

CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD BEFORE 2025 - PRESIDENT

COMMUNITY BASED WATER PROJECTS TO A HIGH STANDARD ROAD CONSTRUCTION JOINTLY WITH WATER BOARD

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Thursday reviewed future stages of the programme to provide clean drinking water to all households 24-hours of the day, before the end of 2025. President Rajapaksa pointed out to the relevant officials the need to expedite the programme while paying special attention to the cleaning and con-

servation of rivers, streams and catchment areas. The President made these remarks at a discussion held at the Presidential Secretariat on Thursday on the future activities of the State Ministry of Rural and Regional Drinking Water Supply Projects Development. "Water for All" is a flagship pledge made to the people by the National

Policy Framework 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour'. The Government expects to provide drinking water facilities to 4.7 million families in the next four years. The project is being implemented with local and foreign funds and will require the laying of 40,000 km of new water supply pipes. **TO PAGE 02**



Sri Lankans abroad will be repatriated gradually - Pavithra

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

Sri Lankans employed in foreign countries including in the Middle East will be repatriated gradually, Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi said.

"Sri Lanka can be considered as the only country in the world which has totally eradicated COVID-19 from open society. The country has achieved this success due to the leadership given by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa," the Minister said.

Minister Wanniarachchi was addressing the media in Colombo recently. According to Minister Wanniarachchi, around 50,000 Sri Lankans are waiting to return to Sri Lanka but they will be brought down in groups in order to protect other Sri Lankans in the country. **TO PAGE 02**



OIL TANKER BLAZE CONTAINED - INDIAN COAST GUARD

NO RISK OF OIL SPILL

MEPA PREPARED TO AVERT HARMFUL IMPACT OF ANY OIL SPILL

TWENTY TWO CREW MEMBERS RESCUED, ONE DEATH CONFIRMED

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA
The fire raging in the VLCC tanker *MT New Diamond* was successfully doused last night, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) announced. "Fire onboard *MT New Diamond* brought under control post massive firefighting effort by ICG, Sri Lanka Ships and planes," the ICG tweeted. It added that the tug *ALP Winger*, despatched to the scene by the ship's owning company, commenced towing the stricken VLCC vessel to prevent its drifting to shallow waters. Military authorities had earlier expressed confidence that the fire could

be brought under control. As of now there was no threat of a possible oil spill, they said. Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka Navy has rescued 22 of the 23 crew members aboard the oil tanker. However, information from the ship's crew confirms that a Filipino seaman onboard had died in the boiler explosion which probably led to the fire, authorities said. "We are very confident we are in a position to curtail the fire that erupted after an explosion of a boiler in the main engine room of *MT New Diamond*, a Panama flagged oil tanker sailing 38 nautical miles off Sangaman Kanda

Point east of Sri Lankan seas on Thursday (3)," Director General (Operations) of Sri Lanka Navy, Rear Admiral Y.N. Jayarathna said. He made this observation at a media briefing held yesterday at the Government Information Department. "We have identified the worst case scenario and we are getting ready for that. But, we hope that will never happen," he said. Responding to a query by a journalist with regard to an Indian news report which reported that cracks had been observed in the ship, the DG said that the Executive Officer **TO PAGE 02**



Indian and Sri Lankan vessels engaged in pumping water to cool the hull of the ill-fated *New Diamond* oil tanker which is ablaze 22 nautical miles off the Angamankanda Point East of Sri Lanka. Picture courtesy SLAF Media

PM INSTRUCTS MEPA TO TAKE ADEQUATE PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has instructed Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) authorities to take all possible effort to prevent any damage to the marine environment caused by the *MT New Diamond* oil tanker. According to a media release issued yesterday evening by the Prime Minister's office, the MEPA is running under the purview of the Urban Development and Housing Ministry. **TO PAGE 02**

Critical evaluation needed to ascertain teaching methods- GL

CHAMINDA PERERA

Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said a critical evaluation is required to ascertain whether the present methods of teaching have achieved the objectives of education.

The Education Minister was of that special focus should be made on two areas namely the method of teaching and the school curriculum.

"The child today has resorted to rote learning aimed at examinations. It will never help unearth a child's intuitive creativity and talents," he said. **TO PAGE 02**



PCoI on Easter Sunday attacks

Committee to look into alleged extremist views in Islamic textbooks - Muslim Religious Affairs Director

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE and DILSHAN THARAKA

Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs Director Adam Bawa Mohammad Ashraf told the Presidential Commission of Investigation (PCoI) in to the Easter Sunday attacks that an 11-member committee has been appointed to look into the alleged extremist views contained in the textbooks that teach Islam to Muslim students.

He told the Commission that the Committee was scheduled to meet today and that he was ready to hold discussions with the Ministry of Education regarding this matter.

Meanwhile, a question was raised by the Senior State Counsel that Grade 13 texts books on Islam teach that it is appropriate to read books written by Yusuf al-Qaldari, an extremist and Wahhabi leader who is supposed to have made statements

stating that those who oppose Islam are against Allah and against suicide bombers.

Replying to the question, Mohammad Ashraf said that it is not appropriate to print books in this manner and the Committee consisting of 11 experts appointed by three representatives who were appointed by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will hold discussions regarding this matter today. **TO PAGE 02**

Govt. should repeal 19A - Former PUCSL Chairman

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

Former Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) Chairman and legal luminary Dr. Jayatissa de Costa PC yesterday told the *Daily News* that the present Government should repeal the 19th Amendment.

Political parties that respect the mandate of the people and democracy as a whole, should also back the process of amending the 19th Amendment, Dr Costa said in an exclusive interview with the *Daily News*. **TO PAGE 02**



Warrant on MP Manusha Nanayakkara

MAHINDA PLIYANAGE, Galle Central Special Correspondent



Galle Chief Magistrate Harshana Kekunawela issued warrants yesterday on Galle District Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Member of Parliament Manusha Nanayakkara for not being present in the Galle Magistrate's Court to give evidence in a case.

The Parliamentarian had been cited as the first witness of a case against a person who had allegedly defrauded money from youths promising jobs in Japan through MP Manusha Nanayakkara who had been served summons to be present in the Court yesterday. He did not appear in Courts to give evidence in the said case. **TO PAGE 02**

SJB plans to form Samagi Sandhanaya

MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

The political alliance formed under Sajith Premadasa before the General Election, the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) is planning to recruit more parties to form another political coalition under the name *Samagi Sandhanaya* (Unity Alliance).

The SJB which mainly consists of breakaway members from the UNP will become a member of the new coalition *Samagi Sandhanaya*, according to SJB National Organizer Tissa Attanayake. **TO PAGE 02**

Premalal Jayasekera seeks Court permission to attend Parliament

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Ratnapura District Parliamentarian Premalal Jayasekera who was sentenced to death over a fatal shooting that took place in 2015 has filed a writ petition in the Court of Appeal.

He is seeking an interim order directing the prison authorities to allow him to attend Parliament for the very next sitting and every subsequent sitting thereafter until final determination of this application.

When the petition came up before Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justice (President) A.H.M.D. Nawaz and Justice Sobhitha Rajakuru-



na, the matter was fixed for August 7 to deliver its order regarding the interim relief and issuance of notices on the respondents.

President's Counsel Romesh de Silva appearing for the petitioner Jayasekera sought an interim order directing the Prison authorities to bring his client to parliament since he has not yet taken oaths as a Member of Parliamentarian.

On July 31, 2020, Premalal Jayasekera had been convicted for committing murder by Ratnapura High Court. Subsequently he had filed an appeal challenging conviction. **TO PAGE 02**



Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe arriving to give testimony at the Presidential Commission of Inquiry investigating allegations of political victimization yesterday. Picture by Vipula Amrasinghe

Ranil testifies before PCoI on political victimization

ROSHAN THUSHARA and DILSHAN THARAKA

The Presidential Commission of Inquiry investigating allegations of political victimization yesterday issued a notice to Secretary to the Prime Minister, Gamini Sedara Senarath to testify before the Commission regarding whether wages had been paid to office bearers of the 'Anti-Corruption Committee' which was set up by former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. **TO PAGE 02**

Parliament Goods Receiving Officer remanded till Sept. 17 over bribery case

SHAVINI MADHARA

The Goods Receiving Officer in the Parliament canteen who was arrested by officials of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) while soliciting a bribe of Rs.60,000 from a fruit supplier, was remanded till September 17 by Colombo Chief Magistrate Lanka Jayaratne yesterday.

When the matter was taken up, Bribery Commission officials informed the Court that the arrest was made in the Kaduwela area, when the suspect was allegedly soliciting the bribe from a fruit supplier.

"The suspect had allegedly solicited a bribe of Rs.30,000 per month from a businessman not to reject his supplies and ensure he would continuously get the order," Bribery officials added. **TO PAGE 02**

JVP opposed to 20A - AKD

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake said his party does not believe that amending the Constitution or introducing a new Constitution will solve the basic problems faced by the people of the country.

"The 20th Amendment to the Constitution has now been gazetted. We do not believe that the main problem facing our country is the Constitution. We do not believe that the basic problems faced by the people, the problem of lack of law and order, the problems of their daily lives can be solved with this Constitutional amendment effort," the JVP leader said addressing journalists in Colombo. **TO PAGE 02**

Death of H.D.Manuel Joseph

Retired Principal H.D. Manuel Joseph, father of retired teacher Madhumani Hapuarachchi and the Father-in-Law of veteran film director Jayantha Chandrasiri, passed away at the age of 91.

Joseph, a social worker was the husband of late Mrs. Jospi Joseph, a schoolteacher and the father of Nirmala Joseph, Mahesh Joseph, Nilmini Joseph and Madhumani. Funeral will be held at the Pamunugama St. Joseph Church Cemetery at 3.30 pm today (Saturday). Remains lie at residence 119 C, Ellen Egoda, Pamunugama.

No risk of oil spill... From Page 01

of the Indian Coast Guard Vessel reported to his headquarters that he observed this fact. "He has reported a two-metre crack in the port quarter of the ship and the same report has come to us. These cracks are caused by the intense heat. When there is intense heat in one place for quite a long time naturally the steel plates get deformed. It's natural. But it doesn't mean that the ship is breaking apart and an oil spill is about to occur.

"These cracks are very important to analyze the ship including the hull condition, heat condition and what type of heat is generated inside the ship," he added.

Chief of Defence Staff and Army Commander Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva said the tanker which was initially located about 38 nautical miles off the coast of Sri Lanka, had floated about 22 nautical miles off the Eastern coast of Sri Lanka and is now floating towards the south and so far there is no risk of any oil spill.

"We believe that we are capable and nothing is impossible. We are trying our best to protect our people and marine

resources," he said. Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) Chairperson Dharshani Lahandapura said that with the assistance of 15 other institutions, MEPA is prepared to avert any harmful impact of any oil spill.

"We have divided this particular incident into two parts and the first part is that we are quite confident that the Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Air Force, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard who are currently working together to control the fire would be able to prevent oil spills. If not then there will be a severe threat to our marine environment if any kind of oil leakage occurs.

"In the case of an oil spill, 270,000 metric tonnes of oil could mix into Sri Lanka waters, which would be a massive environmental disaster - the capabilities and resources of Sri Lanka to address such a situation are very low. As the national authority which is responsible to handle such kind of situation we are developing a comprehensive plan with the assistance of Disaster Management Centre, Sri Lanka Navy, Port Authority and many

Colombo HC stays proceedings in Avant Garde case

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Colombo High Court was Thursday ordered to stay the proceedings of the case filed against Avant Garde Chairman Nissanka Yapa Senadhipathi and Major General Palitha Fernando in the Avant Garde bribery case due to an Interim Order issued by the Court Of Appeal.

At a previous occasion, the defence had filed preliminary objections before the

court, which was dismissed by the Colombo High Court and fixed a date for further trial.

Accordingly, a writ petition was filed before the Court of Appeal by the defence challenging the Colombo High Court's order to reject the preliminary objections raised by them. After considering the petition, the Court of Appeal had issued an Interim Order staying the Colombo

High Court's proceedings over the case on July 31.

When the case was yesterday taken up before High Court Judge Champa Janaki Rajaratne, President's Counsel Ajith Pathirana appearing for the defence informed court that the Court of Appeal stayed the High Court case and issued notice to the relevant parties to appear before the Court of Appeal for the hearing of the appeal on September 7.

Accordingly, the President's Counsel sought from the High Court to postpone the case until final determination of the Court of Appeal over the petition.

After considering all the facts, the Colombo High Court judge observed that could not come to a definite conclusion on the date on which the Court of Appeal would hear the petition.

Accordingly, the case was ordered to be taken up again on December 18.

Clean drinking water for every household before 2025 - President... From Page 01

The project is to be completed at half of the cost spent so far on water supply.

Water generation and conservation and water source identification are some of the features of the programme. Tree planting is also planned to ensure the conservation of water sources.

In the Colombo district alone, 45% of the total water supply is wasted due to water leaks. Laying of new water supply pipes in the past few months has resulted in reducing it to 15%. In order to preserve water new pipes are now being laid to replace old ones that cause water leakage, officials said.

During the meeting, the President also focused attention on resolving the issues of the employees of the community water projects.

It was also agreed that the Road Development Authority and the Water Supply Board must jointly implement development plans with the aim of preventing wastage of national wealth in laying water pipes damaging the roads. It was highlighted that it could help save about 30% of the total cost of meeting the country's drinking water needs.

Rainwater harvesting and the expansion of capacity of tanks and reservoirs in the island and construction of a new tank and reservoir network were also discussed. The new plan also includes the introduction of projects with new canals and pipelines to carry water to water-deficient areas.

Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of State Sanath Nishantha, Head of the Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival Basil Rajapaksa and Secretary to the President Dr. P.B. Jayasundera were present

PM instructs MEPA to take adequate preventive... From Page 01

As the subject minister, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has given these instructions and the MEPA is now working together with 15 other institutions to face any disastrous situation.

