter are correct	500/-	167
05 Prize	If only Two Numbers are correct	100/-	4,257
06 Prize	If one Number and English Letter are correct	60/-	2,482
07 Prize	If only One Numbers are correct	20/-	62,472
08 Prize	If only English Letter is correct	20/-	10,453

Total prize money won in this Draw **Rs. 3,594,620.00**

**Next Super Prize**  
**Rs. 23,038,038.40**



COVID-19 PANDEMIC:



# Could push 100 mn people back into extreme poverty

- Latin America death toll tops 250,000
- Virus spikes in Europe
- Russia to test Sputnik V vaccine on 40,000 people

**FRANCE:** Global health authorities said Thursday European countries should be able to ride out a surge in coronavirus cases without reimposing full lockdowns, as the World Bank warned the crisis could push 100 million people into extreme poverty.

Worrying spikes in cases reported Thursday in France, Italy, Spain and Germany showed the pandemic was rebounding across the continent – often due to travel, summer holidays and parties.

While Italy registered 845 new cases on Thursday, its highest daily tally since May, France reported 4,700 fresh infections – a massive increase on the previous day. Spain's daily increases topped even those of France, and Germany was concerned about its own resurgence.

Despite the rise in cases, a top World Health Organization official said additional lockdowns should not be necessary.

The coronavirus pandemic may have driven as many as 100 million people back into extreme poverty, World Bank President David Malpass warned Thursday in an interview with AFP.

The Washington-based development lender previously estimated that 60 million people would fall into extreme poverty, but the new estimate puts the deterioration at 70 to 100 million, and he said "that number could go higher" if the pandemic worsens or drags on, which is possible.

Meanwhile, the death toll from the virus in Latin America surged past 250,000.

Latin America and the Caribbean recorded nearly 6.5 million infections and 250,969 deaths on



Workers unload coffins from a truck outside a funeral home located in front of the General Hospital in Mexico City on Thursday amid the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. - AFP

Friday, according to an AFP tally based on official national figures. Globally, the virus has claimed at least 788,242 lives.

Brazil is the region's worst-affected country with 3.5 million cases and more than 112,000 deaths. The South American giant is second only to the United States as the world's worst-hit country.

Peru, where figures released Thursday showed a 30 percent fall in GDP in the second quarter, has registered more than 26,000 deaths. The crushing economic damage has sprung not just from

the virus itself but also from the lockdowns that largely halted business activity across the world.

The United States – where 174,000 people have died – continues to bear the brunt in health terms and is suffering grim economic fallout.

The figures added urgency to the desperate bid to find a vaccine for the virus, which has infected more than 22 million and killed hundreds of thousands since it first emerged in China nine months ago.

Meanwhile, Russia said on

Thursday it would start clinical trials of its Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine next week on more than 40,000 people.

President Vladimir Putin said earlier this month that Russia had become the first country to register a coronavirus vaccine.

Kirill Dmitriyev, the head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, told an online briefing that over 20 countries have made requests to purchase over a billion doses of the vaccine, adding that Russia had agreements with several countries to produce it. - AFP



US President Donald Trump stops for a pizza at Arcaro and Genelli in Old Forge, Pennsylvania on his way to a campaign rally on Thursday. - AFP

## Trump tells voters Biden 'is your worst nightmare'

**US:** US President Donald Trump told voters near his opponent Joe Biden's Pennsylvania birthplace on Thursday that the Democrat has sold out American workers and would be a "nightmare" if he got into power.

Biden is "your worst nightmare," Trump told the crowd in an extraordinarily dark speech in Old Forge, just down the road from Biden's old hometown of Scranton, in the heart of the key election battleground state.

"He spent the last half century in Washington selling out our country and ripping off our jobs and letting other countries steal our jobs," Trump said hours before Biden was to address the nation and accept the Democratic nomination for the White House.

Trump used his speech to snatch the limelight on Biden's big day, blasting the Democrat as someone who would raise taxes, open borders to "let in violent mobs" and abandon American workers.

Indicating the flavour of his reelection campaign in the next two and a half months, Trump claimed that recent

crime spikes in big cities and sometimes violent protests against police abuses would engulf the country under Biden.

"If you want a vision of your life under a Biden presidency, think of the smoldering ruins in Minneapolis, the blood-stained sidewalks of Chicago, and imagine the mayhem coming to your town," he said.

Trump referenced everything from his walling off of part of the Mexican border to military funding and what he claimed was greater international respect for the United States.

Often, his speech veered into less standard territory, describing the Democrats as something like out of dystopian novel.

They "turn your family against you for speaking your mind while they indoctrinate your children with twisted, twisted world views," he said at one point.

"They're coming to get you," he said.

"Me, we, we're the wall between the American dream and total insanity and destruction of the greatest country in the history of the world." - AFP

## Biden pledges to end 'darkness'

**US:** Joe Biden promised Thursday to end the "darkness" of Donald Trump's Presidency in a speech accepting the Democratic nomination with an impassioned call for unity and a return to optimism.

"The current President has cloaked America in darkness for much too long. Too much anger, too much fear, too much division," Biden said.

"If you entrust me with the presidency, I will draw on the best of us, not the worst. I will be an ally of the light, not the darkness," he said.

"It's time for us, for we the people, to come together."

Speaking in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, but with an audience almost entirely online or on television, Biden's acceptance speech reflected the enormity of the shutdown that has upended life across the United States in the battle against the deadly coronavirus.

And Biden, 77, urged Americans in blistering terms to punish Trump for the chaos that has seen more



Former Vice-President and Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden and wife Jill Biden greet supporters at the Chase Center in Wilmington, Delaware, at the conclusion of the Democratic National Convention on Thursday. - AFP

than 170,000 deaths and economic calamity.

