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**Appointment letters for 50,000 graduates soon - Minister**

**CAMELIA NATHANIEL**  
The government has taken steps to provide employment to all graduates for their commitment in bringing the government to power, said Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government Minister Janaka Bandara Tennakoon. **TO PAGE 02**

**STF deployed at three prisons**

**MENAKA INDRAKUMAR**  
The Police Special Task Force (STF) will be deployed to provide security assistance from today at three main prisons. According to Commissioner of Prisons (Rehabilitation) Chandana Ekanayake, since there is a current lack of staff at the prisons, they had to seek the help of the STF, for searches and security purposes. **TO PAGE 02**

**Get rid of Rajitha's henchmen in SLMC - GMOA**

**NADIRA GUNATILLEKE**  
The henchmen of the former Health Minister Dr. Rajitha Senarathne who are still in the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) should be removed as soon as possible in order to regain the past glory of the Council, Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) Secretary Dr. Senal Fernando said. Addressing a press conference held at the GMOA Headquarters in Colombo **TO PAGE 02**

**Ranjan appeals to be discharged from Contempt of Court case**

**LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA**  
President's Counsel M.A. Sumanthiran appearing on behalf of former Deputy Minister Ranjan Ramanayake moved the Supreme Court to discharge his client from the Contempt of Court case filed for allegedly casting insulting remarks on the reputation of the judiciary and lawyers. Concluding his oral submissions. **TO PAGE 02**

## CHANGES TO INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS THROUGH 20A - KEHELIYA

**'INDEPENDENCE OF COMMISSIONS WILL BE PRESERVED'**

**CHAMINDA PERERA**

Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella yesterday said changes would be made to the Independent Commissions through the proposed 20th Amendment to the Constitution while preserving their independence.

"The Independent Commissions established under the 19th Amendment to the Constitution have never been independent. We hope to make some changes to these Commissions while preserving their independence", he said. Rambukwella said that seven out of 10 members of the Constitutional Council represent the Yahapalana camp and there are issues with regard to three members representing civil society. "The Election Commission comprises

only three members and the quorum of the Commission is also three," he said.

He said that no country in the world has such a Commission where the total membership of a Commission is considered to be the quorum.

The Minister was addressing a number of meetings held in the Harispattuwa electorate to pay gratitude to the people who made him victorious at the election yesterday.

However, the Minister said that the salient features in the 19th Amendment such as the Right to Information Act and Presidential term in office will be retained in the 20th Amendment too.



He added that the people have given a clear mandate to the government to clear the Constitutional bottleneck that would impede the country's forward march.

Rambukwella also said that the 13th Amendment to the Constitution may have shortcomings as it was drafted in a week. "We will discuss the 13th Amendment to the Constitution later," he said. The Minister said that the statements made by Parliamentarians C.Vigneswaran and Gajendra Kumar Ponnambalam are a threat to the amity that exists among the people of different communities in the country.



**State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Public Sanitation Dr. Nalaka Godahewa yesterday inspected the construction of Colombo Port City Project. The Port City Project is being implemented under a tripartite agreement between the Ministry of Urban Development, Urban Development Authority and China Communication Construction. Ministry Secretary Sirinimal Perera was also present. Pictures by Kelum Liyanage**

**'Rejected party leaders should give up leadership'**

**ASELA KURULUWANSA**

Anunayake of the Malwatte Chapter Most Ven. Dibulkumbure Wimala Dhamma Thera yesterday said that party leaders should not hang on to leadership like leeches even after they are rejected by the people.

The Thera while expressing regret over the debacle faced by the United National Party (UNP) at the last General election said that no legislator represented the UNP at the inaugural session of the Ninth Parliament. **TO PAGE 02**

**Karu says ready to lead UNP**

Former Speaker Karu Jayasuriya yesterday said he is ready to accept the challenge of leading the United National Party (UNP) for the betterment of the party and the country.

The former Speaker in a statement yesterday said that he is capable of leading the party for the well being of the country and the party and his decision was appraised to the incumbent **TO PAGE 02**

**Kurunegala Mayor: Arrest warrant stayed till today**

**LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA**

The Court of Appeal yesterday further extended till today (25) suspending arrest warrants issued against

Kurunegala Mayor and four others in connection with the demolition of a building with archaeological value in Kurunegala. **TO PAGE 02**

**Yoshitha seeks damages from MONLAR for defamation**

**RUKSHANA RIZWIE**

Lieutenant Commander Yoshitha Rajapaksa who found himself embroiled in a controversy over the construction of a road network through Sinharaja has issued a Letter of Demand (LOD) through his lawyers to the Movement of Land and **TO PAGE 02**

**Sil Redi; Not an iota of evidence - Counsel**

**LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA**

The Attorney General yesterday commenced his oral submissions regarding the appeal petitions filed by former Secretary to the President Lalith Weeratunga and former Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) Director General Anusha Palapita, challenging Colombo

High Court's judgment to convict them regarding the Sil Redi distribution case.

In his oral submissions, Deputy Solicitor General Thusith Mudalige appearing for the Attorney General informed the Court that there is no error on the part of the trial judge to proceed with the case from the **TO PAGE 02**

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**No decision to create Deputy PM position - Prof. Peiris**

**NUWAN KODIKARA and CHANDIMA KARUNARATNE**

Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) Chairman and Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris yesterday stressed that the government has not taken any decision to create a position of Deputy Prime Minister through a Constitutional Amendment. **TO PAGE 02**



**SLFP: Action against organizers who evaded polls activity**

**S. M. WIJAYARATNE,**  
Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

The SLFP Working Committee has decided to take tough disciplinary action against all SLFP Electoral Organizers and SLFP Local Government representatives who ignored **TO PAGE 02**

disciplinary action against all SLFP Electoral Organizers and SLFP Local Government representatives who ignored **TO PAGE 02**

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**No decision to create...**From page 01

He said that no discussion has taken place with regard to the creation of this position even though any position can be created through a Constitutional amendment. Addressing a press conference at the SLPP headquarters at Battaramulla yesterday, Prof. Peiris said that investors lost confidence in the country and economy faced unprecedented setbacks as a result of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. He said that the country lost tremendous investment opportunities after the introduction of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. He added the 19th Amendment to

the Constitution is a curse and it impedes economic development, security and democratic values. SLFP General Secretary Dayasiri Jayasekera had told the media following a SLFP Central Committee meeting last Thursday that there was an agreement to offer a position to former President Maithripala Sirisena through a Constitutional amendment. Jayasekera had said the SLFP Central Committee has also appointed a Committee to make proposals for a Constitutional amendment and Minister Nimal siripala De Silva has also been appointed as the Chairman of this Committee.

**Appointment letters...**From page 01

Accordingly, he said that measures have been taken to hand over the appointment letters to 50,000 graduates on September 2 at their respective Divisional Secretariats under the first stage. Based on a promise made by President Mahinda Rajapaksa to grant employment to suitable graduates who are unemployed, applications were called in February and applicants who had obtained their degrees by December 31, 2019 were selected. Minister Tennakoon said that once the task was handed over to his ministry, immediate action was taken to ensure that all appoint-

ment letters were duly completed and sent to the selected graduates. He added that 50,000 appointment letters have already been sent to the District Secretaries and the remaining 10,000 would also be sent out before long. The Minister said the officials of his ministry had completed the gathering of information of the selected graduates and fed into a data bank at his ministry. He thanked the Ministry Secretary J.J. Ratnasiri and the staff for assisting him for expeditiously fulfilling the task given to him by the President and the Prime Minister.

**'Rejected party...**From page 01

"The UNP was formed by former Prime Minister D.S. Senanayake for the well being of the people and the party has now been decimated," he said. The Thera added that nobody thought that this major party would face an unprecedented public wrath at the last election. The Thera made these remarks after Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Parliamentarian Mayantha Dissanayake called on him at the Malwatte Viharaya in Kandy yesterday. Dissanayake received the bless-

ings of the Mahanayake Theras of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters after participating in religious observances at the Sri Dalada Maligawa. Addressing the media, Dissanayake said that the UNP and the SJB should work together after signing a MoU. "UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe should invite Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa for a discussion to iron out differences and offer the party leadership." Dissanayake said SJB leader Premadasa has already announced that he is ready to accept UNP members.

**3RD MONTH DEATH REMEMBRANCE**



**MALINGA (MALI) JAYAWARDENA**

In loving memory of Mali Jayawardena - dearly beloved husband of Delicia, loving father of Sanath, Rev. Sr. Shermila, Shandala (Australia) and Shehan, father-in-law of Ijithka, Samantha and Nipuni and adored grandfather of Shenali, Shannon, Kate, Cheka, Thanu, Blaze and Sharanka.

Sadly missed and forever remembered by your loving family. **Mass will be held at St. Anne's Church Wattala on Saturday, 29th August 2020 at 10.30 a.m.**

**Ranjan appeals...**From page 01

Sumanthiran argued that the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction to hear this rule since general jurisdiction pertaining to Contempt of Court is vested with the Court of Appeal. He contended that the Supreme Court has power to punish for contempt of itself but this is an issue relating to the judiciary in general and not regarding the Supreme Court. "The general impression created by recent incidents relating to the judiciary compelled my client to make the statement. He referred to the judiciary in general without specifying a particular judge or a particular court," said Sumanthiran. Additional Solicitor General Sarath Jayamanna who appeared on behalf of the Attorney General sought time to make his reply and thereby the Supreme Court three-judge-Bench comprising Justice Sisi-ra de Abrew, Justice Vijith Malalgoda and Justice Preethi Padman Surasena fixed further hearing for today (25). At a previous occasion, ASG Sarath Jayamanna alleged that Ranjan Ramanayake had repeatedly confirmed after giving statements to the media

that he stands by the statement he made regarding the judges. Both prosecution and respondent parties have already concluded testifying evidence in connection with this contempt of court case. All judges of the Supreme Court had earlier determined to proceed with Contempt of Court charges against the Deputy Minister after perusing the transcript of the video footage pertaining to the alleged derogatory statement. Ven. Magalkande Sudantha Thera and R.Sunil Perera, a retired Air Force Officer had made complaints to the Supreme Court seeking a contempt of court action against Deputy Minister Ranjan Ramanayake for allegedly making insulting remarks on the reputation of the judiciary and lawyers, at a press conference held on August 21 last year. President's Counsel M.A.Sumanthiran with Senior Counsel Viran Corea appeared for the respondent. Additional Solicitor General Sarath Jayamanna with Senior State Counsel Suharshi Herath Jayaweera appeared for the Attorney General.

**Yoshitha seeks...**From page 01

Agriculture Reform for leveling false accusations citing that he does not own or manage any hotel in the vicinity of that area. In the LoD issued through his lawyers at Neelakandan & Neelakandan law firm, Lieutenant Commander Rajapaksa is suing the environmental organization MoNLAR to the tune of Rs.500 million for making these false, unfounded and baseless allegations. "You have levelled false, unfounded, baseless and fabricated allegations calculated to defame and tarnish the good name, reputation and social standing of Yoshitha Rajapaksa," the letter read. "You ought to have been aware that the client does not own any hotel in the vicinity of the area described by (Sajeewa Chamikara) during a press briefing." The lawyers allege that due to the circulation of such false and malicious accusations, their client Yoshitha has been subjected to unfair and unfounded criticism and unfounded aspersion. The lawyers demanded that the environmentalist make an unreserved retraction of the statement and publish an unconditional apology to the client. The lawyers go on to demand that the environmentalist inform or instruct all media institutions, social media platforms and websites that have published the defamatory statements made by Chamikara to remove such content and publish the apology instead. The law firm instructed by Yoshitha Rajapaksa has demanded that Sajeewa Chamikara pay a sum of Rs.500 000000 (Five hundred million) as damages and compensation within seven days.

**Sil Redi; Not an iota...**From page 01

proceedings where the preceding judge had stopped. DSG Mudalige further stated that after evaluating evidence of the witnesses, the trial judge had come to a conclusion that several witnesses had acted in a biased manner being sympathetic towards the accused. He further said funds had been remitted contrary to the provisions of TRC Act and the prosecution has to prove the dishonest intention of the accused. Former Secretary to the President Lalith Weeratinga and former TRC Director General Anusha Palpita had been sentenced to three-year-rigorous imprisonment by Colombo High Court for misappropriating Rs. 600 million of funds belonging to the TRC. Deputy Solicitor General Thusith Mudalige is to make his further submission on the next date as well. Accordingly, Appeal petitions filed by former Secretary to the President Lalith Weeratinga and former Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) Director General Anusha Palpita challenging the judgment of Colombo High Court were yesterday fixed for further argument on August 27 by Court of Appeal Judges Kumuduni Wickremesinghe and Devika Abeyratne.

On September 7,2017, Lalith Weeratinga and Anusha Palpita were found guilty of misappropriating Rs. 600 million of funds belonging to TRC over Controversial Sil Redi (fabrics used by devotees to observe sill) distribution case. Through their appeal applications, two accused-appellants stated that they were seeking the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal to review and set aside their conviction imposed by the High Court dated September 7, 2017. In their petitions, the accused-appellants stated that neither a sum of Rs 600 million nor a part of it were utilised by them for their personal gains. They further stated that the High Court judge had given them a short period of time (13 days) to pay off the compensation. Each accused were further ordered to pay a fine of two million rupees and in default of the payment of fine they will have to serve additional one year imprisonment. President's Counsel Faiz Musthapha with Shavindra Fernando, Counsel Kanchana Ratwate and Janaka Ranatunga appeared for the appellant accused. Deputy Solicitor General Thusith Mudalige appeared for the Attorney General.

**STF deployed...**From page 01

"This reason for the STF deployment is the lack of guards, and we have asked for assistance until we employee prison guards in the coming months". He further added the STF will closely be working with prison guards, to ensure that matters concerning pensioners are kept under a watchful eye. The deployment will be at the Welikada, Magazine Prison (Women's Section), Colombo Remand Prison and Prison Hospital. Ekanayake said, there is a lot of work involved in the prisons and with current understaffed issues, they need all the help for search related operations. A number of recent incidents of heroin smuggling and electronic devices were reported, and Prison Department officials are vigilant to prevent such nefarious activities from being carried out.

**SLFP: Action against...**From page 01

party instructions to support SLFP candidates at the 2020 General Election, Senior Deputy Chairman of the party Prof. Rohana Lakshman Piyadasa told the media in Kurunegala yesterday. "The errant SLFP members would perhaps lose their membership too in the future due to disregarding party instructions," he added. The Majority of SLFP Chief Organizers and SLFP Local Government representatives have not supported SLFP candidates who contested the last General Election. This matter was brought to the notice of the SLFP leadership at the SLFP Central Working Committee meeting held on August 20 under the patronage of SLFP President Maithripala Sirisena at the SLFP headquarters.

**Karu says ready...**From page 01

party leader and senior members of the party. The former Speaker said that he made this decision after considering the crisis in the party and a number of requests made by different quarters in the society. Jayasuriya said that he obtained the party membership in 1994 on a request of party leadership in 1994 and held a number of positions including Party Chairman, Deputy Chairman and President of the Leadership Council. He said that he gave leadership to the 2014 Uva Provincial Council election campaign which was a turning point of UNP's victories at national level. Many quarters have pointed out that the party needs a complete overhaul based on the suggestions of the party members and the general public.

**Get rid of...**From page 01

yesterday, he alleged that the former Health Minister did not gazette the minimum standard of medical education in order to allow students with three 'F's (Fail) and the students who did not study in the science stream to become doctors through court decisions. According to Dr.Fernando, Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi has got together with the GMOA in order to introduce the relevant laws to Parliament. "The dark era should end soon," he added. "The former Health Minister appointed his personal staff members to the SLMC ignoring all relevant rules, regulations and traditions in order to allow the students who do not have the required minimum basic qualifications to become MBBS doctors through other channels," he further alleged.

**Kurunegala Mayor...**From page 01

Accordingly, the Court of Appeal two-judge-Bench comprising Justice (President) A.H.M.D. Nawaz and Justice Sobhitha Rajakaruna reserved its order regarding the issuance of notices and interim order, to be delivered on August 25. Five petitioners, including Kurunegala Mayor Thushara Sanjeewa had filed writ petitions in the Court of Appeal seeking interim relief to suspend the warrant issued by the Kurunegala Magistrate in connection with the demolition of a building with archaeological value in Kurunegala. The Court of Appeal had earlier observed that warrants shall not be executed until the next date since the Magistrate's decision to issue warrants had been challenged through writ petitions. On August 7, warrants have been issued by the Kurunegala Magistrate on Kurunegala Mayor Thushara Sanjeewa Vitharana, Kurunegala Municipal Commissioner Pradeep Nishantha Thilakarathne, Municipal Engineer Chaminda Bandara Adikari, Superintendent of Works Ilaludeen Sulliya and backhoe machine operator Lakshman Priyantha regarding this demolition incident. The petitioners are seeking a Writ of Certiorari quashing the warrant issued by the Kurunegala Magistrate dated August 7,2020. President's Counsel Rienze Arsecularatne, Kalinga Indatissa, Shavindra Fernando PC, Counsel Riad Ameen and Counsel Udara Muhandirame appeared for the petitioners. Additional Solicitor General Sarath Jayamanna with

Senior State Counsel Madawa Tennakoon appeared for the Attorney General. In his petition, the Kurunegala Mayor stated that on or about the July 24, 2020, a building situated within the city limits of the Kurunegala Municipal Council collapsed and in the following few days wide media publicity was given to this incident with certain allegations levelled against him alleging that the building was an antiquity within the meaning of the Antiquities Ordinance. The Mayor stated that no intentional criminal act was committed by him or any one of the other employees whose statements were recorded in the course of the investigations. The petitioner further said he and the other employees of the Kurunegala Municipal Council acted in good faith and in the course of their duties without any intent to commit any offence either under the Antiquities Ordinance or any other Law. The petitioner said he is entitled in law to apply to the Court of Appeal in respect of the abuse of the process of justice by the respondents and to quash the warrant wrongfully obtained by the respondents collectively. The petitioner states that notwithstanding the media reports pertaining to this issue of antiquity being destroyed, it is relevant to identify whether the building concerned can be considered as an antiquity or not. He states that the entire incident has been misinterpreted and or inaccurately interpreted by persons with political interests.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA  
 MINISTRY OF ROADS & HIGHWAYS  
**ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**SECURITY SERVICE FOR ASPHALT PLANTS**  
**CONTRACT NO. RDA/DPR/SE/SEC(Plant)/2020/87**

- The Chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee on behalf of Road Development Authority (RDA) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for security services to Asphalt Plants located at Ingiriya, Keragala, Kotadeniyawa, Mahiyanganaya (Medayaya), Medawachchiya, Sooriyawewa, Ambanpola, Polonnaruwa and Balangoda for a period of one year.
- Executing agency will be the Road Development Authority.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- Bid shall be valid up to **91 calendar days** from the date closing of the Bid.
- Bid must be accompanied by a **bid security valid up to 15.01.2021 for the amount Rs. 400,000.00**. Any Bid not accompanied by a valid Bid Security will be rejected.
- Complete set of bidding documents shall be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the **Director, Procurement Division, Road Development Authority, 4th floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw, Koswatta, Battaramulla from 27/08/2020 until 17.09.2020 during office hours on 9:00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-Refundable Tender fee of **Rupees. 5,400.00 (Inclusive of VAT)** As per the public contract act.no.3 of 1987, the agent and successful winners of the tender shall be registered in the Department of Registrar of companies. **Bid received will be closed at 2.30 p.m. on 18.09.2020.**
- Sealed bid may be dispatched either by registered post or hand delivered in duplicate to the **Chairman, RDA Procurement committee, Road Development Authority, 1st floor, Maganeguma Mahamedura, No.216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw., Koswatta, Battaramulla to receive before the closing time.** Please indicate **"Security Service for Asphalt Plants"** on top left hand corner of the envelope.
- Bidders are required to submit the following documents along with the bids.
  - Documentary proof for maintaining at least a Security Services Contract where the contract sum is not less than Rs.500,000/= per month during the past 04 years.
  - Certified copies of payments of EPF & ETF for the last 02 years.
  - Copies of receipts of VAT payments for the last 02 years.
  - List of Security Services contracts in hand with the number of staff deployed in each contract.
- Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids at the office of the **Director, Procurement Division, Road Development Authority, 4th floor, Maganeguma Mahamedura, No.216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw., Koswatta, Battaramulla.** Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the time of opening bids.
- The Pre-bid meeting will be held on **10.30 a.m. on 10/09/2020** at the office of the **Procurement Division, Road Development Authority, 4th floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw, Koswatta, Battaramulla.**
- Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the office of the Procurement Division, Road Development Authority, 4th Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Koswatta, Battaramulla during office hours.
- For further details, please contacts, Procurement Division - Tel No. 011- 2884790

**Chairman, RDA Procurement Committee, Road Development Authority, 1st floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw, Koswatta, Battaramulla.**

**Obituaries**

**DE MEL - DEXTER** (Fondly known as Deckie), beloved son of late Henry & Vivienne de Mel, loving brother of Vernon, late Vere, late Heloise, Mavis and Ainsley (Bahrain), brother-in-law of Yvonne, Priyangani, Kumar (Perth), Srimal and Tanya. Viewing from 12 noon on Wednesday, 26 August 2020 at **Mahinda Funeral Parlour, Mount Lavinia.** Cortege leaves the same day at 3.15 p.m. for Service and Burial at General Cemetery, Rawathawatte, Moratuwa at 4.15 p.m. 048078



# Samurdhi subsidies should empower people, not burden them: President

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has instructed officials not to allow Samurdhi subsidies to be a burden to the country, but to make them an initiative that empowers low-income families.

Poverty and social inequality can be minimised by opening new income avenues for the low-income strata of the society, thereby making them high-income earners. The President emphasised that the Samurdhi programme should be conducted giving priority to eliminate poverty.

It should be based on factors such as increasing the income of every family, developing the rural economy, and strengthening people-centric economy.

President Rajapaksa made these remarks during a discussion to scrutinise future activities of the State Ministry of Samurdhi, Home Economy, Microfinance, Self-Employment, Businesses, and Under-Utilised State Resources Development, which was held at the Presidential Secretariat, yesterday.

Annually, a total sum of Rs.50 billion is set aside for the Samurdhi programme. Therefore, it has to be a fruitful investment to the country, the President stressed, adding that it is a need to rid Samurdhi beneficiaries of the

mentality that it is a handout, and to transform them into micro-entrepreneurs, immediately. President Rajapaksa also highlighted the requirement of follow-up evaluation in this matter.

A systematic procedure is necessary to keep empowered Samurdhi beneficiaries in the programme and reap benefits for the country along the way. A regulation process is absolutely necessary to make microfinance loans productive. Development of financial literacy is an important task of microfinance institutes.

The President also highlighted the significance of utilising citizens' enthusiasm for an overall social change to develop the household economy.

"Introduction of new relief programmes by banks for people who are struggling due to setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is vital at this point.

"They will uplift the lives of people and eventually lead to a better economy," President Rajapaksa added.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa pointed out the importance of rightly identifying groups who truly deserve Samurdhi benefits. He further said that the issue of

microfinance loans has become a central problem which must be managed through a Credit Regulatory Authority Act, or through an alternative Act.

Basil Rajapaksa said that the Government should immediately commence a process to solve all issues relating to land ownership that was one of prime expectations of the President.

The President said that we should initiate a process to uplift the household economy by commencing cultivations such as coconut, mango, and jack.

It was discussed in detail to immediately begin a scheme to transfer lands under the Wildlife and Forest Conservation Department to the District Secretariats in order to grant legal title to those having an interest on these lands.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa; Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival, Basil Rajapaksa; State Minister Shehan Semasinghe; Secretary to the President, P.B. Jayasundera; Secretary to the Treasury, S. R. Attygalle; officials representing institutions under the Ministry of State; and Senior Banking Officials attended the meeting.

# Power Outage report submission tomorrow

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

The report of the Committee on the recent occurrence of intermittent power outages experienced across the island and steps to be taken to prevent them will be presented to the Cabinet tomorrow (26), Power Ministry sources

yesterday told the *Daily News*.

"The nine-member Committee headed by Rahula Atalage, which was appointed to look into the source of these power outages and to outline detailed measures for preventing such occurrences in the

future had yesterday handed its report to Power Minister Dullas Alahapperuma," sources said. "The report is due to be examined by Power Minister Alahapperuma today and it will be presented to the Cabinet tomorrow," sources said.

## Two-day workshop for MPs

A two-day workshop will be held for Parliamentarians on August 25 and 26, in order to raise awareness on the activities of Parliament, Parliament Secretary-General Dammika Dasanayake stated in a press release, yesterday.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will be the chief guest at the workshop, which

will be attended by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena and Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa.

The Parliament Secretariat has made all the necessary arrangements to hold the workshop, which will be conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Committee Room No. 01 of the Parliament.

# Two arrested over Ambalangoda homicide

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,  
Galle Central  
Special Corr.

Rathgama Police have arrested two persons in connection with the murder of a father of five which occurred in Ambalangoda, last Saturday.

The suspects were arrested at around 12:30 a.m., yesterday.

The victim, who was on his way home at the time the incident occurred, was gunned down at Parrot Junction by two suspects who had arrived in a black Suzuki Wagon R. Rathgama Police have already seized the vehicle, which was found in Thawalama.

# 19 mobile phones found hidden in CRP

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Prison officials recovered 19 mobile phones which were found hidden in the Colombo Remand Prison premises, yesterday.

The raid in which they were discovered was carried out following a tip-off.

Moreover, as mobile phones, SIM cards, weapons, and drugs were found thrown over the walls of several prisons on several occasions in the past, the Prison Department decided to construct a 15-foot fence to prevent any such act.

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# Floating Market to regain its PRISTINE GLORY

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

The Urban Development Authority yesterday started renovation work on the Pettah Floating Market, which was neglected during the Yahapalana years. The renovation process was started on the instructions of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was the Urban Development Ministry Secretary when the Floating Market was opened, and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The floating 'heaven' was opened in 2014 in the heart of Colombo giving a new life to many people under the guidance of the then Defence and Urban Development Ministry Secretary and the current President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Within five years, the 'efforts' of the 'Good Governance' had resulted in a floating hell, putting people's lives at risk.

Today, the situation of the Pettah Floating Market is very pathetic. The place is dilapidated, deserted and abandoned. But, the former beauty and life are still visible here and there. According to people and the handful of traders who are still engaged in business at this venue, the bad smell drives people away from the Floating Market. A lot of shops have been closed and abandoned. But still, rental bills arrive. Before 2015, at least one major function took place at the Floating Market providing business opportu-

nities for many people, but, no function has taken place recently.

They said some areas have been closed using fences preventing people from visiting the place and the previous Government had built new shops in an unorganized manner, destroying the beauty and some essential spaces of the Floating Market. On some days, people and traders have to tolerate the darkness of the night without electricity.

"The previous regime could not maintain the Floating Market and also its facilities provided by the Government which built it. Various changes were made after 2015 as per the requirements of politicians under the Good Governance Government. They built shops according to their wishes without considering the layout of the place," they said.

"They even leased the building which houses public toilets. Now, the private company which uses the building rents rooms. The tourists who visit the place face many difficulties due to the unavailability of toilets. In the past, there were ample parking facilities for a large number of vehicles, but now no parking is available," they added.

The Pettah Floating Market is located on the Bastian Mawatha in Pettah and consists of 92 trade stalls, with a number of the stalls established on boats on Beira Lake. The Floating

Market served as a tourist attraction selling local produce and handicraft.

The development of the Floating Market and beautification works were carried out by the Urban Development Authority (UDA) at a cost of Rs. 150 million under the guidance of former Defence and Urban Development Secretary and the current President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Engineering units from the Sri Lanka Army in collaboration with the UDA transformed the Bastian Street, the street linking the Central Bus Stand in Pettah and the Colombo Fort Railway Station into a green environment.

The Sri Lanka Navy rehabilitated the polluted canal running alongside the Bastian Street. The unique simple architecture of the stalls along the canal, designed with grey cemented floors and minimalistic decor, tries to reflect the calm and undisturbed water of the lake. The market was officially opened on August 25, 2014.

The renovation, expected to take a few weeks, will restore the Floating Market to its former glory, helping to attract more shopkeepers and the public. It will once again become an oasis of tranquility amidst the hustle and bustle of Pettah, where people can unwind before or after a long journey. It is the only Floating Market in the country, located in a unique intersection of the Beira Lake, the main road and the bus stand.



Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Public Sanitation State Minister Nalaka Godahewa during the inspection tour at the Floating Market yesterday. (Pictures by Kalum Liyanage)



Before 2015: The Floating Market was properly maintained and attracted both local and foreign tourists.



After 2015: Current situation of the then crowded place.





## Narcotics eradication will not be stalled at any cost: Defence Secretary

Defence Secretary Maj. Gen. (Rtd.) Kamal Gunaratne said that the government's aim is to rid the country of its narcotics menace and assured that the efforts taken to achieve this task will not be stalled at any cost.

The Defence Secretary gave this assurance at the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Inamaluwa 53 Division in Dambulla, last morning. The event was also attended by Army Commander Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva.

Responding to questions raised by the media during the ceremony, Defence Secretary Gunaratne said that the largest prison in the country is the Welikada Prison, adding that majority of the illegal activities reported there on a daily basis, such as the discovery of mobile phones and narcotics, takes place through its entry points.

Therefore, he said that measures have been taken to immediately remove

all prison guards from the entry points and replace them with Special Task Force (STF) personnel from yesterday. Hence, he assured that no one would be able to take into the prison any illegal or banned items hereafter. He also noted that with the assistance of the Air Force Special Task Force, all large-scale cannabis cultivations would be destroyed.

The Defence Secretary vowed to eradicate the scourge of the underworld, drug racketeering, extortion, and organised crime from the country, permanently. He said that, had the country travelled in the same path as it did in the past, people would not have been able to travel on the streets without fear.

Gen. Gunaratne also noted that a special programme has been initiated in the country with the joint participation of intelligence services, police,

the military, and prisons. Expressing his views Army Commander Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva said the great commitments made by the government paved the way for COVID-19 to be controlled, and that, now, there are no Coronavirus cases reported in the community.

However, he noted that despite Sri Lanka controlling its COVID-19 infection rate, due to positive cases entering the country from overseas, the numbers are rising. Hence, he said that as a result, it is impossible to declare that Sri Lanka is completely Coronavirus-free.

Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva also said that despite the claims made by certain parties that Sri Lanka has stopped repatriating those stranded overseas, the country is making concerted commitment to bring back those expatriates.



Defence Secretary Maj. Gen. (Rtd.) Kamal Gunaratne greeting Army Commander Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva at the event.



Urban Development State Minister Dr. Nalaka Godahewa inaugurated the renovation of the Pettah Floating Market, yesterday. Picture by Ministry Media Unit.

## Marine Security Officer tests positive for COVID-19

A Marine Security Officer at the Boossa Quarantine Centre has tested positive for COVID-19, Galle District Regional Epidemiologist Dr. Venura Singakkara Arachchi

told the *Daily News*, yesterday.

The Marine Security Officer had left the Galle Port in the third week of February and had visited Suez and Dubai

Ports before serving at the Red Sea Floating Armoury.

After he reached the Galle Port again, two weeks ago, the officer was sent to the Boossa Quarantine Centre.