The Department of Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management, Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Airforce, Ports Authority, Environment Authority, Fisheries Department, Disaster Management Centre, Meteorology Department, Wildlife Department, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and several other institutions are working with the MEPA to manage the issue.

Premalal Jayasekera seeks Court permission... From Page 01

"The President had issued a gazette notification summoning a new Parliament on August 20. My client's name was published in a gazette as an elected Member of Parliament. It is the prison authorities' duty to bring him to Parliament," de Silva PC said.

De Silva argued that his client would remain as a remand prisoner until a higher court determined his appeal.

"He was not brought to Parliament even after several requests were made. Since his name has been gazetted as a Member of Parliament, the prison authorities have to bring him to Parliament. Once he is brought before Parliament, the Speaker will take a decision regarding his qualification", Silva argued.

Romesh de Silva further stated that the Speaker had also given instructions to bring the petitioner before Parliament.

"When the accused filed an appeal, the execution shall stay and he shall be kept under remand custody. At this moment, he is not under the sentence of death. He has not been disqualified by a Court of Law," said de Silva.

Senior Deputy Solicitor General Nerin Pulle appearing for the Attorney General submitted to the Court that a person who is under the sentence of death is disqualified to sit and vote in Parliament.

He argued that the accused continues to be under death sentence and Parliament privileges are not applicable to criminal proceedings.

He argued that in terms of Article 89 (d) of the Constitution, a person who is under a death sentence is disqualified to sit and vote in Parliament.

Nerin Pulle stated that the interpretation regarding the Article 89 (d) should be done by the Supreme Court and this matter can be referred to the Supreme Court.

He further argued that the Constitution, the Supreme Law of the country does not authorize a convicted person to be brought before Parliament.

President's Counsel Uditha Egalahewa appearing for the Secretary General of Parliament informed the Court that the petitioner can enjoy his rights since he is now considered as a remanded prisoner.

Romesh De Silva PC, Nalin Ladduwahetty PC, Counsel Sugath Caldera, Niran Ankitel and Buddhika Chandrasekara Instructed by Paul Ratnayake Associates appeared for the petitioner. Senior Deputy Solicitor General Nerin Pulle with Senior State Counsel Dr. Awanthi Perera appeared for the Attorney General

Sri Lankans abroad... From Page 01

"The Government needs to ensure the safety of the lives of people living in Sri Lanka.

Bringing down Sri Lankan from abroad should be done in a systematic manner according to the capacity available at Quarantine Centres. At present, there are around 65 Quarantine Centres operating with around 10,000 returnees undergoing quarantine. This has to be done in a prudent manner, to prevent any community spread of COVID-19, putting the lives of people in danger," the Minister added.

JVP opposed to... From Page 01

"But as the Constitution is the Basic Law of the land. Whether we like it or not, that is the law that governs us as citizens," Dissanayake added.

Therefore, Dissanayake said changes, additions and deletions made to the Constitution will lead to changes that will have a major impact on the law of the land.

Dissanayake went on to say that the Independent Commissions established under 19A had failed to protect their independence.

"If the Government was to take the country in the direction of democratization, it should have rectified the shortcomings that hindered their independent functioning.

This is what our previous 20th Amendment proposed," he added.

While noting that the proposed 20A will give wide powers to the President, Dissanayake said the JVP will oppose it as the Constitutional amendment was anti-democratic, destructive and unfavorable to the people.

SJB plans to form Samagi Sandhanaya... From Page 01

Attanayake stated yesterday that several new political parties will join the alliance with SJB in the coming days. No names can be mentioned as discussions are still ongoing, he said.

"The discussions are taking place, we have approached several party leaders regarding the new alliance and meetings will take place with the parties next week. The SJB was formed as a matter of urgency due to the Parliamentary Elections, but now we have decided to form this alliance which will be a much broader coalition than the SJB."

Attanayake said parties such as the Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU), Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) and others who joined SJB will remain within the new alliance as well.

He added this alliance will be formed by end September.

Ranil testifies before PCol on political... From Page 01

The Commission requested him to submit the documents and the names of the persons who have been paid.

The notice was issued by the Commission's Chairman, former Supreme Court Justice Upali Abeyratne, after calling Ranil Wickremesinghe's testimony that the 'Anti-Corruption committee' was not a legal entity.

Wickramasinghe testified for nearly two hours before the Commission, stating that the 'Anti-Corruption Committee' was set up not to lodge complaints but only to receive complaints and refer them to the relevant authorities.

Wickremesinghe admitted before the Commission that there is possibility to file a lawsuit or file a complaint against a natural person or an institution with legal capacity and that the 'Anti-Corruption committee' had no legal capacity to do so.

Wickremesinghe said that the 'National Executive Council' that decided to set up the 'Anti-Corruption Committee' on a Cabinet memorandum was a political alliance and included members from political organizations.

On a previous occasion, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was issued notice to appear before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry investigating allegations of political victimization yesterday.

Former PM Ranil Wickramasinghe was summoned to appear before the Commission yesterday with regard to a complaint filed by the former Secretary to the Economic Affairs Ministry Dr. Nihal Jayathilaka.

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

Critical evaluation needed to ascertain teaching... From Page 01

Addressing a group of senior officials of the National Institute of Education on Thursday evening, Prof. Peiris said that this method of learning does not stay with the children for life.

This method does not focus on the development of a child's analytical and critical thinking skills.

"It does not focus on getting students to apply what they have learned to overcome future challenges," he said.

The Education Minister added that the school curriculum will be revised after obtaining views from all stakeholders including teachers, principals, professionals, students and parents.

"We will conduct seminars at district level to educate the public on the importance of school curriculum revision. Views are expected from all sectors of the country to identify and rectify the shortcomings in the school curriculum," Minister Prof. G.L.Peiris said.

The Minister added that an in-depth study needs to be done to ascertain whether university graduates are fully satisfied with the employment they receive after graduation.

"We should look into whether there is any parity between their educational standards and the demands in the job market," he said.

He said that business community is ready to make more investments in the country but the education system should be capable of producing human resources to meet their demands.

The Minister also stressed the importance of creating an atmosphere for all graduates in the country to live with dignity.

"Plans are under way for the construction of 10 new universities in the country with the assistance of Asian Development Bank," he said.

The Minister said that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has given priority for development of the human resource sector through the Education Ministry.

He said five ministries which were functioning separately, have been brought under the Education Ministry to achieve this objective.

State Ministers Susil Premajayantha, Dr. Seetha Arambepola, Ministry Secretary Prof. Kapila Perera and NIE Director General Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne were present.

Warrant on MP Manusha Nanayakkara... From Page 01

An individual of Hapugala, Galle who appeared as an Estate Superintendent had been introduced to the youth of Tangalle by the father of one of his friends in Dickwella. The person acting as an Estate Superintendent had said that he is allegedly known to MP Nanayakkara and under his patronage he could find jobs in Japan for which each person is charged Rs.400,000.

The youth from Tangalle as agreed upon had come to Galle with another friend from Ragama on February 23, 2019 to pay cash.

On arrival in Galle they had been informed that on that day Manusha Nanayakkara could not be met as he was out of Galle. Moreover, the youth had been asked to pay them Rs.200 000 as an advance for the provision of jobs in Japan.

However, the youth from Tangalle who was suspicious over the conduct of the job agent had inquired about the deal from another friend who had instructed him not to give money. Thereafter, the youth from Tangalle had lodged a complaint with the Galle Police explaining the whole drama.

The Police who initiated inquiries over the complaint had arrested a 62-year-old man from Hapugala, Galle.

The youths had met at a Japanese language class held in Galle.

Subsequently, the Police instituted a case against the suspect citing Galle MP Manusha Nanayakkara as the first witness but he was not present in Court. The Magistrate who issued warrants on the Parliamentarian fixed further hearing of the case for November 6.

SI Mahilal with PS Udaya Kumara of the Galle Police Crime Branch prosecuted.

Parliament Goods Receiving Officer remanded... From Page 01

The officials further told the Court that the plaintiff had lodged a complaint to CIABOC on August 20. The suspect is a resident of Kaduwela area. The suspect had asked the businessman to come to Kaduwela with the 'arrests' for January and February.

Govt. should repeal 19A - Former PUCSL... From Page 01

"It is indeed a point of the sine qua non element of the Government's victory over the previous regime," said Dr. Costa, adding, "the political parties should back the process of repealing the 19th Amendment, which had sparked a constitutional crisis in the country during the Good Governance Government."

"The people had to suffer chaos because of the situation created by the 19th Amendment," he said.

"The people were forced to endure large scale struggles between Government branches during that period with the previous regime's President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe showing disdain of their powers in the context of the 19th Amendment, as neither side backed down on their powers.

The people have dislodged that Government giving an unprecedented two-thirds majority power in Parliament to the present Government.

"The President had asked that this kind of power be granted to him at the time of the election so that the requisite changes can be made to carry out his Saubhagya Dekma policy statement in full force. This is a promise he had made to the public," he pointed out.

"The people now rely on the Government to put to good use the power given to it to fulfill these promises," he said.

Asked if he thinks that the 19th Amendment should be repealed, Dr Costa said, "I think it is imperative, a have-to do situation for the government".

"The UNP introduced or rather rushed the 19th Amendment, for their own sustenance with an aim to acquire the powers of the President, which they were in no position to get," he said.

"They brought it mainly to attack particular members of a family in Sri Lankan politics. Hence they brought laws such as barring dual citizens entering Parliament. Most countries allow dual citizens to enter Parliament," he said.

"There are several clauses that contradict each other in the 19th amendment in the sense of the Constitution, such as the Prorogation of Parliament, which must be resolved, among other confusions," he added.

Committee to look into alleged extremist views... From Page 01

The Senior State Counsel also questioned the witness as to what action has been taken so far even though a year has passed since these facts were revealed. He said that the Ministry of Education has the legal provisions to intervene immediately and is looking into the possibility of the Department's intervention.

"Yusuf Al-Qadiri has authored a number of books on various subjects and I used his books in 1995 when I was studying," Mohammad Ashraf said.

However, he further testified before the Commission that he did not believe it was appropriate to include him in the textbooks for Muslim children after his alleged extremist remarks.

Aluthgamage at FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference

'Digital solutions integral for promoting agriculture'

Addressing the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC), Minister of Agriculture Mahindananda Aluthgamage underscored the importance of promoting sustainable agriculture through innovation, including digital agriculture solutions.

He reiterated that the access to and dissemination of latest technologies and innovations is imperative to improve the productivity of the agriculture sector. Building resilient food systems, and increasing the adaptation capacity in the agriculture sector towards climate change while promoting the wise use of natural resources are also essential, the Minister stated.

Minister Aluthgamage, who is heading the Sri Lankan delegation participating in the APRC, welcomed the strong partnership between Sri Lanka and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ever since the country became a FAO member nation in 1948. He stated that FAO's technical and advisory support has helped the country immensely, to transform the agriculture sector from a livelihood sub-sector to a dynamic income earning production sector, a vital pillar of the national economy.

The Sri Lankan delegation drew attention to the present concerns in the agriculture sector such as poor profit margin for smallholder farmers, non-availability of a proper insurance scheme for growers, the lack of improved agro-



Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage addressing the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference.

chemical management, and the inability to predict seasonal forecasts. The FAO's continuous technical, policy and programmatic assistance in these areas were anticipated.

Addressing the APRC, FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu stated that it is time to take full advantage of the digital age through innovative partnerships with national governments, farmers, the private sector, academia, NGOs and

many others. Enabling these partnerships is the Hand-in-Hand Initiative implemented by FAO.

This evidence-based, country-led and country-owned initiative aims to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development to eradicate poverty and end hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

"The initiative prioritizes countries where national capacities and international support are the most limited or where operational challenges, including natural or man-made crises are the greatest," stated the FAO Director-General.

The FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) is a forum to discuss current country and regional priorities and pressing issues in the region such as the impact of COVID-19, the state of agriculture, natural resources management, food security and nutrition. It also provides an opportunity to highlight examples of partnerships, innovation and digital technologies that are helping to improve food security and nutrition across the region as well as regional and global policy and regulatory matters.

This year, Government representatives from 46 Member Nations joined the 4 day conference which commenced on September 1 through videoconferencing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health concerns. More than 400 delegates participated in the virtual APRC meeting hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan.



Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi opening the new Dialysis Unit.

New Dialysis Unit opened at KDU Hospital

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

The new dialysis unit of the Kotelawa Defence University (KDU) was opened by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi, recently. The unit will offer initial dialysis for critical and poor patients free of charge, a Health Ministry spokesman said.

According to the spokesman, the unit consists of 13 modern beds and has introduced Haemodiafiltration for the first time in Sri Lanka for the benefit of kidney patients.

The medical equipment installed at the unit is worth over Rs.50 million, and around 500 rounds of dialysis can be done when these machines are operated

in three- to four-hour shifts. There is a staff numbering 20 at the unit that include well-trained doctors, nurses, and technicians, he said.

The KDU Hospital was opened in 2019 with 814 beds, 50 luxury rooms, Accident and ETU wards with 40 beds, and 100 OPD Consultation rooms.

After opening the unit, Minister Wanniarachchi stated that the hospital provides the best example for a leader with a vision and a mission; it shows the targeted work carry out by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. He commenced this hospital with the intention of turning it to the best hospital in the region, she added.

18 more recover from COVID-19

Eighteen individuals have recovered from COVID-19, bringing the total recoveries in the country to 2,907, the Epidemiology Unit stated.

According to the Epidemiology Unit, there are only 192 active cases being treated in various hospitals across the country at present.

The total count of positive coronavirus cases found in Sri Lanka currently stands at 3,111, they added.