"We lead the world in deaths," he said in the 22-minute speech, calling Trump's performance "unforgivable."

"On day one" of his own presidency, Biden said, he would implement a national COVID-19 plan and mandate mask wearing. Biden is on his third White House bid after failing to win the nomination in 1988 and 2008.

But after months of relentless mockery from Trump and other Republicans who claim Biden is senile, the veteran politician's speech was markedly fluent and always full of passion.

Democrats hope the strong performance, as well as the vice presidential nomination of Kamala Harris – the first black woman ever to make it onto the White House ticket of a major party – will deflate those attacks. - AFP

Democracy is the best way to live. It's the best way to win. It's the best way to build a better future for all of us. It's the best way to make our country great again. It's the best way to make our world a better place. It's the best way to make our lives count. It's the best way to make our dreams come true. It's the best way to make our future bright. It's the best way to make our world a better place. It's the best way to make our lives count. It's the best way to make our dreams come true. It's the best way to make our future bright.

## More evacuations from California fires

**US:** A series of massive fires in northern and central California forced more evacuations as they quickly spread Thursday, darkening the skies and dangerously affecting air quality.

The blazes, most of which were touched off by a rash of lightning strikes earlier in the week, are concentrated to the north, east and south of San Francisco and are being fed by a grueling heat wave afflicting the state along with low humidity.

Evacuation orders were expanded in several counties overnight as the flames devoured homes, forced the shutdown of roads and heavily damaged California's oldest state park.

Officials said some 60,000 people had been evacuated and 100,000 more were under evacuation warnings.

"In the past four days, there have been over 370 new wildfires and nearly two dozen of those major fires are still burning across California," said Daniel Berlant, Cal Fire's assis-

tant deputy director in an update Thursday afternoon.

Authorities said the fires had consumed nearly 350,000 acres (142,000 hectares) in the central and northern part of the state, including in the wine regions of Sonoma and Napa, which are still recovering from other deadly, devastating fires in recent years. Two people taking part in the firefighting efforts have died. One was a helicopter pilot who was killed in a crash in Fresno County, southeast of San Francisco, as he was attempting to drop water. Meanwhile, southeast of San Francisco, another grouping of fires dubbed the SCU Lightning Complex grew to nearly 137,500 acres by late Thursday afternoon and was just five percent contained.

In Santa Cruz County, closer to the coast, a series of fires called the CZU Lightning Complex caused extensive damage to California's oldest state park, Big Basin Redwoods State Park, known for its majestic redwoods that are up to 2,000 years old. - AFP



A highway is seen in Sonoma County, California as a series of massive fires in northern and central California forced more evacuations, darkening the skies and dangerously affecting air quality.

## Meghan Markle calls for 'change' in US election

**US:** Meghan Markle, the wife of Prince Harry, on Thursday broke from protocol normally followed by British royals in calling for a "change" in the upcoming US presidential election.

Her comments came during a virtual "voter registration couch party" organized by When We All Vote, an outreach group co-chaired by former First Lady Michelle Obama, actor Tom Hanks and others to increase participation at the polls.

"We all know what's at stake this year. I know it, I think all of you certainly know it," Markle said. "You're just as mobilized and energized to the change that we all need and deserve." "We vote to honor those who came before us and to protect those who will come after us – because that's what community is all about and that's specifically what this election is all about," she said.

The "Suits" actress did not mention President Donald Trump, who will face Demo-



Meghan Markle

crat Joe Biden at the polls on November 3.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex quit frontline British Royal duties this year and moved to California.

Markle and Harry have spoken of their desire to "do something of meaning, to do something that matters," in California, where they plan to launch a wide-ranging non-profit organization named Archewell.

Markle, whose mother is black, spoke out in June after the death of George Floyd, an unarmed African American killed by police, reflecting on her own memories of racism growing up in Los Angeles. - AFP

## Kamala Harris' always fights for justice, says uncle

**INDIA:** Kamala Harris's late mother instilled in her daughter a strong public service ethic and a drive to help the underprivileged that will make her the most active Vice President in US history, her uncle told AFP Thursday.

As she formally accepted the Democratic Party's nomination on Wednesday to run alongside Joe Biden, Harris spoke passionately about how her mother Shyamala Gopalan taught her the importance of fighting for justice.

Harris' uncle Balachandran Gopalan said Shyamala – a cancer researcher who left India for the United States to study –

instilled such values in the 55-year-old US Senator and her sister Maya from an early age.

"She told her daughters, 'It's not enough if you become a lawyer... your aim should be, yes, how am I helping society – not only society, minorities, the lesser privileged,'" the 79-year-old academic said at his home in New Delhi.

"That's why neither of my nieces who are good lawyers became private lawyers. They both went into public law."

Harris – the first black woman on a major party's White House ticket and a former California attorney general – would play a

key role in Biden's administration, her uncle predicted.

"She'll be a very, very active vice president – more active than any other vice president in US history," Gopalan said.

Shyamala was only 19 when she arrived in California in 1960 from the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu to pursue her studies.

Kamala was born in Oakland, California in 1964 to Shyamala and Donald Harris, an Economics Professor.

After Kamala's parents separated when she was about five years old, her mother raised her and her younger sister. - AFP



Senator from California and Democratic Vice Presidential nominee Kamala Harris and her husband Doug LaMalfa wave on stage at the end of the last day of the Democratic National Convention in Wilmington, Delaware on Thursday. - AFP



**NOTICE**

In terms of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, notice is hereby given of the following incorporation on 14th August 2020.

Name of Company : SANJ PAUL M. (PRIVATE) LIMITED  
 Number of Company : PV 00225905  
 Registered Address : No. 415, Prince of Wales Avenue, Grandpass, Colombo 14.