## PSC Meeting for Kandyan Dancing Faculty construction

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting for the construction of buildings for a Faculty of Kandyan Dancing at Palkele, co-chaired by Deputy High Commissioner Vinod K. Jacob and Buddha Sasana Ministry Secretary Prof. Kapila Gunawardena, was held at Indian High Commission, last Friday.

The meeting, which was attended by officials of the High Commission of India, Ministry of Buddha Sasana, and the Department of External Resources; as well as the International Relations Secretary, M/s Sarath Kulathunga Associates Project Consultant, and a contractor from M/s Link Engineering; reviewed the progress of the Project, a press release from the Indian High Commission stated. This High Impact Com-

munity Development Project (HICDP) project, which costs Rs.145 million, entails the construction of a training school building and a multi-purpose hall, as well as the supply of furniture, musical instruments, as well as office and other equipment, the statement added.

It is yet another manifestation of the continued commitment of the Government of India to enhance the strong religious and cultural links that bind the people of the two countries. The installation of a 16-foot-tall statue of the Buddha at the entrance of the International Buddhist Museum complex, erection of an Indian gallery at the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy, the construction of the Jafna Cultural Centre, restoration of

Thiruketeswaram temple, as well as setting up of the Mahatma Gandhi International Centre in Matale, are some of the other cultural projects that have been implemented by the Governments of India and Sri Lanka, the statement added.

The Government of India has been implementing a variety of multi-sectoral projects in Sri Lanka based on the needs and priorities identified by the Government and people of Sri Lanka. Out of Rs.517 billion, which is India's overall commitment to development assistance to Sri Lanka, projects with Rs.92-billion grant-assistance were implemented in recent years, in addition to other projects funded by lines of credit, the Indian High Commission stated.

## Firearms seized at Siribopura residence

**Suspect remanded till August 26**

**CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE**

Hambantota Police have launched investigations following the recovery of three foreign-made shotguns and 13 unfired cartridges from a residence in Mahawewa, Hambantota.

The Special Task Force Division of the Hambantota Police, acting on a tip-off on Sunday, had seized the firearms and live ammunition from the house and arrested the house owner.

"The 30-year-old suspect had two 12-gauge shotguns, a 16-gauge shotgun, and 13 unfired cartridges concealed in his house at Somisethagama, Siribopura," Police said. Police yesterday produced the suspect before the Hambantota Magistrate, who remanded him until August 26.

"We still do not know why the suspect had kept these firearms in his possession," Police said.

"The shotguns are foreign-made. We have launched an investigation to determine how he had got these weapons and why he wanted them," Police said. "Investigations are ongoing," they added.

## Lankan Ambassador to Germany presents Credentials

Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Germany Manori Unambuwe presented her Credentials to German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier at the Bellevue Castle in Berlin, last Thursday, the Embassy stated in a press release.

During the discussions held following the presentation of credentials, Ambassador Unambuwe conveyed greetings from President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the government, and the people of Sri Lanka to the German President, the statement said. While appreciating the

assistance provided to Sri Lanka by Germany over the years, the Ambassador also reiterated the commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to further enhance the friendly relations between the two countries, the statement added.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier extended his best wishes to the Ambassador on her new assignment and assured Germany's continuous support in furthering the friendly ties between the two countries, the Embassy stated.



Ambassador Manori Unambuwe with President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

## Customs destroy illicit cigarettes worth Rs.35m

Customs sleuths destroyed illicit cigarettes worth Rs.35 million found in a container, last weekend.

This stock of cigarettes was destroyed at the Ceylon Tobacco Company destruction yard under the supervision of Customs officials.

According to Customs Additional Director-General and Media Spokesman Sunil Jayaratne, the container

with the illicit stock of cigarettes had been imported from Dubai, and was detected while routine checks were being conducted on the registered addresses of such containers.

He said the stock of illicit cigarettes was imported to the country using fake names and addresses, and without a Customs declaration.

"We found 650,000 sticks of a foreign brand of cigarettes in 3,250 cartons, in a container shipped from a port in Dubai," Jayaratne said.

He added that they had been packed inside the container using the 'Less Container Load' facility, which is the most cost effective method of transporting cargo.



Customs Director-General Major General (Rtd.) Vijitha Ravipriya and senior Customs officials with the contraband.



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# Tea Tourism: BEYOND JUST A CUP OF TEA



Dinuka Kathri Arachchi  
Elayaperuma,  
Senior Travel Consultant

“Being the fourth-largest tea exporter to the world and the brand owner of world-renowned ‘Ceylon Tea’, Sri Lanka has not yet utilized its full potential to attract this segment of tourists to Sri Lanka for tourism development. We have the capacity, but we have not yet expanded to market Sri Lankan Tea Tourism by offering unique tea heritage and cultural experiences to tea lovers, which is a wasted opportunity”

AANYA WIPULASENA

**W**ith the tourism industry working against all odds to raise its head again amidst a pandemic, tourism practitioners are suggesting that tea tourism will be the next big thing.

Dinuka Kathri Arachchi Elayaperuma, a senior travel consultant currently reading for Masters at Tourism Study Programs, Colombo University told the *Daily News* that the country has great potential to capitalize on Tea Tourism to attract luxury tourists.

Excerpts from the interview:

**Q. What is Tea Tourism?**

Tourism which is motivated by an interest in the history, culture, and traditions related to the consumption of tea, consists of tea gardens where tea is planted, tea factories where it is produced, tea shops where it is for sale or served, and institutions that preserve and interpret the tea culture; can be defined as tea tourism.

A peripheral industry built up around tea, focuses on the production of goods for the tea-loving public, including tea accessories, books on tea, and a variety of tea-themed giftware.

Tea tourism can be identified as a niche tourism segment that emerged with a novel concept of responsible tourism, sustainable and nature-based eco-friendly tourism. Tea combination has developed as an art in some societies, such as Japan. Various tea tourism-based products attract tourists to tea destinations such as China, Japan and England that promote tea-related products to their visitors who take a nice memory of their favourite beverage from the destination where it originated.

These are either sold as souvenirs and complimentary giveaway gift items to make their tea tour memorable which in turn creates an opportunity to make them repeat guests and to promote the destination by word of mouth. I feel Sri Lanka can also expand on these initiatives to further position ourselves as a tea tourism destination.

**Q. Why is it important for a country like Sri Lanka to invest in Tea Tourism?**

Sri Lanka is gifted with many potential segments for the development of the tourism sector such as heritage, wildlife, culinary, culture, and adventure. Sri Lanka is known by beach travellers as ‘Sea-Sand-Sun’. Lonely Planet featured Sri Lanka as ‘Endless beaches, timeless ruins, welcoming people, oodles of elephants, rolling surf, cheap prices, fun trains, famous tea and flavourful food make Sri Lanka irresistible.’

Over the years, Sri Lanka as a travel destination has changed significantly.

However, being the fourth-largest tea exporter to the world and the brand owner of world-renowned ‘Ceylon Tea’, Sri Lanka has not yet utilized its full potential to attract this segment of tourists to Sri Lanka for tourism development. We have the capacity, but we have not yet expanded to market Sri Lankan tea tourism by offering unique tea heritage and cultural experiences to tea lovers, which I feel is a wasted opportunity. Therefore, I feel it is the right time to pivot and go beyond the segment of ‘scenic beauty’ and introduce tea tourism to the Sri Lankan tourism product.

**Q. The SLTDA is banking on luxury tourists. Would Tea Tourism attract this segment?**

Indeed, there is great potential to capitalize on tea tourism to attract luxury tourists to Sri Lanka.

We will certainly require broadening our tea tourism product by expanding the variety of tea-based experiences and products offered

to the international tourist. This will help lure not just luxury clients but various other tea-loving communities.

Sri Lankan stakeholders and service providers have the capacity to target this category and create unique new trends to cater guests in different segments. Global trends in tea tourism such as tea-based cuisine, healthcare products and services and cosmetic or spa treatments would definitely attract luxury tourists. The famous Virgin White Tea grown in Sri Lanka is rich in antioxidants and is said to be the healthiest and most expensive tea in the world with a price tag of over USD 1,500 per kilogramme. According to the latest testing, Virgin White Tea has an antioxidant content of 10.11 percent, which is said to be the highest naturally occurring content of antioxidants in any beverage. For instance, Handungoda’s Virgin White Tea exported from Sri Lanka is the main ingredient at the only Tea Salon consider done of the world’s most exclusive boutiques situated in Central Paris. Such products can add similar value to the tea experience in Sri Lanka.

**Q. What should the country do to improve this area?**

I would say the key is to create awareness of the great potential of this segment alongside education on the development, adequate infrastructure facilities and friendly policy terms to proceed.

While it is no easy task to implement new segments and though it may take a while after implementation to reach real results, I feel it is the need of the hour. The gradual process of strategic planning, friendly environment and infrastructure to tourists, implementing and assessing by all relevant stakeholders starting from academics to tea community and tourism industry individuals will be essential for the success of this segment.

The five main areas that need focus will be Accessibility, Accommodation, Activities, Amenities and Attraction.

**Q. How will the local communities benefit from Tea Tourism?**

The development of the tea tourism segment will benefit the industry and small-medium entrepreneurs who will enhance the variety of tea tourism products.

Development of accessibility, accommodation, activities, amenities and attraction improvements will provide new job opportunities, enhance the quality of life and specifically empower women.

In order to obtain the best benefit and to ensure sustainable measures reach the grass-roots level, scientific approaches and strategic planning will need to be in place. Local communities may essentially need to gain awareness and periodical assessments after implementation to ensure the quality of the product is maintained. It will be a challenge to make developments without providing necessary awareness and education to the local community.

**Q. Tell us briefly about the Tourism Summit.**

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations Agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. The UNWTO promotes tourism as a key driving stimulator of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability while providing the necessary global leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide. The UNWTO commemorates World Tourism Day on September 27 each year with the purpose of fostering the right awareness among the global community on the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and eco-

nomical value and its invaluable contribution in reaching the Goals of Sustainable Development.

This year, the official celebration of UNWTO World Tourism Day-2020 organized by Central Provincial Council-Sri Lanka with Strategic Partnership from the Tourism and Aviation Ministry together with Knowledge Partnership from the 6th Consecutive International Tourism Leaders’ Summit (ITLS) and Tourism Research Conference (TRC), conducted by Alumni Association of Tourism Economics, Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts, Colombo University will take place on September 25, 26 and 27 in Kandy.

As the UNWTO finalizes its arrangements for World Tourism Day Celebration 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic the preliminary arrangements have been made by the Department of Trade, Commerce and Tourism, Central Province, Sri Lanka to conduct the National Celebrations of the UNWTO Tourism Day in Kandy under the patronage and partnering of Ministry of Tourism with the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) and sister organizations with the support of industry associations.

The organization of the official celebration of UNWTO World Tourism Day-2020 under the theme ‘Tourism and Rural Development’ (Not yet confirmed) provides a great opportunity and worldwide platform to promote Sri Lanka Tourism along with the tourist attractions of Central Province, blending in with ‘Tea Heritage and Spice Tourism’.

The Central Province is the heart of Sri Lanka with tranquil cool temperatures, the scenic hills, beautiful terraced paddy fields and diverse agriculture, featuring excellent spice gardens of Sri Lanka growing cardamom, cloves and nutmeg.

UNWTO World Tourism Day-2020 is expected to create the right combination of Tea Heritage and Spice Tourism as a vibrant niche tourism segment combined with Sustainable Development Goals through Eco-Friendly and People-Centric Tourism promotion. It has come to light that antiviral properties of tea, more specifically Black Tea, and spices can fight against Corona Virus along with the herbal combination of tea.

With the world-famous ‘Ceylon Tea’ and spices, the proposed event is expected to feature Central Province’s UNESCO World Heritage Site in Kandy, Sri Dalada Maligawa and related religious practices and other multiethnic heritage and cultural sites with unique cultural practices of the province.

Therefore, the proposed promotional theme for the Central Province Tourism could be ‘Experience the Deep Tranquility of Unique Diversity – Adwithiya VIVIDATHWAYE GAMBURU Sansunbawaya Athwindinna’.

The main academic contributor of the event will be the Colombo University and the main resource person of the event is Prof. D.A.C. Silva. Under the programme lineup there will be special programmes:

- Culinary Exhibition/demonstration and competition with Tea Heritage and Spices: ‘Explore the Land of Diversity with Tea Heritage and Sri Lankan Spices’
- Competition for selection of the ‘Best Tea Trails Hikes’.
- Competition for selection of ‘Best Tea Tourism Story’.
- Competition for selection of ‘Best Tourism Slogan’ for the Central Province

Tea Tourism segment can certainly add vibrancy to Sri Lanka tourism product.

I feel it will significantly contribute to overcoming the challenges before us as a Nation by attracting the right crowd and creating a major attraction to benefit the Sri Lanka Tourism product.





Rohini Jayasinghe

Humble and dignified

In order to write this appreciation of the life of Rohini Jayasinghe (née Sirimane), or 'Rohini akka', as she was called by many of us, I have to refer to two books. One is 'Galle - As Quiet as Asleep' by Nora Roberts, in which the Sirimanes are mentioned in detail; and another, the 'Collective Identities, Nationalism and Protests in Modern Sri Lanka' by Historian Dr. Michael Roberts.



One of Rohini akka's greatest traits was that she never craved to publicise her ties with the rich and the famous. She was always reserved and dignified, and conscious of her family and social obligations... One unforgettable act of hers was how I was looked after at her house for nearly two weeks with utmost care after my cardiac surgery.

In the latter, an assemblage of the work of various historians mentions a New Elite that had come into prominence during the final stages of Sri Lanka's colonial era. Among those mentioned are the Sirimanes of Bentota/Elpitiya.

riages were the norm, and such an arrangement led to the marriage of Dr. Sathis Jayasinghe and Rohini Sirimane. Sathis and Rohini settled down in Wattala. They brought up three children: Rohan, the elder, who held some key positions during President Mahinda Rajapaksa's administration; Piyal; and their daughter, Dilika, who practises medicine in Australia.

of State, and also be members of the Presidential entourage, which led to meetings with many famous Heads of State. One such visit was to the US, where President Ronald Reagan hosted a dinner in honour of President Jayewardene at the White House, which was a rare honour conferred on a Sri Lankan Head of State, at which Sathis and Rohini were among the invitees.

the famous. She was always reserved and dignified, and conscious of her family and social obligations. On a personal note, I remain grateful to Sathis and Rohini for hosting my engagement at her spacious house, and similarly, hosting my daughter's and son's engagements and homecomings as well. One unforgettable act of hers was how I was looked after at her house for nearly two weeks with utmost care after my cardiac surgery.

Following universal suffrage in 1931, these families commanded considerable political power with either side of the political divide, and were very influential. Rohini Sirimane was a direct descendant of Simon Sirimane, a wealthy rubber planter who was once known as the 'Rubber King'.

Sathis soon established himself as a reliable and leading General Practitioner. In the process of this development, Rohini akka's role was that of an exceptionally competent housewife. It was during an early stage of his distinguished career that Sathis became the Personal Physician to the then President J.R. Jayewardene. It led to an enduring and mutually beneficial tie-up that was undoubtedly facilitated by Rohini's family's connections to the Jayewardenes.

Some other notable visits were to Rome, where they had an audience with the Pope, and a visit to Cuba to meet President Fidel Castro. In early 1983, the North Colombo Medical College was established, and Sathis played a key role in the realisation of this project. It paved the way for many aspirants to a medical career to pursue the study of medicine in this country. This was due to the unavailability of such opportunities in Sri Lanka.

Every year, Rohini akka hosted a party to celebrate her son Piyal's birthday, an event which was much looked-forward to by the immediate and extended family members and friends. Everyone enjoyed her exceptional culinary skills. Rohini akka bore her fatal illness with characteristic calm, which was admirable. Jayanthi joins me in extending our heartfelt sympathies to Sathis aiyya and the children.

Rohini akka, like her sisters, was educated at Southlands Girls' School, Galle. By the time her education was completed, yet another social evolution was taking place in the country's Maritime Provinces. This brought into prominence a new professional class. One such family which represented this class, especially in the field of medicine, was the Jayasinghe family of Payagala.

This enabled both Sathis and Rohini to be confidants of the Head

One of Rohini akka's greatest traits was that she never craved to publicise her ties with the rich and

JAGATH C. SAVANADASA

APPRECIATIONS

Vivette Goonetilleke

Versatile music teacher

August 15, this year, marked the thirtieth death anniversary of my late wife, Vivette Goonetilleke. We were happily married for twenty-one years at the time of her demise.

Vivette schooled at Ladies College and thereafter, became an accomplished, much sought-after Music Teacher for instruments such as the violin and piano, having qualified in the highest grades awarded by the Trinity College of Music - London (FTCL) and the London Royal School of Music (LRSM).

even though the obligations of being a service wife compromised to some extent, progress in her professional career, Vivette took it in her stride.

Vivette and I met when her family was on a holiday at Diyatalawa and I was serving in the Air Force at that location and had the good fortune to befriend the family, which in due time, became a lifelong friendship.

Her pupils loved and admired her not only because her teaching was thoroughly executed, but also because she was kind and affable—while also being benevolently strict, through which (I feel) she achieved good examination results among them.

In later years, when I was faced with a critical career situation and had to take the moral high ground resulting in my premature exit from the Air Force, Vivette stood by me steadfastly, and we started a new life on Civvy Street. Our son

Vivette schooled at Ladies College and thereafter, became an accomplished, much sought-after Music Teacher for instruments such as the violin and piano, having qualified in the highest grades awarded by the Trinity College of Music - London (FTCL) and the London Royal School of Music (LRSM).

Her pupils loved and admired her not only because her teaching was thoroughly executed, but also because she was kind and affable—while also being benevolently strict, through which (I feel) she achieved good examination results among them.

Rajiv was in the happy situation of spending a year on an AFS Field Scholarship in Australia, which opened up new vistas to him and the family, prevalent even today.

After five years of close contact and social interaction with extended families and friends, Vivette and I took our marriage vows with God's blessings in 1969, to spend the rest of our lives together, for better or worse, in sickness or health, for richer or poorer, until death do us apart. We thus lived happily for twenty-one years, until the curtain fell on our happy family in the form of cancer. Our only son Rajiv was Vivette's parents' first grandchild, and he was loved and spoiled by all in the family—especially his grandfather—with whom a special bond developed.

Neither Rajiv nor I would have achieved what we did in our lives without the guidance and back-up of a loving wife and mother. When she sadly departed at the comparatively early age of 50, there was a void in our home for a while, until memories which mirrored our past happy life enabled us to pick up the pieces and motivate us to move on and live again.

Vivette anxiously awaited Rajiv's return and our family life resumed normalcy until tragedy struck, taking out a much-loved wife and mother from our home.

As the years passed by, we served in some outstations and also a short time abroad, and I must say that our small family was happy in those days; and

While it is a matter of regret that she did not live long enough to see Rajiv grow up to be the man he is today, both as an all-round adult and someone progressing well in the legal profession, as well as to meet up with her daughter-in-law and only grandchild, it can reasonably be surmised that the comforting thought of her presence behind the scene neutralises her physical absence.

I now move on to the 31st year of our separation by death, until we meet upon that "beautiful shore".

RANJIT GOONETILLEKE

Victoreen Hassan

She was inspiring and kind

Today marks the 12th death anniversary my beloved wife, Victoreen. We spent a happy and peaceful wedded life, caring and loving each other. But fate was unkind, and the day that I lost her, it broke my heart.



Victoreen placed gold on my finger and brought love unlike I had ever known. She gave life to my children, and when I needed hope and inspiration, she was always so strong. All I have are memories and a photo in a frame of a wonderful wife I am proud was mine.

My days and nights have turned so lonely since the day God called her to rest. It broke my heart to walk beside her on that fateful day she was laid to rest. The special memories of Victoreen always bring a smile to my face. My love for her doesn't go away; it only walks beside me every day, unseen and unheard but always near me—still loved, still missed, and held so dear to me.

As what it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. Although you can't be here with me, we're never truly apart. Until my final breath is drawn, you'll keep living in my heart.

In secret I weep, in silence I cry, as each lonely hour and day passes by. For all you gave me through the years, for your time, your love, your prayers, your patience, caring, sharing, and all this and more... I still love you, Victoreen. Finally, thank you, dear Victoreen, for the wonderful and generous sacrifices you made for me and our children—and all the loving care and affection you showered on us. Thank you for loving me and being who you were.

I thank my lucky stars we found each other as we were so sincere and faithful. There isn't a day that passes by without me remembering her, as we loved and lived a joyful life. And though today, we are separated physically, I take comfort in knowing that we will meet again someday.

Victoreen, to hear your sweet voice and to see your tender smile was my consolation in life. Just to sit and talk as we used to do would be my dearest wish today. Thinking of you, now and always, I still love you.

Darling Vicky, our special years will not return, when you and I were together. But with the love within our hearts, you will walk with me forever.

My heart aches in sadness and my silent tears still flow

I remember not what I did for her, but I remember what I was for her and what she was for me. The day I first held her, and the days I kissed her sweet face are precious memories time cannot erase.

Until we meet again, sadly missed by your loving husband...

KAMIL HASSAN

Thank you, dear Victoreen, for the wonderful and generous sacrifices you made for me and our children—and all the loving care and affection you showered on us. Thank you for loving me and being who you were. Darling Vicky, our special years will not return, when you and I were together. But with the love within our hearts, you will walk with me forever.

ADA KOTIPATHI - TUESDAY  
 Draw No.: 1021 Colour: LIGHT BLUE  
 Date: 25.08.2020  
**Today's Jackpot**  
**Rs. 63,681,555/-**  
 Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.  
 Development Lotteries Board  
 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2  
 Tel: 2 333 546-47 Fax: 2 333 545 Website: www.dlb.lk  
 Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

**Royal College Union ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020**  
 Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Royal College Union (RCU) will be held on Saturday, 26th September 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at the Royal College Main Hall.  
 The Agenda and the nomination forms for Age Groups will be available from 26th August 2020 for members to download and print from the RCU website. (Please visit [www.rcu.lk/downloads/](http://www.rcu.lk/downloads/)).  
 Nominations for age Groups should be submitted in hardcopy, to reach the undersigned on or before 12:00 noon on 16th September 2020 at the RCU office.  
 Minutes, reports and accounts will be made available to members at the Royal College Union office from 12th September 2020.  
 Voting for the Age Group representatives will commence at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. on 26th September 2020. Polling Cards will not be issued after 3:45 p.m.  
 Members seeking election to statutory bodies of the Council, who are unable to be present at the Annual General Meeting should intimate to the undersigned in writing their willingness to serve in such bodies in the event they are elected. Such intimations should reach the undersigned by 21st September 2020.  
 Any resolutions to be tabled at the Annual General Meeting should also be received by the undersigned in writing, at the Royal College Union office not later than 11th September, 2020.  
 Entry to the meeting and eligibility to vote will be on production of the Royal College Union Membership Card and National Identity Card, except in the case of new members whose Membership Cards have not been issued. They should produce the original payment receipt for membership issued by the Union with the National Identity Card.  
 Please note, health guidelines defined by the authorities due to the current pandemic will be strictly enforced during the election and the AGM meeting.  
**The Dress Code for the Meeting:**  
 Office attire with College Tie.  
**Mithila Mendis**  
 Secretary  
 Royal College Union  
 25th August 2020

English Letter & Winning Numbers  
**615** Colour: **Yellow**  
 Date: **23 Aug. 2020**  
**29 57 68 72**  
**Total Value of Prizes Rs. 4,005,540/-**  
**Next Super Jackpot Rs. 81,403,070/-**  
 Yellow, Pink and Green coloured tickets are valid on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays respectively. Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.

**SUPER BALL**  
 Draw Number: **1197**  
 Draw Date: **23.08.2020**  
 Sunday  
**U 11 18 50 73**  
**Total Value of Prizes Rs. 3,203,620/-**  
**Next Super Jackpot Rs. 52,610,057/-**  
 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**  
 SUNDAY  
 Date: 23.08.2020  
 Draw No.: 1019  
 Colour: GREEN  
**16 43 46 67**  
**English Letter S**  
**Total Value of Prizes Rs. 3,503,900/-**  
 Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: **7171**  
 Winning number for Rs. 100/- cash prizes: **425**  
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months

**ලග්නා**  
 Date: 23-08-2020  
 Draw Number: 2900 | Colour: Purple  
**Super Jackpot Rs. 2,180,886/-**  
**10 12 21 58**  
**Total Value of Prizes Rs. 7,466,480/-**  
 The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

**AMENDMENT**  
  
**MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING**  
**SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**CONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL PARK (SANDUN UYANA) AT THE LAND ADJACENT TO THE APE GAMA AND JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ROAD, KOTTE - PHASE 1 - CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DEEP PONDS AND PODIUM AREA**  
 The Chairman of Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLLDC) has amended under mentioned procurement which was initially appeared in the Daily News on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2020  

Procurement No.	Item Descriptions	Amended Bid Issuing Dates
S/390/20	Construction of Memorial Park (Sandun Uyana) at The Land Adjacent to the Ape Gama and Japan Friendship Road, Kotte - Phase 1 - Contract for Construction of Deep Ponds and Podium Area	From 21 <sup>st</sup> August, 2020 to 09 <sup>th</sup> September, 2020

  
 Chairman  
 Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation  
 No.03, Sri Jayewardenepura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya.  
 Head office Tel: 0112889485-7 Web: [www.landdevelopment.lk](http://www.landdevelopment.lk)



# Daily News



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news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk  
Tuesday, August 25, 2020

## A noble cause

Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris is one of the ministers in the new Government who has already commenced work on a positive note. He pledged to totally eradicate the scourge of ragging from the Universities which would have won for him many plaudits from parents who desire to send their children for higher learning. Now he has come up with yet another proposal that will provide a boost for the education of underprivileged children. Prof. Peiris, an educationist himself, mooted the idea for all leading schools to share their resources with those schools, particularly in the rural areas that are starved of even the basic resources and function under much hardship. Meeting with principals of 17 leading schools on Thursday, Prof. Peiris urged the need for working out a mechanism to share their resources with under-resourced schools scattered across the country. The school principals were asked to come up with proposals to "adopt" some of the underprivileged schools.

Many schools in rural areas function without even basic amenities such as drinking water, toilets etc. Some of these schools lack buildings to accommodate the children and classes are held under trees in the school compound while some schools are housed in sheds. Most schools lack teachers and are sometimes forced to cut down on the number of school days in the week.

Even some of the better schools in the provinces function without Principals and lack teachers for subjects such as mathematics and English. Also a majority of these schools have to forego extra-curricular and sports activities due to lack of playgrounds and space. Most children attending rural schools lack textbooks and other wherewithal, since their parents cannot afford them due to poverty. Malnutrition and disease are also rampant among the school going population in very remote areas.

We boast of a Free Education system and claim we are the first South Asian country to introduce free education from the Primary to University level. But how many children benefit from our free education system? Have any surveys been done by the Education Ministries down the years to ascertain the school dropout rate in this country? Today many children are forced to cut short their school life due to poverty though the Government has made it compulsory for schooling to be provided to every child until the age of 14 (Grade 8/9).

The school life of a child cannot be compartmentalized and treated in isolation. Other factors too should be taken into account, especially if the child is placed in the necessary background enabling him/her to continue with a smooth, uninterrupted education. Poverty assumes a critical role.

Most children in poverty stricken families are forced to go to school without meals and other comforts that children in the privileged school take for granted. TV channels recently showed children from a rural school navigating rivers and canals to get to their school while others have to wage a life and death battle doing a delicate balancing act to cross broken bridges. Children in cities and towns have vehicles and school vans to get them to schools in safety and comfort. This certainly is not the level playing field in education that the pioneers of free education envisioned.

Hence, Prof. Peiris is fully justified in appealing to the privileged schools to lend a helping hand in sharing their resources so that rural schools could at least stay afloat and impart a sound education to children in those areas.

Certainly, the big names among the leading schools can show the way by making a degree of sacrifice in this endeavour with their unlimited funds and other means of assistance in reaching out to their less fortunate brethren. The Old Boy Networks in these schools which never lose an opportunity to launch fund raising projects could take the lead in this respect.

They can have a separate fund raising exercise to assist one of these underprivileged schools. Most of the Old Boys of these leading schools are top notch entrepreneurs and corporate executives. Perhaps Minister Prof. Peiris could also have a discussion with these segments as he did with the Principals to try to persuade them to be partners in this worthy cause. Even some of our well heeled politicians too could be drawn into this exercise.

Education is a birthright of every child. There should be no impediments placed in his/her path in attaining to the fullest the fruits of the free education system in this country. Poverty and lack of resources in schools should certainly not be causes for denying a proper education to every child. The Government can do only so much to provide a sound education. Other responsible citizens and institutions too should play their part in ensuring this. Resource rich leading schools could certainly afford to step into the breach to ensure no child is left behind in this scheme of things. As UNICEF says, every child counts.



United Nations Headquarters in New York

# Racism in the UN: Aberration of UN Charter

**THALIF DEEN**  
As it continues to vociferously preach the virtues of equality—advocating equal rights for all, irrespective of race, sex, language or religion—the United Nations has been quick to condemn racism and racial discrimination worldwide.

But how hypocritical is it when racism raises its ugly head in its own backyard—particularly in Geneva which, ironically, is home to the UN Human Rights Council and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)?

A survey of over 688 UN staffers in Geneva has come up with some startling revelations re-affirming the fact, which has long remained under wraps, that "racism exists within the United Nations".

The survey revealed that "more than 1 in 3 staff have personally experienced racial discrimination and/or have witnessed others facing racial discrimination in the workplace. And two-thirds of those who experienced racism did so on the basis of nationality".

A separate survey by the UN Staff Union in New York was equally revealing.

According to the findings, 59% of the respondents said "they don't feel the UN effectively addresses racial justice in the workplace, while every second respondent noted they don't feel comfortable talking about racial discrimination at work".

Meanwhile, the UN Secretariat in New York, faltered ingloriously, as it abruptly withdrew its own online survey on racism, in which it asked staffers to identify themselves either as "black, brown, white, mixed/multi-racial, and any other".

But the most offensive of the categories listed in the survey was "yellow" – a longstanding Western racist description of Asians, including Japanese, Chinese and Koreans.

### Findings of the Geneva survey

A non-apologetic message emailed to staffers on August 19 read: "The United Nations Survey on Racism has been taken offline and will be revised and reissued, taking into account the legitimate concerns expressed by staff."

The findings of the Geneva survey also reveal:

1. Among those who experienced or witnessed racism, a majority of staff indicated that racial discrimination affected opportunities for career advancement. A significant number of staff also indicated that racial discrimination manifested itself in the form of verbal abuse and exclusion from work events, such as decision-making, trainings, missions, assignments etc.

2. A large number who experienced or witnessed racial discrimination, harassment or abuse of authority indicated that they did not take any action. Lack of trust in the organisation's recourse mechanisms was cited as the most common reason. Many also stated that they feared retaliation.

3. Respondents believed racism needed to be addressed in a number of different ways. These include accountability and zero tolerance, training and sensitization, greater transparency in hiring, broader diversity, and a more open dialogue on the issue.

Prisca Chaoui, Executive Secretary of the 3,500-strong Staff Coordinating Council at the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG), told IPS: "We believe, as a staff union, that it is high time for the organisation to seriously combat pervasive racism and racial discrimination. This means greater accountability and a zero tolerance Policy towards any racial act."

She said: "We are glad to see that the UN management is willing to address this issue, and as a staff union, we are ready to assist in coming up with serious measures that go beyond empty words and lead to a real change so that the UN shows it is capable of upholding the principles that it preaches to the overall world."