Security guard held for sexually abusing three Grade 5 students

SHAVINI MADHARA

The Nikaweratiya Magistrate's Court remanded a 39-year-old school security guard arrested by the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) for sexually abusing three Grade 5 students. The arrest had been made following a letter sent by the Zonal Director of Education.

The NCPA has recorded statements from the three victims, as well as their parents, teachers, and principal regarding the matter. The children were referred to the Judicial Medical Officer of the Kurunegala Teaching Hospital for medical inspection.

The suspect was produced before court under Section 345 amended by Section 05 of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No.22 of 1995, for sexually abusing three schoolchildren.

Two PCs arrested over drunken behaviour

DILSHAN THARAKA

Two Police Constables (PCs) attached to Mattegoda Police were arrested over their drunken behaviour at the Mattegoda Police Barracks, yesterday.

On the instructions of the Mount Lavinia Senior Superintendent of Police, the Assistant Superintendent of Police launched a preliminary investigation with a view to take necessary disciplinary action.

'Sil Redi' distribution case

Accused ordered to file written submissions

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal yesterday directed the parties involved in the appeal petitions pertaining to 'Sil Redi' distribution case to file their written submissions before September 23.

Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justice Kumuduni Wickremasinghe and Justice Devika Abeyratne made this order when the two separate appeals filed by former Secretary to the President Lalith Weeraratna and former Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC)

Director General Anusha Palpita were taken up for argument yesterday.

In his oral submissions, Deputy Solicitor-General Thusith Mudalige, appearing on behalf of the Attorney-General, stated that dishonest intention of the accused was the main factor of this case. He said public funds at TRC had been remitted with verbal consent in a dishonest manner.

He further argued that in terms of section 22 (F) of the TRC Act, funds can be only utilized for the expendi-

ture of the commission itself. Further arguments fixed for September 10.

Former Secretary to the President Lalith Weeraratna 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 Telecommunications Regulatory Commission.

On September 7, 2017, Lalith Weeraratna 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 was utilized 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 compensations.

Each accused were further ordered to pay a fine of Rs.2 million 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 Ratwatte and Janaka Ranatunga appeared on behalf of the appellant-accused. Deputy Solicitor-General Thusith Mudalige appeared on behalf of the Attorney-General.

Showers to enhance in Northwestern, Southwestern regions

The showery conditions over the Northwestern and Southwestern parts of the island are likely to enhance between today and tomorrow, the Meteorology Department stated.

Showers will occur at several places in Western, Sabaragamuwa, Southern, Central and Northwestern provinces; and showers or thundershowers will occur at several places in the Uva and Eastern provinces and in the Mullaitivu and Vavuniya districts after 2.00 pm, the department added.

The public has been requested to take adequate precautions to minimize damage caused by lightning and localized strong winds during thundershowers, they said.

The sun is going to be directly over the latitudes of Sri Lanka between August 28 and September 7 this year due to its apparent southward relative motion, the Meteorology Department added.

The nearest towns of Sri Lanka over which the sun is overhead today are Angulana, Kiragala, Bogawantalawa, Diyatalawa, and Kumbukkana, at about 12:09 p.m., they added.

Indian High Commissioner calls on Trade Minister

Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay called on Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena on Thursday. The High Commissioner congratulated him on assuming responsibility as the Minister of Trade, a press release issued by the Indian High Commission said.

During the discussion, both sides exchanged

views on ways to further develop the strong and mutually beneficial trade and investment ties between India and Sri Lanka. High Commissioner Baglay outlined India's commitment to strengthen its economic partnership with Sri Lanka, including through trade and investment, the statement read.

The High Commissioner also spoke about the

need to ensure greater use of digital means to sustain the interaction between businesses and governments on both sides in the current situation, the High Commission stated.

In this context, they agreed to explore the possibility of organizing more sector specific interaction involving business representatives of both countries, the statement added.

Lankan Consulate General participates in Guangzhou Fair

The Sri Lanka Consulate General in Guangzhou participated in the Guangzhou Fair organized by the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government to showcase and promote economy, culture and tourism from August 25 to 31, a Consulate stated in a press release.

The Consulate had also participated in the Guangzhou fair in 2014 and 2018, with prominent Sri Lankan tea companies whose agents were in China, the statement read.

The Consulate designed and decorated the Sri Lanka stall with the walls of the stall blown up with pictures of prominent Sri Lankan tourist, archaeological, cultural sites, as well as Ceylon Tea pictures. The booth was also decorated with some Sri Lankan handicrafts such as masks, small wooden elephants, the Consulate stated.



A Lankan stall at the Guangzhou Fair.

A television screen was organized to continuously play tourism and Ceylon tea videos throughout the exposition and tourist brochures were distributed to Chinese visitors, while explaining attractions of Sri

Lanka for them to visit, the statement said.

With the cooperation of the Guangzhou based Sri Lanka Tea company Impra, hot cups of Ceylon Tea were served to visitors who came to the stall and while handing

over Sachets of Ceylon Tea, after explaining about the uniqueness and varieties of Ceylon Tea. During the fair Impra tea company was able to get contacts of several potential professional buyers, the statement added.

The stall was manned throughout the duration of the fair by staff of the Consulate in Sri Lankan traditional dress and staff of Impra throughout the duration of the fair. The Guangzhou Fair has been organized since 1993 and has been an important platform for regional cooperation with friendly regions and cities from China and abroad, the Consulate stated.

Around 30 delegations from Taiwan, Tibet, and several other provinces and cities in China participated in the fair, with over 100,000 visitors at this year's fair, the press release said.

South Asia Gateway Terminals celebrates 21st anniversary

South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd (SAGT), Sri Lanka's first Private Public Partnership (PPP) and a flagship venture of the Board of Investment (BOI), celebrates its 21st anniversary on September 5 at the Colombo Port.

SAGT commenced operations in 1999 as a public-private partnership project to develop a container terminal in Sri Lanka under a 30-year BOT concession, taking over operations at the Queen Elizabeth Quay of Port of Colombo.

Along its 21-year journey, SAGT has consistently raised the bar to achieve new benchmarks, securing several global and regional awards in recognition of its operational high-performance, productivity and efficiency. In 2018, SAGT achieved an impressive 2 million TEUs (twenty-

foot equivalent container units) in a calendar-year for the first time in its history which is particularly significant considering the terminal's original design capacity was assessed at just 1.1 million TEU.

With the COVID-19 pandemic taking the world by storm, 2020 was a challenging year for the international maritime industry especially with consumption of goods and services around the world plummeting significantly. Amidst the country wide lockdown and directives for social distancing imposed in Sri Lanka, SAGT along with the Port of Colombo rose to the occasion to serve nations and communities far beyond our mother land.

SAGT's COVID-19 response involved initiatives to introduce enhanced health and safety procedures with stringent

monitoring of the wellbeing of our staff members and other key stakeholders. The implementation of a state-of-the-art visitor management system and the introduction of an e-clearance delivery advice (e-DA) process via email.

Whilst adapting to the new normal, SAGT has embraced digitalization collaborating with TradeLens, a Blockchain-powered data platform aimed at improving operational efficiency through the tracking of containers across multiple modes.

The launch of the payment gateway for e-clearance of import containers to offer convenient and hassle-free services to SAGT customers was a further initiative to enhance the "ease of doing business" experience.



Islamic religious observances were held at the Dewatagaha Jumma Mosque in Colombo on Wednesday to mark the 69th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. Ministers Nimal Siripala de Silva, Dayasiri Jayasekera, Mahinda Amaraweera, former Minister Thilanga Sumathipala, former Chief Minister Sarath Ekanayake, Colombo District SLFP Organizer Fawzan Anver, and Dewatagaha Jumma Mosque Chairman Riyaz Salley were present at the event. Picture by Ruzaik Farook.



THROUGH FIRE AND WATER...

OPERATIONS UNDERWAY TO MINIMIZE LIFE AND MARINE DAMAGE

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The fire onboard the ill-fated oil tanker MT *New Diamond* was still raging as of last afternoon and out of the 23 crew members onboard, 22 were rescued while one Filipino crew member is presumed dead, Navy Spokesman Captain Indika de Silva told the *Daily News*.

The Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Air Force, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard are engaged in a joint operation to control the fire that erupted after an explosion of a boiler in the main engine room of the MT *New Diamond*, sailing 38 nautical miles off Sangamankanda Point, east of Sri Lanka last Thursday.

The Navy Spokesman said currently there are eight vessels engaged in the operation to arrest the fire onboard the oil tanker carrying around 270,000 Metric Tonnes of crude oil. Among them are three vessels of the Sri Lanka Navy - *Sayura*, *Sindurala* and *Ranarisi* with two Fast Attack Craft, two vessels belonging to the Indian Coast Guard including Indian Coast Guard Ship *Shaurya* and (INS) *Sahyadri*. In addition, two tugs *Rawana* and *Wasamba* also joined the efforts to curb the fire from the Hambantota Port last morning (4). "The mission was also joined by the *ALP Winger*, another tug which was sent by the foreign company that owns the ship in trouble," the Navy Spokesman said.

However, the two Russian warships that had rushed to assist from the Hambantota Harbour had left the operation as it was beyond their capabilities to be of any assistance.

The Navy Spokesman said, however, the tug boats are the best bet at this point to handle the operation. He said water is being pumped for cooling while special fire retardant chemicals mixed with water are being sprayed onto the area of the fire to control it. He said the main aim is to prevent the fire from reaching the inflammable cargo and avert an explosion.

Captain Silva also noted that so far there is no danger of any oil leakage as the oil storage compartment is well sealed and there is a large ballast tank between the engine room and the cargo section which could be filled with water or sand. Two tugs are also holding the flaming ship from drifting towards the Sri Lankan coast.

Accordingly, an MI17 helicopter of the Sri Lanka Air Force carried out several aerial operations, dropping water on the ship which had caught fire. Meanwhile, a Beechcraft is conducting periodic air surveillance and a Dornier aircraft of the Indian Coast Guard also monitored the disaster situation from the air.

There were five Greek and 18 Philippine nationals among the crew. One of them was injured and he was airlifted out of the ship and the rest were accounted for.

The ship had sailed from the Port of Mina Al Ahmadi in Kuwait, loaded with Kuwait Export Crude, Refinitiv Eikon tracking data showed. It was heading to the Indian Port of Paradip, where the state-run IOC has a 300,000 barrel-per-day refinery. It was scheduled to reach India on September 5.

Meanwhile, 21 crew members of the distressed oil tanker including the 19 persons, who were initially retrieved by the MV *Helen M* were taken aboard Sri Lanka Navy ships and have been safely isolated adhering to health guidelines.



Water is being pumped for cooling while special fire retardant chemicals mixed with water are being sprayed onto the area of the fire. (Pictures courtesy Air Force Media)



The third engineering officer of the ship, who sustained injuries, is in stable condition at the Kalmunai Hospital.

Addressing a media briefing at the Government Information Department yesterday, Army Commander Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva said although the ill-fated ship is currently 38 nautical miles off the coast of Sri Lanka, it had drifted towards the coast and was at around 27 nautical miles off Sri Lanka's coast.

However, he said all possible efforts have been taken to douse the fire onboard but, in the event there is a leakage all measures are being taken to prevent any catastrophic effect.

Meanwhile, Navy Director General Operations Rear Admiral Y.N. Jayaratne said the ill-fated ship is currently around 22 nautical miles off Sri Lanka's coast, adding that the main priority right now is to douse the fire. "However, the smoke may last for some time. The ship's owners are in contact with the Navy and once the fire is doused they will take steps to take the ship away."

However, he said as the ship is in deep waters and based on the currents, there is no danger of an oil spill at present. But, the Sri Lankan Navy is on alert. By last evening, the Navy expected more ships to join the efforts. He said three tugs capable of handling large ships are currently deployed and more were expected by last evening.

Rear Admiral Jayaratne commenting on the condition of the injured sailor said he had sustained serious burn injuries but was still stable. The Captain of the ill-fated ship and some other crew members are onboard another vessel at sea to assist in the efforts to douse the fire.

He said with regard to the missing crew member, they have not been able to get him out and they suspect that he could have died in the explosion. He said although the ship is 20 years old, it is a strong ship with a double hull.

He said all possible assistance has been received from other countries in the region in the effort to douse the fire.

Joining the media briefing, Dharshani Lahandapura, the Chairman of the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) said as long as the fire can be doused there is no issue, but they were concerned about the possibility of an oil spill. Hence, together with the Disaster Management Center (DMC), preparations are being made to face a worst-case scenario and in such an event, international assistance would be sought. She also noted that in the case of an oil spill, Sri Lanka would claim compensation from the ship owners.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa have been monitoring the situation and have been in discussion with the MEPA regarding the situation.

Currently, around 15 institutions, including the MEPA which is under the purview of the Urban Development Authority, Coast Guard Department, Sri Lanka Navy, Air Force, Port Authority, Environmental Authority, Fisheries Department, Disaster Management Department, Meteorology Department, Wildlife Department and Petroleum Corporation are jointly engaged in coordinating efforts to handle this situation.

Clearing section of Anavilundawa Sanctuary

Nishantha rebuffs allegations of involvement

State Minister of Rural and Regional Drinking Water Supply Projects, Sanath Nishantha, while denying any involvement in the recent clearing of an area in Anavilundawa Sanctuary for shrimp cultivation, said he will take legal action against any reports connecting him to the incident and tarnishing his image.

Highlighting the speculation on social media, Nishantha said the allegations are hearsay and do not provide any names, and that he will not hesitate to take legal action against any individual or media spreading false reports.

"It has already been entrusted to a well known law firm in Sri Lanka to look into it. Accordingly, they are scrutinizing all media reports and news on the subject. If such propaganda tarnishes my reputation, I will take legal action without hesitation," the state minister said to a group of media personnel in Puttalam, a communiqué issued by the minister's media unit stated.