**JACEY AND COMPANY**  
 COMPANY SECRETARIES  
 No. 9/5, Thambiah Avenue  
 Colombo 7.

**VEHICLES FOR SALE**

VEHICLE NUMBER	TYPE	MAKE & MODEL	YOM
<b>Bokundara Yard : No. 225/A, J.D. Solaman Mw, Dulammahara, Piliyandala</b>			
WP CAS 5945	CAR	SUZUKI - WAGON R	2014
CP CAK 0790	CAR	SUZUKI - WAGON R	2014
WP CAL 5866	CAR	SUZUKI - WAGON R	2014
WP KQ 9791	CAR	TOYOTA - PRIUS	2008
SP PH 9493	VAN	TOYOTA - CBF-TRH200V	2015
SP PH 3965	VAN	TOYOTA - LH 222R LEMDE	2012
NW GY 2898	JEEP	MAHINDRA - PAJERO JEEP	1999
WP DAE 7917	MINI LORRY	TATA - XENON	2016
SP PR 9562	MINI LORRY	TATA - ACE	2011
SG LE 9705	LORRY	MAHINDRA - BOLERO	2007
WP LC 4775	LORRY	MAHINDRA - BOLERO	2001
WP YI 3486	THREE WHEEL	TVS - KING	2010
<b>Polonnaruwa Yard : United Bolts &amp; Accessories (Pvt) Ltd</b>			
EP PU-4346	MINI LORRY	MAHINDRA - MAXXIMO	2012

**TENDER WILL BE CLOSED ON 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020**  
 INSPECTION DURING WEEK DAYS FROM  
 22<sup>nd</sup> TO 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST  
 FROM 9.00 AM TO 4.30 PM

**UB Finance reserves right to remove any vehicle without prior notice whatsoever**

**For Details Contact :**  
**Anil - 0702 743 342 Chaminda - 0703 070 102**



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**Registrar General's Department**

**Invitation of Bids to get a building on rent or lease to establish Land Registry in Homagama within Homagama Judiciary area**

**Building Premises**

- Shall be approximately 15,000 square Feet
- Premises should be located in a surrounding suitable for an office close to Kottawa, Homagama, Pitipana.
- Shall have separate Three Phase Electricity and Water supply facilities

**Following additional facilities will be given priority**

- Shall have an Access road for vehicles without any disturbance.
- Adequate sanitary facilities for the staff and general public.
- The building should protect by a Lockable Gate to prevent from unauthorized access.
- Close proximity to Judiciary complex and Banks
- External security room with Separate toilet facilities or ability to construct of providing the same lateron
- Ability to construct easy access for disables

- If the building is a storied one ground floor and first floor preferable, If there is more floors availability of an electric elevator will be an added advantage. It shall also require having adequate sanitary facilities for each floor, availability of ample vehicle parking facilities. (Please mention the number of vehicles can be parked)

- Air conditioned building is an additional eligibility

Sealed Bids with all details including the interior plan of the building and title details of the property in duplicate (Two Photo Copy Sets) shall be sent on or before 14-09-2020 at 2.00 p.m. to be received by Registrar General's Department, No.234/A3, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla address under registered cover or by hand placed in the tender box kept at the supplies division of this Department before the said time. Top left hand corner of the cover of which the Bid documents enclosed shall be written as **"Rent or Lease out a building 2020 for establishing Homagama Land Registry**

- 2. Bid opening will be held at 2.00 p.m. on 14.09. 2020 and late received Bids will not be accepted.

**Registrar General**  
 Chairperson of the Procurement Committee

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Ministry of Highways



**Road Development Authority**

**Notice to the General Public**

**Closing of Road for vehicular traffic due to the repair work to be effected to the Bridge No. 14/6, on the Agrakelawara Road, Lindula**

The general public are hereby notified that the relevant road will be kept closed for vehicular traffic from **25.08.2020** up to **31.08.2020**, due to the repairs to be effected to the Bridge No. 14/6, on the Agrakelawara Road, Lindula.

Three wheelers, bicycles and people will be allowed to go through the worksite intermittently and can proceed up to the Bridge No. 14/6 from Lindula on the above road. If anyone needs to travel up to Diagama Town passing the bridge, one should proceed up to Manrasi Town via Hatton Dickoya and then travel up to Diagama.

**Director General**  
 Road Development Authority

Road Development Authority,  
 "Maganeema Mahamedura",  
 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha,  
 Koswatta,  
 Battaramulla.

**Pradeshiya Sabha - Biyagama**

**Registration of Suppliers and Contractors for the year 2021**

Applications are invited up to 3.00 p.m. on 21.09.2020 from manufacturers, suppliers and contractors who wish to register themselves with Biyagama Pradeshiya Sabha for the supply of following goods and services for the year 2021. The top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the applications should be marked as **"Registration of Suppliers and Contractors - 2021"**. The amount given below should be paid by cash or cheques as registration fees for each category of goods or service. Cheques should be drawn in favour of "Chairman, Pradeshiya Sabha, Biyagama". Self prepared applications for each item separately should be submitted along with copies of Business Registration Certificate.