"We are concerned that many cases of racism remain unreported due to the lack of trust of the staff in the existing recourse mechanisms as well as fear of retaliation," she declared.

"The findings of the survey confirm that racism exists within the United Nations, as earlier stated by



**The UN Secretariat in New York, faltered ingloriously, as it abruptly withdrew its own online survey on racism, in which it asked staffers to identify themselves either as "black, brown, white, mixed/multi-racial, and any other."**

**In a letter to UN staff, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said last June: "The position of the United Nations on racism is crystal clear: this scourge violates the United Nations Charter and debases our core values."**

the Secretary-General. They also show that supervisors and senior managers have an important role to play, as do all staff, in tackling this issue".

She said the results of the survey "will guide our interactions with management at the duty station and globally. They will also be used to help the Council propose to senior management at UNOG a strategy to fight racism in the workplace".

Patricia Nemeth, President, United Nations Staff Union, told IPS the UN Staff Union in New York, which has a strength of over 6,500 members—with the local staff in peacekeeping operations overseas estimated at approximately 20,000 plus—ran its own survey entitled "UNHQ-NY pulse survey on racial justice".

She said the murder of (the African-American) George Floyd on May 25, added to those of Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Akai Gurley, Jerame Reid, Elijah McClain and so many more, "reopened the wounds of racial injustice that afflict our host country and the world as a whole".

The United Nations, she pointed out, has a normative framework to address racial discrimination within the organisation, but work remains to be done, as recognised by the Secretary-General on June 4.

"In this spirit, the Staff Union is committed to serving as a platform for progress towards greater inclusion, diversity, dignity and social justice both

within the UN and beyond," declared Nemeth, who is also Vice President for Conditions of Service – the Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA).

The New York survey was intended to provide the Staff Union with a better understanding of the current situation regarding racial injustice within the United Nations Secretariat and will help determine "how we as staff can contribute to making improvements and will also feed into broader policy discussions".

The survey combined questions about racial discrimination in the workplace in all its forms; "questions about your own experience with racial discrimination; and specific questions about discrimination against individuals of African descent, which is a key focus of concern at our duty station right now."

The responses received included:

1. 44% of the respondents noted there is no adequate racial diversity within their department and 46% noted that they feel that staff of African descent aren't adequately represented within their department.

2. 43% of the respondents noted they have experienced workplace harassment or intimidation as a result of their race.

3. Staff members have experienced acts of racial discrimination at the workplace, primarily in tone and language used towards them, in selection and promotion processes and in recognition of their authority and grade. When it comes to witnessing racist conduct towards others, the order remains the same, but at a higher percentage.

4. New York staff would welcome if the Organisation were to ensure diversity in positions of authority; establish an anonymous channel for reporting racial discrimination; and ensure racial diversity in Human Resource and Executive Offices and staffing offices in the formal and informal justice system, so that staff members feel safe sharing their concerns, and confident they will be understood and taken seriously.

5. Respondents believed racism needed to be addressed in a number of different ways. These include training and sensitization, greater transparency in recruitment, need for action instead of words, creating safe workspace and inclusiveness, understanding structural and systemic racism.

### UN staff community in New York

Nemeth said the survey results will allow the staff union's coordination group on racial justice to plan subsequent actions tailored to the specific needs of the UN staff community in New York.

"In order to frame the conversation, we have already initiated a series of expert talks that aim to provide historical context regarding the scale and gravity of the transatlantic slave trade, the meaning and persistence of systemic racism, but also the outstanding cultural richness and contribution of the African diaspora around the world".

Despite the inherent difficulties caused by social distancing, she said, "we will continue to find creative ways to encourage colleagues to have the difficult conversations that enable us to overcome the challenge of racism in the workplace."

Meanwhile, in a letter to UN staff, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said last June: "The position of the United Nations on racism is crystal clear: this scourge violates the United Nations Charter and debases our core values."

Ian Richards, former President of the Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations, and an economist at UNCTAD in Geneva, told IPS: "The survey has shown a problem exists, and not just based on skin colour but mainly on nationality, which for an organisation called the United Nations is worrying."

Therefore, in fixing this, management needs to recognize that each country, culture and duty station experiences racism in different forms, whether linked to slavery, colonialism, immigration, national rivalries, or conflicts. And each of these needs its own treatment, he added.

"We look forward to working with the Secretary-General to solve this problem," declared Richards.

-IPS

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows. - Sydney J. Harris



## SUGESWARA SENADHIRA

The Government decided to retain salient points in the 19th Amendment to the Constitution while removing its harmful clauses that has created instability and uncertainties in governance. Within a very short period after the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, in April 2015, there were sufficient evidences of its inadequacies. The apparent need for another amendment was felt very strongly in all sections of the political divide as well as among the people in the country.

Opening the new Session of the 9th Parliament on August 20, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa announced the government's intention to amend the Constitution. "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 from the Constitution."

## NEW 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," he said.

The very first meeting of the new Cabinet of Ministers appointed a sub-committee to formulate the 20th Amendment (20A), and approved repealing 19A but retain salient points including the two-term limit and the five-year term of the presidency. The Cabinet appointed a five-member sub-committee to study all Cabinet papers, notes, and drafts already presented on constitutional change. The sub-committee will be made up of Prof. G.L. Peiris, Dinesh Gunawardena, Nimal Siripala de Silva, Ali Sabry, and Udaya Gammanpila. The sub-committee is to submit their observation to the Cabinet.

A first-timer in Parliament, Justice Minister Ali Sabry has been empowered to study the 19A and make recommendations to the Cabinet regarding which elements should be carried forward in the 20A. A second sub-committee to formulate a new Constitution was approved by the Cabinet but this will be appointed later.

Cabinet Spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella said some good things from the 19th Amendment will be carried forward to the 20th Amendment. Under the 19th Amendment right to information was made a fundamental right and this will be safeguarded, he said.

With regard to the independent institutions introduced by the 19A, Justice Minister Sabry will decide which elements should be carried forth in the 20A and he will submit them in a draft 20th Amendment to the Cabinet for approval.

"We need to discuss the new Constitution with the public, the public needs to debate it. We do not need a Constitution dictated to Sri Lanka by foreign NGOs. The views of Sri Lankans must be reflected in the

# Towards a progressive Constitution



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa addressing the inaugural session of the Ninth Parliament. Pictures by Sulochana Gamage

new Constitution," a spokesman said.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, in his election manifesto, 'Vistas of Prosperity & Splendor' under the heading, 'A new Constitution that Fulfills the Wishes of the People' stated that earlier constitutional changes that were introduced to suit the requirements of certain individuals and political parties, therefore failed to reflect the people's aspirations. "It is our desire to bring about constitutional reforms in accordance with the wishes of the people."

During the general elections campaign, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa also reiterated the manifesto promise of amending the Constitution. Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) National Organizer Basili Rajapaksa, addressing a news briefing recently said the 19th Amendment to the Constitution should be amended if the country was to move on.

The government has given top priority to fulfill this promise. "We are hoping to produce an effective Constitution to the country with the

consent of all communities," new Minister of Justice said. He said they hoped to submit this proposal to the Cabinet to get it approved after being finalized. "We are taking steps to abolish any clauses in the 19th Amendment that are detrimental to the country and amend them accordingly," Sabry said.

He said under the proposal, the tenure of a President would remain subjected to five years, and it would maintain the position for a candidate not to contest a presidential election for more than two times.

Ali Sabry also assured that operations of the independent commissions would not be impeded whatsoever with the proposed amendment.

Since the passing of the 19th Amendment in 2015, there were 3 new amendments proposed as Private Member's Bills in Parliament. Two of them were proposed by former Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakse and the other one by Anura Kumara Dissanayake, leader of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP). The JVP proposal was to completely do away with the Executive Presidency.



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrives for the First Sitting of the Ninth Parliament with Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena last Thursday.

**President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, in his election manifesto, 'Vistas of Prosperity & Splendor' under the heading, 'A new Constitution that Fulfills the Wishes of the People' stated that earlier constitutional changes introduced to suit the requirements of certain individuals and political parties, failed to reflect the people's aspirations.**

**"It is our desire to bring about constitutional reforms in accordance with the wishes of the people."**

Explaining the proposed bill, Dissanayake said in March 2018 referred to the instability created due to differences between the then President and the then Prime Minister. "Currently there is political turmoil in the country. Similar instances in the past have seen important, socially beneficial legislation being enacted. Our proposal is for abolishing the Executive Presidency by bringing in the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, using the instability of the Government to our advantage."

## EXECUTIVE PRESIDENCY

However, he admitted that the final issue to consider was the enactment process. "The approval of a two-thirds majority in Parliament is needed for this Amendment to be passed. The support of other MPs will be needed at this point. In addition, if the Supreme Court decided, we may have to hold a referendum." Pointing out that the JVP has been calling for the elimination of the Executive since the first Executive President was appointed, MP Dissanayake asserted that the then government did not have any intention of ridding the country of the Executive Presidency.

As the JVP proposal was listed as 20A, MP Wijeyadasa Rajapakse's proposals were listed in Parliament as the 21st and 22nd amendments to the constitution.

The 21st amendment to the Constitution published on the 30th of

December 2019, proposed an amendment to subparagraph (a) of Paragraph (6) of Article 99 of the Constitution. According to this article, a minimum of 5% of the total votes polled should be secured by a recognized political party or independent group, for a candidate from that party to be elected. Wijeyadasa Rajapakse proposes to increase this limit 12.5 percent of the total votes polled, in any electorate.

Through the 22nd amendment to the constitution, he had proposed to strengthen certain powers of the president. The other proposals included in the 22nd amendment include provisions that state "The president shall hold the Ministry of Defence and any other Ministry." The proposed amendment also limits the number of cabinet, non-cabinet and deputy ministers to 30.

Under the current constitution the appointments made by the President to the positions of Chief Justice, Supreme Court Judges, the Judge of the Court of Appeal and the Judicial Service Commission, including the Chairman, should be approved by the Constitutional Council.

However, according to the 22nd Amendment bill presented by Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, the President can appoint judges after "ascertaining the views of the Judicial Services Commission". According to the proposed amendment the president does not need the approval of the Constitutional Council to make appointments to Senior Courts.

Rajapakse has proposed for the president to also be vested with the power to remove members of the Judicial Service Commission, without the approval of the Constitutional Council.

Wijeyadasa Rajapakse in his amendment proposes for the president to be vested with the power to make such appointments after "ascertaining the views of the Prime Minister."

The three proposed amendments lapsed with the dissolution of Parliament on March 2, 2020.

As President Rajapaksa stated the constitutional experts will have to make a deep study before finalizing the draft for the proposed 20th Amendment. The government is confident of obtaining a two-thirds majority for the proposed Amendment and the Supreme Court will have to decide if a National Referendum will be required or not.

However, as Education Minister Prof G. L. Peiris said, late President J.R. Jayewardene's assuredness that his Constitution was everlasting and could not be changed, will be proven false by the 'Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Mahinda Rajapaksa' harmony.

The late President Jayewardene had declared that no one could change his Constitution as long as the sun and the moon existed. "JR's assuredness was wrong. Our government obtained a two-thirds majority. No one can make laws that could not be changed and exist forever," Prof. Peiris said.

- Asian Tribune

## Open spaces make for 'wanderment'



I remember seeing a cartoon featuring a man and a little boy. They were standing at a point from where they could see a vast span of rugged desert below them. The man tells the boy, 'one day, my son, all this will be infrastructure!'

The man obviously thought that such an eventuality would be a good thing. Maybe the cartoonist was being cynical. The man, however, had imagination. Few would extract a teeming metropole from a wind-swept dust bowl.

That's one way of repainting the desert. There are many other ways in which a mind-brush with heart-colours could create. Better pictures than infrastructure, one might say. Of course the 'infrastructuralists' would beg to differ. Takes all kinds to make the world. Or break it.

Open spaces. They make for reflection. Even a grain of sand makes for reflection of course. Anything and everything contains meditative seed. A good imagination can draw forth wonderful things from seemingly inauspicious elements, big or small, but let's leave aside such philosophical objections for a while.

Open spaces teach us how enormous the world is and how tiny we are. And that's just one thing to wonder about. You can also wander all over such places, stop where you want, take off again, at your own pace.

You could pick a flower and ask yourself how it got its colours and texture or abstract yourself from place and moment to float in its fragrance. Pick a pebble and imagine the mountain it may have once been a part of or the riverbed it might line one day.

A clear sky is a canvas. It's blueness



that is a calm ocean turned upside down. And if there are wisps of cloud, that's just the foam from breaking waves. The Book of Clouds is a mystical text that hasn't yet been written, but strangely enough one that can still be read. There are monsters and fairies, all kinds of creatures, landscapes too.

Maybe it's a beach that's giving you the wide span for the imagination-brush to run riot, or work in serenity. Maybe it's a weather-worn pathway cluttered with boulders and made too uneven for even the most rugged vehicle. Maybe it's a mountain range. Maybe the vast expanse of a rolling valley.

What histories lie buried therein, do we know? Can we imagine? What histories in blood-rush or quietude are to unfold or will there be none, just slow-moving things that watch and keep opinion to themselves? And what stories do solitary trees or those that are dead and yet with dried branches resolutely marking present against a vacant sky have to tell?

We can walk open spaces. We can see them as books yet unwritten or else as beautifully crafted epics which can be



**Open spaces. They make for reflection. Even a grain of sand makes for reflection of course. Anything and everything contains meditative seed. A good imagination can draw forth wonderful things from seemingly inauspicious elements, big or small.**

read if we decode the languages that have evolved over millennia.

In another time, another landscape of being, someone observed that whereas open wounds are for blood-letting, open spaces are for love-letting. There is openness all around us.

It's in a book or a garden, a flower and the feather lying on a sidewalk, a conversation interrupted and the words not said, a thought befuddled by other thoughts that arrived uninvited, in the time-smudged word or frayed edge of an old love letter and of course spaces uncluttered by the everyday that bludgeons with routine. You can go visit them or you can imagine them. Either way, an open space is a canvas for a mind-brush wielded by a heart open to 'wanderment'. Happy painting!

malindasenevi@gmail.com.  
www.malindawords.blogspot.com.





# USSANGODA National Park,

## an attraction that needs attention

**RAJA WAIDYASEKERA**  
Tissamaharama Special Corr.

The Ussangoda National Park which is also known as the Horton Plains of Ruhunu Magampattu is an important site visited by tourists from all over the world. The Plains which is 111 hectares in extent is situated at Nonagama in Welipatanwila in the Ambalantota Divisional Secretariat area.

Although it was proclaimed as a National Park by the Wildlife Conservation Department in 2010, currently it is in dire straits due to lack of adequate infrastructure facilities. The Park is administered by the Kalametiya Forest Conservation Department. Since there is no permanent office at the Ussangoda National Park, mobile patrols are the only method available for forest conservation officials to perform their duties.

When queried about the plight of the reputed National Park, Wildlife Director - Southern region Prasanna Wimaladasa said a project report was submitted several years ago to the relevant authorities aiming at the development of the Park, but still no response has been received. In the recent past, there were plans to con-

struct star-class hotels in the vicinity of the Ussangoda National Park, destroying its beauty and glamour. These plans were later abandoned due to strong protests of the citizens of the area.

The Ussangoda National Park consists of valuable Ayurvedic medicinal herbs which have been destroyed by some unruly elements with the 'blessings' of the well-to-do people. According to senior citizens of the area, there are very valuable Ayurvedic herbs such as Vishnukranthi, Sooriyakanthi and Chandrakanthi at the Ussangoda National Park.

Though this is a place visited by people of all walks of life, it has no vehicle park. Instead, there is just a small plot of land allocated to park vehicles. The pilgrims travelling to Sylvan Shrines in Ruhunu Magampattu most often visit this Park which has no proper basic facilities. Now this place has become a haven for unruly elements since there are no custodians of law to look after it. There is a safe sea bathing place known as Kochchima just below the Ussangoda National Park.

According to chronicles, this is the place where King Ravana, accompanied by Seetha, the wife of Prince Rama of India, landed his aircraft Dandumonara.

The senior citizens of the area say a rumour had spread like a wildfire in the ancient days that whoever enters the Ussangoda valley will run a temperature and high fever since Ussangoda is an area that is considered as Sacred and holy.

According to chronicles, there had been a palace that belonged to King Manabarana. The ruins of his palace had been present there for a long time. Chronicles also say King Manabarana left his seven queens at this palace when he left for a battle. Due to the red colour of the soil in certain areas of the Park, it is also said the Ussangoda Park was created when a meteor fell upon this location. Not a single plant grows in these areas and even the sand along the coastal belt of the Park is red in colour.

Archaeologists say that there are signs of a human settlement here. But no investigation has been conducted to date.



# TRADITIONAL PUPPETRY HANGING BY A THREAD



**RAJA WAIDYASEKERA**  
Tissamaharama Special Corr.

The traditional Kolam Kalawa or Puppetry which was a definite feature in any religious, political or cultural event in Sri Lanka is now a dead art for which no new lease of life has been given. The Ministry and the Department of Cultural Affairs should be held responsible for this shortcoming. Rukada Kalawa which has a long history has faced a deep crisis and is on the deathbed. The puppet drama that gained wide popularity in India, China and Indonesia was inherited by Sri Lanka from India, according to chronicles. Human figures made out of wood, soil and wax are used in puppetry. Puppets are manipulated by puppet artistes.

It is said that there is a religious, social and cultural story behind puppet dramas. It is the puppet artist who creates puppets, prepare their dresses and paints them for puppet dramas. It is he who plays the flute, the dolak and the serpina at puppet dramas.

In the ancient days, puppet dramas were held in cadjan huts using kerosene lamps and candles to light the stage where puppet drama was played. Whenever there was a pinkama at a temple in a village or in a suburban area, puppet dramas based on Buddhist Jathaka Katha were staged. Puppet dramas were staged during Vesak

and Poson festival seasons with the sponsorship of donors and philanthropists.

The puppet drama art gained popularity in Ambalangoda, Wathugedara, Balapitiya and Welithara areas. The leadership of puppet dramas in Welithara, Balapitiya was held by Sadoris Ranasinha and the reputed puppet drama artiste Podisirina Gurunnanse led the puppet dramas in Wathugedara, Ambalangoda.

It is said that Gamchhari Podi Sirinagunnanse who lived at Kanangoda in Ambalangoda was the pioneer in puppet dramas, according to chronicles. He held a puppet drama show in the presence of Prince of Wales who had then presented a gold medal and a cash prize to Podi Sirinagunnanse as a mark of appreciation.

There are families in Ambalangoda and Balapitiya areas that follow the tradition of puppet drama art. But they say the puppet drama art has been facing a deep crisis due to the popularity gained by teledramas. They say puppet dramas are insufficient to keep their home fires burning. They say puppet dramas should be given the state patronage to give a new lease of life to the industry. They also said during the ancient days, puppet dramas were frequently held at state functions, private functions and election propaganda meetings as well. They said Ministry and the Department of Cultural Affairs must intervene to uplift puppet drama art.





IN THE SUPREME COURT LIST OF CASES FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

SISIRA J. DE ABREU J. VIJITH K. MALALGODA P.C. J. P. PADMAN SURASENA J.

COURT NO. 502 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)

TO BE MENTIONED 1. SC. Application FR 07/2020 FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED 1. SC. Application FR 184/17 with 397/19 (Top of the list)

2. SC. Application FR 302/17 with 235/17 3. SC. Application FR 201/18 4. SC. Application FR 28/20 FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE 1. SC. HC.CA.LA 444/19 -HCCA 331/15 TO BE RESUMED 1. SC. Rule No. 01/2018 (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.LA 30/20 - HC. 20/17 (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Application R 429/16 2. SC. Application R 452/16 3. SC. Appeal No. 74/17 -HCCA 16/12 PRIYANTHA JAYAWARDANE (P.C.) (J) MURDU N.B. FERNANDO P.C.J. S. THURAIRAJA P.C. J. COURT NO. 403 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)

TO BE MENTIONED

1. SC. Application FR 414/16 2. SC. T.A.B. NO. 1A/18/2020 FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED 1. SC. Application FR 388/19

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 159/18 - CA 236/08 2. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 273/19, 274/19, 275/19, 276/19 - HCAL 75/18, 72/18, 77/18, 71/18 3. SC.HC.CA. LA 488/19 - HCCA 83/13

COURT NO. 403 contd (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE 1. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 159/18 - CA 236/08 2. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 273/19, 274/19, 275/19, 276/19 - HCAL 75/18, 72/18, 77/18, 71/18 3. SC.HC.CA. LA 488/19 - HCCA 83/13

1. SC. HC.CA. LA 437/19 -HCCA 171/19 2. SC. HC.CA. LA 49/20 -HCCA 10/17 3. SC. HC.CA. LA 100/20 -HCCA 193/18 FOR ARGUMENT 1. SC. Appeal No. 17/08 with 14/08 - HCCA 1218/98 (Top of the list) 2. SC. CHC No. 23/08 - HC (Civil) No. 167/2005 (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 165/16 - HCCA 31/08 2. SC. Appeal No. 41/19 & 42/19 - HCCA 15/14, 14/14 L.T.B. DEHIDENIYA J. E.A.G.R. AMARASEKERA J. YASANTHA KODAGO-DA P.C. J. COURT NO. 404 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)

TO BE MENTIONED 1. SC. Appeal No. 57/18 - HCCA 394/07, 394/A/07 2. SC. Application FR 52/20 FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED 1. SC. Application FR 186/18

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC. (Spl.) LA 472/19 - CA 273/18 2. SC. (Spl.) LA 473/19 - CA 272/18 (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC. HC.CA. LA 128/19 -HCCA 14/18 2. SC. (Spl.) LA 68/20 - CA No. 71/09 3. SC. (Spl.) LA 92/20 - CA No. 07/18 4. SC. HC.CA. LA 123/20 -HCCA 95/19

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 125/16 - HCCA 69/09 (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR INQUIRY

1. SC. Contempt No. 08/16 with 09/16 - 21/16

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Application FR 325/15 IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 A.H.M.D NAWAZ (J)(P/CA)



SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J. COURT NO. 301 AT 09.00 A.M. FOR SUPPORT

1. 168/20 Writ of Cert A.H.M.D NAWAZ (J)(P/CA)

SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J. COURT NO. 301 AT 10.00 A.M. FOR JUDGMENT

1. 17/18 RII (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA) WITH 16/18 RII 2. 28/16 MCR (Sobitha Rajakaruna J.)

TO BE MENTIONED

1. 308/19 Writ of Cert 2. 309/19 Writ of Cert 3. 329/19 Writ of Cert 4. 509/19 Writ of Cert 5. 201/20 Writ of Cert

6. 384/18 HCC 7. 26/19 HCC 8. 63/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

(A.L.S. Gooneratne J.) Sobitha Rajakaruna J.) 9. 64/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.)(P/CA)

COURT NO. 301 AT 10.00 A.M. CONTD...

FOR SUPPORT 1. 47/20 Writ of Cert (Top of the list) 2. 264/19 Writ of Cert 3. 453/19 Writ of Cert 4. 531/19 Writ of Cert 5. 541/19 Writ of Cert 6. 179/20 Writ of Cert 7. 03/20 RII

NOTICE RETURNABLE

1. 475/19 Writ of Cert 2. 138/20 Writ of Cert 3. 211/20 Writ of Cert WITH 208/20 WR A.H.M.D NAWAZ (J)(P/CA)

ARJUNA OBEYES- EKERE J. COURT NO. 301 AT 01.30P.M. TO BE RESUMED

1. 142/19 Writ of Cert K.K. WICKRAMASINGHE (J.) DEVIKA ABEYRATHNE J. COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M. FOR ORDER

1. 01/20 BA (Devika Abeyratne J.) ASSIGN COUNSEL

1. 411/19 HC 2. 13/20 HC TO BE MENTIONED

1. 143/16 PHC 2. 145/16 PHC 3. 147/16 PHC 4. 149/16 PHC 5. 151/16 PHC 6. 153/16 PHC 7. 155/16 PHC 8. 157/16 PHC 9. 159/16 PHC 10. 161/16 PHC 11. 163/16 PHC 12. 197/17 HC 13. 251/18 HC 14. 153 - 156/19

COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M. CONTD...

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 217/15 HC 2. 231/15 PHC 3. 139-140/16 HC 4. 216/17 HC 5. 255 - 256/18 HC A. L. S. GOONERATNE J.

DR. RUWAN FERNAN- DO (J) COURT NO. 204 AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED

1. 18/17 PHC 2. 37/17 PHC 3. 05/20 PA TO BE RESUMED 1. 01/09 BOR FOR ARGUMENT 1. 109/03 PHC 2. 139/13 PHC ACHALA WENGAPPULI J. K. PRIYANTHA FERNAN- DO (J) COURT NO. (110) AT 10.00 A.M. FOR JUDGMENT

1. 222/11 HC (Achala Wengappuli J.) 2. 140/16 PHC (K. Priyantha Fernando J.) ASSIGN COUNSEL 1. 410/19 HC 2. 412/19 HC 3. 14/20 HC TO BE MENTIONED

1. 44/20 PA 2. BA 14/20 3. 338/19 HC 4. 340-342/19 HC 5. 344/19 HC COURT NO. (110) AT 10.00 A.M. CONTD...

FOR SUPPORT

1. 68/20 PA 2. 78/20 PA NOTICE RETURNABLE 1. 64/20 PA TO BE RESUMED

1. 18 - 22/13 FOR ARGUMENT 1. 178/15 HC 2. 328/15 HC 3. 390/18 HC 4. 14-16/19 HC 5. 182/18 HC ACHALA WENGAPPULI J. MAHINDA SAMAYA- WARDHANA J. K. PRIYANTHA FERNAN- DO (J) COURT NO. (110) AT 02.00 P.M. FOR SUPPORT 1. 166/19 PA WITH PA 16/20, PA 18/20 MAHINDA SAMAYA- WARDHANA J. ARJUNA OBEYES- EKERE J. COURT NO. (206) AT 10.00 A.M. FOR JUDGMENT 1. 334/17 Writ of Cert (Mahinda Samaya- wardhana J.) 2. 229/18 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.) TO BE MENTIONED 1. 261/18 Writ of Cert 2. 372/18 Writ of Cert 3. 394/18 Writ of Cert 4. 205/20 Writ of Cert 1. 390/18 Writ of Cert COURT NO. (206) AT 10.00 A.M. CONTD... FOR ARGUMENT 1. 88/15 Writ of Cert 2. 344/16 Writ of Cert 3. 206/18 Writ of Cert IN THE COURT OF CIVIL APPEAL WESTERN PROVINCE (COLOMBO) LIST OF CASES FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 LAFFAR THAHIR (H.C.J.) SAMPATH B. ABAYAKOON (H.C.J.) (AT 10.00 A.M.) FOR JUDGMENT 247/15 (F) HCCA/Colombo (Laffar Thahir (H.C.J.) 07/19 RA HCCA/Colombo (A.A.C.J. Rajarathna (H.C.J.) 11/18(F) HCCA/Colombo (Hon.Sampath B. Abayakoon (H.C.J.) LA 21/19 HCCA/Colombo (Laffar Thahir (H.C.J.) TO BE MENTIONED LA 99/19 HCCA/Colombo 144/16 (F) HCCA/Colombo 365/15 (F) HCCA/Colombo LA 122/19 HCCA/Colombo LA 196/19 HCCA/ Colombo LA 197/19 HCCA/Colombo FOR INQUIRY LA 102/13 HCCA/Colombo FOR SUPPORT 12/19 RA HCCA/ Colombo LA 52/20 HCCA/ Colombo LA 67/20 HCCA/ Colombo FOR ARGUMENT 22/18 (F) HCCA/ Colombo 42/13 (F) HCCA/ Colombo 123/17 (F) HCCA/ Colombo 68/15 (F) HCCA/ Colombo 254/15 (F) HCCA/ Colombo

Battle against COVID-19 14 Akkaraipattu preschools receive protective equipment



Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretary M.S.M. Razzan hands over protective equipment to a preschool official. Picture by Addalaichenai Central Cor.

ADDALAICHENAI CENTRAL CORR.

Under the Early Childhood Development Project, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Social Security, with the assistance of World Bank (WB), provided protective equipment against COVID-19 to preschools in the Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretariat Division, recently.

The ceremony to hand over the equipment was held at the Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretariat, recently. It was organised by the Early Childhood Development Unit (ECDU) of the Divisional Secretariat Development.

The equipment was handed over to officials from preschools, under the chair of Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretary M.S.M. Razzan and with the participation of Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretariat Assistant Planning Director A.M. Thameem and other officers. Under the programme, 14 selected preschools in the Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretariat Division received thermometers and wash basins. Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretariat Counselor S. Abdeen, Early Childhood Development Unit officials, preschool teachers, and other officials were also present at the event.

MEGA POWER OFFICIAL RESULTS DRAW NUMBER : 590 DATE 2020.08.23. Table showing prize structure and winning numbers.

23.08.2020 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 605,219 TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 26,319,640.00

Govisetha OFFICIAL RESULTS DRAW NUMBER 2518 DRAW DATE 23.08.2020 WINNING NUMBERS M 13 26 41 71 TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW Rs. 7,009,020.00 SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW Rs. 61,704,611.60

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA DATE: 23-08-2020 DRAW NUMBER : 4223 OFFICIAL RESULTS. Prize structure table and total prize money won.

SEVANA OFFICIAL RESULTS DATE 2020/08/23 Draw Number 289. Prize structure table and total prize money won.

DHANA NIDHANAYA Official Results Date - 2020/08/23 Draw Number - 306. Prize structure table and total prize money won.



# US authorises plasma treatment for COVID-19

**US:** American authorities announced on Sunday an emergency authorization for doctors to use blood plasma from recovered COVID-19 coronavirus patients as a treatment against the disease that has killed over 176,000 in the US.

The move by the Food and Drug Administration comes as President Donald Trump faces intense pressure to curb the contagion that has hobbled the

world's largest economy and clouded his once-promising prospect for re-election in November.

The plasma is believed to contain powerful antibodies that can help fight off the disease faster and help protect people from being seriously hurt by it.

"This product may be effective in treating COVID-19 and... the known and potential benefits of the product outweigh the known

and potential risks of the product," FDA said in a statement.

While the treatment has already been used on patients in the United States and other nations, the extent of its effectiveness is still debated by experts and some have warned that it could carry side effects.

"Convalescent plasma probably works – though it still needs to be proven in clinical trials – but not as a rescue treatment for people

who are already severely ill," said Len Horowitz, a pulmonary specialist at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City.

He said that plasma would likely work much better right after a person was exposed to the virus, when the body is trying to neutralize the infection – the problem being that plasma supplies are limited, meaning it would be difficult to get enough to treat everyone in early stages of the disease. - AFP



More than 70,000 patients had been treated with convalescent plasma.

## Kellyanne Conway announces exit from White House



**US:** Kellyanne Conway, a long-serving advisor to President Donald Trump known for sparring with reporters, announced Sunday she will step down to focus on her family.

Conway, 53, has been at Trump's side since day one, managing his 2016 campaign that catapulted the reality TV star into the world's most powerful office.

But the past four years of singular loyalty to Trump, including defending him on TV and with informal "gaggles" with the press, have taken a toll.

Her husband, prominent Washington lawyer George Conway, is one of

Twitter's most prolific Trump critics, repeatedly and loudly questioning the President's mental fitness for office.