He said that this was not a direct protest but the beginning of a foreign propaganda aided by some local political elements to attack and discredit the government.



The state minister said he had inspected the bulldozed area of Anavilundawa Sanctuary for shrimp cultivation and informed President Gotabaya Rajapaksa that it had not caused any eco-damage in the area.

The state minister said he had told the President that he is ready to face any form of penalization, had he involved in such event at any capacity. "All that has happened here is the removal of silt from the existing prawn pond," he added.

State Minister Nishantha said before the sanctuary was legalized in 1998, there were a number of shrimp ponds. "Most of them belonged to the Carson Multina-

tional Company, which was formed during the United National Party (UNP) Government from 1984 to 1985."

"Due to the white spot disease, the company left its farmland about 2,000 acres and went abroad and villagers then resumed shrimp farming under the annual license obtained from the Divisional Secretary," the statement read.

"Even today, some people continue to cultivate prawns, but after legalizing the bird sanctuary, the licenses for the ponds in the area were stopped. The government too lost a lot of tax revenue because of it," it added.

State Minister Nishantha further said although there were no licenses, some continued to cultivate without giving up; and that not only prawn ponds, but there were hundreds of acres of paddy fields as well within the reserve.

"Indigenous peoples have been living on land for hundreds of thousands of years. The root cause of the problem is the fact that the government's during the last 20 years has not given alternative lands to the traditional people. We have to give a permanent solution

without applying further temporary plaster treatments," he added.

The state minister said that there was no doubt that the Ramsar wetland is a valuable asset not only to Arachchikattuwa, but also to the entire Puttalam District.

State Minister Nishantha said he was one of the first politicians to talk about the protection of the sanctuary and had even presented a paper in this regards as a local councillor.

"However, the Ramsar wetland is not just a makeshift sanctuary for migratory birds or a wildlife sanctuary that can be confined to a wildlife sanctuary.

"Nearly 2,000 traditional families depend on the lands for their livelihood in four Grama Niladhari Divisions in the area.

"While preserving the sanctuary, we must provide a permanent solution to the issues faced by these people with regards to their livelihoods," he said.

The state minister added that both the responsibility of safeguarding the sanctuary, as well as that of providing livelihood avenues to the people, lie in the Government's hands.

Chinese Embassy, ACJU launch booster class supporting plan for OL students



The Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the All-Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU), hosted a ceremony at the Al Hidayah Auditorium on Tuesday and launched a supporting plan to provide booster classes for more than 700 Grade 10 students who are preparing for their examinations this December. These pupils are from 19 different schools across Colombo with different backgrounds, and all of them are from low-income families. During the ceremony, Chinese Embassy Chargé d'affaires Hu Wei, together with other diplomats from the mission, also gifted stationery supplies and schoolbags to another 135 young students for their new semester.



29 persons arrested over illegal fishing

In special operations conducted last week, the Navy managed to apprehend 29 individuals along with their fishing gear for engaging in illegal fishing.

As such, the naval operations carried out in the Northern, Eastern and North-Central Naval Command resulted in the apprehension of 29 persons for engaging in unauthorized diving, using and storing banned fishing nets, and practicing light course fishing.

These arrests had been made in the seas off Vethalaikeni by Northern Command, off Norway Point, Salpayar, Nayar, Black Point, and in the Batticaloa lagoon; in Tuduva by the Eastern Command; and in the seas off Nochchimunai by the North-Central Command. Along with the suspects, 11 fishing vessels and several other fishing gear were also seized by the Navy.

During another special search operation conducted by the Navy in Narivilakulam, Mannar, about 600 conch shells of less than 70mm in diameter had been recovered at the Narivilakulam Public Cemetery.

The suspects arrested in connection with these incidents, along with the seized items, were handed over to the Directors of Fisheries in Jaffna, Trincomalee, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Kilinochchi, and Batticaloa.



Some of the seized fishing gear and conch shells.

Strong winds damage Hambantota houses, shops

M. NELSON PIYARATNE,
Kataragama Group Corr.

Several houses and shops in the Hambantota District were damaged by strong

winds on Tuesday, the Disaster Management Centre told the *Daily News*.

Hambantota Disaster Management Centre Assis-

tant Director Kuruwita Arachchi said that 19 houses in and around the Suchi village and 39 shops in Siribopura had been damaged.

He added that immediate steps have been taken to give relief aids for the properties damaged by the wind.

Man arrested for sexual assault on octogenarian

M. NELSON PIYARATNE,
Kataragama Group Corr.

A suspect who sexually assaulted an 88-year-old woman on August 31 has been taken into custody by Weeravilla Police.

A Police team led by Weerawila OIC Chief Inspector A.D. Rajapaksa are investigating the incident under the instructions of Tangalle SSP Ravindra Ambepitiya and ASP Jayashantha de Silva.

Arrested with 2.05kg of Kerala cannabis

A person who was transporting Kerala cannabis in a three-wheeler on Wednesday night was arrested at Beligalla by Tangalle STF personnel.

The suspect was travelling from Embilipitiya to Beliatta when he was arrested with 2.05 kilograms of the drug. The three-wheeler has been taken into the police custody as well.

The suspect was apprehended by a police team led by Tangalle STF Camp Commander IP Pieris, under the instructions of STF Commander DIG Varuna Jayasundara and Hambantota STF Commander SSP Viduranatha Disanayake. Investigations are continuing.

Siblings arrested with cannabis, police handcuffs

PRIYADARSHANI KAHAWALA,
Ingiriya Central Group Corr.

Two brothers have been arrested with 5 grams of cannabis and two police handcuffs by the Mount Lavinia Divisional Quick Operations Unit on Thursday.

The two handcuffs were found in a house in Vijithapura, Piliyandala. The suspects are between the ages of 27 and 35.

The handcuffs were found hidden in a room of the house during a raid carried out by police on a cannabis-related operation. Investigations are continuing.

Anuradhapura tank contamination rate on the rise - Irrigation Department

Reports point towards high turbidity, alkalinity levels

NIMAL WIJESINGHE,
Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

The contamination rate of water in the major reservoirs of the Anuradhapura District is found to be on the rise due to the adverse effects of illegal activities. The levels of turbidity and alkalinity, as well as those of iron, nitrate, phosphate, and sulfate in major reservoirs are higher than the permissible levels according to the laboratory reports of the Water Quality Monitoring Unit of the Irrigation Department.

As an example, although the permissible level of total alkalinity shall be < 200mg/l, the level of same at Abhaya

Wewa is 760 mg/l, 494mg/l in the Tissa wewa, 1,344mg/l in Mahavilachchiya, 680mg/l in the Nuwara Wewa, 1,113mg/l Mahakanadarawa, 709mg/l in the Nachchaduwa tank, 1,576mg/l in Rajanganaya, 1,464mg/l in Angamuwa, 624mg/l in the Manankattiya tank, 998mg/l in Hurulu Wewa, 590mg/l in the Padaviya tank, and 654mg/l in Wahalkada.

Furthermore, iron concentrations at several reservoirs such as Manankattiya, Wahalkada, Mahakanadarawa, and the Nuwara Wewa are found to have exceeded the permissible level; that is < 0.3 mg/l.

Meanwhile, an evaluation conducted by the Water Safety Plan Advisory Unit of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) on the adverse effects of illegal human activities on tank water quality in Nuwara Wewa, Tissa wewa, Thuruwila, Rajanganaya, and Nachchaduwa, has shown that contamination levels of E. coli bacteria has been gradually increasing in them from 2013 onward.

The NDSDB has submitted a report to the Government, urging it to implement a mechanism to restrict human activities in tanks which are used to divert water to be used for water treat-

ment plants and the introduction of a comprehensive catchment management system under the implementation of a water safety plan, immediately, to ensure acceptable water quality in all reservoirs.

Anuradhapura irrigation engineers emphasised that the contamination of water in major tanks, along with rising levels of heavy metals, is mainly caused by illicit human activities such as the clearing of tank reservations, large-scale illegal cultivation, use of chemical fertiliser and other agrochemicals, and the disposing of sewage into tanks.

Bulathsinhala villagers protest assault on bus driver, conductor

PRIYADARSHANI KAHAWALA,
Ingiriya Central Group Corr.

A tense situation arose during a protest staged on Thursday by the residents of Halwatura in Bulathsinhala, against an assault on the driver and conductor of a Halwatura - Ingiriya Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) bus.

The assault had taken place on Monday, and the driver and conductor had been admitted to the Ingiriya Hospital for treatment immediately after the incident took place.

The attack was carried out by a group of persons from Piliyandala who had come to bathe at the 'Nidhan Wala' in Halwatura, Bulathsinhala.

The group had come in three cars, and the incident had taken place when the

driver of the bus had started hitting the horn because one of their cars had been blocking the road, residents said.

Nearly 200 people came to the Bulathsinhala police station to investigate the complaint, but no one from the other party involved in the attack had come to the police station, causing a tense situation among villagers.

The group dispersed after the Bulathsinhala police said that they would call the party involved in the attack on another day and reinvestigate the complaint.

However, villagers were furious at the incident and unanimously decided to make the 'Nidhan Wala' a place reserved only for the villagers to bathe and not allow outsiders to use it.



Villagers gathered outside the Bulathsinhala Police station. Picture by Priyadarshani Kahawala, Ingiriya Central Group Corr.



DILSHAN THARAKA

Held over narcotics possession

Three suspects were arrested with heroin and cannabis yester-

day by Police from the Negombo, Periyamulla, and Dalupotha Police Divisions.

One of the suspects had 5.22 grams of heroin and 8,505 kilograms of cannabis with him at the time of the arrest, while another possessed 5.11 grams of heroin when he was taken into custody. The third person was arrested with 34.77 kilograms of cannabis by the Negombo Police.

The suspects are between the ages of 35 and 41 and are residents of Negombo, Wattala, and Jaffna.

They were produced before the

Negombo Magistrate's Court yesterday. Police are investigating.

Held with heroin

Officials attached to the Organized Crime Division arrested a suspect with 153.27 milligrams of heroin in a raid conducted in the Welikada Police Division.

The suspect is a 37-year-old resident of Borella. He was produced before the Hulftsdorp Magistrate's Court, yesterday.

The Organized Crime Division is continuing investigations.

Arrested with crystal meth

An individual was arrested with 950 milligrams of crystal methamphetamine by the Organized Crime Division, yesterday.

The suspect is a 41-year-old resident of Peliyagoda. He was arrested on Alwis Lane in the Wattala Police Division.

The suspect was produced before the Wattala Magistrate's Court, yesterday. Investigations are continuing.

DEEP CRISIS IN MALI AFTER MUTINY

CHANNA SANJEEWA in Mali

Following a mutiny that broke out on August 18 morning at the Soundiata Keita camp in Kati, before spreading to the capital, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and his Prime Minister were arrested. In the evening, President Keita announced on national television from the Kati camp the dissolution of the National Assembly and his own resignation. For many observers, this coup is the logical consequence of the socio-political crisis that has paralyzed Mali since the beginning of last June 2020.

President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita's power was regularly contested by a crowd assembled by the Movement of June 5-Rassemblement des forces patriotiques (M5-RFP), which demanded his resignation. As a result of this undemocratic way to dismiss the regime, there will be several political, socio and economic consequences affecting the Malian mutineers along with CNSP from the ECOWAS and other international organizations.

During the last stage of the discussions with ECOWAS delegation headed by the former Nigerian president Jonathan Goodluck, with Junta and CNSP it was suggested to begin a civilian transition immediately and to quickly establish a government to prepare for legislative and presidential elections within 12 months. This transition should be led by a recognized civilian, not a military, and no military structure should be above the president of the transition, and subsequently sanctions imposed against Mali at the first extraordinary ECOWAS summit on the issue on August 20, two days after the coup, will be lifted gradually according to the implementation of these decisions.

But Mali's ruling junta demanded a military-lead transitional body to be set up for three years and agreed that ousted President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita should return to his home and if he wants to travel for medical care it can be facil-



Former President Ibrahim Keita

tated. Further the junta has expressed that it wants to make a three-year transition to review the foundations of the Malian state. This transition will be led by a body chaired by a soldier, who will at the same time be head of state and as for junta's proposal the entire government will also be predominantly made up of soldiers. Due to these junta's demands, the discussions were concluded without a concrete conclusion for the restoration of peace for the Malians. It could create a huge economic and social crisis for the entire sub region. Its ripple effects can also spill over into neighboring Niger and Burkina Faso.

Meanwhile after the collapse of negotiations efforts with ECOWAS, sub regional leaders vehemently condemned the military coup and decided to close all land and air borders with Mali until the Junta along with CNSP comes to



The Coup in Mali took the world by surprise.

a decision to conduct legislative and general elections during the one year transition period. It is important to remember that the continent has a strong impact on Mali in such situations. Having no outlet to the sea, to transport the products from the ports to the country, it will take the help of countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and many other countries of the said community. Since most of the manufactured products of these countries which closed their borders at the request of ECOWAS, are sold in Mali, this would undoubtedly be a real problem for these production units of the sub region.

Mali supplies the Ivory Coast, Senegal, and many other countries with meat. It is true that Mali will suffer in many ways especially vis-à-vis land transport but the billions that the ports earn from Malian imports will constitute a shortfall during the embargo period. So, it is also an economic conflict and, hence it is impor-

tant for ECOWAS to review its conditions in favor of entire sub region.

Just over two weeks after the coup, Mali is still plagued by terrorism. Last week, Malian soldiers were victims of a jihadist attack on Kona in central Mali. At least four Famas (Malian Armed Forces) died on August 27. The fight against terrorism continues, and regime change is not having too many consequences on the operational front. With the August 18 putsch and the imprisonment of several generals, including the Minister of Defense, General Dahirou Dembélé, who is still detained in Kati, the chain of command was disrupted. But according to the French force Barkhane, operations were not affected.