**Goods and Services**

01. Electrical goods and equipment
02. Supply of Stationery
03. Printing work
04. Repairing and servicing of Typewriters, Roneo Copy Machines/Air-Conditioners
05. Supply of Office Equipment (Photocopiers/Roneo/Fax/Air Conditioners)
06. Supply of Office Furniture
07. Supplying, repairing and servicing of Computers and CCTV Cameras
08. Supply and repairing of Steel Filing Cabinets/Cupboards/Chairs and Safes
09. Rattaning of Chairs and polishing of Wooden Chairs
10. Supply of Notarial and Attorney-at-Law services
11. Preparation and supply of Rubber Seals
12. Tailoring and supplying of uniforms
13. Supply of Land Surveying and valuation services
14. Supply of Health Equipment (Hand Gloves/Masks/Garbage Carts/Brooms/Ekle Brooms/Rattan Baskets/Wheel Barrows/Toilet Brushes)
15. Vehicle repairs
16. Servicing of vehicles
17. Supply of Tyres & Tubes/Retreading of Tyres/supply of Batteries for vehicles
18. Supply of motor spare parts
19. Cushioning of vehicle seals
20. Supply of PVC Pipes and Fittings/supply of water pipe services
21. Supply of construction material (Metal/River Sand/Iron/Cement/Cement Blocks/Bricks/Timber/Gravel Earth/Quarry Earth/Quarry Dust (supplying to the locations named within the area of authority of Biyagama Pradeshiya Sabha).
22. Supply of Machine Equipments on rental basis (Dosers/JCB/Motor Graders/Road Compactors/Concrete Mixers/Water Bowers)
23. Concrete items (Hume Pipes/Fence Posts/Boundary Stones)
24. Supply of Labour - skilled/unskilled/semi-skilled (on daily pay/contract basis)
25. Supply of Transport Services (Motor Cars/Lorries/Tractors/Vans/Three Wheelers)
26. Supply of Town Cleaning Services
27. Supply of Loud Speakers
28. Construction and Renovation of Crematoriums
29. Supply of Rubber and jungle firewood
30. Supply of Name Boards, Notice Boards, Banners
31. Purchasing of empty barrels, old newspapers, damaged material/plastic, paper, polythene
32. Supply of services of tree cutters and wayside branch cutters
33. Supply of Memoriam Plaques
34. Chemicals (Detergents, Harpic, Pynol, Chlorine, Mosquito Oil)
35. Preparation of Identity Cards
36. Processing and Supply Compost Barrels (Concrete Sheets or Plastic)
37. Garbage Collecting Bags (Polysack)
38. Equipment required for road work (Mammoties, Crow Bars, Kathies, Manna/ Knives, Slayers, Rakes, Shovel, Wa Kathy)
39. Contractors for Construction
40. Rodent and Insects Control
41. Processing and supplying of Zink Sheet Huts, Canopy Huts and Canopy Cloth
42. Supply of Tar and Colas
43. Welding work
44. Supply of Drinking Water
45. Readymix (Concrete)
46. Supply of Polythene Sheets
47. Supply of Shuttering Planks
48. Blacksmith Work
49. Supply of Paint Varieties

A sum of Rs. 1000/= should be paid for each item from No. 01 to No. 49 above.

**G.A.A.C. Ganepola,**  
 Chairman,  
 Biyagama Pradeshiya Sabha,  
 Delgoda.  
 011-2403311

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NC BDV-37XX	CT 100	BIKE
NC BEQ-38XX	SCOOTY PEPT	BIKE
NP BCN-99XX	FZ16	BIKE
CP BDS - 74XX	XL SUPER HD	BIKE

Inspections can be done at company vehicle yard, on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020 from 9.00 am at Yapanaya junction, Anuradhapura. (In front of United Motors)  
 The management of the company has the right to withdraw any vehicle from the fair without prior notice.

071 2125664 / 071 9919986  
 025-5622661-2  
 Date of vehicle Fair: 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
 Time 10.00 am

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**Singhalese Sports Club**

**Invitation for BIDS**

**Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Provision of O&M Services of 215kWp Rooftop Solar Power Systems - Phase II for the Singhalese Sports Club, Colombo 07**

1. The Honorary Secretary for the Singhalese Sports Club invites bids from suitable suppliers to 'Supply/Install/Test/Commission and provide O&M Services of 215 kWp Grid Tied Solar Rooftop Systems for certain rooftops of the Sports Club.
2. Interested bidders may purchase Bidding documents during normal working days from **09.00 a.m. to 03.00 p.m.** from the office of the "Singhalese Sports Club, No. 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07 on payment of non-refundable cash payment of LKR 10,000/-. The deadline for inspection and issue of the bidding documents is **3.00 p.m. on 31 August 2020.**
3. The sealed bids marked '215kWp Rooftop Solar Power System - Phase II' on the top left-hand corner shall be sent to reach the Singhalese Sports Club, No. 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07 through hand delivery or by registered post on or before **3.00 p.m. on 10 September 2020.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time in the presence of the bidders or bidders' representatives who desires to attend. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of LKR 300,000.00 and valid for six months.

**Further details may be obtained by calling on telephone numbers 0117-247200 during the office hours or by attending the pre-bid meeting / site inspection scheduled for 01 September 2020 at the Club premises.**

Honorary Secretary  
**Singhalese Sports Club**  
 No. 35, Maitland Place,  
 Colombo 07

Tel: 0117-247200 | Fax: 0117-247207 | Email: singsc@sltnet.lk | Web: ssc.lk

**22 August 2020**







# FINLAND THROWING COACH TO TRAIN SRI LANKAN ATHLETES



Finland coach Petteri Piironen

## DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

The Athletic Association of Sri Lanka (AASL) is expected to obtain the services of a foreign throwing coach for the local athletes who are preparing for the Olympics. According to the AASL President Major General Palitha Fernando, Finland throwing coach Petteri Piironen, who trained Nadeeka Lakmali and Sachith Maduranga helping them to win Asian Championship Silver medals in 2013, is set to be the latest addition to Sri Lanka's international athletics coaching panel.

The athletic officials have observed throwing events

athletes (both men and women) are in good form and they have to get further training from a foreign coach to improve their standard. Both throwing champions Nadeeka Lakmali and Maduranga are highly satisfied with the training they received from Finland coach who has a good understanding about Sri Lankan athletes.