Also, Conway's 15-year-old daughter Claudia wrote on Twitter Saturday that she was "devastated" that her mother would speak at the Republican convention, and pledged to seek legal emancipation "due to years of childhood trauma and abuse".

Less than 24 hours later, Kellyanne Conway tweeted a statement that closes by saying: "For now, and for my beloved children, it will be less drama, more mama".

Conway said she would

step down by the end of the month and that her husband George would also be making some changes.

"We disagree about plenty but we are united on what matters most: the kids," she wrote.

Conway has become both famous and notorious for sparring with the media, often by finding a way to change the topic, turn the question back on the reporter, or merely complain.

Conway, a lawyer and pollster by training, said her departure was her call.

"This is completely my choice and my voice. In time, I will announce future plans." - AFP



Counsellor to US President Donald Trump Kellyanne Conway talks to reporters outside the White House, in Washington, DC in this August, 2020 file photo. - AFP

## 'Record breaking' PM Abe back in hospital

**JAPAN:** Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday set a new record for the longest consecutive term in office but faced growing speculation about his health as he returned to hospital.

Abe, 65, spent more than seven hours at a Tokyo hospital last week during a previously unannounced medical check-up that his aides insisted was routine. Local media cited sources as saying Abe's return visit Monday was to receive the results of that check-up, but no further information was provided. Abe's health has been the subject of growing speculation, with reports before his check-up that he had been vomiting blood. The prime minister resigned just a year into his first term in 2007, citing his health among other factors. He was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis and spent months undergoing treatment. Upon his return to power, he said he had overcome the illness.

Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga has denied Abe is sick, but members of the prime minister's party have expressed



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe takes off his face mask prior to making a short speech to the media upon his arrival at the Prime Minister's office on Monday. - AFP

concern about his health. The return to hospital comes as Abe breaks the record for the longest consecutive term as prime minister.

He was already the country's longest-serving prime minister, counting his first and second terms in office. - AFP

# Trump looks to Convention for campaign boost

## Democratic challenger Joe Biden leads in opinion polls

**US:** US President Donald Trump will try to recover momentum in his uphill re-election struggle at this week's Republican Party Convention, telling Americans that he has answers to the coronavirus pandemic, economic turmoil and racial unrest.

Trump and his top aides strived over the weekend to put an optimistic spin on what will be a mostly online convention as he prepares to head Monday to North Carolina to formally launch the four-day event.

"I think we're going to see something that is going to be very uplifting and positive, that's what I'd like it to be," the president told Fox News.

He sought to draw a sharp contrast to the just-ended Democratic convention, which he has called the "darkest, angriest and gloomiest" in history.

Opinion polls give Trump's Democratic challenger Joe Biden an eight to 10-point lead.

The Republican convention will be Trump-centric, with each of the four days expected to feature an appearance by the President and also by at least one member of his family.

Some of the guests are clearly



Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden campaigning in Wilmington, Delaware.

aimed at riling up Democrats, who spent their convention last week savaging Trump as a failed leader.

These include a Missouri couple who brandished firearms at a group of anti-racist protesters marching past their mansion in June – an image that quickly

went viral. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is set to deliver a speech Tuesday in support of Trump during an official visit to Israel.

Such a directly political intervention by the nation's top diplomat while abroad would be highly unusual. The President

plans to deliver his acceptance speech Thursday from the lawn of the White House, shrugging off criticism over the use of the Presidential residence for campaign purposes.

Charlotte, North Carolina is where the party originally planned to hold its convention before the pandemic intervened, forcing first a shift to Florida and then a quick reimagining of the event as mostly virtual.

A few hundred Republican supporters are slated to gather in Charlotte to hear Trump speak on Monday, but Republican chairwoman Ronna McDaniel insisted that the gathering was being handled safely.

"We tested everybody before they came to Charlotte. We have been testing people on-site," she told NBC.

Convention speakers include former ambassador Nikki Haley and Donald Trump Jr. on Monday; First Lady Melania Trump and Pompeo on Tuesday; and Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday.

The Republicans' effort is expected to incorporate more live broadcasting – an approach holding both opportunity and



When they agreed to host the 2020 Republican National Convention, leaders in Charlotte, North Carolina, no doubt thought it would be a huge economic boom for the city and help bring national attention to one of the fastest growing cities in the Southeast.

risk – than the Democratic event. Trump is expected to try to impart the best possible spin on his efforts to battle the

coronavirus, but polls show most Americans trust Biden far more than him to deal with it.

The candidates are scheduled

to hold three debates, the first on September 29, before Americans cast their ballots on November 3. - AFP

# Mali's junta wants to rule for three-years



Mali's junta Chief Colonel Assimi Goita (Third from Left) and other comrades at a recent press conference.

**MALI:** The junta that seized power in Mali wants a military-led transitional body to rule for three years and has agreed to release the ousted president, a source in a visiting West African delegation and the rebel soldiers said Sunday.

Last week's coup – Mali's second in eight years – followed months of protests calling for Ibrahim Boubacar Keita to resign as public discontent with the government grew over the collapsing economy and a brutal Islamist insurgency.

"The junta has affirmed that it wants a three-year transition to review the foundations of the Malian state. This transition will be directed by a body led by a soldier, who will also be head of state," a source in the ECOWAS delegation told AFP after talks with the junta.

"The government will

also be predominantly composed of soldiers" under the proposal, the source said on condition of anonymity.

A junta official confirmed to AFP that "the three-year transition would have a military president and a government mostly composed of soldiers".

The source and the official added that the soldiers have agreed to free Keita, detained along with other political leaders since the coup on Tuesday, and he would be able to return to his home in the capital Bamako.

"And if he wants to travel abroad for (medical) treatment, that is not a problem," said the source from ECOWAS, which stands for the Economic Community of West African States.

Prime minister Boubou Cisse, who has been held with Keita at a military base outside the capital where

the coup began, would be moved to a secure residence in the city.

While the coup was met with international condemnation, thousands of opposition supporters celebrated the president's ouster in the streets of Bamako.

The junta has said it "completed the work" of the protesters and has vowed to stage elections "within a reasonable time".

However, Mali's neighbours have called for Keita to be reinstated, saying the purpose of the visit by the delegation from the regional ECOWAS bloc was to help "ensure the immediate return of constitutional order".

Tuesday's coup has heightened concern over regional stability as Mali's jihadist insurgency now threatens neighbouring Niger and Burkina Faso.

- AFP



# Lithuanians and Belarusians form human chain

## EU hopes to avoid 'second Ukraine' in Belarus

**LITHUANIA:** Tens of thousands of Lithuanians linked arms on Sunday in solidarity with the people of neighbouring Belarus who have been holding mass protests against authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko since a disputed presidential election two weeks ago.

The participants formed a human chain stretching 30 kilometres (19 miles) from the Baltic EU state's capital Vilnius to the border with Belarus, with many holding the Belarusian opposition's red-and-white flag as well as the Lithuanian national tricolour.

Solidarity rallies were also held in other European countries, inspired by the historic Baltic Way demonstration on August 23, 1989 when more than

one million Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians linked hands to reject Soviet rule.

"We are with you, free Belarus, and we extend our hand to you," Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda said after linking hands at the border checkpoint.

Organisers estimated that up to 50,000 people attended the Lithuanian rally.

A hot-air balloon lifted a huge Belarusian flag above Cathedral Square in Vilnius. Planes also flew over, with flowers tossed down into the crowd.

In Latvia, hundreds of campaigners marched along the border with Belarus and then formed a human chain in the village of Piedruja as Belarusian

border guards looked on from the other side of the Daugava river.

Hundreds of others also formed human chains in the Estonian capital Tallinn and along the iconic Charles Bridge in Prague.

Meanwhile, the European Union's top diplomat Josep Borell warned Sunday that Belarus should not be allowed to become a "second Ukraine" and said it was necessary to deal with President Alexander Lukashenko.

Brussels rejects the August 9 presidential vote in Belarus that sparked mass protests against Moscow-backed 26-year incumbent Lukashenko's claimed landslide win. "Europe has no intention of turning Belarus into a second Ukraine." - AFP



Participants formed a human chain stretching 30 kilometres (19 miles) from Vilnius, Lithuania to the border with Belarus.

## 'Defend our borders,' Lukashenko tells Army

**BELARUS:** Belarus's President Alexander Lukashenko ordered his Defence Minister to take "stringent measures" to defend the country's territorial integrity after mass protests erupted against his claim to election victory.

The 65-year-old, who said he won a sixth Presidential term with 80 percent of the vote in the August 9 ballot, made the comments while inspecting military units in Grodno, near Belarus's border with Poland, according to the President's press service.

Lukashenko denounced the recent mass protests, which he said were receiving support from Western countries, and ordered the army to defend western Belarus, which he described as "a pearl".

"It involves taking the most stringent measures to protect the territorial integrity of our country," Lukashenko said.

His visit comes ahead of large-scale military exercises planned in the Grodno region between August 28 and 31.



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, (C), with high ranking officers as he visits a military exercise near Grodno, Belarus on Sunday.

The former collective farm director said that NATO troops in Poland and Lithuania were "seriously stirring" near their borders with Belarus and ordered his troops into full combat readiness. NATO

said the claims were "baseless". "As we have already made clear, NATO poses no threat to Belarus or any other country and has no military buildup in the region," it said in a statement. Both countries

also denied the accusation. Lukashenko has rejected the idea of holding another ballot, dismissed calls to resign and accused the opposition of attempting to seize power. - AFP

## Treat for 'Batman' fans at virtual "DC FanDome" event



Robert Pattinson stars in the latest Batman movie.

**US:** Robert Pattinson showcased "The Batman" footage and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson hyped up his new anti-hero movie "Black Adam" as Hollywood A-listers and their comic-book alter-egos hosted a sprawling online event Saturday.

The virtual "DC FanDome" from Warner Bros comes after real-world extravaganzas beloved by comic-book fans - such as Comic-Con - were canceled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Headline billing went to "The Batman," a dark, detective-style mystery take on the Caped Crusader which star Pattinson said had to shut down midway through production in March due to COVID-19.

Director Matt Reeves said his version - still due next year - is inspired by classic noirs like "Chinatown" and "Taxi Driver," and will meet a "very human and very flawed" Bruce Wayne in his second year as Batman, trying to solve a series of crimes.

First-ever footage from the much-hyped movie left fans drooling online, with a mysterious villain leaving notes for Batman at crime scenes across Gotham - and the film's hero pummeling a street thug before growling: "I'm vengeance."

Like the rival, record-breaking Marvel films, several movies featuring DC characters including Superman are inter-con-

nected, with shared storylines and crossover cameos. Saturday's all-day event premiered footage and panels for follow-ups to blockbusters "Wonder Woman," "Suicide Squad" and "Shazam!" - despite uncertainty over release dates, with many US theaters closed.

Johnson - the world's top-paid movie star who is now making his first foray into the superhero "universe" - teased next year's "Black Adam," in which he will play a 5,000-year-old rebel slave determined to mete out ruthless justice.

"Things will never be the same. Because the hierarchy of power in the DC Universe is about to change," the former wrestler warned rival stars in typically bombastic style.

Details for "The Flash" movie - in which Michael Keaton and Ben Affleck are both set to reprise their former roles as Batman - were kept under wraps, except that its young hero will hop through time and space in the so-called "multiverse."

Footage of "The Suicide Squad" showed Margot Robbie and Viola Davis return alongside new cast members Idris Elba, John Cena and Peter Capaldi.

Kicking things off Saturday was "Wonder Woman 1984" - penciled to be the next DC movie due out, in October, despite the pandemic. - AFP

## New Zealand mosque gunman wanted to kill "more people than he did"

**NEW ZEALAND:** The Australian white supremacist who murdered 51 Muslims in last year's New Zealand mosques shooting showed no emotion as his sentencing hearing opened Monday with horrific details of an atrocity prosecutors said was meticulously planned to inflict maximum casualties.

Brenton Tarrant wanted "to have shot more people than he did", the court was told at the start of the four-day sentencing, held amid tight security and in front of bereaved families and wounded survivors.

The court heard how the heavily-armed Tarrant opened fire on men, women and children as he live-streamed the attack on social media, ignoring pleas for help, and driving over one body as he moved from one mosque to the next.

Tarrant has pleaded guilty to 15



Australian white supremacist Brenton Tarrant attends his first day in court in Christchurch on Monday. - AFP

charges of murder, 40 of attempted murder and one of terrorism over the attacks on two mosques in

Christchurch in March last year. Lawyers expect the 29-year-old to be the first person jailed for life

without parole in New Zealand. Tarrant was arrested as he drove to attack a third mosque in Ashburton, about an hour south of Christchurch.

Wearing grey prison clothing and surrounded in the dock by three police officers, the Australian remained silent, occasionally looking around the room, as Hawes delivered a chilling summary of facts, and members of the Muslim community recounted the impact on their lives.

"He admitted (to police) going into both mosques intending to kill as many people as he could," Hawes said.

"He stated that he wanted to have shot more people than he did and was on the way to another mosque in Ashburton to carry out another attack when he was stopped," he said. - AFP

# CALIFORNIA FIRES DESTROY 1 MN ACRES

## 14,000 FIREFIGHTERS, 2,400 FIRE ENGINES, OVER 200 AIRCRAFT BATTLING 24 MAJOR FIRES

**US:** Firefighters on Sunday battled some of California's largest-ever fires that have forced tens of thousands from their homes and burned one million acres, with further lightning strikes and gusty winds forecast in the days ahead.

Thousands of lightning strikes have hit the state in the past week, igniting fires that left smoke blanketing the region, bringing the total area burned to "close to one million acres," or 400,000 hectares, according to CalFire public information officer Jeremy Rahn.

That is considered a stunning toll this early in California's fire season, which normally runs from August to November, and it comes as exhausted firefighters are already struggling to keep up with the far-flung blazes.

The National Weather Service said dry thunderstorms could spark additional wildfires, adding that "the western US and Great Plains are shrouded under a vast area of smoke." It issued red-flag warnings covering large swaths of northern and central California.

Firefighters are stretched so thin that the state has turned down some local officials' requests for help with equipment or personnel, forcing them to rely on volunteers and local agencies, the Los Angeles Times said.

About 2,600 firefighters are now tackling the



Firefighters douse flames as a home burns in the Napa wine region in California.

two largest blazes, out of roughly 14,000 battling "nearly two dozen major fires," according to Rahn.

With California pleading for outside help, several western states, the federal government

and even the governments of Canada and Australia have responded.

"Many of these firefighters have been on the lines for 72 hours, and everybody is running on fumes," Assemblyman Jim Wood of the Healds-

burg district in Sonoma told the Los Angeles Times. "Our first responders are working to the ragged edge of everything they have."

The disparate force battling the many blazes now includes 2,400 fire engines, 60 of them



A DC-10 aircraft drops fire retardant on a wind driven wildfire in Orange, California on Sunday.

from other states, with several hundred more requested, CalFire said.

More than 200 aircraft, including 95 fixed-wing planes, are taking part in what CalFire spokesman Daniel Berlant called "a significant air force" dropping loads of water, monitoring the spread of flames or ferrying firefighters and equipment.

Some 200 National Guardsmen have also been mobilized to help, he added.

Governor Gavin Newsom on Saturday posted a dramatic photograph of clouds of smoke rising from fires.

"This is from today," he said, "and is just a small part of the nearly 600 fires we are battling this week."

The two largest blazes - the SCU Lightning Complex to the south of the San Francisco Bay area, and the LNU Lightning Complex to the north - have burned about 680,000 acres and destroyed more than 850 structures.

They are the second and third largest fires in California history, with the SCU fire only 10 percent contained and the LNU fire 17 percent contained.

Five deaths have been linked to the latest flare-ups, with four bodies recovered, including three from a burned house in a rural area of Napa County. - AFP





Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty (3L) and her husband Raj Kundra (2R) with their son Viaan Raj Kundra (R) perform an immersion of an idol of Hindu elephant-headed deity Ganesha on the second day of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Mumbai on Sunday. India's much-loved Ganesh festival opened as tough COVID-19 coronavirus restrictions prevented devotees from holding grand celebrations and carrying out traditional rituals. - AFP



Thai Policemen shelter from the rain beside Buddha statues outside the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority headquarters in Bangkok on Sunday with the introduction of new measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. - AFP



A girl wears a face mask from a "free mask" dispenser set up along a street, amid concerns relating to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Monday. - AFP



Jordanians sit in their cars at their country's first drive-in cinema, which opened with the French film "Les Misérables" by Ladj Ly at a parking lot in New Abdali district in the capital Amman on Sunday amid the COVID-19 pandemic. - AFP



A worker cleans an empty pool closed for visitors in Kosovo's capital Pristina on Sunday as part of safety measures to curb the spread of the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) disease. - AFP

# FACING THE PANDEMIC



A boy holds a bunch of radishes in the community vegetable garden of the El Chaparral, San Salvador. Salvadoran children have grown a vegetable garden and inspired young people and adults in seeking to replicate their initiative to secure their food and avoid the high market prices due to the COVID-19 pandemic. - AFP



A priest offers the Eucharist during a drive-in mass celebrated in a parking lot due to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus pandemic, in Bogota, Colombia on Sunday. - AFP



Cats are seen resting on a car during a door to door health check at Perales neighbourhood where Peruvian Health Ministry personnel examined and carried out tests to detect COVID-19 patients during a lock down in Santa Anita district, east of the capital Lima on Sunday. - AFP



People queue up wearing face masks at a COVID-19 test centre at Parc Manceau in Le Mans on Sunday amidst a spike in the pandemic in France. - AFP



A few cars remain on the street on a main axis of traffic in the centre of Lebanon's capital Beirut after the new COVID-19 lock down. - AFP



# Nizam Hajireen brought honour and fame to Police and Sri Lanka

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Nizam Hajireen, a yesteryear sportsman who contributed immensely to the development of sports in the country, is a amiable, humble, and unassuming person. He joined an era where the sportsmen sacrificed their hard-earned money to sustain and carry on with sports for the honour and the glory of the country.

Hajireen now in his late 70's, was the first Policeman and Sri Lankan to be a double-international representing the country in Rugby and Soccer. He also claims the rare honour of being the only Policeman to have represented their department in all five major sports at national level namely-soccer, rugby, hockey, cricket, and athletics respectively. Later he was instrumental in donning the national jersey in "Sepaktakraw", which became his third sport to be added to his sleeve at national level, at the King's Cup World Sepaktakraw Championships in Thailand in 2000, in addition to being a senior referee of 'Istaf and Astaf'.

Hajireen still continues to serve as an administrator, a technical expert in the game of 'Sepaktakraw' locally and internationally and is the founder president of the Amateur Sepaktakraw Association of Sri Lanka. He has played a pivotal role in creating many takraw teams, players, technical staff, officials. He is the brainchild behind the forming of the schools Takraw federation, to enable the parent body to possess the nursery to fill national requirements.

He strived hard in getting affiliation of the international Sepaktakraw bodies (astaf, istaf) in 1990 and 1992. In recognition of his services the International Federation honoured him with the senior vice-president post, vice-chairman technical committee and chairman disciplinary committee posts as astaf / istaf.

In soccer he was selected to represent the Ceylon (then) school's soccer team for the first Asian Soccer Championship held in Malaysia in 1959, and in the 3rd Asian Youth Championship held in 1961 in Thailand. Hajireen was appointed as the vice-captain of the team with M.A.Ameer as captain. He played with some of the top class players like



Nizam Hajireen

Mahinda Aluvihare, P.H.S.Albert, Booty Sally, Edward Wickremasuriya, Ananda Weerasekera, Basil Fonseka, which remains an unblemished record in the schools soccer arena, as the best ever youth team produced by Sri Lanka.

Hajireen captained the police soccer team to win the respective national championships on several occasions. In 1967 he helped the police to win the Gold Cup defeating the Madras integral coach factory team in the finals, by scoring the only goal in extra time. He pioneered the formation of women's soccer in Sri Lanka in 1974, having trained and established the formidable Garudas Sports Club team in association with his soccer colleagues of that era P.D. Sirisena, T.K.Buhal, P.H.S.Albert, Panditha Junior, T.Ramlan, Tissa Kodituwakku, and encouraged them to field women's teams from municipality playgrounds and Saunders Sports Club.

In Rugby when the Blackheath RFC from the United Kingdom toured Sri Lanka, they were scheduled to play their third match at police park against the CRFU President's team and later found that their full back was injured. They requested CRFU to 'loan' a local player as CRFU nominated Hajireen, where he converted tries and put over the penalties. As a result, he was

selected for the final match to represent the country played at Longden place.

In 1973 when Hajireen captained the police team, the finals were between Police and Army. But some officiating blunders enabled the Army team to gain a narrow lead of three points, with the scoreboard reading 19 to 16 points, with minutes away to full time. Off a scrummage 40 meters away from the Army goal line, he fired a drop kick where the ball soared between the posts to tie the score at 19-all, which saw Army and Police sharing the Clifford Cup.

He has the rare distinction as the only full-back to have scored tries and converting the same against two of the top clubs in Sri Lanka, virtually covering the length and breadth of the field as his tries commenced from his own '25'. The first incident was at Maitland Place when a punt ahead by CH fly-half John Burrows was collected by him inside the Police '25'. The other incident was at Police Park in 1970 against CR and FC outfit that consisted of not less than 12 national players. Hamzie Hamid the CR winger's penalty kick did not have elevation and landed in his hand standing behind the posts. He instead of touching down exploded into a run dummies, swerving, side-stepping a stunned CR outfit to score under the posts covering 80 metres.

After hanging up his boots, he followed a rugby and soccer coaching course in Bisham Abbey in London and took over coaching of the Police rugby team in 1978. Under his coaching they won the all-India rugby sevens championship defeating the strong Armenian team in the final played in Bombay in 1973, the only occasion that they performed well in an official competition.

Apart from his rugby career he also contributed in other sports with Police enabling them to win several championships both as a player and as a coach. All this achievement by far supersedes all other sport stars then and even now. He could be described as the brightest star in that era. In any other country a sportsman of this calibre and stature would be duly recognized, hailed, and rewarded. But sadly in Sri Lanka there is no such thing.

# Gamini Udugama top class ruggerite and administrator

(UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

-Kandy Sports Special Correspondent)

Gamini Udugama, top class Rugby Player, Coach and Administrator told this correspondent that due to Covid-19 epidemic all sports activities were at a standstill and most of the rugby playing Clubs as well as the other Sports Institutions were badly affected and the sports loving people were really disappointed. But the people of our country are very happy and satisfied with the country returning to normalcy.

An Old Boy of Trinity College, Kandy, Gamini Udugama started playing Rugby from his school days and in 1967 he played as a prop forward in the School first fifteen Rugby team captained by Ajith Abeyratne and coached by Denzil Kobbekaduwa. They were unbeaten and won the Bradly Shield beating Royal College, Colombo in both legs and Gamini won his Rugby colours. In 1969 he played for Kandy Sports Club and entered the Clifford Cup finals and lost to CR & FC 6-12. This particular team was captained by Denzil Kobbekaduwa and coached by Maurice Perera.

Gamini Udugama Captained the Kandy Sports Club in 1972 and the Up-country Team in 1973 and led the side against all visiting foreign sides and the Capper Cup Match. In 1970 he was selected to play for Sri Lanka as No.8 and he toured Bangkok and Hongkong respectively for the second and third Asiad tournaments and continued to play for Sri Lanka up-to 1973 and in 1975 played for CR & FC. In 1976 he played for Uva Club and continued to play for a few years and later on coached the Club Rugby team.

Gamini Udugama was employed as a Tea Plantation Manager and he represented his Plantation Company at the Plantation Rugby Sevens Tournament. In 1993 he was a National Selector



Gamini Udugama

along with Jayantissa Ratwatte, Nimal Maralande, Y.C.Chang and Brian Baptist. Gamini has coached the Trinity Junior Rugby teams from 2005 to 2015 and he was also the Administration Manager. He was the Past Secretary and later President of the Central Province Rugby Football Union and he was appointed by the S.L.R.F.U. as the Senior Rugby Development Officer of Central Province introducing Rugby to rural schools and the S.L.R.F.U. appointed him as a Match Commissioner too.

In 2011 he was a Committee member of the Kandy Sports Club. He is holding a Rugby Certificate of Level One 'Refereeing & Coaching'. At present Gamini Udugama is living in Kandy City with his Wife whilst his elder daughter is employed at Commercial Bank. His Son is working in New Zealand and the third daughter is settled down in USA.

# Nimna Fernando does De Mazenod proud

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Second year player and the captain of the team, right hand, top order batsman, sound fielder in any position and occasional right arm leg spinner Warnakulasuriya Nimna Seneth Fernando had a successful cricket career with his Alma Mater, De Mazenod College, Kandana.

He commenced his schooling at St. Joseph's College, Negombo and he entered Grade One and at the age of ten years he joined the School Cricket Academy under Gihan Sandeepa and in 2013 he was selected to the under 13 team and played in the years 2014 and 15 and captained the team in both these years and excelled as an all rounder.

His first year in the under 15 was in 2016 and he scored 451 runs with 6 fifties and in the same year he played in the Prima Cup Zonal Two of Gampaha District and in the following year too he scored 450 runs and took 27 wickets and in both years he captained the team.

Due to the above performances he was made the captain of the under 17 team and passed the 500 run mark with 6



De Mazenod College First Eleven Cricket Team posed for a photograph prior to their inter school cricket match against St. Anne's College, Kurunegala played at Kurunegala Standing L/R - Shenash Fernando, Pramod Rajamunindra, Thushan Fernando, Lester Jayaweera, Ruveen Fonseka, Sahan Kosala, Asitha Silva, Saliya Jude (Vice Captain), Mithul Senarath, Sihina Sithumina, Nimna Fernando (Captain) (Picture by Dilwin Mendis Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

fifties and in the second year he shifted to De Mazenod College, Kandana and he got the opportunity to play for them in the under 17 team and he scored 378 runs with one fifty, in the 2018/19 cricket season in nine outings he scored 444 runs which included four fifties and in the last season captaining the team he scored 864 runs in

15 matches with two centuries against D. S. Senanayake 142 runs and 105 runs against St. Aloysius and another six fifties. His vice captain was Saliya Jude and his coach was Prasanna Vishwanath and the Masters in Charge were Keerthi Gunaratne, Rev. Brother Janaka Fonseka and Vice Principal Rev. Brother V. P. Pubudu. He



Nimna Seneth Fernando

was in the District Squad and in the pre quarters of the inter school tournament they lost to Trinity College, Kandy.

# Shafie Jainudeen was one of the finest full backs

HAFIZ MARIKAR

Kandy's Shafie Jainudeen who was one of the best full backs Trinity College produced, died in June 2012 on a winter evening in Melbourne, Australia. He was laid to rest on June 15 2012, the night before the first leg of the 68th Bradly Shield.

He was rated as one of the top rugger players during his days. A player whenever he had the ball in hand the first instance was to run with it. He was a top class goal kicker and was an all-round full back, and whatever team he played had the potential to reach unprecedented heights. Rugby during his days was fast, brutal, strategic, and colourful, and tackling from head to toe was allowed.

Rugby lovers still talk about his good work as a number 15 player, and a player who avoided



Shafie Jainudeen

tackling. In 1969 under his leadership Trinity comprised players like Fredrick Prins, Nihal Marambe, Palitha Samarasekera, Romesh Nugawela, Tikiri Marambe, Irwin Howie, Y.S.Ping, Harindra Boga Gunasekara, Mohan Samarakoon, Russell Tennakoon, and A.S.B

Madawela. Iswan Omar, R.G.Panabokke, Cuda Wadugodapitiya, Ralph Roberts. As a school boy he played for Kandy SC in 1969 under the captaincy of Denzil Kobbekaduwa, and played in the knockouts quarters, semis and the final.

In the following year 1970 he crossed over to Lake Club before joining Havelock SC He got the best from the club and got the break to play for the country. In 1974 he played for Havelock SC in the final against the CR & FC, there was a story going around that like most full backs, Shafie Jainudeen would avoid tackling.

To counter this, and send a powerful message to the capacity crowd, Shafie Jainudeen dealt a bone crunching tackle on the 200 pound Mahesh Sabaratnam that

dazed not only Saba but stopped the CR & FC team in their tracks! Then there was that instance when Shafie Jainudeen collected the ball in the Havelock SC '25 and then in a dazzling 70 yard run overcame the fierce tackling of Didacus deAlmeida, Indrajith Coomaraswamy, Gotabaya Disanayake and Ronnie Schokman to score under the posts. It was a shocking feat, indeed which gave the park club a memorable 16-4 win and the Clifford Cup He was a magnificent ruggerite and gentleman. He was the son of late M.S. Jainudeen, who was the charity commissioner of the Kandy Municipal Council, and a man who gave his best for Football and Hockey as President and Secretary for many years and also for other sports he did his best.

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DATE **29-08-2020**

NO. **25**



Vantage FFSL Presidents Cup Soccer 2020

# Colombo FC defeat Police 3-0 to enter semi-final



Colombo FC's M.F. Mohamed Aakib in full control of the ball while a Police player is making an effort to halt Aakib's attempt during the quarter final match at the Sugathadasa stadium on Monday.

**BERNARD PERERA**  
The Colombo Football Club struck a crushing 3-0 defeat on Police SC in their quarter-final game of the ongoing Vantage FFSL President's Cup Soccer Tournament played at the Sugathadasa Stadium, last evening.

It was an interesting game for spectators numbering to over 500 who were present to witness a game of classy football after a lapse of five months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They were able to witness one of the best games played so far during this Championship.

Colombo FC got off to a flying start from the get-go and went on the attack to get off to the most needed lead. They had five attempts during the first fifteen minutes, but failed to fire a shot on target.

Their attacking style was effective as the law enforcers had gone on the defense rather than going on the attack to score. This attacking system gave the Police Defense line a torrid time in halting goal-hungry Colombo FC strikers.

Police Forwards could not match

the Fine passing game of the Colombo FC, however, the failure of the Colombo FC to score the teams returned for lemons with a blank scorecard.

During the second leg of the game, Colombo FC maintained their super passing game and put more pressure on the Police Defenders. However, former Sri Lanka skipper M.N.M. Fazal received a good pass from the right wing and no mistake with his attempt to get the team's first goal in the 15th-minute mark of the second half to put his side on the front.

There onwards Police SC changed their playing tactics and went on the attack to find the equalizer for a further 22 minutes, but their attempts were foiled when A.R. Ahamed found the net to add the second goal for Colombo FC 2-0. This became a tough task for Police SC but continued their attacking method expecting at least a consolation goal. Their attempts too were thwarted by Colombo FC defenders and the Goal Keeper M Nazeer Imran who as very attentive between

the posts did an excellent for his side.

Two minutes away from the final whistle, Shabeer Razooniya made the scoreline for Colombo SC 3-0 to make it a memorable victory for his team.

Police Goal Keeper D. Mahendran Dinesh had to get the attention of their Physio on three occasions and had to leave the field bringing in the reserve goalkeeper to do the services for the team. With this, the Police had to make two changes while Colombo FC made three changes during the second session. Colombo FC's B.M.C.B. Ratnayake and Y.S.J. Furic Momas and Polic's G.A.J. Danusha Perea were warned by Referee K.K.T. Sameera.

### Serendib SC edge out Red Star SC 5-3

In the other match, Serendib Sports Club made their way to the semi-final by beating Red Star Sports Club five goals to three, yesterday at the Sugathadasa stadium. Red Star SC was leading at the half-way mark 4-2.