Brigadier General Oumar Diarra, who was appointed Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces on 31 Friday, was arrested along with several high-ranking army officers on

August 18 in the early hours of the overthrow of President IBK. Not for long, since a few days later he was released and promoted to the head of the Malian army. He now has the heavy task of oiling the war machine, of conducting victorious operations in the field. Last Monday the United Nations Security Council meeting had decided to renew sanctions against Mali for one year, unanimously adopting a resolution that also extends the work of the group of experts created to study the issue.

In adopting resolution 2541 (2020), the Council decided to renew until 31 August 2021 the measures set out in paragraphs 1 to 7 of resolution 2374 (2017), which include the imposition of a travel ban and assets freeze on those who impede progress in the implementation of the peace and reconciliation agreement in Mali. In the terms of the resolution, it reaffirmed that these measures shall apply to the persons and entities designated by the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017). The Security Council decided that all Member States shall, for an initial period of one year following the adoption of this resolution, freeze immediately the funds and other financial assets and economic resources which are on their territories owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the persons or entities designated by the Committee.

If the mutineers along with CNSP + M5-RFP, other social and religious groups act in a undiplomatic manner towards the ECOWAS and other international organizations conditions, there can be a huge intervention from another powerful state of the West African region under the blessings of the France to overcome the economic, social and political issues facing the neighboring states due to the ongoing economic embargos, closure of the land and air borders and escalation of Jihadist movements.

Tourism amidst COVID-19 pandemic

Ministry proposes 'channel' system for managing travellers

MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

The Ministry of Tourism has put forward a proposal to the Cabinet of Ministers regarding the allocation of different channels for travellers arriving in the country, Media Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism, Pradeep Anura Kumara said.

Yesterday, Kumara said, "The ministry has suggested to identify countries

with extreme cases of COVID-19 under the channel of the Red Zone and divert them to the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport, while those from countries with low number of cases are to be diverted to the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) under the Green Zone."

He added that further suggestions were made about conducting Polymer-

ase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests at localities close to the airport.

"Right now, only four tests per day can be conducted; but, if there are other localities close to the airport, around eight tests can be carried out. The tests are time-consuming, and is one of the factors we have highlighted in the proposal."

Last week, the ministry had pre-

sented a proposal to the Cabinet, yet no response has been received regarding the opening of the airports for travellers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, it's the repatriation process which is operating at the airport. On Thursday, around 200 stranded Sri Lankans had arrived from Nepal and Israel on a SriLankan Airlines charter flight.

European ambassadors call on Foreign Minister



Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union in Colombo, Denis Chaibi, along with the EU Ambassadors of Italy and the Netherlands and the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassies of Romania, Germany, and France, paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena on Wednesday.

The Ambassadors offered congratulations to the Foreign Minister on his reappointment and expressed the desire for continued closer cooperation.

It was noted that Europe was the number one destination for Sri Lanka's exports and a major source of foreign direct investment and tourism.

The Ambassadors said that Sri Lanka has performed remarkably well in controlling the spread of COVID-19 and, as a result, they were confident that European tourists would return to Sri Lanka, once the airports were reopened.

The Ambassadors also discussed the status of EU development assistance to Sri Lanka and expressed

the desire to support the government's economic development priorities. They briefed the Foreign Minister on the EU assisted ongoing projects in agriculture, vocational training, food safety, among others.

The Ambassadors also discussed proposed reforms and recent political developments following the election of the new government. State Minister Tharaka Balasuriya and Foreign Secretary Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage also participated in the meeting.

Homicide suspect sentenced to death

DILSHAN THARAKA

An individual who was found guilty for homicide was yesterday sentenced to

death by the Badulla High Court. The accused was arrested by Badulla Police over the murder of an individual using a

sharp tool which had taken place in Meeriyabedda in 1995. Following that, the Attorney-General had filed indictments in

the Badulla High Court against the accused over the incident. When the case was taken up before the Badulla High Court

Judge, he issued the verdict after a lengthy trial and he observed that the prosecution has proven the case beyond reasonable

doubt. Considering the circumstances, the 52-year-old accused was sentenced to death by the Badulla High Court.

2ND YEAR REMEMBRANCE



MANOHARIDEVY MANOHARAN nee NARAYANASWAMY (Retired Teacher)
Departed : 5/9/2018

*Our lives go on without you
But nothing is same
We have to hide our heartache
When someone speaks your name*

*Sad are the hearts that love you
Silent are the tears that fall
Living here without you
Is the hardest part of all*

*You did so many things for us
Your heart was kind and true
And when we needed someone
We could always count on you*

*The special years will not return
When we are all together
But with the love in our hearts
You walk with us forever*

**Loved beyond words and missed
Beyond measure
By your sisters, brothers, in-laws,
nephew & nieces.**

Tuan Jaldin

Remembering a great soul

Born on December 12, 1943, in the salubrious climes of Hatton to my great grandparents Zainul Abdeen Jaldin and Seenar Jaldin, my grandfather was named Tuan Hadjie Jaldin.

He married Zareena Meedin in 1967 and was blessed with five children and fifteen grandchildren. I wish to write a few words in remembrance of my grandfather on his ninth death anniversary which is on September 2.

Having received his primary education at Royal College, he entered Greenlands College (Isipathana), where he excelled in sports and was the first rugby captain of the school. Thereafter, he played for CR & FC for many years and was the rugby manager of CR & FC as well.

Being a reputed athlete in school, my grandfather's pet event was the 400 metres, and he also took part in the Asian Veterans' Games held in Singapore in 1986 finishing fourth in his event. He also represented the companies he worked at in cricket, rugby, football, hockey, and table tennis in Mercantile tournaments for many years.

All this clearly shows how enthusiastic he was for sports.

While he was engaged in sports, he also pursued his career in many trades, both locally and internationally. On his retirement from active work, my grandfather took up part time work at the Makola Muslim Orphanage, where he loved, cared and looked into their studies and welfare of the children just the way he looked after his children. He was a cheerful person, someone who would love and care for people and was loved by many for his humane touch. He is a true example for a husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, and great citizen.

It has been nine years since my grandfather left this world and only his memories are left to cherish for the rest of the years to come. He would definitely be happy and proud for where all his children and grandchildren stand today and would send us blessings from wherever he is now. You will always be in our hearts and we miss you.

DALIYA JALDIN



State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana with GMOA President Dr. Anuruddha Padeniya, GMOA Secretary Dr. Senal Fernando and other officials.

State Minister discusses pharmaceutical issues with GMOA

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

Pharmaceutical Production, Supply and Regulation State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana held a discussion with Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) officials, recently, a Ministry spokesman said.

According to the spokesman, the state minister and GMOA officials discussed about the issues in the health sector, as well as drug production and regulation.

The GMOA officials made a few requests during the discussion. They pointed out the importance of regulating various chemical-based substances used in a large number of beauty salons mushroomed all over the country and

also pointed out the need to stop the long delay occurred during registering drugs, he added.

The officials also highlighted the need for modern, fully-fledged laboratories to test drugs produced by the state and private sectors, the spokesman said.

State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana positively responded to all three requests presented by the GMOA officials.

He also requested the GMOA to intervene in order to solve a number of drug shortage cases reported from various state hospitals in the country.

GMOA President Dr. Anuruddha Padeniya and GMOA Secretary Dr. Senal Fernando also participated in the event.

'Ethnic-based political parties have done more harm than good'

SUDATH KEERTHI, Delgoda Group Corr. and MAHANAMA VITHANAGE, Malwana Group Corr.

Ethnic-based political parties should be banned as they only create division among communities, Parliamentarian Milan Jayatilake said.

Speaking at a public event at Al Mubarak Muslim National School in Malwana, recently, the Gampaha District Parliamentarian said that ethnic-based political parties have brought much harm to the country over the years.

He said the present government under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa treats all communities equally without any differences.

In this backdrop it was of the utmost importance for all communities to work as one and support the government to drive the country forward in these challenging times, he added.

Jayatilake was speaking at a ceremony held to donate stationery to the Al Mubarak Muslim National School by Malwana People's Forum headed by M.M.A. Ismail. The People's Forum provided 400 plastic chairs to the auditorium of the school and uniforms to 110 students of the Malwana Ahadiyya Islami Religious Education School.

Malwana People's Forum also opened its community development centre in Malwana on the same day. Malwana People's Forum President M.M.A. Ismail said education should play a pivotal role in the country's future development, and that his organisation was ever ready to assist in whatever way possible.

"Children are the greatest resource to this country. Therefore, it is our responsibility to protect them. For that, children should be given proper education. That is why we have set up a forum like this to promote education in the area," he said.



IN THE SUPREME COURT LIST OF CASES FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

B.P. ALUVIHARA (P.C.) (J) SISIRA J. DE ABREU J. P. PADMAN SURASENA J. COURT NO. 502 AT 09.45 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED

1. SC. CONTEMPT NO. 05/18 B.P. ALUVIHARA (P.C.) (J) L.T.B. DEHIDIENYA J. MURDU N.B. FERNANDO P.C. J. COURT NO. 502 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. (CHC) Appeal No.17/15 - HC.271/08 2. SC. (CHC) Appeal No. 18/15 - HC. 54/11 3. SC. (CHC) Appeal No. 22/15 - HC. 14/12 4. SC.HC.CA. LA 172/16 - HCCA 89/12 5. SC.HC.CA. LA 148/19 - HCCA 02/15 6. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 435/19 - CA 159/11 7. SC. Application FR 150/20

FOR SUPPORT

1. SC.HC.CA. LA 100/15 - HC. 879/11 FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Application FR No. 398/08 (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.) FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Application FR 303/13 with 295/13, 305/13, 332/13, 333/13 2. SC. Application FR 07/15 3. SC. Appeal No. 162/15 - HCCA 134/00 4. SC. Appeal 164/19 with 165/19 - CA 295/07, 294/07 VIJITH K. MALALGODA P.C. J. E.A.G.R. AMARASEKERA J. Y. KODAGODA P.C. J. COURT NO. 403 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Application FR 276/18 2. SC. Application FR 241/19 3. SC. Application FR 215/20 FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC. Application FR 189/20 2. SC. Application FR No. 253/20 FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.CA.LA. NO. 205/18 - HCCA 191/16 2. SC.HC.CA.LA. NO. 281/18 - HCCA 187/11 3. SC.HC.CA.LA. NO. 369/18 - HCCA 129/11 (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.) FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC. (Spl.) LA 50/19 - CA No. 71 - 72/00 2. SC. HC. LA 231/19 - HCCA 122/13 3. SC. (Spl.) LA 350/19 - CA No. 148/17 WITH 354/19 - CA 147/17 4. SC. (Spl.) LA 383/19 - HC 5411/10 5. SC. (Spl.) LA 461/19 - CA No. 1303/00 6. SC.HC.CA. LA 495/19 - HCCA 313/15 7. SC. (Spl.) LA 10/20 - HCCA No. 312-315/15 8. SC. (Spl.) LA 88/20 - HC 85/14 FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Application FR No. 640/12 (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.) FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Application FR 236/08 with 237/08 2. SC. Application FR 461/12 3. SC. Appeal No. 143/15 - HC. 907/12 4. SC. Appeal No. 178/15 - HCCA 71/07

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

A.H.M.D NAWAZ (J)(P/CA) SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J. COURT NO. 301 AT 09.30 A.M. FOR SUPPORT

1. SC. Application FR 267/18 2. SC. Application FR 407/18 FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Application FR No. 398/08 (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.) FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC. Application FR No. 398/08 (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.) FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

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1. SC. Application FR No. 398/08 (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.) FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

Writ of Cert 3. 497/19 Writ of Cert 4. 498/19 Writ of Cert 5. 179/20 Writ of Cert 6. 215/20 Writ of Cert 7. 12/20 TAX 8. 13/20 TAX 9. 11/19 RII FOR ARGUMENT

1. 155/14 Writ of Cert WITH COC 10/16 2. 14/15 TAX 3. 18/15 TAX (K.K. Wickramasinghe J.) 2. 363/17 HC (Devika Abeyratne J.) FOR ORDER

1. 35/19 BA (K.K. Wickramasinghe J.) COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M. FOR JUDGMENT

1. 249/16 HC (K.K. Wickramasinghe J.) 2. 363/17 HC (Devika Abeyratne J.) FOR ORDER

1. 35/19 BA (K.K. Wickramasinghe J.) COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M. CONTD...

1. 45/17 PA 2. 87/20 PA FOR INQUIRY

1. 41/19 BA TO BE RESUMED

1. 413 - 414/17 HC FOR ARGUMENT

1. 302/15 HC AB (Top of the list) 2. 101/18 PA 3. 287/18 HC 4. 327/18 HC 5. 335/18 HC A. L. S. GOONERATNE J. DR. RUWAN FERNANDO (J)

COURT NO. 204 AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED

1. 133/13 PHC with PA 129/13 2. 76/15 PHC 3. 51/19 PA WITH 48/19 PHC 4. 115/19 PA 5. 127/19 PA 6. 128/19 PA FOR SUPPORT

1. 85/13 PA NOTICE RETURNABLE

1. 105/11 PHC 2. 38/16 PHC 3. 201/16 PHC FOR ARGUMENT

1. 38/14 PHC 2. 21/15 PHC ACHALA WENGAPPULI J. K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J) COURT NO. (110) AT 10.00 A.M.

FOR JUDGMENT 1. 357/10 Writ of Cert with WRT 358/10 (Achala Wengappuli J.) 2. 95/14 Writ of Cert (Achala Wengappuli J.) 3. 324/14 Writ of Cert (Achala Wengappuli J.) 4. 374/15 Writ of Cert (Achala Wengappuli J.) 5. 08/15 PHC (Achala Wengappuli J.) COURT NO. (110) AT 10.00 A.M. CONTD...