The AASL President further said Sports ministry has given the green light and he is willing to come down to the island, but this matter has been temporarily put on hold due to the recent Covid-19 situation, where Sri Lanka health authorities insist on a period of at least 14 days quarantine for anyone who comes into the country.

Sri Lanka presently has three international coaches. There are two Cuban coaches - Luis Miranda

(Jumping) and Sergio Manuel Rodriguez (Sprinting) and a Kenyan middle distance coach Dan Muchoki, who was the former national coach of Kenya who are training the Sri Lankan athletes.

Muchoki is presently based in Nuwara Eliya and does high altitude training for Sri Lankan middle distance runners, while the two Cuban coaches are based in Colombo. Sri Lankan athletes really performed well during the last South Asian Games as well as Junior Asian meets bringing honour and fame to Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa and senior Athletic officials had successful discussions with the AASL officials at the Sports Ministry recently on how to promote athletics in the country.

# FFSL to uplift women's football

## ALTHAF NAWAZ



Anura de Silva, FFSL President

The Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL) is to restructure women's football in Sri Lanka which was at a low ebb due to various reasons in a much more disciplined manner. The world governing body FIFA has given a clear guideline to all their representative bodies to rejuvenate this segment of the game, with separate funding, which has become the cynosure of all eyes worldwide.

They also insist that women's football should obtain the desired recognition, which has faded away in the past.

Anura de Silva, President of FFSL speaking to Daily News, elaborated on this project, where they are in the process of drawing up a schedule to restart this event. He expects that more stakeholders from the lasses to get into football in various departments to serve and uplift the game to the next level. With these initiatives they expect more women to participate in this process including coaching, administration etc.

As a first step they are to establish a separate women's department in a more meaningful manner to be vibrant and result oriented, which was lacking in the past while managing with limited resources. With this set up FFSL is looking at recruiting a few full time staffers to achieve these objectives.

With the appointment of the new technical Director, Amir Alagic, who is working indefatigably to set up a sound strategic plan to develop both men's and women's football in the country. FFSL is expecting to lay down a structure from the grassroots level, which will enable them to produce some top class players in the future. Apart from that they are in the process of discussing ways and means of revamping the soccer set up to unearth hidden talent to represent the country one day. They are more eager to monitor the talent in the outstations by implementing proper programmes.

Moreover, they are presently depending heavily on tri-forces, who employ sportswomen on a regular basis. Whilst they encourage them to be in the game, they also intend to establish attractive football bases around the country, with more clubs getting into this segment. Nevertheless, they expect to create an attractive league for the lasses to compete and to perform as a separate entity.

While setting up the clubs they want to encourage them to take up coaching. Once all these plans are in proper place they will launch the Women's tournament by January 2021.

"I am very optimistic that this can be achieved. I am grateful to FIFA for their funding of women's football. We are geared to do our best and to see the country flourish in women's football in the near future" said Anura de Silva.

# Benedictine Shehan Fernando outstanding cricketer

## DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Fourth year coloursman, Captain of the team, left hand top order batsman and wicket keeper, Wijepurage Shehan Edward Nimesh Fernando had a fine cricket career at St. Benedict's College, Kotahena.

He commenced his schooling at St. Joseph's College, Colombo and at the age of ten he joined the Cricket Academy of Colombo Cricket Club and came under Nelson Mendis. He was appointed captain of the under 12 team and followed by under 13 and 14 teams and in 2011 they were the Runner Up of Roy Dias trophy Cricket Tournament and in 2014 under his captaincy they clinched Nelson Mendis



Shehan Fernando

Under 14 Challenge Trophy and he was adjudged Best Fielder in the mean time he attended under 13 practices at St. Joseph's College and he got selected for the under 13 division three team in 2012 and in 2013 he played for the division one

team and he scored 114 runs against St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa. With these performances he was a unanimous choice for the under 15 division two team and Joes came up to Semi Finals and lost to St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa and he passed the 300 run mark. In his under 15 second year he shifted to St. Benedict's College, Kotahena but he was not allowed to participate in the tournament.

But in the last term of 2015 he was selected to the Bens First Eleven Team and scored 200 runs and got a century against St. Joseph's College and he carried away the Best Batsman's Award in the Mal-Croner Challenge Trophy match by scoring an unbeaten 61 runs. While

playing for the first eleven team he played for the under 17 team and in his second year he kept wickets and scored 250 runs.

In his second year in the first eleven he passed the 400 run mark with a century and a fifty.

Then in the following year again he passed the 400 run mark and carried away the Best Batsman's Award in the Lasalian Trophy Cricket Tournament by scoring 100 runs and in 2017 and 2018 he scored 630 runs with five fifties and had 30 victims behind the stumps.

He was able to pass the 500 run mark in 2018 season with a century against Maliyadewa College, Kurunegala and collected seven forties and in his last season he cap-

tained the team and scored 750 runs with an unbeaten 130 runs versus St. Aloysius College, Galle and scored four half centuries and had 18 victims behind the stumps. During his cricket career with Bens he played for the Western Province North Cricket team and for the Provincial Team in 2019.

He was the captain of the under 19 Zone One Western Province Team and he was in the Super Provincial Team in 2019.

Whilst at College he represented Old Bens in the Colombo District Association Division Three Tournament for two years and they were the Champions in 2019.

# Sri Rahula going great guns in sports



HAFIZ MARIKAR

Sri Rahula College, Katugastota is a school with a history of 130 years and one of the famous Mixed Colleges in the country. It was established in 1890, by the Buddhist Theosophical Society led by Colonel Henry Steel Olcott. They founded a school named Kandy High school on a piece of land at Katugastota. The school opened with only 16 students in 1890 with S Niyangoda as the first principal of the school. During the year 1945, Sri Rahula managed to obtain their own playground, hostel and several other facilities as well as a whole lot of students. In 1962 the school was acquired by the Government.