## Usain Bolt tests positive for COVID-19

Usain Bolt has tested positive for coronavirus just days after partying with guests including Manchester City star Raheem Sterling for his 34th birthday in Jamaica, according to reports in the country.

and discovered on Sunday that he had tested positive for the disease.

Sterling, Bayer Leverkusen attacker Leon Bailey and cricket legend Chris Gayle are believed to have been in attendance.

Sterling's season finished on August 15 when City were knocked out of the Champions League, and the team have been granted a delayed start to the 2020/21 season because of their European involvement.

- Daily Mail

## Rohan Fernando steps down as SL Rowing President

Veteran sports administrator Rohan Fernando last week stepped down as President of the Sri Lanka Rowing, Fernando, who is also the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Telecom said that he stepped down from Sri Lanka Rowing on August 19 as recorded in the ExCo minutes.



pledge given at the last AGM two years ago to ensure continuity by the next level. Rohan is an old boy of S. Thomas Mt Lavinia was recently appointed committee member of the newly formed National Sports Council. Meanwhile, the National Rowing Association election is scheduled to be held on August 28. - (DR)

It was a decision and

## Sri Lanka hopes to win at least one gold medal in boxing

### SHERIFDEEN AMATH

The newly elected President of the Boxing Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) Dian Gomes believes the country will be able to get at least one gold medal within the next four years in the 2022 Commonwealth Games or 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

Dian Gomes was elected uncontested as President of BASL for the third occasion for another four-year term at the recently held AGM. Previously he held this position from 2004-2009 and 2017-2020.

The BASL focuses to the long term plans to get gold medals for the country and President of BASL believes the country has a realistic chance in the 22nd edition of the Commonwealth Games which will be held in Birmingham, United Kingdom from July 27 until August 7 in 2022. Another important event for the Sri Lankans is the South Asian Games in 2022 which is scheduled to be held in Lahore, Pakistan.

We have more chances to get gold medals in three sports events such as athletics, boxing and



The newly elected President of the Boxing Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) Dian Gomes expressing his views during the media briefing. Former coach of National Boxing Team and Vice President Wasantha Kumara (left) and Secretary Lt. Col. (Rtd) Hemantha Weerasinghe (right) also in the picture. Picture by Saman Sri Wedage

weight lifting. We need more attention from the officials to uplift these sports. Now we have young talented Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa, who is a sportsman himself having played several sports, is young enough to dream of Sri Lankas long-term sports philosophy and the growth of sports. So I am sure with him taking a very serious role we will be able to get the medals and take boxing forward, said Gomes at a media briefing held on Saturday.

The BASL hopes to conduct the National Championship in December this year following the

guidelines of Health Ministry which was postponed due to Covid 19 outbreak. They expect to form a national pool and begin training in January 2021 in preparation for the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the 2022 South Asian Games while also hoping to get a Cuban Coach again with the support of the Cuban Embassy.

Our greatest achievement was winning three Bronze medals after 68 years at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games through Anusha Kodituwakku (light flyweight under 51kgs), Thiwanika Ranasinghe (light fly-

weight under 49kgs) and Ishan Bandara (flyweight under 52kgs). We have proved our pugilists can obtain medals in international events but our target is to win gold medal, Gomes further said.

Former Coach Wasantha Kumara and (SSP) Saman Gunaratne were elected as Vice Presidents of the association while Lt. Col. (Rtd) Hemantha Weerasinghe was elected as Secretary. Abdulla Ibnu, Aubrey Peiris and Deepal Herath were elected as Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer respectively.

## Top seed Sharmal pulls out of Clay Court Nationals

### CHANDRIKA FERNANDO

The Clay Court Tennis Nationals 2020 suffered a major blow when the defending champion Sharmal Disanayake pulled out from the

competition, due to an injury at the SLTA Courts in Green Path, Colombo yesterday.

The top seed and the hot favourite was set to meet the

unseeded Savit Weerasinghe in the Men's Singles second-round fixture after having received a bye in the first-round.

However, Disanayake was unable to commence his match at the scheduled time having suffered a back injury and eventually was forced to concede a walk over to his opponent.

Disanayake's withdrawal at the last moment means this event, which is considered as one of the highest rated tournaments in the SLTA calendar, would no doubt lose a great amount of gloss and now the focus would be on the other seeded players.

Meanwhile, unseeded Rukmal Cooray created a major upset when he toppled the 10th seed Dhilvan Herath in straight sets 6-3, 6-3 to reach the pre quarter-finals of the Men's Singles event.

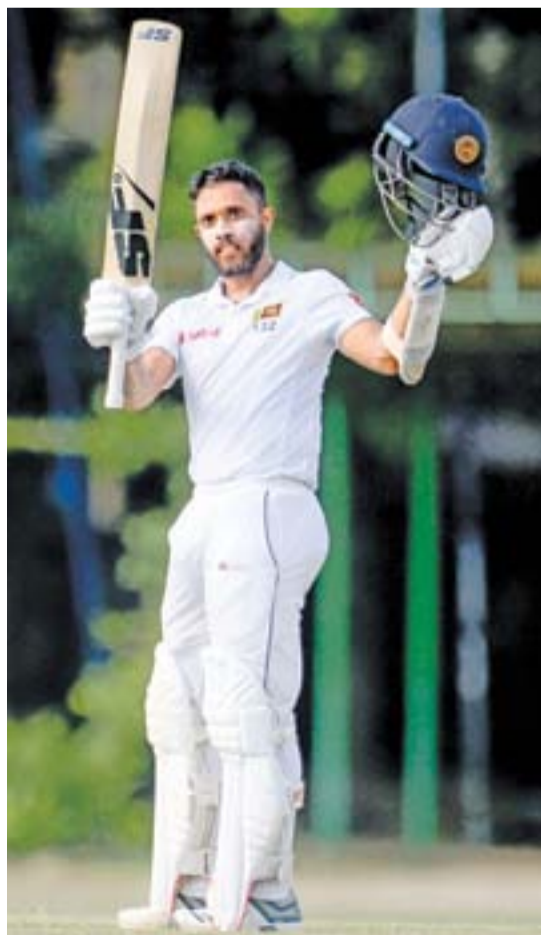
In addition, third seed Sankha Atukorale also joined the pre quarter-final line-up when he defeated the unseeded Zaidh Zihar in straight sets 6-4, 6-3.

The fourth seed Dumindu Dilum also had an easy passage into the pre quarter-finals when he outplayed the unseeded Niroshan de Silva in straight sets 6-2, 6-1.



Sharmal Disanayake

## CCC retain Super Eight title with a game to spare



CCC are assured of the Premier Super Eight title. Pic courtesy SLC

**CHANDRIKA FERNANDO**  
CCC look well poised to retain the SLC Premier Tier 'A' Inter-Club Cricket Tournament Super Eight title for the second successive year when they take on Chilaw Marians CC in their final three-day league match commencing today (25) at the SSC Grounds in Maitland Place.

In fact, CCC are assured of the Super Eight title whatever the outcome of this fixture as they have already built up an unassailable lead of 21.06 points over their nearest rivals Chilaw Marians CC.

CCC's championship success of course, was sealed during the weekend when they figured in a massive run chase to obtain crucial first innings points in the high profile game against NCC worked off at the P. Sara Oval in Colombo.

On that occasion, the match winners was Sri Lanka's premier batsman and Skipper Kusal Mendis who hit a trail blazing double century to help CCC overtake NCC's first innings total of 467 with ease.

"I think this has been a very special season for CCC as we have won back-to-back Premier titles after many years," Coach Tharanga Dhammika told the Daily News yesterday.

"This year's Premier Tournament is probably one of my toughest assignments as coach as all National players were representing their respective clubs," he added.

Meanwhile, Chilaw Marians CC would start the game in a rather dejected mood, as they would still end up as the runners-up

even if they record an outright victory.

Joining the contest for the runners-up spot are two other teams, NCC and Ragama CC who are currently placed third and fourth respectively in the points table.

NCC will meet Colts CC at the CCC Grounds in Maitland Crescent while Ragama CC will be up against BRC at the P. Sara Oval in Colombo.

In addition, Saracens SC will take on Army SC in another fixture at Katunayake.

### POINTS TABLE

TEAM	P	W	L	D	PTS
CCC	6	4	0	2	89.95
Chilaw Marians CC	6	2	1	3	68.89
NCC	6	1	0	5	64.1
Ragama CC	6	2	2	2	57.29
Colts CC	6	1	2	3	55.2
Saracens SC	6	1	2	3	44.95
BRC	6	0	3	3	42.35
Army SC	6	1	2	3	39.53

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

## SLC Major Tier 'A' Tournament Moors SC emerge Plate Champions

Moors SC emerged Plate Champions in the SLC Major League Tier 'A' Cricket tournament (2019/2020) yesterday, at NCC. Moors SC beat Lankan CC by an innings and 103 runs.

Negombo CC and SSC won on first innings against Tamil Union C & AC and Baduraliya CC at Colts and the De Soysa Stadium in Moratuwa, respectively. Left-hander, Damith Perera of Baduraliya CC scored double centuries against SSC.

● **At NCC. Moors SC won by innings and 103 runs.** Moors SC: 599/9 decl. (122.4) (Sachithra Serasinghe 151, Nipun Karunanayake 142, Ramesh Mendis 104, Mohammed Shamaaz 81, Kavishka Anjula 37, Nimanda Subasinghe 35, Ayana Siriwardana 32, Dunith Wellalage 4/143, Malinga Amarasinghe 2/50) Lankan CC: 320 (209/5 o/n) (82) (Malinga Amarasinghe 117, Primosh Perera 65, Damitha Silva 36, Kevin Perera 31 n.o., Dunith Wellalage 28, Praveen Jayawickrama 5/83, Kavishka Anjula 2/49) and 176 (55.3) (Risith Upapal 36, Geetha Kumara 32, Ayana Siriwardana 2/7, Ramesh Mendis 2/29, Kavishka Anjula 2/39, Praveen Jayawickrama 2/69)

● **At De Soysa stadium Moratuwa. Match drawn.** SSC: 583 (115.1) (Dasun Shanaka 128, Sandun Weerakodi 101, Charith Asalanka 83, Sammu Ashan 75, Nuwanidu Fernando 49, Dhanushka Gunathilaka 47, Krishan Sanjula 32 n.o., Kalana Perera 29, Jeffrey Buddhika Sanjeewa 3/144, Alankara Asanka 3/97) Badureliya CC: 280 (239/6 o/n) (78.5) (Damith Perera 113, Dunith Jayathunga 63, Dushan Hemantha 29, Buddhika Sanjeewa 22, Tharindu Ratnayake 4/73, Jeffrey Vandersay 3/76,

Kalana Perera 2/36) and 258/4 (64) (Damith Perera 112 n.o., Thilakarathne Sampath 72, Dushan Hemantha 28, Tharindu Ratnayake 3/72)

● **At Colts. Match drawn.** Tamil Union C & AC: 184 (49.1) (Devin Pathmanathan 40, Yohan Mendis 31, Dakshitha Fernando 30, Pramod Liyanagamage 24, Kasun Madhusanka 18, Manoj Sarachchandra 12, Roshen Fernando 5/31, Lakshitha Rasanjana 2/25, Upul Indrasiri 2/70) and 387/9 decl. (45.1 o/n) (96) (Dhananjaya De Silva 167, Yohan Mendis 116, Manoj Sarathchandra 25, Dakshitha Fernando 23, Lakshitha Rasanjana 5/135, Upul Indrasiri 2/106) Negombo CC: 371 (105) (Ashen Silva 90, Dilshan Munaweera 85, Madhawa Warnapura 84, Pasindu Lakshanka 37, Angeelo Jayasinghe 16, Madhuka Liyanapathirana 6/54, Pramod Madushan 2/78) (YK)





# Finance

Business: 0112 429221 / 0112429299 Fax: +94112343694 email: business.dailynews@lakehouse.lk www.dailynews.lk

Category	2019 (USD 'Mn)	2020 (USD 'Mn)	Change (%)
<b>Industrial Exports</b>			
- Jun	875.4	661.3	(24.5)
- YTD	4,728.6	3,357.1	(29.0)
<b>Agricultural</b>			
- Jun	204.5	229.1	12.0
- YTD	1,245.1	1,039.0	(16.6)
<b>Mineral and other</b>			
- Jun	2.8	1.6	(42.7)
- YTD	16.7	9.7	(41.8)
<b>Total</b>			
- Jun	1,084.1	894.1	(17.5)
- YTD	5,999.2	4,412.8	(26.4)

## Lankan Foreign Reserves rise to USD 7.1 bn in July 2020

Sri Lankan Foreign Reserves improved to USD 7.1 billion in July 2020 relative to USD 6.7 billion in June 2020 amid the SWAP with India and import controls, First Capital's 'MONTHLY ECONOMIC WATCH' said.

Liquidity remained positive and volatile throughout the month and recorded the high-

est surplus on July 2, amounting to Rs 173.3 billion.

In the month of July, the secondary bond market continued to witness buying interest led by the policy rate cut announced by the CBSL on July 9 and on the speculation of the election outcome in August 2020, resulting in a steep downward shift in yields mainly on the short to

mid tenor maturities. T-bill yields declined for the first time below 5% on July 15, 2020 while setting a new record low. Short tenor yields dipped in the range of 3-35bps, mid tenors dipped by 2-27bps, in addition, long tenor yields fell by 5-12bps. Private sector credit decreased by Rs 54 bn in Jun 2020, for the second consecutive month while state credit reflected a net borrowing of Rs 133 bn with cumulative

state credit amounting Rs 928 bn for the year of 2020. Meanwhile the YoY inflation of CCPI is 4.2% in July relative to 3.9% in June while the increase is as a result of the increase in Food items by 10.9%. Non-Food inflation increased marginally to 1.5%YoY in Jul 2020.

Exports for June recorded a decline of 17.5%YoY to USD 894.1mn mainly led by Industrial exports (-24.5%YoY). However, agricultural exports

increased by 12.0%YoY. Earnings from textiles and garments contributed the most to the decline in Jun 2020, on a YoY basis, despite the increase in earnings from personal protective equipment.

Import expenses for June declined to record at USD 1,055.5 Mn (-24.6%YoY) led by the decline in all major import sectors, with intermediate (-33.0%YoY) and investment goods (-19.4%YoY) imports declining the most.

In consideration of the current and expected macroeconomic developments, the CBSL Monetary Board, was of the view that the current accommodative monetary policy stance is appropriate particularly as market lending rates are yet to reflect the full pass through of policy easing measures implemented thus far and decided to maintain the SDFR and the SLFR of the Central Bank at their current levels of 4.50% and 5.50% respectively.

### MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

Rate of Interest

FROM 25/08/2020

TO 31/08/2020

4.5% p.a.

For further details visit the nearest branch

COMMERCIAL BANK

## Private sector pivotal to secure UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Private sector is playing a very important role to secure the UN Sustainable Development Goals. There is an inherent link between the SDGs and PPPs. The business enterprises contribute toward the development process not only through their competitive advantages but also via increased access to capital and incorporating innovation in their practices.

Indian companies have over the years built a competitive advantage in the delivery of highly cost-effective technological and business solutions and are renowned for their expertise across the globe.

TARA InfraPower Private Ltd. of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh has ventured to undertake the recently approved 600 MW total capacity "Super Critical Environment Friendly Thermal Coal Based Power Plant" in Foul Point, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka as its maiden overseas enterprise.

The exercise undertaken by TARA InfraPower in Sri Lanka is a wonderful example of South-South Cooperation to secure regional and localised Sustainable Development. Along with the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) under the Ministry of Power and Energy of the Government of Sri Lanka and Harcen Engineering Company Ltd.,

the project worth USD 1 Billion would help meet the local electricity and power needs, while making Sri Lanka self-sufficient in the energy sector.

TARA InfraPower was established in the year 2010 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh to carry out projects in the infrastructure sector successfully. In the last ten years, TARA InfraPower has executed many leading projects across India.

Najmi J. Mirza, Chairman of TARA InfraPower said that he got inspiration for this partnership from the 'Make in India' Mantra of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The first overseas venture of TARA InfraPower in Sri Lanka is a great example of the magnificent vision Honorable Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath has for taking the state of Uttar Pradesh on the path of development and progress.

Under the spirit of South-South Cooperation, TARA InfraPower is also looking forward to venture into other developing countries of Africa and South America shortly, and contribute toward the process of sustainable development and empowerment of societies.

South-South Cooperation is an important priority for India not only for the private sector but also for the government. **TO PAGE 18**

## Tourism associations form single forum to address current issues

For the first time in the history of Sri Lanka Tourism, 49 Tourism Stakeholder Associations brought to a single forum to address current issues and identify the way forward.

The meeting took place last week to discuss the way forward and give updates on the relief measures provided by Sri Lanka Tourism during the COVID-19 pandemic to the stakeholders and discuss the gaps they face when obtaining relief measures.

The meeting was conducted under the patronage of Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga and guests including Secretary to the Ministry, S. Hettiarachchi, Sri Lanka Tourism Chairperson Kimarri Fernando and Dhammika Wijayasinghe, Director-General - SLTDA and the meeting was moderated by Prof. Suranga de Silva of Tourism Economics Department, University of Colombo.

"A comprehensive system change is essential to revamp post-COVID-19 tourism and I urge all the authorities to accelerate industry reform," said Sri Lanka Tourism Chairperson Kimarri Fernando.

During her presentation, she mentioned that Sri Lanka Tourism is to propose to the Government to bring an Act to amalgamate three tourism organizations of the four that come under Sri Lanka Tourism to effectively manage the institutions and implement the



Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga and senior Tourism officials at the meeting

short-term Tourism Strategic Plan (January 2020 -2022).

"Certain private sector stakeholders have been practising a system of their own for 30-40 years and they challenge the new system we try to bring in for everyone's welfare. If these so-called systems worked properly, then how is it that we are unable to pay wages and tour guide fees in the face of a crisis.

This is not what we expect from industry stakeholders and we request the support from all 49 associations in

the industry to revive tourism. There are two million people who depend on tourism" Sri Lanka Tourism Chairperson further stated.

According to the new framework, work has already commenced restructuring the tourism sector aligning with the National Policy Framework focusing on 10 key areas of priority. Namely, National security, friendly non-aligned foreign policy, Administration free of corruption, a new constitution that fulfills the peoples' wishes, productive citi-

zenry and vibrant labour force, people-centric economic development, technology-based society, development of physical resources, sustainable environmental management, disciplined, law-abiding and value-based society.

It was also mentioned that the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) has already implemented a National Policy Framework focusing on utilizing technology as the registration process which operates now is 100% online. **TO PAGE 18**

## Sampath Bank, youngest to achieve Rs. 1 tn in assets



Sampath Bank PLC asset base has surpassed Rs. 1 trillion, making it the youngest bank in Sri Lanka to achieve this feat. This is a significant milestone for the Bank, as very few players in the industry have reached this landmark.

This achievement is particularly noteworthy, given the volatile market conditions experienced during the last one and a half years and is a true testament to the strength and stability of Sampath Bank and the confidence placed in it by investors and customers alike.

Nanda Fernando, Managing Director of Sampath Bank PLC said, "This is a proud moment for all of us at Sampath Bank as we celebrate reaching our first trillion. Being the youngest bank to achieve this feat reflects the dynamism, speed and agility with which we operate, as well as the hard work done over the years. Now that we have achieved our first, we will continue to raise the bar and strive for more landmark achievements such as this in the years to come."

Sampath Bank is a 100% local bank that has deeply rooted itself in the lives of the people of Sri Lanka.

## Dr. Arosha to acquire MTD Walkers

In a disclosure to the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE), the Board of MTD Walkers PLC has informed that leading business magnet Dr. Arosha Fernando has signed the Share Sale & Purchase Agreement (SSPA) to acquire 90% of the shareholding of MTD Walkers PLC from MTD Capital BHD of Malaysia under his investment arm, Lakma Holdings Pvt Ltd subject to a legal due diligence by Nithya Partners who are the leading law firm in Sri Lanka for corporate acquisitions and mergers and a financial due diligence by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC), a multinational firm with its headquarters in London, UK.

On May 6 this year Dr. Arosha was appointed to the board of MTD Walkers PLC as its Group Director by MTD Capital BHD of Malaysia, and in 3 months period he has moved himself to acquire the entire group of MTD Walkers PLC which currently has 26 subsidiary companies. This includes Walkers Shipyard, Northern Power Plant, Fort Heritage Hotel, Walkers Properties, CML Construction etc.

Dr. Arosha is expected to assume duties as the Chairman and Group MD / CEO of MTD Walkers PLC soon after the completion of the due diligence and planned acquisition.

Maduka Jayawardhana of Corporate Advisory & Capital Markets



Dr. Arosha Fernando

Division at the Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka (MBSL) has initiated and coordinated the said acquisition on behalf of MBSL.

## Oil Palm industry calls for urgent engagement with govt. over cultivation ban

The Palm Oil Industry Association (POIA) has said in a statement that while it respects the decisions relating to the industry contained in the policy statement of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, it trusts that a pragmatic solution would be provided in respect of the oil palm saplings imported to the country following a Cabinet decision taken in 2014 by the government of President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

"We appeal to the President and the new government to take into consideration the substantial investments made by the plantation companies in response to the government decision at that time to expand the extent under oil palm cultivation to 20,000 Ha, and seek the President's intervention to permit planting of these saplings under the specified guidelines," the Association said.

It expressed dismay at the announcement on August 20 that



"the plantation of palm oil trees will be stopped immediately" without an opportunity being provided to the industry to respond to the concerns purportedly behind the government decision.

"The campaign against oil palm cultivation in Sri Lanka is based on untruths, half-truths, misrepresentation and panic-mongering and we are surprised that the government has announced a ban on cultivation

without an in-depth study of the Sri Lankan case, thereby overturning a well-considered decision taken by the government headed by then President Mahinda Rajapaksa, to proceed with a highly-regulated limited cultivation of oil palm," the Association said.

"Sri Lanka's oil palm cultivation is a case study for guilt-free palm oil, because all the lessons learnt from the mistakes of other coun-

tries have been implemented in the slow and measured expansion of oil palm cultivation over the past 50 years. There has been no deforestation, no habitat loss and no adverse environmental or climate impacts scientifically attributable to the crop," the statement said. "On the contrary, in areas of the Southern Province where oil palm have been grown for decades, the experience has been that rainfall has increased, and the oil palm absorbs more carbon from polluted air."

It pointed out that in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently took a policy decision to cultivate one million hectares of oil palm after a study of the crop's benefits.

"We are also puzzled by the rationale implicit in the government's statements that the ban on cultivation of oil palm is in order to promote cultivation of coconut."

**TO PAGE 18**

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## Shares - Colombo Stock Exchange

Market Statistics on 24.08.2020							
Security	Volume	**V.W.A. Previous Close	Open	High	Low	**V.W.A. Yesterday's Close	Change (Rs.)
<b>Main Board</b>							
A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD.	78,788	18.60	18.60	18.80	18.50	18.70	0.10
ABANS	511	94.90	95.00	95.00	91.50	92.00	(2.90)
ACCESS ENG SL XD	1,177,928	22.00	22.00	22.10	21.70	21.70	(0.30)
ACL	50,539	43.40	43.50	44.80	43.50	44.00	0.60
ACL PLASTICS XD	3,667	151.40	151.40	151.90	149.00	149.10	(2.30)
ACME	47,943	4.10	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.10	0.00
AHOT PROPERTIES	11,668	35.00	35.00	35.00	33.00	33.00	(1.70)
AITKEN SPENCE	60,925	34.50	35.00	35.00	33.50	34.50	0.00
ALLIANCE	8,590	39.40	39.70	39.70	38.00	38.10	(1.30)
AMANA BANK	21,320	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.30	2.30	(0.10)
AMAYA LEISURE	820	30.00	29.90	30.00	29.00	29.40	(0.60)
ASIA ASSET	40,410	8.00	8.30	8.30	7.80	7.90	(0.10)
ASIRI	5,995	20.40	20.00	20.00	19.90	19.90	(0.50)
ASIRI SURG	496	10.00	10.10	10.10	9.90	9.90	(0.10)
AUTODROME	2,953	68.00	68.00	70.00	68.00	70.00	2.00
BAIRAHARA FARMS	4,292	89.60	89.70	90.00	89.00	89.40	(0.20)
BALANGODA	17,131	13.00	13.00	13.00	12.70	12.70	(0.30)
BUKIT DARAH	101	169.70	175.00	175.00	171.00	171.00	1.30
C M HOLDINGS	6,772	60.00	61.70	63.00	60.00	60.30	0.30
CARGILLS	6,001	189.70	189.90	189.90	187.50	188.00	(1.70)
CARGO BOAT	14,192	42.20	42.00	42.10	42.00	42.00	(0.20)
CENTRAL FINANCE	52,527	79.40	79.40	80.90	78.20	79.30	(0.10)
CENTRAL IND.	9,181	50.00	50.90	50.90	49.30	49.30	(0.70)
CEYLINCO INS.	300	1,949.00	1,856.00	1,949.00	1,850.00	1,905.90	(43.10)
CEYLON GUARDIAN	2,251	72.40	74.90	77.00	73.20	75.60	3.20
CEYLON INV.	130,634	43.00	43.40	45.00	43.00	44.60	1.60
CEYLON TOBACCO	3,541	973.80	975.00	985.00	970.00	971.30	(2.50)
CHEMANEX	42,309	55.00	56.00	56.80	56.00	56.40	1.40
CHEVRON	116,859	77.50	77.50	77.50	76.40	77.00	(0.50)
CIC	1,736	78.00	79.80	79.80	78.50	78.50	0.50
CIC (CIC.X0000)	29,282	55.00	55.90	55.90	54.50	54.80	(0.20)
CITRUS LEISURE	298,934	10.20	10.20	10.50	9.80	10.00	(0.20)
COLOMBO CITY	50	748.10	720.30	720.30	720.30	748.10	0.00
COLOMBO LAND	28,232	24.20	24.20	24.90	24.00	24.10	(0.10)
COMMERCIAL BANK	698,153	83.10	83.10	85.00	83.00	83.60	0.50
COMMERCIAL BANK (COMB.X0000)	102,428	69.20	69.80	69.80	68.80	69.00	(0.20)
CONVENIENCE FOOD	6	689.90	650.00	660.00	650.00	689.90	0.00
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	27,902	7.20	7.20	7.20	7.00	7.20	0.00
DFCC BANK PLC	2,385,189	68.10	69.00	69.40	67.60	68.30	0.20
DIALOG	374,298	11.50	11.50	11.60	11.40	11.40	(0.10)
DIMO	676	288.80	285.10	290.00	285.00	285.00	(3.80)
DIPPED PRODUCTS	39,091	169.00	169.00	175.00	169.00	171.40	2.40
DOCKYARD	97,054	57.00	57.90	62.00	57.10	59.80	2.80
DOLPHIN HOTELS	2,750	19.70	19.80	20.80	19.80	20.20	0.50
DURDANS	278	85.30	88.50	88.50	87.00	87.00	1.70
DURDANS (CHL.X0000)	18	75.50	75.50	75.50	75.50	75.50	0.00
E B C REASY	20	1,100.00	1,122.90	1,125.00	1,122.90	1,100.00	0.00
EAST WEST	95,286	12.30	12.00	12.40	12.00	12.10	(0.20)
EASTERN MERCHANT	6,097	5.20	5.30	5.30	5.10	5.20	0.00
EXPOLANKA	3,415,579	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.00	5.10	(0.10)
FIRST CAPITAL	107,492	61.20	61.00	61.80	60.50	60.70	(0.50)
FORT LAND	170,702	9.40	9.50	9.90	9.50	9.80	0.40
GRAIN ELEVATORS	12,494	59.60	59.70	59.70	58.20	59.60	0.00
HAYCARB	43,466	278.00	279.30	280.00	277.00	277.60	(0.40)
HAYLEYS	5,187	186.60	186.60	188.00	185.00	185.70	(0.90)
HAYLEYS FABRIC	1,761,658	15.30	15.30	15.80	15.20	15.40	0.10
HAYLEYS FIBRE	1,600	109.10	107.60	108.90	107.10	107.30	(1.80)
HDFC	13,531	31.60	31.80	31.80	30.30	30.30	(1.30)
HEMAS HOLDINGS	184,597	60.00	60.00	60.70	59.90	60.00	0.00
HNB	300,496	122.00	125.00	121.50	123.10	123.10	1.10
HNB ASSURANCE	890	134.10	133.70	133.70	133.60	133.60	(0.50)
HNB (HNB.X0000)	534,881	90.40	91.10	92.00	90.60	91.30	0.90
HORANA	19	19.50	20.70	20.70	19.60	19.50	0.00
HOTEL SIGIRIYA	1	47.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	47.00	0.00
HOTELS CORP.	160	9.90	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	0.20
HUNAS FALLS	95	148.40	147.50	147.50	147.50	148.40	0.90
HUNTERS	4	440.00	410.00	410.00	410.00	440.00	0.00
INDUSTRIAL ASPH.	375,348	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.20	0.20	(0.10)
JANASHAKTHI INS.	16,287	31.30	30.90	31.80	30.90	31.10	(0.20)
JKH XD	2,687,334	134.90	134.50	136.10	134.40	134.50	(0.40)
KANDY HOTELS	4,001	4.70	4.90	4.90	4.60	4.80	0.10
KEGALLE	130	61.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	(1.00)
KELANI CABLES	6,527	80.00	81.00	81.00	80.00	80.00	0.00
KELANI TYRES	135,151	58.20	59.70	58.00	58.40	58.40	0.20
KELSEY	322	28.70	28.70	30.00	28.60	29.40	0.70
KINGSBURY	3,826	10.00	10.00	10.10	10.00	10.00	0.00
KOTAGALA	28,679	6.60	6.70	6.80	6.40	6.40	(0.20)
L O L C HOLDINGS	535,329	159.80	163.00	163.00	156.30	157.80	(2.00)
LANKA ALUMINIUM	1,201	56.00	58.50	59.00	58.50	58.90	2.90
LANKA HOSPITALS	77,567	37.40	38.00	38.00	37.10	38.20	0.80
LANKA IOC	331,965	18.00	18.10	18.20	17.80	18.00	0.00
LANKA REALTY	3,630	34.50	34.50	34.50	34.00	34.00	(0.50)
LANKA TILES	4,811	73.60	74.40	74.40	72.60	73.20	(0.40)
LANKA VENTURES	7,454	40.90	42.00	43.00	42.00	42.20	1.30
LANKA WALLTILE	64,124	65.40	66.20	66.90	65.20	65.80	0.40
LANKEM DEV.	698,780	4.00	4.00	4.10	3.90	4.00	0.00
LAUGFS GAS	12,478	15.20	15.00	15.90	15.00	15.30	0.10
LAUGFS GAS (LGL.X0000)	7,564	11.10	11.40	11.50	11.20	11.20	0.10
LAXAPANA	284,716	11.70	11.70	12.80	11.70	12.50	0.80
LI FINANCE	110,276	134.10	134.90	136.00	134.10	135.00	0.90
LION BREWERY	1,863	576.20	582.00	582.10	570.10	572.90	(3.30)
LMF	1,486,240	83.00	84.00	87.50	83.00	85.30	2.30
LVL ENERGY	16,025	7.90	7.80	8.00	7.80	7.80	(0.10)
MALWATTE	68,478	9.10	9.10	9.50	9.10	9.20	0.10
MALWATTE (MAL.X0000)	53,518	6.60	6.80	6.80	6.50	6.50	(0.10)
MELSTACORP	1,562,932	28.00	28.00	28.60	27.80	27.90	(0.10)
MERC. SHIPPING	17	47.30	58.00	58.00	58.00	47.30	0.00
MERCHANT BANK	78,031	7.50	7.60	7.60	7.30	7.40	(0.10)
MULLERS	95	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.00
NAMUNUKULA	4,007	97.70	97.20	100.50	97.20	100.00	2.30
NAT. DEV. BANK	294,124	88.10	89.00	90.70	89.00	89.10	1.00
NATION LANKA	391,353	0.80	0.90	0.90	0.80	0.80	0.00
NATIONS TRUST	286,793	62.60	63.20	63.50	63.00	63.00	0.40
NAVALOKA	150,438	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.20	3.20	(0.10)
NESTLE	1,301	1,008.40	1,070.00	1,080.00	1,065.00	1,070.20	61.80
OVERSEAS REALTY	24,846	13.00	13.20	13.20	13.00	13.10	0.10
PAN ASIA	334,535	13.50	13.50	13.90	13.30	13.50	0.00
PANASIAN POWER	412,738	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.60	3.70	(0.10)
PEOPLE'S INS	66,337	23.10	23.10	23.80	23.10	23.20	0.10
PEOPLES LEASING	4,156,873	11.90	12.00	12.50	12.00	12.30	0.40
PIRAMAL GLASS	504,302	3.50	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.60	0.10
PRINTCARE PLC	200	27.50	28.30	28.40	28.30	28.30	0.80
R I L PROPERTY	165,501	4.40	4.40	4.50	4.40	4.40	0.00
RADIANT GEMS	10,820	22.30	21.50	21.50	20.20	20.30	(2.00)
REGNIS	16,365	69.30	69.20	69.20	67.00	67.70	(1.60)
RENUKA AGRI	58,779	2.90	2.90	3.00	2.90	2.90	0.00
RENUKA CITY HOT.	198	202.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	(2.00)
RENUKA FOODS	7,916	15.90	15.90	16.20	15.70	15.80	(0.10)
RENUKA FOODS (COCO.X0000)	32,161	10.60	11.10	11.10	10.60	11.10	0.50
RENUKA HOLDINGS	24,642	16.10	15.80	16.00	15.50	15.90	(0.20)
RENUKA HOLDINGS (RHL.X0000)	44,573	10.40	10.20	10.20	10.00	10.00	(0.40)
RESUS ENERGY	250	27.00	26.70	26.70	26.70	26.70	(0.30)
RICHARD PIERIS	256,283	11.50	11.70	12.00	11.40	11.50	0.00
ROYAL CERAMIC	116,853	78.90	79.50	79.50	78.20	78.90	0.00
S M B LEASING	81,497	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	0.00
S M B LEASING (SEMB.X0000)	159,121	0.20	0.20	0.30	0.20	0.20	0.00
SAMPATH	355,803	126.50	128.00	128.00	126.00	126.60	0.10
SAMSON INTERNAT.	320	79.70	79.70	79.70			



# DFCC Bank empowers staff to better serve customers

From its position as a premier development bank in Sri Lanka, DFCC Bank has expanded its operational strategy to include a host of commercial banking products and services.