TO BE MENTIONED 1. 172/16 PHC 2. 02/20 PA 3. 72/20 PA 4. 108 - 109/19 HC 5. 198/19 HC 6. 218/19 HC 7. 362 - 363/19 HC FOR INQUIRY

1. 18/20 BA FOR ARGUMENT

1. 102 - 103/15 HC 2. 170/15 HC 3. 78/17 HC 4. 248/19 HC 5. 286/19 HC MAHINDA SAMAYAWARDHANA J. ARJUNA OBEYESEKERE J. COURT NO. (206) AT 10.00 A.M. FOR JUDGMENT

1. 50/14 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.) 2. 223/16 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.) 3. 224/16 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.) 4. 225/16 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.) 5. 226/16 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.) 6. 227/16 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.) 7. 268/18 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.) 8. 275/18 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.) FOR ORDER

1. 47/19 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.) FOR ARGUMENT

1. 102/14 Writ of Cert

WITH WR 101/14 2. 36/17 Writ of Cert MAHINDA SAMAYAWARDHANA J. ARJUNA OBEYESEKERE J. COURT NO. (206) AT 01.30 P.M. TO BE RESUMED

1. 449/15 Writ of Cert With WR 503/15, WR 504/15, WR 232/16 A.H.M.D NAWAZ (J)(P/CA) A. L. S. GOONERATNE J. SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J. COURT NO. 301 AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED

1. 63/20 Writ of Cert 2. 64/20 Writ of Cert 3. 65/20 Writ of Cert 4. 66/20 Writ of Cert 5. 69/20 Writ of Cert 6. 71/20 Writ of Cert 7. 75/20 Writ of Cert

IN THE COURT OF CIVIL APPEAL WESTERN PROVINCE (COLOMBO) LIST OF CASES FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 LAFFAR THAHIR (H.C.J.)

SAMPATH B. ABAYAKOON (H.C.J.) (AT 10.00 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED

186/18 (F) HCCA/Colombo 187/18 (F) AB HCCA/Colombo LA 51/18 HCCA/Colombo 34/19 RA HCCA/Colombo 293/15 (F) HCCA/Colombo FOR SUPPORT

LA 112/19 HCCA/Colombo LA 54/20 HCCA/Colombo FOR ARGUMENT

79/17 (F) HCCA/Colombo 39/18 (F) HCCA/Colombo 284/15 (F) HCCA/Colombo 31/19 (F) HCCA/Colombo

ADA KOTIPATHI Today's Jackpot Rs. 66,898,290/-

කංචරධන වාසනාව Development Fortune Date: 03-09-2020 Draw Number: 363 Colour: Blue Super Jackpot Rs. 11,047,180/-

SUPER BALL Draw Number: 1204 Colour: Green Draw Date: 03.09.2020 Date: Thursday Winning English Letter and Numbers U 22 31 55 72 Total Value of Prizes Rs. 3,502,300/-

ADA KOTIPATHI THURSDAY Date: 03.09.2020 Draw No.: 1030 Colour: BLUE Total Value of Prizes Rs. 4,994,180/-

ශ්‍රී චන්ද්‍රා THURSDAY Date: 03.09.2020 Draw No.: 3360 Colour: RED Total Value of Prizes Rs. 5,025,700/-

ලග්නා වාසනාව Lagna Wasanawa Date: 03-09-2020 Draw Number: 2911 Colour: Brown Super Jackpot Rs. 2,178,264/-

ආද... කළ 05 කතුරු මිතුරු (ඊරිරාජී කෝෂලය) SCOPE ජීවිතයේ කොළඹ ලිඛිත සිනමාහලේ දී ජෛ.ව. 10.30 - ජ.ව. 2.30 සහ ජ.ව. 7.00 www.scopecinemas.com / www.sarasaviya.lk

Daily News



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Throwing the dragnet far and wide

The unrelenting war waged against the underworld and the narcotics trade by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa certainly is paying dividends, with almost daily arrests of key figures of the underworld and the collapse of drug empires as reported in the media.

The latest detection relates to the seizure of 900 perches of land worth Rs. 4,000 million together with other prime assets and 26 motor vehicles including luxury brands, following the arrest of leading underworld figures in the Western Province. The suspects have been maintaining 102 bank accounts where Rs. 2600 million worth of transactions had been carried out.

What is more, the arrest of key collaborators within the law enforcement arms and the drug running conduits where the role of members of the Police Service has been brought to light, the unraveling of the dark underbelly of the prisons which have turned out to be havens for drug kingpins to carry out their business from behind prison walls, is clearly indicative of the outstanding success achieved by the Government in taming the underworld and ridding the country of this deadly spectre.

What is appalling in this whole sordid saga is the extent of the involvement of the police, including Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB) sleuths, in the drugs business. Newspapers reported that a brother of a Police Constable of the Colombo Crimes Division (CCD) had been arrested with 46 kilogrammes of heroin, with investigations currently on to ascertain if the Constable concerned too was involved in the racket.

During the Coronavirus pandemic a police officer was nabbed transporting heroin in a three-wheeler which clearly shows the active involvement of the law enforcement members in the drug trafficking business. No wonder the Narcotics trade has been growing exponentially over the years with the authorities none the wiser as to the underlining cause for their failure all these years to successfully tackle the drugs underworld.

Certainly, now that war against the underworld is fought in earnest more details are bound to transpire as to the full extent of the involvement of law officers in the drugs trade. This is not to belittle the efforts of police officers who are working with dedication and commitment to see an early end to this menace. But like in almost every department there are rotten apples who bring to naught the dedicated efforts of others by their venal conduct. At least now these elements should be identified and got rid of in any overhaul carried out in the Police establishment, which just celebrated its 154th anniversary.

In all probability we are here only seeing the tip of the proverbial iceberg. Given the extent and magnitude of the involvement of law enforcement officers (with two employees of the Government Analyst's Department too in the net) there is no knowing how far and wide the operation has spread. If so, total eradication will be some time in coming.

In this context it is a wise move to get the STF in the forefront of the battle against the drugs underworld with the stellar reputation of the outfit for combat and daring during battles with the LTTE. Not just the Police, the dragnet should be thrown far and wide if complete success is to be achieved in the fight against the narcotics trade.

One is compelled to ask how the banks accepted such large sums without asking any questions. We say this because any ordinary depositor is subject to close scrutiny when he/she deposits even Rs. 100,000 in a bank. All kinds of questions are asked by the bank authorities to satisfy themselves that everything is above board. Here we have a scenario where a cumulative Rs. 2600 million not only being deposited (laundered actually) with the banks but also being freely moved around.

Ditto for the Motor-vehicle Registrations Department (RMV). How were all these vehicles registered? No questions have apparently been asked on the source of wealth and the Department of Inland Revenue too has apparently been bypassed. How did the 900 perches of land purchased by the underworld gangs pass muster without any questions by the Land Registry? These transactions could not have taken place overnight, but over a long period of time.

The other day a Senior DIG told the media that there were 400 hardcore criminals operating in the Western Province alone and even went on to venture out their numerous aliases. Their crime spree country-wide is well known. If so why are the Police waiting without arresting them and taking legal action against them?

The drugs trade in this country, as elsewhere, has grown into a hydra-headed monster where all agencies suspected of collusion would have to be neutralized if we are to see an end to the problem. We repeat - throw the dragnet far and wide and we are bound to hit on a viable solution before long.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Every form of addiction is bad, no matter whether the narcotic be alcohol or morphine.
- Carl Jung

SRI LANKA: TOWARDS A NEUTRAL FOREIGN POLICY

AMAR DIWAKAR
Reviving a stagnant economy and managing the country's relations with major powers will be important priorities for the new Rajapaksa Government in Sri Lanka.

Last month's eagerly awaited General Election in Sri Lanka ended with a landslide victory for the Sri Lanka People's Front (SLPP), led by former President Mahinda Rajapaksa who was formally appointed (earlier last month) as Prime Minister for a five-year term.

The party gained 145 seats to obtain a near two-thirds Parliamentary majority, underlining public support for the Government's successful management of the Covid-19 pandemic and securing the mandate of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the younger brother of Mahinda elected in November 2019.

Speaking with the Asia Society after the younger Rajapaksa's triumph last November, Dinusha Panditaratne, an expert on Sri Lankan foreign affairs, said the new President's view of Sri Lanka's place in the world could be summarised as "Sri Lanka must develop itself," alluding to an emphasis on the word "development" which appeared over 100 times in President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's election manifesto.

Central among the Government's domestic challenges will be to revive a heavily indebted economy expected to contract by 3.2 percent, with the Coronavirus pandemic hitting the country's tourism industry, which had already faced a downturn after the Easter terrorist attacks in 2019.

To do so, Colombo plans to drive an economic development agenda by itself and as a partner with other countries while leveraging its strategic importance. "The new administration will be able to take more decisive steps given the ideological alignment of the Prime Minister, the President and Parliament," Dr. Kadira Pethiyagoda, a foreign policy expert and author of 'Indian Foreign Policy and Cultural Values', told TRT World.

Pethiyagoda suggested that a development-led engagement with China and its flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) would feature prominently, as a realist approach to foreign policy that balanced great powers like the US, China and India while its own interests were likely to be pursued.

A crushing US\$ 55 billion debt burden, coupled with geopolitical competition underway in the Indian Ocean, are likely to be significant factors in determining the direction of Sri Lanka's foreign policy.

ASIA FIRST?

In the immediate aftermath of the August election, a number of developments might indicate that the orientation of the Government's foreign policy has begun to take shape.

One has been the responsibilities assigned to the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Relations Dinesh Gunawardena, who now wields the ability to reevaluate existing bilateral agreements and remove clauses considered economically or socially harmful.

Another is the creation of the 'State Minister of Regional Cooperation' portfolio, to be helmed by Tharaka Balasuriya, a Member of Parliament known for his focus on financial and economic issues.

Among Balasuriya's duties will be to foster trade links with Asian nations and strengthen ties with regional multilateral bodies like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). Pethiyagoda believed that the new ministerial portfolio "sends a signal of the focus the administration will place on South Asia and Asia more broadly."

"An Asia-first approach aligns with the Government's ideals and the views of much of its political base," he said.

An Asia-centric foreign policy was echoed by retired Navy Admiral Jayanath Colombage, part of a reshuffle that saw him appointed as Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Relations, a post traditionally held by career diplomats.

In an interview last week, Colombage declared that Sri Lanka should focus on its neighbourhood and pivot away from "Western-oriented diplomacy". He advocated the Foreign Service corps to align with changing global dynamics that favour an Eastward shift, while balancing great power rivalries in the strategic theatre of the Indian Ocean.

Gareth Price, Senior Research Fellow at the Asia-Pacific Programme in Chatham House, observed a reorientation was being aimed not so much at the nation's Western-centric foreign policy but a diplomatic tendency that



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Minister of Foreign Relations
Dinesh Gunawardena



State Minister of Regional Co-operation
Tharaka Balasuriya



Foreign Secretary
Jayanath Colombage

In an interview last week, Colombage declared that Sri Lanka should focus on its neighbourhood and pivot away from "Western-oriented diplomacy". He advocated the Foreign Service corps to align with changing global dynamics that favour an Eastward shift, while balancing great power rivalries in the strategic theatre of the Indian Ocean.

centres the West. Given Sri Lanka's desire to acquire much-needed investment to jumpstart its ailing economy, forming expedient partnerships in Asia presents less hurdles than it does in the West.

"If you look to the US or Europe, the issue of human rights crops up, which is less the case with potential Asian partners," Price told TRT World, adding that Colombo's tilt towards Asia would take place while resisting a binary choice between India and China. A Senior Analyst at Control Risks, Hemant Shivakumar maintained that these developments will not come at the expense of economic ties with Western nations.

"Countries like the EU and the US will remain key export destinations for the majority of Sri Lankan goods and products, and it is unlikely that the Government will imperil these economic avenues," he told TRT World.

Ultimately, Colombo will have to reconcile the competing interests of two Asian giants vying for influence in the Indian Ocean.

In an attempt to assuage New Delhi's fears of Colombo being ensnared by Beijing, Colombage reiterated that "as far as strategic security considerations go, it's an 'India first' approach." The stance will be welcomed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government, who was the first to congratulate Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa following August's elections.

For India, Sri Lanka is increasingly viewed through the prism of its strategic maritime objectives, and it has long harboured concerns over the growing Chinese footprint on its southern neighbour's shores, heightened after a controversial 'debt-equity swap' of the Hambantota Port to Beijing in 2017.

Fears that China is practicing 'debt-trap diplomacy' are unfounded; a Chinese State Owned Enterprise (SOE) paid the Sri Lankans to lease Hambantota Port and provided Colombo with

liquidity to repay Western creditors, to which it owes the majority of its debt.

"It was poor decision-making on the Sri Lankan side that led to the debt more than any kind of Chinese scheme," said Price. "The problem with the previous Rajapaksa Government was that there were a lot of projects, and Chinese investment poured in because they wanted them to."

If there is an underlying logic that will drive Sri Lankan diplomatic strategy, it is economic - and India might be at a disadvantage despite the positive rhetoric coming from the new Government.

The overriding imperative for the Rajapaksas is to reduce the country's foreign debt burden and partners will be prioritised on the basis of who can provide funding to stimulate commercial activity. If India cannot deliver on implementing projects and spurring investment, the administration will look elsewhere.

"Sri Lanka needs financing and infrastructure investment, and China can do it better than India. China's capacity to build is greater than India's, and its pockets are deeper. Particularly now with India's economy taking a major hit," Price noted. "If Sri Lanka was not looking to be beholden to China, looking to the Southeast Asian countries would make a lot of sense."

There is enough evidence to suggest that Sri Lanka will continue to deepen engagement with other Asian states.