Sri Rahula College at one time was well known for athletics, football and hockey and later in the field of mini rugby and today they are a major force in cricket too. Thanks to the efforts of their old boys, who have turned them into a top sporting school Sri Rahula College is one of Kandy's oldest cricket playing schools, started the game of cricket in 1890's but gave it a few years later and were more involved with football, athletics and hockey. However, in the 1970's they came back into cricket One of their best products was Asela Gunaratne who played in the years 2002-4.

Asela Gunaratne became the first Rahula cricketer to represent the country when he was selected for the tour of Zimbabwe. He was guided correctly by one of the top school coaches late Aubrey Kuruppu, a well-known person in the coaching field. Asela joined the Army and improved his cricket and went onto represent the country. Some of the cricketers learnt their finer points at this school and later crossed over to other

schools to gain more recognition in their crickering careers, and they never say they started the game at this school.

Sri Rahula College is proud of Ishara Rangana Hewage who was selected as the "Most Popular Cricketer of the Year" by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association. In 2019 they qualified to play in the semi-final of the under 19 Singer division III level I cricket tournament. The Rahula cricketers beat St. Mary's College Matugama in the quarter finals on first innings. The players who excelled and helped the team win were Dilshan Arambegedera, Tharindu Fonseka, Thushan Senarath, Lahiru Wijewardana, Krishantha Dilshan, Shairi Ranatunga, Janith Maitipe and Akash Ghariyavasiri.

In the early years late T.M.A. Cooray coached the Sri Rahula cricketers and gave his best for the game and produced some knowledgeable players. A few years back late Aubrey Kuruppu gave a big hand and helped the school in a big way in cricket coaching. Today they are a major force in cricket. Thanks to the efforts of coaches of this calibre who have turned them into a top sporting school.

Today Rahula cricketers play their matches at Prisons Grounds Pallekelle and Police Grounds. Their own ground at Katugastota is only fit for practices, because the length and breadth of the ground is short. The players right now are handicapped without a turf wicket. This school has a rich crickering history. They play their big match against Wariyapola Sri Sumangala College earlier known as St. Paul's College. This season Janith Kodithuwakku's match bag of 12 wickets for 72 helped newcomers to division II Sri Rahula College to beat Kingswood College Kandy by five runs in their game played at Police grounds. Sri Rahula College 129(39.4) (Dilshan Arambegedera 43, Dhanajaya



Asela Gunaratne - first old boy of Sri Rahula to play cricket for Sri Lanka.

Bandara 34, Chamudika Abeyrathne 3/28, Anul Seneviratne 2/14, K. Kevin 2/21, Navodya Weerasekera 2/35 and 153(42.3) (Tharindu Fonseka 39, Lahiru Wijeratne 29, Navodya Weerasekera 4/31, Vinuka Pussapitiya 2/35)

**Kingswood College 150 (50.2)** (Mahasen Ranasinghe 46, Dilmith Dissanayaka 30, Janith Kodithuwakku 4/35, Lahiru Wijeratne 3/28, Dilshan Arambegedera 3/29) and 127(38.2) (Mahasen Abeykoon 29, Anul Seneviratne 25, Janith Kodithuwakku 8/37)

At one time Sri Rahula was famous for Hockey and Football. One of the top footballers to come out of this school was Oscar Wijetunge who was one of the finest goal-keepers the country has seen in the 1950's. He played for Kandy, Army, Defence Services and the Country. He was first coached by late M.R. Marikar in the mid-1950s. Same was at hockey too under the same coach.

Then in the 1970's Sri Rahula took up Rugby and produced some top players and one of their players Nihal Ananda was the first to play for Kandy Sports Club, Up-Country and Sri Lanka and became a top coach. Gaminie Abeyakoon played for Kandy SC and Up-Country, M. Rizvi played for Army and Sri Lanka. Sri Rahula College gave a good

display of rugby to win the All Island under-16 division II inter-school rugby championship in 2018. It was a great effort by this school with limited facilities to win and make the home town proud. Sri Rahula College defeated Sri Sumangala College Panadura in the final by 17 points to 7. In the semis they beat Sarasavi Uyana MV 21-0 and in the quarters beat Dutugemunu MV Buttala 14-10. The present coach Roshan Ratnayake is doing a good job like the former coach Nalin Wijesinghe.

The athletes of this school have done well at school events and international meets as well. Two of their students represented Sri Lanka at the 5000m and 3000m race at the 15th Asian Games.

Another Rahulayan participated in the 2013 Asian School Athletics Meet. Rahula Girls were able to excel in the Marathon, by winning the championship consecutively for three years (2009, 2010 and 2011). Seven other athletes created new records since 2009 at All Island School athletic meets. In 2013, the 1500x 4 relay team was able to break the oldest record and in the process won the silver medal.

At present most of the Sri Rahula students excel in sports such as athletics, cricket, netball, rugby, handball, football, boxing and chess. The College Cadet Corps bagged the runners-up position in 2012 and the Championship in 2013 at the 13th Battalion Assessment Camp.

All in all today they give a big hand for all sports, thanks to the principal H.M. Chaminda Weerakoon, the POG Kusum Somaratne, MIC rugby M.Y.S.B. Piyasena, coach Roshan Ratnayake, cricket MIC Amila Mahinda Wijepala, coach Madushanka Damakage, Athletics MIC Anusha Werarasi, coach Chamila Piyaratne, Netball coach Sepalika Wijekoon. They also give a big hand for Karate, Chess, Boxing and Baseball.

# Drawings of Sri Lankan cricketers at Pallekelle

## UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

Kandy Sports Special Corr.