In line with its strategy to serve all Sri Lankans and be the 'Bank for Everyone', DFCC Bank COO Achintha Hewanayake discusses the steps taken by the Bank to cement its position in the country's commercial banking sector.

**Q: How has DFCC Bank evolved in terms of operations over the years?**

A: DFCC Bank was a renowned financial institution providing starting capital for new projects in hydro-power, hospitality and privatization initiatives by the government and private firms. With this solid standing in the country, the Bank began its shift to becoming a commercial bank in 2003. From humble beginnings, DFCC Bank is today one of the most successful commercial banks in Sri Lanka.

DFCC Bank has seen an incredible evolution from an operational point of view with the Bank adapting to market needs at a rapid pace. Whilst the transformation from being a development bank to a commercial bank has been

fruitful, our digital evolution in recent times is also noteworthy for the way in which we acclimated to market challenges and found ways to best serve our customers even during times of crisis. Since 2003, DFCC Bank has recorded significant growth measured in three phases, bringing the Bank's commercial banking portfolio performance in line with its already successful development banking portfolio. Phase 1 was gaining success as a premier development bank in Sri Lanka, while phase 2 was its successful commercial banking operations. At present, the Bank is in its 3rd phase, with the aim of securing a place in the top 5 commercial banks in Sri Lanka.

**Q: How has the expansion of the DFCC Branch network taken place over the years?**

A: Since the early years, DFCC Bank facilitated a significant clientele across the country. However, we were serving these clients through as few as 20 branches island-wide. This proved to be a challenge. We wanted to be able to provide convenience to our existing customers, as well as reach new clients and Sri Lanka's untapped population. This was only possible through a cross-country branch expansion.

Time was also an important factor, with large branch networks taking far too much time to build from scratch. Since 2003 we have opened 140 branches which is tremendous achievement by any standard growth posted by any other bank. Previous year also we opened recorded number of branches exceeding 20. To tackle this, we adopted a strategy to partner with Sri Lanka Post and within a couple years established 70-80 customer service units in locations island-wide. Thereafter, with time and the acquisition of customers in the vicinity, we started converting these small customer service units into bank branches. Just over the last 3 years we have been successful in converting over 80 customer service units into fully fledged bank branches.

However, after expanding rapidly over the past year, we are currently slowing down our branch expansion as we embraced the digital transformation in all our touch points. The current number of branches across the island is adequate to serve our customer base. Our priority going forward will be to improve our product portfolio to suit evolving customer requirements.

**Q: How has DFCC bank con-**

**tinued business as usual through the COVID-19 crisis in terms of operations?**

A: Our experience during the COVID-19 pandemic has a lot of influence on how we will operate in the future and on future workflows. During the lockdown period, we had to manage banking operations with only 25% of our staff, which we managed to do without any interruptions to our services. This led us to evaluate our processes and make realistic operational changes for the future as well. For example, we are now looking into automating regular day to day operations to utilize our human resources for more complex tasks.

The future after COVID-19 will be a very different phase in life for all of us. We as a bank are now preparing ourselves for this future, through three priorities, namely working on 3 pillars customer engagement, staff engagement, and cost reduction through digitalization. This will aid us in delivering a consistent and homogenous experience to customers as well as our staff members. We want to digitalize systems on every level of the bank and we believe employee engagement, cost reductions and increasing customer engagement are key to achieving this.

According to research, employees who are engaged are 150% more productive than those who are just satisfied with work. This is a learning we gained during the COVID-19 period. In terms of engaging employees with the bank, we as the bank have to make it convenient for staff members to complete their work no matter where they are by providing laptops, tablets and mobile phones for their convenience, while ensuring that our security is not compromised in any way. We are also working on educating them on business intelligence tools and customer analytics to empower them to take quick decisions. We have also invested in Google Enterprise platforms to enable digital meetings with customers and internal staff, in addition to shared calendars to increase efficiency.

**Q: What does the future hold for DFCC Bank in terms of operational excellence?**

A: Across the bank, we are looking to automate routine operational work through robotic process automation, so people in the frontlines will have more time to serve, advise and spend more time with customers. We have already introduced a host of digital products



Chief Operating Officer DFCC Bank  
**Achintha Hewanayake**

and services to customers, and now we are looking internally to digitize our processes. We are also in the process of upgrading our core banking system to one of the best in the world, and building workflows in parallel to work with this system. In summary, we are utilizing our digital and collaborative tools to break barriers and make our workforce intelligent and creative, while also automating processes to allow them to spend more time with our loyal customers improving customer engagement and reduce operational cost.

# HSBC opens Express Banking Centre at HIPG Maritime Centre

HSBC Sri Lanka opened its Express Banking Centre at the Hambantota Maritime Centre adjacent to the Hambantota International Port recently.

The Express Banking Centre located on the 12-story Maritime Centre lobby, completes the full complement of representative offices and service providers that will give support to the multipurpose port in the South of Sri Lanka.

HSBC Sri Lanka and the Maldives

CEO, Mark Prothero attended the opening ceremony, accompanied by Ray Ren, CEO of Hambantota International Port Group (HIPG), Yang Zuoyuan, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy and other HIPG representatives. Local business partners and HSBC's senior management and staff were also present.

"With Hambantota International Port Group's efforts in developing this eco-

economic zone, we believe Hambantota will be an area with significant investment and development over the coming years and HSBC is keen to be where the growth is. As the leading international bank in the country, we wish to support the country's future developments, and to be accessible to our customers in Hambantota, offering convenient and world-class banking solutions that meet their everyday banking needs. Having

operated in Sri Lanka for 128 years, our presence in Hambantota is a reinforcement of our service commitment to Sri Lanka," said Mark Prothero, CEO of HSBC Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Ray Ren, CEO of HIPG, spoke of HSBC's track record in parallel to HIPG's parent company CM Ports, "Both HSBC and China Merchants Group are two of the oldest organisations that began operations in Hong Kong and became global names in banking and port development respectively."

Over the years we have built a long-term relationship with the HSBC Group

and in Sri Lanka, we began our cooperation with the bank when China Merchant Group launched its very first project at the Colombo Port. We are glad to see this partnership extend from Colombo to Hambantota, with HIPG, as HSBC Sri Lanka establishes its presence as the first foreign bank to facilitate banking in Hambantota."

"I am confident companies in Hambantota Port will enjoy world-class financial services with the opening of the HSBC Express Banking Centre and undoubtedly, HSBC's customer network will help attract more investments and business to

the port. This will advance bilateral financial cooperation and promote the development of the Port," said Yang Zuoyuan Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka Speaking at the opening ceremony.

The HSBC Express Banking Centre, located on the ground floor of HIPG's Maritime Centre in Mirijawila, aims to facilitate the every-day banking needs of its corporate clients operating in the locality and retail banking customers, with a selection of self-service banking facilities, including ATM for cash withdrawals as well as Internet Banking.



Raymond Mu CFO of Hambantota International Port Group, Stuart Rogers Head of Wholesale Banking, HSBC with Mark Prothero, CEO of HSBC Sri Lanka and Maldives, Ray Ren, CEO of Hambantota International Port Group, Yang Zuoyuan, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka and Nadeesha Senarathne, Country Head of Wealth & Personal Banking, at the opening of HSBC's Express Banking Centre in Hambantota.

# ComBank partners HCL Technologies to offer education loans to students



Commercial Bank's Chief Operating Officer Sanath Manatunge and HCL Technologies Lanka Resident Director Thothathri Vaikuntam exchange the agreement in the presence of HCL Technologies Manager Corporate Muthu Shankar Sivasubbu and General Manager Operations Dilan S. Perera; Commercial Bank's Deputy General Manager Personal Banking Sandra Walgama, Deputy General Manager Marketing Hasrath Munasinghe and Senior Manager Retail Products Department Dushmantha Jayasuriya

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon has announced it is partnering with HCL Technologies Sri Lanka, the local arm of the multinational IT giant, to offer Education Loans with low interest rates to the latter's trainees and employees.

The Bank's special loan scheme will finance the bond fee of the Early Career Training Program (ECTP) offered to new recruits by HCL Technologies and the course fee for subsequent higher education offered via partner universities.

The Bank said it will lend to ECTP candidates and provide education loans for higher studies up to Rs 2 million under this programme.

"Supporting the advancement of IT education and building the IT knowledge base of Sri Lanka has always been one of the principal areas of emphasis in Commercial Bank's commitments to the country," the Bank's

Deputy General Manager - Marketing Hasrath Munasinghe said. "We are delighted to support HCL Technologies from the inception of the company's Sri Lanka operations because it will provide many opportunities for Sri Lankan IT professionals and students to progress in this sphere with a global giant."

The special loans envisaged under this partnership will be available to Advanced Level qualified candidates, undergraduates, graduates, and software engineers in training and employment at HCL Technologies Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., according to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) entered into by the two organisations.

Candidates following the ECTP at HCL Technologies who are eligible to apply for Commercial Bank's special loans are to be absorbed by HCL after their complete training under the agreement. The Bank said students in

this segment are entitled to a concessionary loan repayment plan during the training period on the basis that repayment of the loan will begin once they are employed.

Headquartered in India, HCL Technologies empowers global enterprises with technology solutions. It offers its services and products through three business units - IT and Business Services (ITBS), Engineering and R&D Services (ERS) and Products and Platforms (P&P).

The global tech company recently launched operations in Sri Lanka with a plan to create over 1,500 new local employment opportunities for both school leavers and experienced professionals, within the first 18 months of starting its office in Colombo. A key part of HCL's business and development strategy in Sri Lanka will be to use the local talent pool of Sri Lanka for global assignments.

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# Vidullanka clinches gold at Taiki Akimoto 5S Awards 2019



Director Operations Roshan Siriwardana, CEO Riyaz Sangani and Plant In-charge Ruwan Prasanga receives the award



Vidullanka team

Vidullanka PLC, one of Sri Lanka's leading power producer recently received awards and recognition for being commendable in 5S practices from Japanese Sri Lanka Technical and Cultural Association (JASTECA).

The alumni society with an active global network identifies the best performers in the country

who excel in the practice of 5S practices after a series of audits conducted by industry experts.

The Association upholds the benchmark of excellence for companies practicing Japanese productivity concepts such as the globally accepted 5S system for organizing, promoting efficiency, effectiveness and safety. JASTE-

CA awards were held for the 24th consecutive year at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Galadari. Vidullanka PLC Nilwala Vdullibala Mini hydro power plant in Morawaka won the coveted gold award in the small category while Vidullanka Wembiyagoda MHPP in Kalawana received the Bronze Award. Vidullanka Ganthuna

MHPP in Kegalle Aranayake was presented a with merit award.

Roshan Siriwardana, Director Operations of Vidullanka said, "receiving so many awards for implementing the internationally recognized practice of 5S at our plants proves our commitment, ensuring the operation, and maintaining company standards on par

with international standards. Moreover, we conduct all our operations in an effective, efficient and safe manner.

This clearly reiterates that we manage and operate our plants at its best by maintaining a culture of high productivity and professionalism by practicing 5S at all our network."

## Cemex HRM offers mobile based attendance solution to CareKleen

Cemex HRM tied up with CareKleen to provide a cloud and mobile based attendance monitoring solution for their cadre dispersed in over 900 corporate customer locations throughout the country.

CareKleen (Pvt) Ltd a leading commercial and residential cleaning company specializing in janitorial services with a team of over 3500.

"Being in the industry for over 36 years, we have always had a concern on keeping track of our cadre that has been deployed to various customer locations. Given the widespread network of clients and inherent issue of high labour turnover in the industry, it was not practical to invest in attendance equipment at all the locations. We were delighted when Cemex was able to offer a solution to one of our biggest problems of tracking attendance of our staff across the country. Since onboarding Cemex, we have already seen the benefits of their solution. We have cut down on additional expenses and this has had a direct impact on our bottom-line savings almost immediately. Furthermore, the ease of registering new employees remotely has also reduced our time taken to register new employees drastically," said Jehan Fernando, Man-

aging Director, CareKleen Pvt Ltd.

Expressing his views, Ziyam Kamil, Director of Cemex HRM said "After Covid19, we had to reinvent ourselves to keep up with current Work from Home (WFH) requirements and emerging problems faced by our clients. We took the lockdown period to re-innovate our cloud-based HR product and came up with features that support our clients in this new normal. For CareKleen, we deployed a mobile based attendance app, where the supervisors and managers are able to use the app to log the attendance of their staff, and the data is sent in real time to our cloud HR software to process the attendance, with GPS location based tracking to ensure accuracy of the attendance. The future of workplace has now changed and Cemex HRM has adapted to be able to support these new requirements".

Cemex Software (Pvt) Ltd, is a startup focusing on a Cloud based Human Talent Management software, powered by the reliable Microsoft Azure Cloud.

The company is backed by their parent company Cennetrix, with over 15+ years' market experience. Get in touch with Cemex HRM at [www.cemexhrm.com](http://www.cemexhrm.com) to find out how your company's employee experience can be enhanced.



## Allianz Insurance introduces Allianz PAB Plus

Continuing to take the benefits of insurance to more people around the island, Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited (Allianz Lanka) introduced an affordable Personal Accident Insurance policy, Allianz PAB Plus, with a host of additional covers and benefits.

The budget-friendly solution is set to offer a higher degree of protection to policyholders and their loved ones in the unfortunate event of an accident.

The policy comes with a primary cover of Rs.400,000 for loss of life of the insured due to an accident or Rs.400,000 for loss of eyesight, hand, feet or any other organs.

Additional benefits include Rs.400,000 in the event of loss of life of the insured due to an accident whilst being a passenger in any mode of transportation or as a pillion rider on a motorcycle. It also helps policyholders meet any accident related medi-

cal expenses with a payment of up to Rs.40,000 towards medical treatment obtained by the insured due to an accident or a daily allowance, up to a maximum of 40 days, during hospitalisation in a government hospital due to an accident. The policy will also cover funeral expenses, in the event of the death of the insured due to an accident.

"In line with our commitment to helping secure people's lives, we strive to extend the benefits

and protection offered by our world-class insurance solutions to more Sri Lankans. Allianz PAB Plus is yet another step in this direction. This affordable personal accident insurance policy offers a host of additional covers and benefits, delivering greater value to our policyholders and their loved ones," said Anura Perera, Head of Commercial, Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited. Claims can be made by simply calling the Allianz Lanka

hotline. The insurer's dedicated customer service teams will assist with the filing of the claim and submission of documents and help settle the same within 7 working days from the date of submission of documents.

Policyholders will be able to renew their PAB Plus cover and avail themselves of these benefits up to the age of 75 years. Consumers can also purchase this cover for their dependent parents aged 75 years or below.

## Litro Gas using technology to connect customers through app

Litro Gas has always strived to maintain a close relationship with its customers that relationship acquired a new and tech driven dimension with the launch of the Litro Gas App recently.

The formidable strength of Litro Gas in the market, achieved with a 75% market share and a customer base of 4 million and growing, translates into a wide outreach throughout Sri Lanka, giving the Company a unique advantage and an unparalleled access to consumers.

The Litro Gas customer delivery mechanism, activated through a strong customer centric approach at work across a network of 35 distributors located island-wide, 1,500 home delivery hubs and 11,000 point of sale locations, has entered a new phase of growth and access with the Litro Gas App.

"Harnessing of technology to get closer to our customers is a key function for us in everything we do", says Anil Koswatte, Chairman and CEO Litro Gas Lanka



Anil Koswatte, Chairman and CEO Litro Gas Lanka and Litro Gas Terminal Lanka

Ltd and Litro Gas Terminal Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, "In an era when customers choose to use their smartphone or tech device to connect with the services they need, introducing the Litro Gas App adds tremendous value to our customer centric approach."

Litro Gas brings a unique legacy to the energy industry in Sri Lanka – one that combines its multinational heritage with efficiently managed state ownership enterprise status. It's a combination that has proven to be a text book scenario of a perfect private-public partnership,

one that is clearly focused on enhancing the customer experience at multiple levels of engagement.

Technology is clearly an advantage for a Company with a turnover of Rs 45 billion – it drives every aspect of the business and empowers a strong and efficient team to deliver exceptional results to the customers, while ensuring that safety and industry best practices are heeded.

As the Government's journey of prosperity and development gets under way, Litro Gas has a tremendous role to play in such a challenging national undertaking "We have a mission to achieve in uplifting the living standards of the people who are not yet using LPG as a clean energy source."

This process is already empowering plantation communities where firewood has been replaced by domestic gas provided by Litro Gas "It is an improvement to the community that captures the spirit of true development and progress."

## Sterling Automobiles launches Training School



Lecturing sessions were inaugurated for the first batch of students of SATS



Some of the equipment that will be used in practical training sessions

Sterling Automobiles Training School (SATS) was opened on August 18, marking the establishment of the vocational training arm of Sterling Automobiles Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.

The opening ceremony was followed by the inauguration of the first batch of students of the institute. Senior Management of Sterling Automobiles, along with staff members were present at the occasion.

SATS was established according to a concept proposed by the management of Sterling Automobiles. The training school will initially act as a training school for the technical staff of Sterling Automobiles and the company hopes to open the programme to the general public within a span of two years, where any student interested in the field of automobile mechanics or automobile engineering will be given the opportunity to study at SATS and gain a qualification.

Measures are currently underway on the part of Sterling Automobiles to gain the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) status for the courses offered by SATS.

The training course at SATS starts with the Maintenance Technician stage and progresses

onto the Certified Technician, Expert Technician, Master Technician and finally the Master Diagnostic Technician stages. Upon the successful completion of each stage, participants will be offered a certificate in recognition of their achievement.

Latest technologies, tools and equipment in the automotive industry will be incorporated into the courses to offer updated knowledge to the students while providing them a hands-on experience with regards to working with advanced automobile tech.

Sterling Automobiles is the sole authorized franchisee service provider for reconditioned Japanese and European vehicles that are exported to Sri Lanka by Sterling Japan under the Sterling Aftercare Guarantee. The company operates five state-of-the-art facilities known as Sterling Aftercare Centres to provides after sales services to vehicles with the Sterling Aftercare Guarantee. Located in Kadawatha, Nugegoda, Minuwangoda, Narahenpita and Galle, Sterling Aftercare Centres are fully fledged facilities that are geared to provide any automobile related service to both Sterling as well as Non-sterling customers.

## Ninewells Hospital felicitates Frontline Healthcare Workers

Ninewells Hospital, a leading Women and Childcare private hospital in Sri Lanka, exceeded expectations with their service during the lockdown, becoming one of the few hospitals that was geared to meet the Covid-19 challenge with most of its wings operational including Obstetrics, Gynaecological, Paediatric and Neonatal Care Units.

As such, a special event was held to felicitate its dedicated frontline staff comprising of Nurses, Matrons, Front Office, Customer Care Personnel, Medical Assistants, Housekeeping, Engineering, Pharmacists as well as Security Personnel, who were pivotal in ensuring the smooth running of the daily operations, implementing hygiene and safety measures for the benefit of its patrons during the lockdown and in its aftermath.

They were felicitated with certificates of excellence handed to them by the Managing Director, Ninewells Hospital, Theo Fernando, Group Director Shamal Perera along with Dr. Thiasha Fernando, Director Ninewells Hospitals. Dr. Vibash Wijeratne, COO/Medical Director said,

"Ninewells has always placed immense trust and value on its staff and the pandemic served to showcase their dedication and commitment towards their job and to the community. We saw them putting their lives at risk, to serve each patient with love and compassion, working around the clock and even staying as long as two months in the hospital to attend to all patients patronizing the hospital.

In facing the new normal, Ninewells recently installed a special "Transitional Care Unit", the first of its kind in the Private Healthcare sector in Colombo. This purpose built stand-alone unit is dedicated for paediatric and adult patients with fever and respiratory symptoms.

Speaking of these initiatives, Dr. Vibash said "We are fighting a war not just for this generation but also for the generations to come. The pandemic knows no borders, makes no distinction between religion, caste, creed or social status and so requires all of us to come together to break the chain and this is what we at Ninewells have worked on accomplishing during the lockdown".



The team of healthcare workers felicitated by the Hospital.



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Senior prefect leaders



Head Boy Lasindu at a religious ceremony

# LIVING the DREAM



SIRIDHAMMA COLLEGE GALLE



ISHARA JAYAWARDANE

**B**elieving in that dream and living that dream, seeing the change in themselves and believing in it, Head Prefects of Siridhamma College Galle, Lasindu Senarath, Sumudu Gajanayaka and Wathsandi Karunarathne, never give up. Perfect Prefects features the trio who use their dreams as an opportunity to make a difference.



WATHSANDI KARUNARATHNE

SUMUDU GAJANAYAKA

HEAD BOY LASINDU SENARATH

become the Head Girl and it has enabled her to confidently lead the student body.

"Because of my dedication and hard work, I wear this crown. However, I am not vain and I am extremely affable. For me, being appointed Head Girl is something that is a blessing for me and I hope it will be a blessing to society because I want to make a difference in society. I think we all need to come together and create a peaceful society," said Gajanayaka

Someone who is very empathetic she is able to relate to others helping her to become an effective role model and creating an outcome that is mutually beneficial to both parties. "I want to help young people to think positively and help to create a better world. I think togetherness comes when there is kindness, integrity and respect in a relationship," said Gajanayaka.

Her ambition is to become a nurse and serve her country. As a young lady who feels that we need a positive mindset, with her compassion she will one day become an outstanding nurse.

"Credit goes to my parents who are always very supportive when it comes to my future. Also, I must thank my teachers and principal who have helped me to develop my personality. Where the country is

Because with hubris comes the fall. If you are susceptible to hubris then working with others is hard. Because of the advice and love I get from my parents, they are indispensable to me. I always have the utmost respect for my teachers and the other senior prefects who are such a rock to me. I think everyone has something to offer," said Karunarathne.

She admits that becoming Head Girl is an excellent opportunity to change society for the better, however she knows that changing peoples' attitudes can be a herculean task. And let's be honest some people in society hold extremely harmful views and opinions. They are bigoted. Some of these views can be racist or sexist. One way to influence attitudes is by starting when people are young. Then we can create a promising future generation by instilling noble qualities in the younger generation such as loving and protecting their parents when their parents are old.

"Society appreciates us when we are patriotic and responsible citizens. We need to be helpful and think positively. Then we are appreciated by society. I am working hard to be a dutiful student and Sri Lankan," added Karunarathne.

She has a powerful message to the youth.

"In Society you will face many challenges and obstacles. People may be unfair to you. But if you are strong willed you can overcome these situations. Do not worry but be strong. If you try to be ethical and do the right thing there will always be people who will stand by you. Life is no bed of roses. You will meet different people in society. You must act like lions when challenges come in life and always be positive. Never doubt yourself," explained Karunarathne.

Her ambition is commendable and it is to become a doctor and help people. She has a variety of interests. Some of them are camping, hiking, astronomy, collecting stamps, making different ornaments and sewing. She reads detective stories, books about leaders and books that are educational. When it comes to movies/tele dramas, she watches historical movies. She also loves to listen to classical music that helps her live without stress. These interests of hers has helped her develop her problem-solving abilities even contributing to her leadership qualities.

Some of the people she admires are the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Former Director-General of Health Services in Sri Lanka Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva, Acting Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Sri Lankan Army because they controlled the COVID19 Pandemic in Sri Lanka effectively and admirably. When it comes to the rest of the world people she admires are Robert Baden-Powell, Mother Teresa, Florence Nightingale and Barack Obama.

"I also wish to say that my biggest inspiration is my mother. She always encourages me to do my best and to succeed and she is the wind beneath my wings. In adversity she is always there for me. I would also like to thank my dear teachers and my Principal," said Karunarathne.

Head Boy Lasindu Senarath is fiercely competitive. 'Losing' is a word he looks upon with disdain. He is a young man who never gives up. When he focuses on a goal, he does not stop until he achieves it. In fact, he calls himself a big dreamer who dreams the toughest!

"My defeats only spur me on. Not a day goes by when I do not work hard to achieve my goals. My dreams are huge and one dream is to become a successful entrepreneur," said Senarath.

He says that engaging with the younger generation, he feels that he is a role model who is both kind and friendly while being a disciplinarian. For Senarath truth is everything. He condemns all falsehood. Along with other young leaders, he also feels that it is his duty to see that the society we live in is one where the truth is respected and one where citizens are treated in a way that is right or reasonable by those in power.

Senarath believes in standing up for what is right even though he may be standing alone. That is why he says that he is always independent. He does not blindly follow the masses just because it is easy. He will jump on the bandwagon only if it is the right thing to do.

There is a saying related to Buddhism - "Before you speak let your words pass through three gates. Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it Kind?"

"The greatest leader that I admire in my life is the Lord Buddha. I've never heard of a leader with such intelligence and kindness and such admirable leadership qualities. Without hesitation I will always say that he is one of history's great leaders. I also must mention my father who is such a huge influence in my life. He taught me so much about life and he has led our family through thick and thin," pointed out Senarath.

Senarath says that he is indebted to Siridhamma

College Galle. From the very beginning it has really transformed his life. He proudly says that it is because of his Principal Mr. Ravendra Pushpakumara that he, Senarath has become who he is. The Principal spotted Senarath and guided Senarath throughout his life. He also wished to thank his two fellow Prefects for their support.

He is also an avid reader and loves to listen to calm music which relaxes his mind. Understanding the power of knowledge, he gathers knowledge from many sources such as books and movies which has benefited him when it comes to building his character. One of his outside interests is body building. Indeed, he is a man who believes in a strong mind and a strong body. He says that he manages a website as well as a supplement shop as a beginner.

For Head Girl Sumudu Gajanayaka, becoming Head Girl, was a childhood dream. She points out that self-belief is one reason why she was able to



Athletics Championships



Sumudu taking part in the 2019 Leadership Training Camp



Swearing in of Head Prefects 2019 and 2020





At the camp



Segar, Eromi, Nipa, Sarath, Priti, and Charita

# A BRIDGE OF COLOURS!

**ISHARA JAYAWARDANE**  
Art is the great shapelessness that takes the shape of what you see from within your mind. It is more than a bridge between the art and culture of two countries. It is actually a bridge between your inner self and that shapelessness.

In February this year, Charita Lay a self-taught abstract artist from Colombo, Sri Lanka took part in a 10 day long exhibition and camp in Bangladesh. The exhibition was titled 'Mujib Shotohorsho' and held at the Bangladesh National Museum in Bangladesh. Lay speaks to the *Daily News* on her experiences at this high-profile art event and life as an abstract artist.

Along with three other Sri Lankan artists she took part in the 3 day art camp and their work was featured in the exhibition that took place from February 22-28. She recalls that it was a quite a big event in Bangladesh and the exhibition and the camp was held in celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of the country's beloved founder, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the National Museum.

"It was a great honour to be invited to take part in the event. It was an experience I shared

with the three other Sri Lankan artists, namely, Raja Segar, S.H. Sarath, Iromie Wijewardena. The event was organised by the Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA). The opening was presided over by the Chief Guest, Doctor A.K.M Abdul Momen. He also stated in his opening speech that he believed the exhibition will create a bridge between the art and culture of the two countries," said Lay.

Overall, she found that the experience was very harmonious and the environment that she worked in was tranquil, peaceful and pleasant. It was also a wonderful learning experience as the four Lankan artists were exposed to the rich culture of Bangladesh. Lay is nostalgic about those days. At the camp, they had to produce two pieces of art in the acrylic medium. The location which hosted the art camp was especially beautiful and conducive to quiet open-air painting sessions. There were also many Bangladeshi cultural elements such as their traditional music that we got to experience there.

"In that sense I got the opportunity to meet and interact with Bangladeshi artists that really broadened my horizon. When you take the concept of a self



Running wild, Acrylic on canvas

-taught artist, personally for me it means learning from other artists, and for me that meant gathering a lot of knowledge from my paternal uncle, who was an esteemed and well-respected art master, dramatist and sculptor in Sri Lanka. I also believed I should preserve my innate talent. I was firmly advised against studying art by my uncle who was of the opinion that it would adulterate my own style and steer it towards the more conventional and commercialized practice of art. And I believe this has led me to discover my own signature style and voice which today I express on canvas," explained Lay.