"The previous Government between 2015 and 2019 had stepped up economic and commercial relations with Singapore and Malaysia," Shivakumar said, highlighting that Singapore was among the top ten investors in Sri Lanka and Malaysia had indicated in 2018 plans to pursue a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Bangladesh and Japan could follow soon.

Shivakumar also believed that the Rajapaksa administration will continue to favour economic ties with China,

despite security objections from countries like India.

"Effectively, though the (Sri Lankan) Government will seek to pursue commercial opportunities with India and Japan to help offset domestic criticism over dependence on China, this will remain limited."

In May 2019 India and Japan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sri Lankan Government for a high-profile Colombo Port project worth US\$ 500 million, which faced domestic opposition from parties who saw India and Japan following China's lead in trying to "spread their tentacles" in the country's strategic assets. The Government assured both sides that the project would be expedited after the elections were over, but questions remain.

Foreign ports are a transshipment hub for nearly 30 percent of Indian export-import cargo and the Colombo port accounts for a large chunk of it, making Sri Lanka an invaluable "blue water" access point for India. Washington's US\$ 480 million [MCC - Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact] grant for development projects has also faced setbacks.

"Alternatively, the Government will likely intensify efforts to secure a moratorium from foreign lenders on debt repayments even as it initiates fresh negotiations for a new International Monetary Fund (IMF) Loan Programme," Shivakumar added.

While the Government hardly wishes to get involved in a Sino-Indian or US-China power struggle, it may not have a choice as it seeks to preserve its long practised policy of Non-Alignment. With heightened external geopolitical fissures in the region, balancing infrastructure diplomacy between China, India and the US will be a daunting challenge. For the ruling Rajapaksas, it's a balancing act motivated by economic development - a pragmatism likely to be at the centre of Sri Lankan statecraft.

SLT Group to improve connectivity at Lankagama-Neluwa Village

Project will empower the village with High Speed Broadband, Voice Services

Following the President's visit to the Lankagama-Neluwa village on August 29, 2020, where he stated that he will direct the SLT Group to provide a solution to establish high-speed broadband and voice facilities in the Lankagama village. Sri Lanka Telecom – Mobitel, immediately took on the task of digitizing the Lankagama Village with high-speed connectivity solutions. Following the instructions of the President, the Engineers from SLT - Mobitel visited the village on the same day to assess and identify the implementation mechanism for a Detachable Guyed Mast Solution.

Situated amidst lush mountains, the Lankagama village is located at the Southern boundary of the Sinharaja Rain Forest, which falls into the Neluwa Divisional Secretariat, Galle District. Despite the geographic

obstacles and transportation difficulties, SLT - Mobitel will promptly implement a Detachable Guyed Mast solution (supplied by a local company) to establish superior connectivity and broadband facilities to the area by September 20, 2020, thereby empowering the village with digital capabilities and bridging the digital divide. The project will be implemented without any negative impact to the environment of the area.

Rohan Fernando – Chairman of SLT Group commenting on the initiative, said "In line with the Government's vision of digitizing Sri Lanka, the SLT Group feels privileged to take on the venture of powering rural areas with superior connectivity solutions. As the country's Telecommunications Service Provider, it is our responsibility to ensure that we not only provide connectivity to all Sri



On-going implementation of the proposed Solution

Lankans but also empower them with the right knowledge and know-how to evolve and move forward towards an info com and knowledge rich society. We would also like to thank the DG of TRCSL for encouraging and setting the right strategies. The implementa-



Mobitel Checking coverage at Lankagama area after few hours of President's arrival

tion of this Detachable Guyed Mast Solution is another step towards reaffirming our mission of care, share and deliver and we will continue to empower Sri Lankans by providing connectivity solutions and contributing towards Sri Lanka's digital upliftment

and literacy." SLT, operates in the fixed ICT business. SLT has laid out nearly 50,000 kms of optical fibre throughout the island to extend fibre access through FTTH technology.

In 2017, Mobitel's innovative deployment of the first Sub-1G Mobile Broad-

band Network in Sri Lanka based on it Sub-1G spectrum significantly improved coverage in rural areas of the country and connecting the rural communities to high speed mobile broadband, enabling the global reach to uplift their day-to-day lives.

Rohan Karunaratne succeeded by Nimal Lokuge at Agstar PLC



Nimal Lokuge and Rohan Karunaratne

Agstar PLC saw the passing of the baton from one founding stalwart to another with the retirement of its long-time Chairman Rohan Karunaratne succeeded by Nimal Lokuge.

Accolades poured to the outgoing stalwart Rohan Karunaratne, affectionately known as the 'father of Agstar' one of the most respected figures in Sri Lanka's agriculture sphere, Karunaratne's legacy is unmatched. He carved a name for himself while on the board of Ceylon Tobacco but the golden era of his career dawned at CIC Holdings PLC. His crusade in agriculture would see him blazing a trail spanning over 40 illustrious years culminating with his retirement from Agstar.

At the time Karunaratne and co launched Agstar which would go on to become a public-quoted Company, Sri Lanka's agricultural industry was controlled by a few giants with a long history. He saw a compelling need for a level-playing field and new thinking.

Highly regulated industry it may be but Karunaratne knew a robust new player would offer fresh impetus to its growth. His band of like-minded visionaries carved a new niche in agriculture under the tutelage of the master practitioner with Agstar ascending to the third spot among giants of the industry.

By the time he called it a day, despite highly mitigating regulations and market dominance of old players, Agstar PLC has grown into a dynamic force, crossing the Rs. 3 Billion milestone in revenue on the back of strong performances by its seven companies in the Agstar portfolio. They are Agstar Crop Care (Pvt) Ltd, Agstar Exports Pvt Ltd, Agstar Grains Pvt Ltd, Agstar Properties Pvt Ltd, Agstar Seeds Pvt Ltd, Mahaweli Agro Trading Pvt Ltd and Prith Seeds Pvt Ltd.

"The man came, he saw and he conquered – our hearts and minds first and mentored us into a unique team of trailblazers", said Agstar's Managing Director Pasad Weerasekera who epitomizes the outgoing chairman's faith in young professionals.

The most eloquent tribute came from the incoming Chair. "Rohan Karunaratne leaves the shoes of a giant so colossal it would be a herculean challenge to fill them. But his true legacy is that he has trained us all to respond to the calling", said Nimal Lokuge, Chairman who is poised to lead Agstar into the future.

Nimal Lokuge, who was part of the nucleus as a Director when Agstar PLC commenced operations in 2002 will lead the forays of the rising star in agriculture overseeing what is evidently emerging as an agri-centric Sri Lanka in the 2020's. Lokuge was also a founder director of Sierra Construction, a diversified game-changer, emerging as a leading light in the construction industry counting over 3 decades of acumen.

Ataraxia Capital Partners launches 'My Dentist'

Ataraxia Capital Partners launched 'My Dentist', latest and one-of-its-kind chain of dental clinics with the aim of advancing dental care with high-tech infrastructure.

My Dentist Ltd. is formed with major share-holding company Ataraxia Capital Partners in collaboration with Michel Casselman, CEO of PMV – a Belgian fund and the professional expertise of Dr. Asoka Amunugama and Dr. George Dias.

The newest clinic is equipped with the skills to respond to the changing oral health needs and services for patients. Situated at Gregory's Road, Colombo 7 with ample parking facilities, it is

the first-of-its-kind in Sri Lanka that can boast of an expansion plan of installing a chain of My Dentist clinics in strategic locations across the country, all of which deliver a mixture of clinical services and cosmetic dentistry that is fundamental to the future of dental health-care.

The face of dental health-care internationally has changed dramatically in the last decade. Innovations in technology and advanced dental techniques have led to continued improvement in dental health; and My Dentist is proposed to provide its patients with all these latest innovations. Having invested extensively in the project, the company plans to



My Dentist Director Asanth Sebastian, My Dentist Director/Chief of Operations Asoka Amunugama, My Dentist Director Sharad Sri at the opening

expand into a chain of clinics.

The company's strategic drivers are: Affordable care through payment solutions and instalment payment schemes, a team of two to three in-house dentists aided

by a trained and efficient nursing staff, a panel of dental specialists that can be channelled with ease, use of modern restoration instruments with the highest level of sterilisation techniques and international standards

as required by the WHO, use of digital X-Rays which reduces patient radiation exposure by up to 90%, five operating rooms which saves waiting time for patients, local patients and tourists who use My Dentist services

can go for follow up visits to any of the proposed chain of hospitals to avoid travelling back to Colombo for treatment and ethical practices where invoicing for services with no inflated or duplicated charges to patients.

International brand "FootBalance" launched in Sri Lanka

FootBalance incorporated in Finland in 2003 which has been mastering the art and science of customised insoles and currently present in more than 50 countries in six continents, has now been launched in Sri Lanka, under the authorised distribution of FootBalance Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.

Driven by the vision of optimising foot health for overall body health and performance, FootBalance offers a range of insoles, carefully crafted and customized for diverse use to improve performance of different people with different lifestyles.

These include the Medical range that is designed to combat issues such as diabetes and arthritis, where the insoles are made to offload pressure in the heel areas to avoid the forming of calluses. The Game range is aimed at those into sports from hiking to basketball, cricket and rugby providing increased stability and greater shock absorption.

FootBalance's Max range is recommended for those seeking customized insoles for general use, office wear and breeze walking, providing greater foot support.

Having commenced over just a couple of months ago, Foot Balance is proud to have received a positive response from the market, which comprises of prominent sportspeople, coaches, doctors and leading business personalities who have all understood the value of the product and its contribution towards good foot health. The brand has therefore been enjoying a constant growth in sales, in spite of the recent pandemic.

Taking into account that every foot is unique and thus requires to be personalised to suit each person's requirement to enable maximum results for their foot health, Foot Balance offers customised insoles based on the dynamics of your feet.

The product is made using durable antibacterial fabric and patented custom molded. The team at Footbalance also provides insight into remedies for common foot injuries through their informative online page <https://www.footbalance.com/commoninjuries>, that is dedicated to educate the general



A Personalized Foot Analysis being provided in store

public. Internationally the brand has gained the market positioning of becoming the preferred choice of international sports stars and high performance athletes, and is also endorsed by medical professionals for many foot ailments such as diabetes and flat foot.

Having a large spread of retail outlets globally that includes leading sporting goods stores, department stores, shoe shops and medical clinics in six continents, the team in Sri Lanka hopes to make the brand accessible to people in all the key regions of the country in the near future.

Creative Information Technologies opens in Colombo 10



Highlights from the opening

Creative Information Technologies opened their state-of-the-art showroom to the IT market in Sri Lanka at T. B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10. Sri Lankan Test and ODI Captain Dimuth Karunaratne was the Chief Guest. Creative Information Technologies (Pvt) Ltd., was established in 2008 to market

world renowned high quality products coupled with excellent professional service levels in order to satisfy our local customers," said Managing Director of Creative Information Technologies (Pvt) Ltd, Suresh Subramaniam.

"We hope to become the number one "IT" product

supplier through high level of business integrity. We wish to develop new loyal customer base by becoming the premier customer support provider of new and innovative solutions and services," he said.

Creative Information Technologies is also Sole agent for Sri Lanka for AMIDA

compatible toner and also the dealer for D-Link, Intel, Epson, Canon, HP, Dell, Samsung, IBM, Acer, Lenovo, Logitech, Prolink, Hik Vision, Toshiba, WD, Seagate, Gigabyte, TPLink, Rapoo, Kingston, Kaspersky Virus guard and Asus products. "We are also in the process of extending our product

range to networking solutions/components and other accessories. Apart from these brands we offer a complete range of other products in designing and implementing information systems for corporate sector."

Our showroom is open from 09.00 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday to Saturday.

"Be Sri Lankan - Buy Sri Lankan" Trade Fair begins on Oct. 9

In light of need of the hour, which is to open up trade opportunities for businesses to sell their products and services to local customers, it has been planned to hold a "Be Sri Lankan – Buy Sri Lankan" trade exhibition, which is the largest exhibition for Sri Lankan products on 9, 10 and 11 of October 2020 at BMICH.

With the absence of any such trade fair for this year so far, this event gives a huge boost to small, medium and large industries in the country. "Be Sri Lankan – Buy Sri Lankan" Trade Fair is looking optimistically to the future and hopes to assist business entrepreneurs reach the same level of sales as in previous years. This top draw

event is a unique platform that is sure to inspire, engage and connect the local community of brands and buyers. It is also expected to attract visitors in numbers who have been starved of such events in recent times. The events will also be held under social distancing guidelines.

Since, many such exhibitions were cancelled hitherto, this makes this event an ideal platform for all to come together once again and together with LANKAPAK 2020 exhibition which features industries such as Packaging, Printing, Plastics and Processing, which is also to be held, provides the much needed boost to industries and businesses alike.

Supported by the National Chamber of Exporters and many other private and government organizations, Be Sri Lankan – Buy Sri Lankan Trade Fair is set to play a pivotal role in this year's events calendar. It is planned to be officially launched by the Prime Minister.

The event like its name suggests and highlights the love and support for Sri Lankan products, which is the main reason why it is an unique event hoping to encompass a cross section of curated local brands and new emerging products and services.

The support of its exhibitors and visitors over the last few years has been incredible, and it is hoped to

continue in the same vein providing them with the opportunity to network, forge new businesses and access shared learning that they always experience at such events.

"Be Sri Lankan – Buy Sri Lankan" will offer new opportunities to network, source new material, unearth trends, discover emerging talent, be inspired, engage with experts, create your unique story and make an impact. The event will provide Sri Lankan based and international buyers easy access to exciting product innovations, expert advice, inspiring business ideas and much more.

More information about the event could be obtained from, email ishan@cdcevents.net

Thailand records first coronavirus case in 100 days



THAILAND: A Thai Disc Jockey sentenced last week to two years in prison has tested positive for the coronavirus, officials said Thursday, ending the kingdom's 100-day run without a local transmission.