The drawings of Sri Lanka Cricketers on the Retaining wall of the Pallekelle Police Station was declared open by the Senior D.I.G. L.R. Ranaweera on the 18th of August, 2020. This was organized by the Officer-in-charge of the Pallekelle Police Station, Shantha Bandara. The drawings were done by Sub Inspector, D. Samaranyake attached to the Pallekelle Police Station.

The drawings included most of the World famous Cricketers such as Kumar Sangakkara, Muttiah Muralitharan, Sidath Wettimuny, Chamara Kapugedara and the Captain of the Sri Lanka Womens Cricket team Sashikala Siriwardena which were displayed on the Wall.



Sidath Wettimuny standing in front of his drawing. Pix By Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl.Corr



S.Muttiah, the father of Muttiah Muralitharan standing in front of the drawing of his son.

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Schoolgirl Cricketers from schools competing in all Island school's of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association Under 19 Inter-School Tournament 2019/20 are eligible to be voted.

Nominee

Boy : .....

Divisions for Boy : Division I  Division II  Division III

All Island Girl : .....

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The 42<sup>nd</sup> Most Popular Schoolboy/girl Cricketer Contest is now on. Mail the completed coupon to the **SPORTS EDITOR, SUNDAY OBSERVER, LAKE HOUSE, COLOMBO 10.**

**CONDITIONS:**  
Children of Lake House & Mobitel staff are not eligible to participate in the competition.  
Each coupon must contain only one vote for one player and for one contest.  
In all matters connected with the contest, the decision of the Sports Editor, SUNDAY OBSERVER is final.

DATE **22-08-2020**

NO. **24**

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# Schools Rugby to resume in November

**ALTHAF NAWAZ**

The Sri Lanka Schools Rugby Football Association (SLSRFA), along with Sri Lanka Rugby (SLR) are expected to meet the Ministry of Education (MOE) to seek permission to resume the School's U-19 Rugby Tournament from November, this year.

The SLSRFA and SLR will have a discussion of restarting the halted tournament due to the outbreak of COVID-19 since last March. Both these bodies have agreed on a common platform, while strictly complying with health regulations implemented by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to restart the tournament either by playing a sevens or ten-a-side tournament, due to the limited time frame.

Navoda Wijerama, Secretary of SLSRFA, speaking to the Daily News, initially denied certain false statements published in certain media organisations stating that the tournament will be cancelled this year. He stated

that neither the SLSRFA nor the Ministry came to a conclusion of cancelling this year's tournament.

He further briefed that the GCE Advanced Level examination is fixed for October and will conclude by the end of the first week of November. As a result, they opted to commence the tournament by the end of November, granting the schools a two-week time frame to start their practices.

"With this new format, the tournament will be completed within three days. The ten-a-side tournament will enable us to register 17 players while the seven-a-side will accommodate 15 players."

"The SLSRFA is concerned about the boys who are playing their final year for their respective schools, due to non-playing of a tournament will deprive them of obtaining a certificate or the schools rugby colours," said Wijerama.



# Lasith Malinga to skip IPL due to personal reasons

**CHANDRIKA FERNANDO**

Sri Lankan ace fast bowler and Mumbai Indians' star Lasith Malinga is likely to miss the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) due to personal reasons.

The lucrative franchise based Twenty20 Cricket Tournament, owned by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), is set to commence on September 19 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).



Lasith Malinga

However, the 36-year-old right-arm fast bowler and the veteran of 295 T20s had revealed yesterday that his participation could be in doubt due to personal commitments.

Malinga was set to spearhead the bowling attack of Mumbai Indians at this year's event where they would make a determined effort to defend the title.

In fact, last year too Malinga played a dominant role for the Mumbai Indians, with his brilliant bowling performances in the final encounter against Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

With the experienced Malinga likely to opt-out, all-rounder Isuru Udana will be the only Sri Lankan player to participate in the IPL this year.

Udana will represent the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) Team which would also include Indian Skipper Virat Kohli and many other star players.

Meanwhile, former Sri Lanka Skipper Mahela Jayawardena left for the UAE yesterday to participate in the IPL.

Jayawardena will be coaching the champions Mumbai Indians for the fourth successive season this year.

In fact, under the guidance of Jayawardena, Mumbai Indians have won the IPL title twice in three attempts.

In addition, former Sri Lanka spin bowling legend, Muttiah Muralitharan, will be the Bowling Mentor for the Sunrisers Hyderabad Team. The 13th edition of the IPL will conclude on November 8.

# Moors, Negombo eye Premier Plate title in final week

**CHANDRIKA FERNANDO**

The SLC Premier Tier 'A' Plate Championship title will be decided this weekend with the final set of matches scheduled to be worked off at three different venues commencing today (22).

The table leaders Moors SC will take on Lankan CC at the NCC Grounds in Maitland Place while Negombo CC who are second in the points table will meet Tamil Union at the Colts CC Grounds in Havelock Park.

Both Moors SC and Negombo CC will be determined to collect the maximum points from their outings as currently the two



Negombo CC Captain, Dilshan Munaweera



Moors SC Captain, Pabasara Waduge

teams are separated by a mere two points.

Even then, Moors SC will take the field brimming with confidence following last week's heroics where they stunned the more fancied

Tamil Union outright by 44 runs in a low-scoring encounter at Moratuwa.

They will now look to produce a repeat performance and would rally around through their main

(Super Eight Points Table)					
TEAM	P	W	L	D	PTS
Moors SC	4	1	0	3	48.89
Negombo CC	4	1	0	3	46.29
Tamil Union	4	1	1	2	37.1
Lankan CC	4	0	1	3	30.76
SSC	4	0	0	4	26.32
Badureliya SC	4	0	1	3	23.39

Note: Tabulated under played, won outright, lost outright, drawn and total points.

strike bowler Praveen Jayawickrema who was the match winner last week with a six-wicket haul in the second innings.