By the age of 17, Lay says that she had more or less developed her own style and by the time

she exhibited in Singapore, she had created a collection of artworks that was well received. In terms of the experience, it was truly an eye-opening experience for her.

"It was my first time in such a setting and looking back I'm amazed at the exposure I was lucky enough to receive as I was a rather shy 24-year-old at the time. As a woman, I grew a lot and had a lot of life experiences following my marriage and the birth of my two kids. Unfortunately painting took a backseat in my life for around 10 years. After which I did go on to host several art exhibitions in the UK and India. Currently I have made a more linear transition from the abstract to the more realistic, as it allows me room to

dwelt into the human emotions and psyche," added Lay.

Following the success of her debut exhibition in Singapore, another door opened for her in her career. This was her association with the George Key Foundation. Lay considers it a great honor to be a part of the foundation. Winning the young artist award in the year 1992 brought in many opportunities and exposure.

Talking about her experience in Bangladesh, she said that working with renowned Bangladeshi artists and getting the opportunity to interact with them was a great experience. It was a very educational camp, where she was able to learn various techniques and methods from other artists. There were several notable and famous Bangladeshi artists who took part such as Hashem Khan, Farida Zaman, Nasreen Begum and Shamsuddoha just a name a few.

It was certainly a high-profile event with a considerable media turnout. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are of course old friends when it comes to art and culture. Through the exhibition, Lay was able to win the appreciation of Bangladeshis with some of her art work. There was a fairly great response from the



Charita Lay with Professor Hashim Khan

public, as many Bangladeshis are art lovers and showed deep appreciation of both the local and international art culture.

"It was very heartening to see them appreciate my signature style as well. One of my art works involved Sri Lankan beaches, and they greatly admired our local landscapes and the beauty of the Sri Lankan woman. The tour was a very educational as we learnt a lot about the history of Bangladesh. We had the opportunity to visit the museum and we also had a fantastic opportunity to attend and partake in the 4th Annual Art for Autism 2020 hosted by the Child Foundation, a country wide Health Initiative for Learning and Development," pointed out Lay.

Like Sri Lankans, Lay learnt

that the Bangladeshis are also extremely friendly and hospitable. Lay found the culture so close to home. She wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Riaz Hamidullah, the SPBA and the generous sponsor Sarath Gamiini for the warm welcome extended to them, and the effort made to ensure that the stay in Bangladesh and, participation in the exhibition was a fantastic one.

"The culture was truly beautiful and it truly felt like home. An added highlight when it came to experiencing their culture was their fantastic cuisines. During our stay, everybody was so helpful, warm and hospitable which definitely added to our experience," said Lay.

## MARMADUKE



"No! It's a tiny house, not a doghouse."

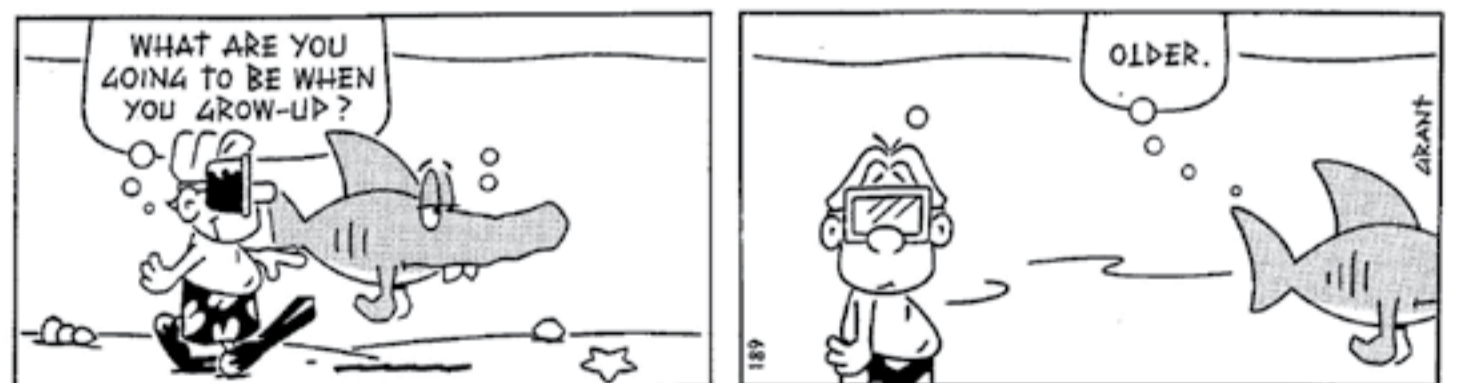
## MUTT AND JEFF



## ARCHIE



## FISH TALES



## UP & RUNNING







# SOARING SUCCESS!

Text and pictures by  
**RUZAIK FAROOK**

**H**arcourts International School Annual Awards Ceremony was held at the Bishop's College Auditorium, Colombo, a few months ago. It was held under the patronage of the school Principal Farzana Jabir.

The Chief Guest at the event was Mohamed Reza Ahmedi, First Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission Iran Embassy. The Guests of Honour was Dr. Roshan Ajward, Senior Lecture University of Sri Jayawardepura.

A comprehensive report of the happenings for the academic year 2017 / 2019 was presented by the Principal. Dr. Roshan Ajward stressed on the importance of educa-

tion to girls. It was indeed a thought provoking and encouragingly educative talk which carried a meaningful message. Ahmed Rheyas said that it was his passion and love for education that made him embark on starting a school. He too emphasized on the need to educate girls and quoted that if a boy is educated it will be only a man and that if a girl is educated it will be the entire society.

On the whole the event was a resounding success reflecting grandeur and splendour which revealed the meticulous planning and organizing skills of the school management committee. Principals of invited schools, well-wishers, parents, teachers, past pupils and students graced the event.



## Restoring lost splendour

SANJEEWANI BANDARA

**T**hurstan College, Colombo 7, is a historical landmark in the Sri Lankan education system. The school has created many educationists to the country over the past decades. After Reverend Father the pioneer Englishman and Anglican Missionary Rev A.J. Thurstan planted the Thurstan seed in the educational soil of Sri Lanka, it was an agricultural school surrounded by a prosperous cinnamon cultivation. Hence even today, the area is named as "Cinnamon Gardens".

According to the then Education Minister E A Nugewela's concept, A Government Senior School at Thurstan road started its journey on January 11, 1950 with 26 students. Its first Principal was Douglas Earle Allen Schokman. Many Principals and Acting Principals followed his footsteps to uplift Thurstan's standards in the island.

It is a school which has produced many distinguished old boys to serve Mother Lanka, one of them being Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksha.

The present Principal of Thurstan College is W A P J Wickramasinghe who assumed duties on February 26. After his arrival numerous projects were implemented to improve the physical standards of the school.

The Thurstan College premises and its architectural design is undoubtedly one of the most valu-



**Thurstan College Principal Pramuditha Wickckramasinghe**



those ancient buildings still standing is the school's oldest building facing the basketball court which gives accommodation to nearly 600 students today. According to the historical records, in 1950s this building consisted of the School Assembly Room, General Science Room, Art room and the Boxing Ring. The old class rooms are used by the children now.

The Principal has decided to renovate and restore the building together with the School Development Society. It will be supported by the Sri Lanka Navy.

The Principal noted that protecting such a

landmark for the future generations would recall the memories of its past and the present.

Thus, the whole building has undergone a perfect supervision by respected Architectural Designers and according to their recommendations the building will be restored without damaging its historical outlook. This project will create a safe and a stress-free learning environment for both teachers and students of Thurstan and its past pupils by adding more value to their old school collections.

The project of renovating and restoring the school's oldest building started on August 20.



## PAINTING RAINBOWS with words

Text and pictures by  
**M U M SANOON,**  
Puttalam TKN corr

**T**wo students of Puttalam Zainab Infant school have become magazine writers! The grade 5 students of Puttalam Zainab Infant school - N Zain Zikra and M N Atheeba Nidha have collaboratively published a magazine called 'Vaavil' which means 'Rainbow' in English.

The school principal - Feljiya Abul Hudha and the

teacher in charge of both students - M H M Milhan guided them in this venture. The parents of these students have motivated them to publish this magazine. The magazine was launched at a ceremony organised by the deputy principals of the school - V.L. Oreshwari and S.L. Muzammil.

This magazine contains the articles of the students, details of the school, medicinal notes, short stories and many other articles of interesting topics.



## TESTING TIMES

Text and pictures by  
**I L M RIZAN,**  
Addalaichenai Central Corr.

**K**almunaians Forum organized a workshop on guiding for competitive exams for candidates who will sit for the competitive exams for Law College and recruitment for Management Service Officer (MSO) service.

The inauguration ceremony

was held at Az-Zuhara Vidyalaya hall in Kalmunai recently. Kalmunaians Forum Activist Mubaris M Haniffa president over the ceremony.

Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS) Officer and former Pottuvil Divisional Secretary M Thowfeek and the Open University of Sri Lanka Part Time Lecturer and Attorney-at-law Hassan Rushdhy were guests.

Resource Persons, the Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS) Officer Afan Kariyapper, Attorney-at-law Mohamed Firnas, and Sri Lanka Principal Service (SLPS) officer M Mohamed Sabry were present.

More than 40 candidates from Pottuvil to Maruthamuai in the coastal belt benefited from the workshop which was held free of charge.





# Giving 'voice' to music

RUWINI JAYAWARDANA

**T**hey have had bouquets and they have had their share of brickbats too. Recalling the 'Sirasa Super Star Season One' experience once again, Sirasa TV had entertainment enthusiasts' eyes and ears focused on their mini screens once again on weekend nights as The Voice Teen Sri Lanka unfurled on television.

18-year-old Hashen Dulanjana from Raddolugama bagged the prize at the maiden Teen Voice Sri Lanka. A BioScience student from Bandaranayake College, Gampaha, Hashen notes that he has studied music till his G C E O/Ls.

"My mother applied for me after seeing them calling for applications on TV. I was hesitant to go but decided to try my luck at the last minute. I got through all the rounds and finally emerged as the winner," an enthusiastic Hashen revealed.

He notes that the fact that he would be able to watch himself on TV was appealing to him. However it was the fact that he will be up against an abundance of talent pouring in from across the island which intimidated him.

"All those who were selected were immensely talented. The final eight are already winners as their names are known worldwide. Our videos have been viewed many times on the web by viewers from across the world. The response is truly overwhelming," he said adding that if he was to be asked to pick one of the other seven to vote at the finals, he would end up voting for all of them!

The energetic Madhuvy Vaithialingam has been one of the favourites to win the title due to her power-packed performances. She noted that she sees the eight finalists as one family.

"We were all ecstatic when Hashen was announced as the winner because each of us deserved our own victory. I was cheering. And Ishitha was jumping up and down. We all had our winning moments," she said.

A student of Ladies College, Colombo, Madhuvy hails from Kirulopone. She is the youngest in a family of five. The Voice Teen has not been the first reality show experience for this young lady as she has taken part in a reality singing programme in India which had been broadcast on Zee TV in 2018.

"It was called 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' and I reached the top 15 at the event. I had to cut short my stay in India and return to Sri Lanka due to personal reasons," she said.

Madhuvy passion is to sing in one of A R Rahman's concerts. "I am working towards it. My family discovered that I could sing when I was around two years old. Music has always been in my soul. I chose coach Ashanthi because I felt she was the perfect person who can nurture me to become the artist I want to be. She was like a mother to me. Representing her team at the grand finale was my biggest moment. This journey taught me how to be humble and polite to all. I learnt how to mingle and coordinate with others. People in the studio and production team were amicable and supportive. We all felt very much at home," she mused.

"This was his special moment, and we were celebrating with him. We also had people congratulating us, saying we did our best. That was what mattered. Just because you don't have the cup does not mean you are a loser," she added.

One memorable moment they all shared at the finale is taking turns to hold the trophy. This shows the unity between these teen who have left the all the hurly-burly activities and turned a deaf ear to all the vicious remarks targeting at them or their colleagues behind them.

"What these people said hoping to weaken us strengthened us instead. We stayed together and are still the same. We are done with the show. It was just a performance," the youngest member among the eight, Ishitha Premnath said.

A student of Lyceum International School, Wattala, Ishitha, is from Wattala. She studies both classical and Western music. She



Hashen Dulanjana with the award

says that one of the biggest challenges she faced was singing 'Un Poco Loco' first during the battle round with Kyle Mario and then during the finale where she had to sing the whole song alone.

"You need to pronounce the words accurately. That was the biggest test I had to pass but my coach was confident that I would succeed," said the lass who had been the second runner up in Shakti Super Star Junior in 2019.

She and 'Girl on Fire' Amelia Wijesooriya are from team Raini. They both noted that they could not have asked for a better coach as they were given all guidance and love they needed to motivate them by her.

Another finalist who looks back on her experiences with her coach, Dumal Warnakulasuriya, emotionally is Erandi Heshani. A student of Vadduwa Central College, Erandi has studied Hindustani music, and she is done up to Visharada part II. She vies to complete her Advanced Level examination, learn Hindustani music in India, study Western Music in the UK and become a performer and lecturer in music.

"Apart from the wealth of knowledge, training, love and fame, one of the most precious things I have earned at the event was meeting these amazing people. I did not know my colleague Adithya till we met at the competition. Then our friendship grew and blossomed. We are bosom friends today. Likewise I am close to each and every one of the other finalists. There is no competition among us. We each embody different capacities and have grown during this process," a confident Erandi noted.

Recalling his first moment in the spotlight Hashen noted, "Everyone was intrigued because I chose coach Sanuka. He did not even say a word to me but I liked him.

His way of thinking interested me and I wanted to upgrade my knowledge of music through his mentorship. He taught me how to select a song and how to capture the audience and keep them engaged."

Hashen's goal is to launch original songs and compose an album. He aims to do further studies in the music and science streams.

"I wish to combine psychology and music and learn music therapy," he said.

## Ethics and values competition for children

**A**n opportunity for all parents and teachers to encourage your child or group of children to participate in the National Saardharma Championship and win attractive prizes without even having to leave home has emerged.

Schools, pre-schools, children's homes, religious institutions and other children's organizations are encouraged to participate in the group competition category, while any child (one or two) can enter the solo category and win attractive prizes every month plus a bonus prize for the most popular video. Rotary Sri Lanka has allocated Rs. 500,000 worth of prizes for this very important national project throughout the year. Teachers and parents are encouraged to support children to participate in this island-wide Annual Ethics and Values Competition. The first 100 Group Participants will also receive a free DVD just for participating in the competition.

Spearheaded by famous composer, singer and Past President of the Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan, Rukshan Perera, "Little Minds Strong Values" is an outstanding Rotary initiative that uses music therapy with 20 Sinhala and 10 Tamil engaging video animated songs with embedded values to inculcate ethics and values in children at an early age. Respect other religions and races, respect parents and elders, be kind to others, be honest, don't steal, don't lie, say sorry, say thank you, preserve environment, dispose garbage responsibly,



July Winner of the Saardharma Competition

be punctual, follow the law, follow road rules, healthy habits are some of the 40 values taught in these songs. The lyrics are made simple and easy to understand, but full of moral resonance, advising children on the best way to conduct themselves in the situations of life with values and manners. The music accompanying the lyrics is catchy, vibrant, rhythmic, harmonious and uplifting to listen to. The music videos contain bright colours and beautiful images of children from all the ethnic groups in the country singing the songs in unison.

The full set of child friendly animated music videos and guidelines for participation in the Saardharma competition and Frequently Asked Questions can be accessed via the link <https://www.rotarycolombometro.org/lmsv/>. You can also Download WhatsApp videos, lyrics and even backing tracks via this link and enter the national Saardharma Competition that is available for all Sri Lankan children here and abroad.

For further information email LittleMindsStrongValues@gmail.com or WhatsApp your questions to their hotline on 0766111932.

## Kala Keerthi Abhimani Award for Asanka Priyamantha



**P**opular musician Asanka Priyamantha Peiris won the 'Kala Keerthi Abhimani' award for his dedication and commitment to the music industry and for his efforts to promote good music among the Sri Lankan audiences.

This award was presented to him at a felicitation ceremony held at the BMICH, on August 2, by the All Island Cultural Environment Protection Organization, in order to celebrate its Anniversary.



Madhuvy Vaithialingam, Hesara Bandara, Shemil Clinson, Hashen Dulanjana, Erandi Heshani, Adithya Weliwatte, Amelia Wijesooriya and Ishitha Premnath



The final four: Madhuvy, Hashen, Erandi and Ishitha. Pictures by Tennyson Edirisinghe



## The Masked Singer Australia shuts down

**T**he Masked Singer Australia has been forced to shut down production after seven dancers on the show tested positive for Covid-19.

According to Australia's The Herald Sun newspaper, stars of the hit Network 10 reality series, including judges Jenni Minogue, radio personality Jackie 'O' Henderson, comedian Dave Hughes, and host Osher Günsberg have all been told to self-isolate.

One dancer reportedly arrived at the set ill on Friday and was told by producers to go home immediately and get tested for coronavirus. Another six are believed to have tested positive. A Network 10 spokesman told the publication: "Production of The Masked Singer has been immediately suspended as a result of several crew members receiving a positive test result for COVID-19.

"The health and safety of the community, and our staff and production partners

is our number one priority. The entire production team, including the masked singers, the host and panellists are now in self-isolation. They are all being monitored closely and are in constant contact with medical authorities. Network 10 is working closely with the Victorian Government and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. Network 10 is providing all crew with all the support and assistance possible."

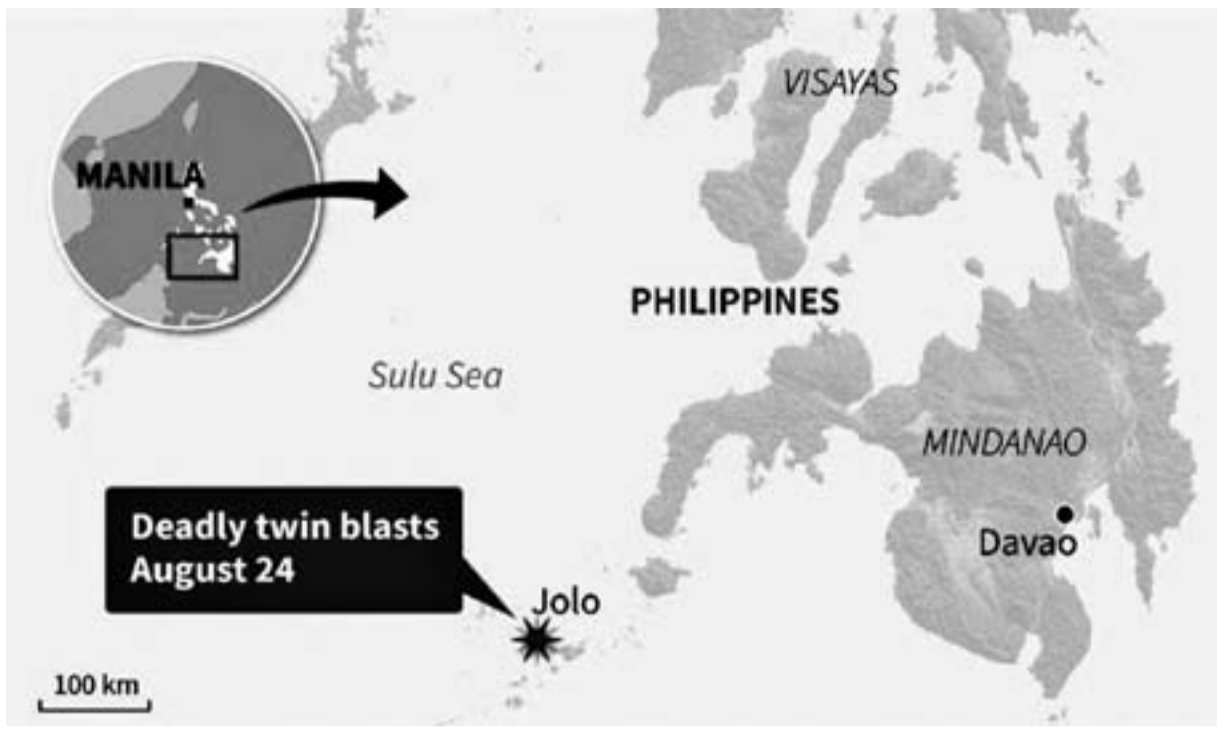
The Covid-19 shutdown came the night of the show's grand final. Officials at the Department of Health and Services advised producers to shut down the Docklands set in Melbourne. *Music News*







The bodies of victims lie on the pavement as police and military personnel cordon off the site where an improvised bomb exploded next to a military vehicle in the town of Jolo on Monday. - AFP



## AT LEAST 10 DEAD IN PHILIPPINES TWIN BOMBINGS

**THE PHILIPPINES:** At least 10 people were killed and dozens wounded – including soldiers and police – in a twin bombing Monday involving a suicide attacker on a southern Philippine island that is a stronghold of Islamist militants, officials said.

The attack happened in Jolo in Muslim-majority Sulu, where government-backed security forces have long been fighting the Abu Sayyaf group.

Five soldiers and four civilians were killed in the first blast, when an improvised explosive device attached to a motorcycle parked outside a supermarket blew up, Lieutenant General

Corleto Vinluan told reporters. Sixteen soldiers were wounded in the explosion, which happened at around midday.

Around 20 civilians were also hurt, Lieutenant Colonel Ronaldo Mateo said, citing the local mayor.

A soldier saw a person leave the motorbike outside the grocery store “where there were a lot of people” including members of the military. It immediately detonated, Mateo said.

“Our soldiers are conducting security operations. That was the time that the improvised explosive device detonated,” he said.

There was a second blast a short time later in

the same street when a female suicide attacker blew herself up as police cordoned off the area, killing one person and wounding around six officers, Vinluan said.

A soldier had been trying to apprehend the bomber when she detonated her explosives, he added.

Abu Sayyaf was “most probably” behind the double bombing, Mateo said.

Listed by the United States as a terrorist organisation, Abu Sayyaf is a loose network of Islamic militants blamed for the Philippines’ worst terror attacks as well as kidnappings of foreign tourists and Christian missionaries.

They also have ties to Islamic State militants seeking to set up a caliphate in South-east Asia.

Monday’s explosions come after the arrest earlier this month of an Abu Sayyaf leader on the southern island of Mindanao.

Security forces had been on alert for possible reprisal attacks after detaining Abduljihad Susukan, who is accused of kidnapping and beheading several foreigners.

He has been charged with 23 murders, five kidnappings and six attempted murders, police have said. President Rodrigo Duterte’s spokesman Harry Roque condemned the “dastardly

attacks” and issued condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed.

“We call on the residents of Jolo to stay vigilant and report suspicious personalities and unattended items in their areas,” Roque said.

The Philippine Coast Guard issued a “red alert” for Sulu and several other areas in the restive south as it assists the military and police in responding to the incident.

The explosions happened near a Catholic cathedral in Jolo where two suicide bombers blew themselves up in January 2019 killing 21 people. It was blamed on a group linked to Abu Sayyaf. -AFP



Bali’s Plaza Garuda at Garuda Wisnu Kencana (GWK) Cultural Park located in Ungasan, Badung Regency is a major tourist attraction.

## Bali bans foreign tourists for rest of 2020 over virus

**INDONESIA:** Foreign tourists won’t be allowed to visit Bali for the rest of 2020 due to coronavirus concerns, its governor said, scrapping a plan to open up the Indonesian island from next month.

The holiday hotspot reopened beaches, temples and other tourism spots for domestic visitors at the end of July and had said it would let foreign tourists return on September 11.

But the plan has now been cancelled over concerns about Indonesia’s mounting virus cases and with many foreign nationals subject to travel bans in their home countries.

Jakarta is also yet to lift its ban on foreign tourists entering Indonesia.

“The situation in Indonesia is not conducive to allow international tourists to visit Indonesia, including...Bali,” the island’s governor I Wayan Koster said in an official letter dated Saturday.

“The central government supports (Bali’s) plans to recover tourism by opening the doors for international tourists. However, this requires care, prudence, not to be rushed, and requires careful preparation,” it added.

He did not give a new date for allowing foreign

tourists to visit. The volume of flights to and from Bali plummeted during the global pandemic, leaving hotels empty and restaurants struggling to survive.

Bali has recorded some 49 deaths and just over 4,000 cases of coronavirus.

“New cases are under control, the recovery rate is increasing and fatality rate is under control,” Koster said.

Nationwide, Indonesia has seen at least 6,680 virus deaths with more than 153,000 confirmed cases, but the real toll is widely believed to be hidden by limited testing. -AFP

## TV legend Larry King’s loses two of his children weeks apart

**US:** American talk show host Larry King has suffered the loss of two of his children just weeks apart, according to reports.

His only daughter Chaia, 51, reportedly died after a battle with lung cancer on Thursday (20 August).

King’s adopted son, Andy, died aged 65 “a couple of weeks ago”, according to Page Six. It is not clear what caused Andy’s death. Larry King has not yet spoken publicly about losing either of his children.

The Independent has contacted King’s representatives for comment.

A source told Page Six: “Larry and his three remaining children are distraught, and Larry’s still recovering from his own health issues from last year.” King had a near-fatal stroke in 2019.

King, 86, has three other sons: Larry King Jr, Cannon and Chance.

He has been married eight times. When Alene Akins, the mother of Andy and Chaia, died in 2017, King tweeted: “So very saddened over the passing of Alene Akins, who died peacefully with our children Chaia and Andy



Andy King Larry King Chaia King

by her side. She was a grand lady.” They were married twice, from 1961 until 1963 and 1967 until 1972.

King gained prominence in the late Seventies as host of The Larry King Show, an all-night nationwide call-in radio programme. Since then, he has front-

ed various series such as Larry King Live, Larry King Now and his current show Politicking with Larry King. -YAHOO

## ‘Terrorist’ pipeline attack blamed for Syria blackout

**SYRIA:** War-torn Syria’s government Monday blamed a “terrorist” attack on a gas pipeline near Damascus for a nationwide blackout, in the latest such alleged assault on its energy infrastructure.

Caretaker electricity minister Zuhair Kharboutli said a pipeline explosion in the Damascus area late Sunday “led to an electricity blackout across Syria”, according to state news agency SANA.

The caretaker oil and mineral resources minister, Ali Ghanem, said the explosion of the gas pipeline, between Adra and Dmeir, was “the result of a terrorist attack”, but provided no further details.

Kharboutli said the explosion was the “sixth of its kind on the pipeline in that area”, without giving a timeframe.

SANA published pictures of firefighters working to put out a blaze, followed by images a mangled land pipeline missing

a large chunk. Damascus residents told AFP they woke up on Monday with no electricity in their homes.

Mid-morning, Kharboutli told SANA that power had started to partially return to several provinces and had been restored to parts of central Damascus.

“Power has returned to several vital installations in Damascus including hospitals and some residential neighbourhoods,” he said.

The Russia and Iran-backed Damascus government in 2018 expelled the last rebels and jihadists from Dmeir, a town about 40 kilometres (25 miles) northeast of Damascus.

But the Islamic State group retains a presence in the vast Badia desert east of the town.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it was not immediately clear who was behind the overnight attack that had



Syrian firefighters putting out a burning pipeline between the areas of Adra and al-Dhamir in the Damascus area. - AFP

caused several explosions between Adra and Dmeir that were so loud they could be heard in Damascus.

A host of pro-government forces are stationed in the area, said the Britain-based war monitor.

Russian forces are present at the Dmeir military airport, while Iranian forces and allied fighters held positions around the town and on the edge of the Badia desert.

The pipeline explosion was the latest in a string of

alleged attacks against the government’s energy infrastructure.

In February, the government said “terrorists” attacked four different oil and gas facilities with rocket fire in the central province of Homs. -AFP

## Netanyahu accepts compromise, avoids election

**ISRAEL:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Sunday that he had agreed to extend contentious budget talks with his main rival, preventing a collapse of his government that would have triggered a fourth national election in under two years.

While the decision defused the immediate budget crisis, it did not address the deeper issues that have plagued the power-sharing arrangement between Netanyahu and his bitter rival, Blue and White party leader Benny Gantz. Since forming a coalition government in May, the two men have repeatedly feuded, and Netanyahu, facing the distraction of a potentially career-ending corruption trial, has repeatedly hinted that he would prefer a new government that might be more lenient toward his legal woes.

In a nationally televised address, Netanyahu said now was not the time to force the country into an unwanted election. He cited the new opportunities created by his recent historic agreement to establish dip-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with coalition partner Benny Gantz

lomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates, combined with the economic and public-health challenges caused by the coronavirus crisis.

“Now is the time for unity. Not for elections,” he said.



## VEHICLES FOR SALE

FREEZER		
NW PU-XXXX	DAIHATSU LE-5200P FREEZER 650.00 CC	2007
MOTOR COACHES		
63-XXXX	NISSAN 6920.00 CC	1991
61-XXXX	TOYOTA HIACE LH71B 2440.00 CC	1988
WP NA-XXXX	TATA/LPO 1512 5883.00 CC	2011
LORRIES		
WP PU-XXXX	TATA ACE EX 702.00 CC	2012
EP PX-XXXX	TATA ACE EX2 702.00 CC	2014
SP PP-XXXX	TATA ACE 702.00 CC	2010
226-XXXX	NISSAN 4210.00 CC	1993
SG LH-XXXX	TATA LPT 1109 3784.00 CC	2010
UP LB-XXXX	MITSUBISHI GD-UE51T 650.00 CC	2001
NW PX-XXXX	TATA ACE HT 2 702.00 CC	2013
226-XXXX	ISUZU ELF 3630.00 CC	1992
NW LH-XXXX	ISUZU NMR71H 4570.00 CC	2010
48-XXXX	TATA 709 3784.00 CC	1996
WP GP-XXXX	MITSUBISHI CANTER 2830.00 CC	1997
WP LJ-XXXX	TATA LK1615 5883.00 CC	2011
SP LE-XXXX	SUZUKI LE-DA63T 650.00 CC	2002
227-XXXX	ISUZU ELF 3630.00 CC	1995
SP GN-XXXX	MAZDA TITAN 4020.00 CC	1996
WP PS-XXXX	MAHENDRA MAXIMO PLUS 909.00 CC	2012
CP PW-XXXX	MAHENDRA B.M.T PLUS-VX 2523.00 CC	2013
SP LC-XXXX	SUZUKI CARRY 650.00 CC	2003
WP LB-XXXX	MAHENDRA/BOLERO LOAD CARRIE 2498.00 CC	2006
TIPPER		
WP LA-XXXX	LANKA ASHOK LEYLAND COMET TIPPER 6540.00 CC	2005
THREE WHEELERS		
UP ABO-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 198.88 CC	2015
CP YB-XXXX	BAIAJ AR 45 173.50 CC	2010
WP AAQ-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 198.88 CC	2014
WP QO-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 198.88 CC	2008
WP AAP-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 198.88 CC	2014
WP AAC-XXXX	BAIAJ RE205 198.75 CC	2012
SP YB-XXXX	BAIAJ AR45-UG AR45-UG 173.50 CC	2010
SP QO-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2008
SP YL-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
SP YA-XXXX	BAIAJ AR 45 UG 173.50 CC	2010
UP YR-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2010
UP ABM-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 198.88 CC	2016
UP YF-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 200.00 CC	2010
UP QV-XXXX	BAIAJ AR45 UG 173.50 CC	2009
WP YM-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
UP QN-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2008
SP YL-XXXX	BAIAJ RE205 198.75 CC	2011
WP QR-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2008
WP AAQ-XXXX	PIAGGIO APE 395.00 CC	2014
SP YU-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
SP YN-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
SP QO-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2008
SP YV-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2012
SP YS-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
SP YU-XXXX	BAIAJ RE205 198.75 CC	2011
SP QP-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2008
SP AAR-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 198.88 CC	2014
WP QJ-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2007
WP QV-XXXX	BAIAJ 4 5 173.50 CC	2009
WP QD-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO RE 2 5 145.45 CC	2006
WP QO-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	208
WP YW-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2012
SP YG-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
SP AAF-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2012
WP QK-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2007
wp QS-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2008
SP QJ-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO RE 2 5 143.50 CC	2007
SP QK-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2007

**On view to vehicles 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.**


**INQUIRY- 0767763317, 0114526600**

Vehicle facility centre at No. 98 J/1, Avissawella Road, Mahabuthgamuwa, Wellampitiya.