Meanwhile Negombo CC, will be keen to bounce back from last week's setback after they were held to a tame draw

by Badureliya SC in their match played at the NCC Grounds in Maitland Place.

In the third match of the week, SSC will take on Badureliya SC at the Moratuwa Stadium, a clash that would decide the last two places in the points table.

# SLB puts national team on physical look-over

The Sri Lanka Badminton (SLB) senior national pool commenced training in August, based on the players accepting a Code of Conduct under the tutelage of two Badminton World Federation (BWF) Level Two coaches, Shimal Aponso and Pradeep Welagedera.

The physical status of all players after the lockdown period due to the COVID-19 pandemic is under review and a special nutrition programme has been contracted with Hela-Keto, a specialist agency run by a team of doctors led by Dr. Subash Mendis. SLB is giving all its key players a physical look-over with

the improvement of their nutrition status while their physical development to meet the competition demands, on the world circuit with the resumption of the BWF International Programme.

The National Pool and Training Committee (NPTC) under the Chairmanship of veteran administrator Palitha Hettiarachchi, intends to focus on a squad of 20 top-players, for international duty in 2021, to acquire world ranking within thresholds of 50 - 100 and further improvements thereafter, on an extensive programme sponsored by Li Ning. - (AN)



The participants are briefed by one of the instructors.

# FFSL Annual Congress today

The Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL) will conduct its ordinary annual congress (AGM) today at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute at 10:30 am.

Sixty-four regional leagues who are members of the federation will take at this event. More than 192 delegates representing these leagues are expected to take part as well.

Every year, FFSL conducts a similar annual congress and adopts its annual activities and annually financial statements by its members.

Once every four years, FFSL elects its executive committee members including the President and Secretary in a similar annual congress.

The next election of FFSL is due mid-2021.

# Pandemic 'bio bubbles' will help thwart IPL match-fixers: corruption watchdog

**NEW DELHI:** Shady match-fixers will find it harder to approach cricketers in the Indian Premier League's coronavirus bubble, Indian cricket's anti-corruption chief has told AFP.

The world's richest Twenty20 league will start September 19 in the United Arab Emirates after being moved because of the coronavirus crisis.

Confining the eight teams to "bio-bubbles" will also help anti-corruption officials "keeping a watch on people" said Ajit Singh,

chief of the anti-corruption unit at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

"Controlling interaction between players and others will not be very difficult." Cricket has become a key battleground in the fight against spot-fixing - illegal bets on a certain part of the action, such as how many runs are scored in an over.

Singh said he will assign two liaison officers to monitor each team during the 53-day tournament.

Players' Twitter comments will also be watched for coded messages, he added.

The money-spinning IPL has been plagued by corruption and match-fixing controversy since it started in 2008.

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was suspended last year for failing to report corrupt approaches, one of them over the IPL.

A 2013 scandal caused the Chennai Super Kings, led by ex-India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni,

and Rajasthan Royals to be suspended in 2015 for two seasons.

The scandal saw Shanthakumar Sreesanth, a Rajasthan Royals bowler, being banned for life along with team-mates Ankit Chavan and Ajit Chandila over the illegal spot-fixing and betting scandal.

The three were arrested in 2013 with scores of bookies as part of a probe into allegations that players had underperformed in return for cash. Sreesanth's ban was revoked

by India's top court last year. The T20 league is a huge revenue earner for the BCCI. Before the virus it was estimated to generate more than \$11 billion for the Indian economy each year.

Teams have already started arriving in the UAE where players will be under a week's isolation before they start training.

The games will only be played in Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Dubai while a normal season in India sees more than 10 venues used. - AFP

# Crawley holds firm for England as Pakistan strike twice in third Test

**SOUTHAMPTON, FRIDAY:** Zak Crawley hit his second successive fifty to take England to 91-2 at lunch on the first day of the third Test against Pakistan at Southampton on Friday.

Crawley brought up an 80-ball fifty off the last ball of the session when, tempted to drive after Paki-

stan reinforced the slip cordon, he stylishly struck Shaheen Afridi down the ground to long-off for the seventh four of his innings.

England captain Joe Root, who won the toss, was 10 not out.

Root, with England needing to avoid defeat to secure a first series win over Pakistan in a decade at

1-0 up in a three-match campaign, decided to bat on a blustery morning where the sun was starting to break through the clouds.

England suffered an early setback when Rory Burns, in a tough series for openers, nicked a full-length delivery from fellow left-hander Afridi that moved away

late, with Shan Masood holding a good low catch at fourth slip.

Burns stood his ground but replays confirmed it was a fair catch and he was out for six, the batsman now averaging a lowly five from four innings this series.

Crawley, fresh from his 53 in

the second innings of the drawn second Test at Southampton, cut leg-spinner Yasir Shah for four and glanced paceman Naseem for another boundary.

And when Naseem was fractionally short, Crawley pulled him for a resounding four well in front of square. - AFP

## SCORECARD

ENGLAND 1ST INNINGS		To bat: O. Pope, J. Butler, C. Woakes, J. Archer, D. Bess, S. Broad, J. Anderson	
R. Burns	c Shan Masood b Shaheen Afridi	6	Fall of wickets: 1-12 (Burns), 2-73 (Sibley)
D. Sibley	lbw b Yasir Shah	22	Bowling: Afridi 8-1-24-1, Abbas 6-0-17-0, Yasir Shah 9-1-28-1, Naseem Shah 5-0-22-0
Z. Crawley	not out	53	Pakistan: Shan Masood, Abid Ali, Azhar Ali (capt), Babar Azam, Asad Shafiq, Fawad Alam, Mohammad Rizwan, Yasir Shah, Shaheen Afridi, Mohammad Abbas, Naseem Shah
J. Root	not out	10	
Extras (null)		0	
Total: (2 wks; 28 overs)		91	