**COMMERCIAL LEASING & FINANCE**

# Daily News TENDER AND OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS



## Correction Notice

**MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING**

**DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS**

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

This refers to the above captioned advertisement published on Page No. 40 of Daily News on 20th August 2020. Please note that name 'Nawarapitiya' under the heading should be read as "Nawalapitiya". The other contents remain unchanged.

**Eng. M.H.M. Ismail**  
**Director General of Buildings**  
**Department of Buildings,**  
**2nd Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla.**  
**www.buildings.gov.lk**

## NOTICE

**Ministry of Plantation**



**Sri Lanka Tea Board**  
**Tea Commissioner's Division**  
**Sudugahahena Tea Factory - MF 1562**  
**Mahalpe, Horapawita, Kamburupitiya**

### Payment of Arrears for Green Leaf

It is hereby notified that persons who had supplied Green Leaf for the months of August, September and October, 2017 to the Sudugahahena Tea Factory (MF 1562) and have not received payments for what they had supplied, are informed to notify the Matara Regional Office of the Sri Lanka Tea Board to the effect with supply documents in proof on or before 20th September 2020.

*Address of the Office :*  
**Assistant Tea Commissioner,**  
**Sri Lanka Tea Board,**  
**Regional Office,**  
**No. 23, Aluth Mawatha, Uyanwatta, Matara.**

**Tel / Fax : 041-222636**

As the final document on the final payment to be made is to be prepared based on the requests made in response to this notice, requests / applications received after 20th September, 2020 will not be considered for same.

**Tea Commissioner**  
**Sri Lanka Tea Board**  
**No. 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03.**

### REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY


We, Don Chandrasoma Gasara (Holder of Passport No. 093110566) & Anuka Gasara (Holder of Passport No. 2428321) (Being Directors of Colombo Cargo Express Limited) a Company incorporated under the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007 of Sri Lanka bearing Registration No. PV 7453 and having its registered office at No. 531/2, Negombo Road, Mookalangamuwa, Seeduwa in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka do hereby notify to the General Public and the Government of Sri Lanka that we do hereby revoke and make null and void, and annul the Special Power of Attorney No. 1734 dated 28.09.2011 attested by M.V.S. Premadasa Notary Public given by us to Minneri Gamage Don Samarakkodi Perera (Holder of NIC No. 581681801v) of No. 11, Masjid Road, Kirulapana from today and we shall not take any responsibilities of any act done by the said Minneri Gamage Don Samarakkodi Perera from today, 10th of August 2020.

This document is registered in the Registrar General Department of Western Province Delkanda Nugegoda under Registration Volume 80 Folio 82 Day Book 6519 dated 29.09.2011.

### REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, Don Chandrasoma Gasara (Holder of Passport No. 093110566) & Anuka Gasara (Holder of Passport No. 2428321) (Being Directors of Colombo Cargo Express Limited) a Company incorporated under the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007 of Sri Lanka bearing Registration No. PV 7453 and having its registered office at No. 531/2, Negombo Road, Mookalangamuwa, Seeduwa in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka do hereby notify the General Public and the Government of Sri Lanka that we do hereby revoke and make null and void, and annul the Special Power of Attorney No. 543 dated 11.01.2012 attested by P.D.P.K Senarathna Notary Public given by us to Minneri Gamage Don Samarakkodi Perera (Holder of NIC No. 581681801v) of No. 11, Masjid Road, Kirulapana from today and we shall not take any responsibilities of any act done by the said Minneri Gamage Don Samarakkodi Perera from today, 10th of August 2020.

This document is registered in the Registrar General Department of Western Province Delkanda Nugegoda under Registration Volume 91 Folio 61 Day Book 1741 dated 06.03.2012.



**State Ministry of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management**

**Department of Immigration and Emigration**

## Invitation for Bids


### Leasing/Renting a new building for the maintenance of a temporary Detention Center

- Quotations are called to rent or lease a suitable new building located within the limits of Western Province or suburban Provinces in a less populated area to be used as a temporary Detention Center which is scheduled to be established for foreigners by the Department of Immigration and Emigration for a period of 05 years on an annual renewable basis at the government valuation rates.
- The proposed building;
  - Should have enough space to detain at least 150 - 200 detainees and should be 7500 or more square feet and further, there should be an outdoor area of approximately 1000 square feet.
  - The width of the access road to the land should be 12 feet and also there should be a land and environment with adequate clean air and a well maintained building in proper condition.
  - A wall of sufficient height should be located around the ground to prevent unauthorized movement and there should be a lockable gate with adequate accessibility.
  - Should be able to detain female and male detainees separately.
  - Should have telephone facilities and electricity supply and sufficient number of fans and bulbs should be provided.
  - Should have 24 hour tap water supply and an additional water tank attached to the main pipeline where an additional 5,000 liters or more liters of water can be stored.
  - Should have facilities for parking at least 03 or more vehicles.
  - Should have adequate toilet and urinal facilities.
  - An office with adequate space for at least live officers of the Department. A place to rest and separate toilet and urinal facilities with water and electricity should be available.
  - Should have a separate dining area for detainees.
  - Should have a guard room with electricity supply that can accommodate two persons.
  - Should have a suitable place for six security guards to rest and it should have toilet and urinal facilities with water and electricity.
  - Maintenance cost of over Rs. 10,000.00 should be incurred by the owner of the building.
  - Should be covered by fire insurance.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- In case this building is needed for the maintenance as a temporary Detention Center even after the expiry period of 05 years, conditions on determination of quotations should specially be mentioned.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Assistant Controller (Procurement), 5th Floor, 'B' Wing, Procurement Division, Department of Immigration and Emigration, 'Suhurupaya', Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla and inspect the bidding documents at the same address on any working day from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs.

Contact Numbers are: Tel: 0115329530 Fax: 0112885358

- The specimen application and the set of bidding documents can be downloaded by visiting [www.immigration.gov.lk](http://www.immigration.gov.lk) from **25.08.2020 up to 15.09.2020** or a complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained on submission of a written application prepared by you with the inclusion of necessary information to the Assistant Controller (Procurement), 5th Floor, 'B' Wing, Procurement Division, Department of Immigration and Emigration from **25.08.2020 until 15.09.2020 from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.**
- Completed bids with two copies as Original and Duplicate shall be hand delivered or sent by registered post to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, 5th Floor, 'B' Wing, Procurement Division, Department of Immigration and Emigration, 'Suhurupaya', Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla to reach on or **before 14.00 hrs on 15.09.2020.** Late bids will not be accepted and will be returned unopened.
- Bids shall be valid for a period of 105 Days from the last date fixed for receiving of Bids or any extended period.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on **08.09.2020 at 14.00 hrs.** at the Controller General's Office Department of Immigration and Emigration, 'Suhurupaya', Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla.

**U.V.Sarath Rupasiri**  
**Controller General**  
**Department of Immigration and Emigration**  
**'Suhurupaya', Sri Subhuthipura Road,**  
**Battaramulla.**



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

## SRI LANKA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SLTDA)

### BID NOTICE - NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

- The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority invites sealed bids from the eligible & qualified bidders for procurements described below.

No.	Subject & Contract Number	Eligibility	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Bid Security Requirements (Rs.)	Pre-Bid Meeting		Closing Date and Time
					Date & Time	Venue	
01	Repairing & Refurbishment of Managers Quarters, Post Office Building & Staff Accommodation at NHR Bentota (Phase III) SLTDA/RM/W/NCB/Refurbishment - Bentota/2020/04	C4 or above in Building Construction	20,000.00	1,000,000.00	4th Sept. 2020 11:00 hours	National Holiday Resort - Bentota	15th Sept. 2020 14.00 hrs.

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written request to the Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, No. 80, Galle Road, Colombo 03, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee on normal working days from **9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.** from **25th August 2020** onwards up to the date of closing.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Assistant Director (Procurement), Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Contact No. 0112426800 (Ext. 305) and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the place of issuing documents during normal working hours.
- Sealed Bids with the duplicate may be dispatched either by registered post or hand delivered to Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, No. 80, Galle Road, Colombo 03, on or before the date of Bid closing. It should be written the name and contact number of the procurement at the left-side corner of the envelope.
- All Bids will be opened at the Procurement Division (4th floor), SLTDA soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. **Late bids shall be returned unopened.**
- The Bid Security should be issued from an approved commercial bank operating under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for valid up to **28 days beyond the date of Bid Validity.**
- Bids shall be valid **91 days** from the date of Bid closing.
- All bids shall be accompanied with certificate of registration of the bidder issued by the Registrar of Public Contracts in Sri Lanka according to the Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987 of the government of Sri Lanka and subsequent gazette notifications (PCA3 form).
- An employee or a firm or an individual that has a close business or family relationship with an employee of the Ministry of Tourism, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and any other institution under the control of the Ministry shall not be eligible for award.
- The Departmental Procurement Committee decision will be the final decision. Further, SLTDA has the right to accept or reject any Bid without adducing any reasons and SLTDA will not be responsible for any costs or any expenses incurred by the prospective bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

**Chairman,**  
**Departmental Procurement Committee,**  
**Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.**





## Dehiwala - Mount Lavinia Municipal Council TENDER NOTICE

### Levying of Vehicle Parking Charges - 2020/2021

Venues and the minimum bid required for the assignment of levying of vehicle parking charges for the places, specifically indicated below, in the areas of authority of the Dehiwala - Mount Lavinia Municipal Council, to the suitably qualified and eligibles parties, tendered for a period of one (01) year are as follows.

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| I) Area under the fly over bridge of the High Level Road, Nugegoda and surrounding area thereto | - Rs. 985,500.00   |
| II) Area surrounding the Colombo South Teaching Hospital (Kalubowila General Hospital)          | - Rs. 1,277,500.00 |
| III) Area surrounding the Department of National Zoological Gardens                             | - Rs. 1,168,000.00 |
| IV) Area under the flyover bridge at the Dehiwala Junction and surrounding area                 | - Rs. 1,022,000.00 |
| V) Area surrounding the Mount Lavinia Super market  | - Rs. 273,750.00   |
| VI) Area from Marine Drive near Wellawatta Bridge upto Frazer Avenue                            | - Rs. 292,000.00   |

It is hereby expected to allocate the parking place relevant to these, above given zones, and to levy the stipulated charges, for parking in these zones by the Municipal Council, and to issue a prescribed receipt for the purpose and management of the said works. Accordingly the right to levy the said charges and to issue the permits, for the levying of parking charges under the tendering basis, will be offered.

#### Conditions of the Tender

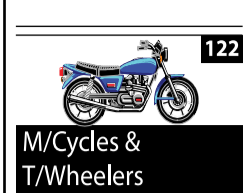
- Tenders should be submitted only on the tender documents, obtainable and issued by the Dehiwala - Mount Lavinia Municipal Council. Tender documents can be purchased upon payment of the non refundable fee of Rs. 2,500.00 from the Mixed Revenue Division of the Municipal Council, Dehiwala - Mount Lavinia, upto 3.00 p.m. on 15.09.2020, and the said tender document could be inspected free of charge at the said Division.
- Tenders will be closed at 2.00 p.m. on 16.09.2020 and tenders thus received, will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the tenderer, or his authorized agents.
- Separate tenders should be submitted in respect of each place of parking and each tender should be accompanied by a bid security Bond of Rs. 100,000.00 deposited in cash.

**W.T.A. Manel**  
**Municipal Commissioner,**  
**Dehiwala Mount Lavinia Municipal Council**

Date: 21.08.2020

## Classifieds

### Automotive



For sale

**WP BEZ-0750** Yamaha Ray ZR, 2016, motor cycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No.310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711 210810. 047017

### Employment



**Professional Curtaining Service** inclusive of curtain materials, pantry cupboards, interior decorating. Tel: 077411182. 046871

# Employment Opportunities

## VACANCY

### Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs

### Wakfs Board of Sri Lanka

## Recruitment for the post of LEGAL OFFICER (Contract)

Applications are called from the individuals who have fulfilled the following qualifications for the post of Legal Officer (Contract)

#### 1) Qualifications:

##### a) Educational Qualifications

Shall have possessed a Degree in Law from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission and should have sworn in as an Attorney-at-Law in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

##### b) Other Qualifications

Written and Spoken Proficiency in Sinhala, Tamil and English Languages and sound proficiency in MS office package. Knowledge and understanding about Wakfs Act of Sri Lanka will be an added advantage.

#### 2) Age Limit:

The applicants should not be less than 24 years and not more than 45 years of age by the closing date of calling applications.

**Salary:** In addition to the basic salary of Rs. 47,615.00, allowances approved by the Wakfs Board of Sri Lanka will be paid.

#### 3) Appointment Conditions:

Employment contract for one year and renewable based on the requirements.

#### 4) General Conditions:

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka
- Every applicant should be physically and mentally fit to serve and to perform duties of the post.
- Should be of excellent character

#### 6) Method of Application:

Applications can be obtained from [www.muslimaffairs.gov.lk](http://www.muslimaffairs.gov.lk) and the completed applications should be sent by registered post to the "The Director, Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs, No.180, T.B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo-10" so as to reach on or before 07th of September 2020.

## VACANCY

# COMPANY SECRETARY

The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (ANCL) widely known as Lake House, is the home and heart of print media in Sri Lanka invites an experienced candidate to play a key role as Company Secretary. We are looking for a competent, dynamic person with an excellent knowledge of English and a working knowledge of Sinhala language.

#### Requirements:

- He/ she should have ten years post qualifying experience as an Attorney - at - Law, out of which three years should be as a Company Secretary of any recognized institution.
- LLB Degree from any recognized university will be an added qualification.
- He/she should be registered as a Company Secretary.
- Thorough knowledge of relevant legislation and regulations including corporate governance practices.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English.
- Should possess the ability to successfully work under pressure as a self-motivated team player and further should have the capacity to work independently.
- Should display effective time management and ability to manage in changing /conflicting priorities.
- Should be proactive, assertive and forward thinking.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Assist in ensuring smooth running of Board/Board Committee/ General Meetings and dissemination of decisions of the board in an effective and timely manner.
- Ensuring compliances with the requirements of Companies Act, the articles of association, listing rules, any other relevant legislation or regulations and corporate governance practices, by establishing proper and effective processes and controls to comply with these provisions
- Providing support and guidance to the Directors with respect to their duties and responsibilities in order to assist them to discharge their duties effectively.
- Preparation of documents to shareholders, i.e. notices, circulars and annual report and other corporate documentation.
- Protecting the company's interests by ensuring the effectiveness of all documentation in corporate actions and special projects.
- Monitoring changes in relevant legislation and the regulatory environment and taking appropriate action.

**Age :** Below 45 years

This appointment will be made on contract basis.

The selected candidate will be offered an attractive remuneration package commensurate with relevant expertise, competencies and past track record.

Please forward your completed Curriculum Vitae within seven days of this advertisement with names and contact details of two non-related referees to the under-mentioned address stating the position on the top left hand corner of the envelope or e/mail to the following e-mail address with the subject line "Post of Company Secretary".



Head of Human Capital  
**The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited**  
No.35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.  
dgm.hc@lakehouse.lk

## Ministry of Agriculture Ceylon Fertilizer Co. Ltd. Invitation for Bid

### Bidding for the Supply of Labour Services for Fertilizer, Loading, Unloading, & Other Services (Bid No: 2020/21/CFC/HPT/LB/02/01)

### & Mixing and Other Services (Bid No: 2020/21/CFC/HPT/LB/02/02) for the Ceylon Fertilizer Co.Ltd.Warehouse Complex at Hunupitiya, Wattala

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC) on behalf of the Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited invites sealed bids from Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies, Co-operative Societies, Village Development Societies, Agriculture Organizations, Private Sector Institutions and individuals to supply of following Labour Services for Ceylon Fertilizer Company's Warehouse at Hunupitiya and other stores, within 10 Km. radius distance from Hunupitiya.

Bid No.	Description of Service	Value of the Bid Security Guarantee (Rs.Cts.)	Commencing period of the Service.
2020/21/CFC/HPT/LB/02/01	For fertilizer loading, unloading and other labour services	610,000.00	From 01.10.2020 to 30.09.2021
2020/21/CFC/HPT/LB/02/02	For fertilizer mixing and other labour services	180,000.00	From 01.10.2020 to 30.09.2021

02.. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB).

03. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Actg. Manager, (Procurement & Imports), Ceylon Fertilizer Co.Ltd. (Tel: 2947765, Mobile: 077-2069981) and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below;

**Actg. Manager (Procurement & Imports)**  
**Procurement Division**  
**Ceylon Fertilizer Co.Ltd.**  
**Lakpohora Swarna Jayanthi Mawatha,**  
**Hunupitiya, Wattala.**  
**Sri Lanka.**

04. Qualifications & eligible criteria for the supply of labour services for Fertilizer, Loading, Unloading, & Other Services & Mixing and Other Services.

- Should have minimum 2 years experience within last 5 years (relevant to similar works in fertilizer or similar goods loading, unloading & mixing).
- Should have minimum 2 years credited reports for prove the paying for EPF & ETF for the labourers within last 5 years.

05. Bidding documents consisting of the Invitation for Bids, Instruction to Bidders, Form of Bid, Bidding Conditions and all the relevant annexure could be obtained from Head Office of the Ceylon Fertilizer Co.Ltd., Hunupitiya, Wattala, on payment in cash of a non-refundable bidding fee of Rs. 15,000.00 (Rupees Fifteen Thousand Only). Bidding documents will be issued on any working day between 9.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. from 25.08.2020 up to 3.30 p.m., on 14.09.2020.

06. Bid shall be enclosed in two separate sealed covers and marked "Original" and "Duplicate" on the top of the envelope and these two covers shall be enclosed in one single sealed envelope or cover, which shall be marked on the top left hand corner with the words "Bid No: 2020/21/CFC/HPT/LB/02/01 and or 2020/21/CFC/HPT/LB/02/02" and deposited in the Bid Box kept for this purpose in the Procurement Division of the below address or sent by Registered Post to receive on or before 2.30 p.m. on 15.09.2020.

**The Chairman**  
**Departmental Procurement Committee**  
**Procurement Division**  
**Ceylon Fertilizer Co.Ltd.**  
**Lakpohora Swarna Jayathi Mawatha**  
**Hunupitiya, Wattala,**  
**Sri Lanka.**

Bid will be closed at 2.30 p.m. on 15.09.2020 and opened immediately thereafter. Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening. All the bids which will be received after exact date and time will be rejected. Departmental Procurement Committee is not responsible for any postal delays or misplacement in this regard. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security Guarantee for the above amount.

07. Pre Bid meeting will be held on 08.09.2020 at 2.30 p.m. in the Procurement Division of the Ceylon Fertilizer Co. Ltd.,



**Chairman**  
**Departmental Procurement Committee**  
**Procurement Division**  
**Ceylon Fertilizer Co.Ltd.**  
**Hunupitiya, Wattala.**  
**Date: 25.08.2020.**





Ministry of Provincial Roads, Transport, Cooperatives, Trade, Housing & Construction, Estate Infrastructure, Industries and Rural Development - Western Province



**Western Province  
Provincial Road Development Authority**

**Procurement Notice**

**Provision of a motor car on rental basis  
(Year of manufacture after 2012)**

Open Bids are invited by the Chairman, Procurement Committee of Provincial Road Development Authority for the provision of a motor car on rental basis for this authority.

Accordingly, interested vehicle owners or vehicle firms could submit Bids for same and inspect the relevant documents free of charge.

Bid document sets could be obtained from Procurement Division of this authority from 26.08.2020 to 04.09.2020 from 8.30 a.m. to 2.45 p.m. subject to payment of the relevant tender form fees.

Bids will be closed at 2.30 p.m. on 27.09.2020 and will be opened at the same time at this office. Bidders or their authorized representatives could be present at the time.

**Chairman,  
Procurement Committee,  
Provincial Road Development Authority (W.P.)  
No. 59, St. Sebastian Hill,  
Colombo-12.**

**TP: 011-5676903**

**QUOTATIONS FOR SUPPLY OF  
120 GSM - 150 GSM - D/S ART PAPER**

IMP / ADV / 2020 / 12

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from foreign principals and local suppliers for the supply of "120 GSM - 150 GSM - D/S Art Paper" as specified below.

Quantity	Description
10 MT	120 GSM - D/S Art Paper - Matt - Size: 24" x 36"
10 MT	120 GSM - D/S Art Paper - Goss - Size: 24" x 36"
10 MT	150 GSM - D/S Art Paper - Matt - Size: 24" x 36"
10 MT	150 GSM - D/S Art Paper - Goss - Size: 24" x 36"

Packing : Palletized packets with extra Seaworthy Export packing with moisture barrier.

**Foreign Offers**

The bidders should quote both **FOB** and **CIF Colombo prices** (on at sight as well as 90 days usance). **CIF offers should clearly detailed Cost, Freight & Insurance charges** separately. **ANCL reserves the right to place the order on FOB or on CIF term.**

Offers with samples and specifications should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked as "120 GSM - 150 GSM - D/S Art Paper" on the top left hand corner.

**Local Offers**

Ex-stock price indicating transport charges, VAT and other levies separately with samples should be submitted in a separate cover in the same manner.

Offers should be sent to the **Head of Procurement to reach on or before 08th September 2020 at 2.30 p.m.** which will be opened immediately. No separate documents will be issued. Suppliers may use their own formalities.

Probable date of delivery, validity of price, terms of payment, etc. to be clearly indicated on the offers.

Acceptance of new sources / product is subject to a quality test.

The successful bidder should provide a Performance Bond to the value of 05% with a validity period of 90 days.

Bidders or accredited representatives will be allowed to be present at the opening. However, The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.



**Head of Procurement,  
The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon  
Limited,  
No. 35, Lake House,  
D. R. Wijewardene Mawatha,  
Colombo 10.  
For details: 011 2 429451 / 011 2 429452**

**CEYLON PETROLEUM  
CORPORATION  
(REFINERY DIVISION)**

**INVITATION FOR  
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE  
BIDS**

**PUBLIC TENDER 4331T  
SUPPLY OF HOT PLATES  
WITH MAGNETIC STIRRER**

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Refinery Division, Sapugaskanda, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka will receive sealed Bids from local Suppliers for the supply of above mentioned item conforming to the Terms & Conditions given under the Bidding Document.

Any Bidder submitting a bid, shall pay a refundable deposit of Rs. 15,000.00 and a non-refundable document fee of Rs. 1,000.00 on a request letter to the Cashier, 5th Floor, CPC Head Office, No. 609, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha, Colombo-09 or to the Cashier, Refinery Division, Sapugaskanda, Kelaniya before 1500 hours on any working day up to 25-September-2020.

Bidding document, which comprises the conditions of the Tender and the specification is available on websites [www.ceypetco.gov.lk](http://www.ceypetco.gov.lk) & [www.dgmarket.com](http://www.dgmarket.com)

Alternatively, Bidding documents could also be obtained from the undermentioned.

Bids will be received by the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee until 1430 hours on 30-September-2020 and will be opened immediately thereafter at the Refinery Conference Room.

**MANAGER (MATERIALS)  
CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION  
REFINERY DIVISION,  
SAPUGASKANDA, KELANIYA,  
SRI LANKA.**

Tel: 0094 11 2400110  
Email: [ref.materials@ceypetco.gov.lk](mailto:ref.materials@ceypetco.gov.lk)

**CEYLON PETROLEUM  
CORPORATION  
(REFINERY DIVISION)**

**INVITATION FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMPETITIVE BIDS**

**PUBLIC TENDER 4329T  
SUPPLY OF LATHE MACHINE**

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Refinery Division, Sapugaskanda, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka will receive sealed Bids from reputed manufacturers, their authorized export agents abroad or their authorized local agents (Manufacturer's or Export Agent's) for the supply of above mentioned item conforming to the Terms & Conditions given under the Bidding Document.

Any Bidder submitting a bid, shall pay a refundable deposit of Rs. 50,000.00 and a non-refundable document fee of Rs. 3,500.00 on a request letter to the Cashier, 5th Floor, CPC Head Office, No. 609, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha, Colombo-09 or to the Cashier, Refinery Division, Sapugaskanda, Kelaniya before 1500 hours on any working day up to 25-September-2020.

Bidding document, which comprises the conditions of the Tender and the specifications is available on websites [www.ceypetco.gov.lk](http://www.ceypetco.gov.lk) & [www.dgmarket.com](http://www.dgmarket.com)

Alternatively, Bidding documents could also be obtained from the undermentioned.

Bids will be received by the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee until 1430 hours on 30-September-2020 and will be opened immediately thereafter at the Refinery Conference Room.

**MANAGER (MATERIALS)  
CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION  
REFINERY DIVISION,  
SAPUGASKANDA, KELANIYA,  
SRI LANKA.**

Tel: 0094 11 2400110  
Email: [ref.materials@ceypetco.gov.lk](mailto:ref.materials@ceypetco.gov.lk)

**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that Manawaduge Anai Madhawa Fernando, bearing NIC No. 820491823V is not in our employment effective from 30th December, 2019 and he is not authorised to represent the Company in any matters whatsoever from now onwards. Any person dealing with him shall do so at his/ her own risk and responsibility.



**A FL Asset Management Ltd.**

(Formerly : Asian Finance Ltd.)  
No.176 - 1/3, Dutugemunu Street, Koluwele, Ilugegoda.

**VEHICLE FOR SALE**

**NW CAZ-XXXX** SUZUKI DAA-MH555 2018  
WAGON R 650.00 CC  
**011-4526600**

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**INVITATION FOR BID**

**Supply of Printed Reel Type Packing  
Materials (MET PET/LLDPE) for  
750g Pack - 25,000 Kg.  
to Sri Lanka Thripasha Limited**

**Bid No. SLTL/MKT/04/2020**

- Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Thripasha limited invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply of Printed Reel Type Packing Materials (MET PET/LLDPE) for 750g Pack - 25,000 Kg to Sri Lanka Thripasha Limited.**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Senior Manager (Tel No + 9401122236588) at the Sri Lanka Thripasha Limited and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below on working days between 9: 30 am and 2:30 pm.
- Bid Documents will be issued only to the manufacturers or sole nominated representative/ accredited agent of manufacturers of the **Printed Reel Type Packing Materials (MET/PET/LLDPE)** offered for the Sri Lankan market who are eligible to participate in this procurement. No bid will be accepted from foreign principals who do not have sole nominated representatives/accredited agents in Sri Lanka.
- A Complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Senior Manager at the Sri Lanka Thripasha Limited, PO Box 17, Negombo Road, Kapuwatta, Ja-Ela on working days between 09:30 am. and 03:00 pm. up to **14.09.2020** on submission of a written request to the address below together with the **PCA3** issued by the Registrar of Contracts and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 5,000.00** by cash.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **15.09.2020 at 02.30 p.m.** Late bids will be rejected. The bid shall be valid for 91 days from the date of bid opening from **15.09.2020 up to 15.12.2020**
- All bids must accompany a bid security issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by Central Bank amounting to **Rs. 250,000.00**. The validity period of the bid security shall be 119 days from the date of bid opening from **15.09.2020 up to 12.01.2021.**
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' authorized representatives at the address below immediately after the time mentioned above (**15.09.2020 at 02.30pm**).

**The address referred to above is:**

**Chairman  
Major Procurement Committee  
Sri Lanka Thripasha Limited  
PO Box 17,  
Negombo Road,  
Kapuwatta.  
Ja Ela.**

**INVITATION FOR BID**

**Supply of Printed Corrugated Boxes  
(750g Master Packing) - 150,000 Nos.  
for Sri Lanka Thripasha Limited**

**Bid No. SLTL/MKT/05/2020**

- Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Thripasha Limited invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply of Printed Corrugated Boxes (750g Master Packing) - 150,000 Nos for Sri Lanka Thripasha Limited.**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Senior Manager (Tel Nos + 94-0112236588) at the Sri Lanka Thripasha Limited and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below on working days between 9: 30 am and 2:30 pm
- Bid Documents will be issued only to the manufacturers or sole nominated representatives/ accredited agents of manufacturers of the printed Corrugated Boxes offered for the Sri Lankan market, who are eligible to participate in this procurement. No bid will be accepted from foreign principals who do not have sole nominated representatives/accredited agents in Sri Lanka.
- A Complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Senior Manager at the Sri Lanka Thripasha Limited PO Box 17, Negombo Road, Kapuwatta, Ja-Ela on working days between 09:30 am. and 03:00 pm. up to **14.09.2020** on submission of a written request to the address below together with the **PCA3** issued by the Registrar of Contracts and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 4,000.00** by cash
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **15.09.2020 at 02.30 pm.** Late bids will be rejected. The bid shall be valid for 91 days from the date of bid opening from **15.09.2020 upto 15.12.2020.**
- All bids must accompany a bid security issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by Central Bank amounting to **Rs.175,500.00**. The validity period of the bid security shall be **119 days** from the date of bid opening from **15.09.2020 up to 12.01.2021.**
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' authorized representatives at the address below immediately after the time mentioned above (**15.09.2020 at 02.30 p.m**)

**The address referred to above is:**

**Chairman  
Major Procurement Committee  
Sri Lanka Thripasha Limited  
PO Box 17 ,  
Negombo Road,  
Kapuwatta.  
Ja Ela.**

Replies to  
Classifieds

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Casual  
Advertisements  
published  
C/o the

**Daily News**

should only be  
sent by  
ordinary post.

Replies sent  
under  
registered cover  
will not be  
accepted.

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**National Transport Commission**

**Inviting Bids For Commercial Advertising on  
Transparent Sheets at the four passenger platforms in  
Bastiyani Mawatha Passenger Bus Terminal.**

The National Transport Commission invites bids for Commercial Advertising on Transparent Sheets comprising 1200sq.ft. at the four passenger platforms in Bastiyani Mawatha Passenger Bus Terminal.

These transparent sheets can be used to display messages for the transport field, allocated wide range space for commercial advertising and advertising can be functioned through print media.

Information of the bid can be obtained from the official website of National Transport Commission [www.ntc.gov.lk](http://www.ntc.gov.lk).

The respective application form, the details of the bidding documents can be obtained from the Procurement Section of the National Transport Commission from **10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.** during the period from **25.08.2020 to 10.09.2020** on a payment of non - refundable Bid Fee of **Rs. 1000.00.**

Sealed Bids should be deposited to the Tender Box at the Procurement Section of National Transport Commission before **11.00 a.m. on 11.09.2020.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing, in the presence of the Bidders or their representatives. For more details, please contact 011-2503969.

**Chairman  
National Transport Commission  
241, Park Avenue,  
Colombo 05.**