The man, sentenced on August 26 for what local media said was a drugs offence, had been in contact with at least 30 other people before testing positive on Wednesday.

Those tested so far have all been negative, officials said.

"It is a local transmission after we have passed 100 days," said

Suwanchai Wattanayingcharoenchai, Director General of Thailand's Disease Control Department.

The man had worked as a DJ in different bars around Bangkok - including a venue in the tourist backpacker hotspot Khao San Road.

Thailand has largely returned to normal since the virus epidemic forced lockdowns and travel bans across the country, with bars and restaurants being packed diners and public transport running at full steam. - AFP



Shoppers walk through a clothing market in Bangkok, Thailand.

Biden meets Jacob Blake's family

US: US Presidential hopeful Joe Biden met with relatives of Jacob Blake, the black father shot multiple times by a white police officer in Wisconsin in an incident that sparked days of violent unrest.

The Democratic nominee and his wife Jill Biden entered a private meeting at the Milwaukee airport with several members of Blake's family, including his father and three siblings, the Biden campaign said. Blake's mother participated via telephone.

The meeting comes two days after President Donald Trump also visited Kenosha, the nearby city where the shooting occurred.

During his trip Trump did not meet or speak with the family of Blake, who survived the shooting but is likely paralyzed from the waist down.

While in Kenosha the President pushed a message of law and order as he met police, other first responders and residents whose businesses were damaged or destroyed in the violent protests that followed the shooting of 29-year-old Blake.

After talking with the Blakes, Biden travelled to nearby Kenosha.

Kenosha is one of the latest in a series of US cities shaken by racially charged unrest.

Violent demonstrations occurred in May and June in Minneapolis, in the neighboring state of Minnesota, and elsewhere after a police officer there killed an unarmed black man, George Floyd, by kneeling on his neck for more than eight minutes.

Protests also hit south Los Angeles this week after sheriff's deputies shot and killed a black man during a violent confrontation.

And demonstrations have rattled Portland, Oregon for weeks, prompting Trump to threaten to send in federal forces to cities where "weak" Democratic leaders have failed to quell violence. - AFP



Democratic Presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden is greeted with an elbow bump as he met with community members at Grace Lutheran Church in Kenosha, Wisconsin on Thursday.

'Godfather: Part III' scheduled for December release



US: A new version of "The Godfather: Part III" - Francis Ford Coppola's belated follow-up to two of Hollywood's greatest ever films - will be released in theatres this December, Paramount said Thursday.

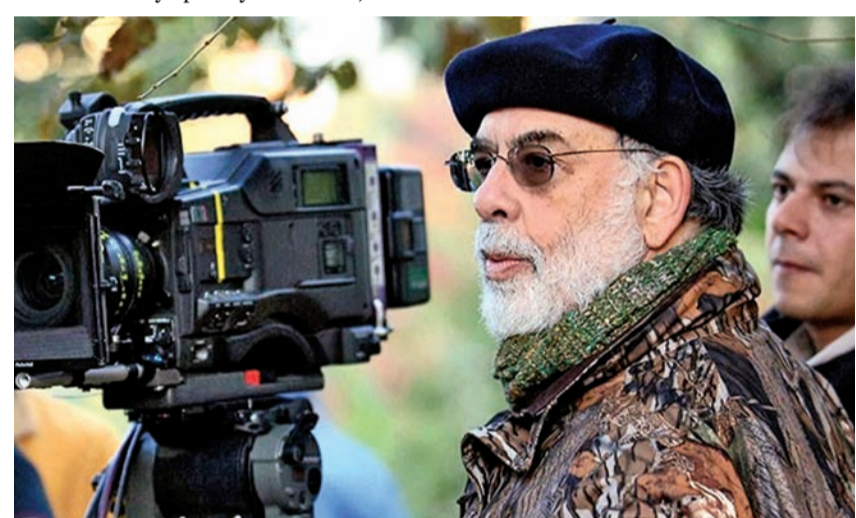
The concluding movie about the Corleone crime family's rise and fall was relatively poorly received, and

the new cut will achieve Coppola and screenwriter Mario Puzo's "original vision for the finale," a statement from the studio said.

"For this version of the finale, I created a new beginning and ending, and rearranged some scenes, shots, and music cues," said Coppola in a statement to AFP.

"With these changes and the restored footage and sound, to me, it is a more appropriate conclusion to 'The Godfather' and 'The Godfather: Part II.'" The new edit, retitled "Mario Puzo's The Godfather, Coda: The Death of Michael Corleone," will be released in limited theaters in December - marking the original film's 30th anniversary - before moving to streaming platforms. It "is an acknowledgement of Mario's and my preferred title and our original intentions for what became 'The Godfather: Part III,'" said Coppola. Despite failing to earn the critical acclaim of the first two, "The Godfather: Part III" was still nominated for seven Oscars including best picture. Coming 16 years after the second installment, the 1990 film followed Al Pacino's Michael Corleone in his 60s as he tries to extract his family from the mafia world.

The new version entailed a "painstaking, frame-by-frame restoration" of the original film and previously unseen footage over the course of six months. Work including repairing scratches and stains on the original negatives was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic and had to be completed remotely. - AFP



The Godfather Director Francis Ford Coppola returned as director for The Godfather Part III.

Kuwait swears in first female judges

KUWAIT: Kuwait swore in eight female judges on Thursday, marking a first for the Gulf state, after a long legal battle to allow women to serve in the role. They were among 54 people appointed as judges to the Supreme Court,

reported the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA). The female judges' work will be evaluated after a period of time, said Yousef al-Matawa, chairman of Kuwait's supreme judicial council and the court of cassation, quoted by KUNA.

Matawa did not specify how long that period of time would be.

While Kuwaiti society is one of the most open-minded in the Gulf, with women in top government positions, some traditional families impose

tight restrictions on their female relatives' movements.

Lulwa Saleh Al-Mulla, head of the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural and Social Society, said her organisation had long fought for the right of

women to serve as judges. Women in Kuwait were granted the right to vote and run for political office in 2005.

Four years later, the first female lawmakers were elected. - AFP

03.09.2020 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD **683,530**

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS **26,347,150.00**

Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES **01** Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES **01** Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES **23**

Vasana Sampatha
Official Results
Draw No. 1610
Date 2020.09.03
English Letter **O**
Winning Nos. **26 33 49 59**
Prize Structure:
01 Prize: If only Four Numbers are correct: Rs. 1,000,000/-
02 Prize: If Three Numbers and English Letter are correct: Rs. 100,000/-
03 Prize: If only Three Numbers are correct: Rs. 2,000/-
04 Prize: If Two Numbers and English Letter are correct: Rs. 500/-
05 Prize: If only Two Numbers are correct: Rs. 100/-
06 Prize: If one Number and English Letter are correct: Rs. 60/-
07 Prize: If only One Number are correct: Rs. 20/-
08 Prize: If only English Letter is correct: Rs. 20/-
Total prize money won in this Draw: **Rs. 2,169,620.00**
Next Super Prize: **Rs. 23,293,163.90**

Govisetha
Official Results
DRAW NUMBER 2529 DRAW DATE 03.09.2020
ENGLISH LETTER **X** WINNING NUMBERS **14 53 58 65**
COMBINATION PRICE NO. OF WINNERS
1 PRIZE IF ALL 4 NUMBERS CORRECT Rs. 1,000,000.00 01
2 PRIZE IF LETTER & ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT Rs. 100,000.00 03
3 PRIZE IF ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT Rs. 2,000.00 173
4 PRIZE IF LETTER & ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT Rs. 1,000.00 404
5 PRIZE IF ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT Rs. 100.00 10033
6 PRIZE IF LETTER & ANY NUMBER CORRECT Rs. 40.00 6532
7 PRIZE IF ANY NUMBER CORRECT Rs. 20.00 163048
8 PRIZE IF ONLY THE LETTER IS CORRECT Rs. 20.00 29683
TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW **209,877**
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 7,169,200.00**
SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 62,275,111.20**
Winning tickets are valid for a period of six months from the date of the draw. Prizes of Rupees Five Lakh and above are liable to government taxes. To obtain prizes, Presenting National Identity card is a must.

Mega Power
DRAW NUMBER : 601
OFFICIAL RESULTS
DATE 2020.09.03
English Letter **M** Super Number **20** Winning Numbers **08 38 75 77**
PRIZE STRUCTURE PRIZE MONEY NO. OF WINNERS
1st PRIZE If all 4 Numbers are correct 1,000,000.00 -
2nd PRIZE If only 3 Numbers with English Letter is correct 100,000.00 06
3rd PRIZE If all 3 Numbers are correct 1,000.00 137
4th PRIZE If only 2 Numbers with English Letter is correct 500.00 317
5th PRIZE Only 2 Numbers are correct 100.00 8,129
6th PRIZE If only 1 Number with English Letter is correct 40.00 5,500
7th PRIZE Only 1 Number are correct 20.00 136,029
8th PRIZE Only English Letter are correct 20.00 24,778
BIGGEST PRIZE **Rs. 232,547,959.15**
NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE
NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE **Rs. 13,651,594.00**
NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE **Rs. 12,774,405.20**
Total Prizes Won In This Draw **Rs. 5,044,500.00**

සමපත
தரு திரி சம்பத **DARU DIRI SAMPATHA**
DRAW NUMBER 2020/09/03
DRAW DATE 017
English Letter **F** Winning Number **08162461**
COMBINATION PRIZE NO. OF WINNERS
1st Prize If all 4 numbers are correct Rs. 1,000,000/- Each -
2nd Prize If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct Rs. 50,000/- Each 87
3rd Prize If any 3 numbers are correct Rs. 1,000/- Each 8
4th Prize If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct Rs. 500/- Each 165
5th Prize If any 2 numbers are correct Rs. 100/- Each 4,086
6th Prize If English Letter and 1 number is correct Rs. 40/- Each 2,269
7th Prize If 1 number is correct Rs. 20/- Each 55,002
8th Prize If only English Letter is correct Rs. 20/- Each 8,221
SPECIAL DRAW
1st Prize **0009** Rs. 1,000.00 29
2nd Prize **079** Rs. 500.00 249
3rd Prize **79** Rs. 50.00 2,478
Total prize money won in this draw **Rs. 2,210,720/-**
Super Prize for the next Draw **Rs. 6,398,113.50**

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA
DATE: 03-09-2020
DRAW NUMBER : 4234 OFFICIAL RESULTS
WINNING LETTER **F** WINNING NUMBERS **4 9 2 0 8 3**
Prize structure - from right to left
1st Prize **4 9 2 0 8 3** Rs. 2,000,000/- **01**
2nd Prize **9 2 0 8 3** Rs. 100,000/- **11**
3rd Prize **2 0 8 3** Rs. 10,000/- **98**
4th Prize **0 8 3** Rs. 1,000/- **1,018**
5th Prize **8 3** Rs. 100/- **10,212**
6th Prize **3** Rs. 20/- **100,954**
Prize structure - from left to right
7th Prize **4 9 2 0 8** Rs. 10,000/- **10**
8th Prize **4 9 2 0** Rs. 1,000/- **96**
9th Prize **4 9 2** Rs. 100/- **989**
10th Prize **4 9** Rs. 50/- **10,235**
11th Prize **F** Rs. 20/- **40,409**
Value of prizes won in this draw - **Rs.9,753,110.00**
The Super Prize of next draw **Rs.31,510,416.00**
National Lotteries Board
32, Deshamanya N. W. J., Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01.
Tel: 011-4607000, 011-2324324, Fax: 011-4665616.

Passikudah

Small businesses dominate the tourism sector but are often overlooked in development programmes despite being the most likely to provide high-value experiences and products for visitors arriving in Batticaloa. The future of tourism, if it is to achieve Government policy objectives for improved local economic development and inclusion, requires the integration of small businesses to develop tourism value chains and economic development corridors



Kallady Beach

Rise of tourism in East

Tourism Skills Strategy and Action Plan 2020–2023 for Batticaloa District launched

Sunset seen from Unnichchai Tank in Batticaloa

M.A. PHAKURDEEN
Addalaichenal Group Correspondent

The new Tourism Skills Strategy and Action Plan 2020–2023 (SSAP 2) for the Batticaloa District was launched recently at the auditorium of the Batticaloa District Secretariat under the patronage of Government Agent Kalamathy Pathmarajah.

COVID-19 has created an unprecedented health challenge. Not only the Government but also donors, NGOs, foundations and the private sector are giving priority to the delivery of health and humanitarian assistance and immediate support towards the strengthening of fragile health systems globally. The pandemic is also a profound economic challenge. Global and National trades are disrupted or halted while household businesses and transnational corporations reached a crisis resulting in revenue losses, and high unemployment and poverty rate. The tourism industry has also been severely disrupted by the pandemic. It can recover and contribute to local economic development with the commitment of all stakeholders, particularly training providers, enterprise owners and managers, the workforce and Government policymakers.

Government Agent Pathmarajah, in her keynote address, said tourism development is an important component of the current Batticaloa District Development Plan since the district has greater potential for utilizing many natural resources which attract local and foreign tourists. The tourism industry in the district showed higher growth rate until 2018 and contributed to enterprise development and employment generation. However, the Easter Sunday attacks in 2019 and the current COVID-19 pandemic have negatively impacted on the tourist arrival nationally and thereby the industry has seen declining economic conditions.

"Therefore, it is appropriate to have a district strategic action plan in line with National plans to support the recovery and revival of the industry with the support of stakeholders," she said.

The Government Agent commended those who worked hard during the Skills for Inclusive Growth (S4IG) programme which was conducted with the financial assistance of the Australian Government and took an initiative to develop the Tourism Skills Strategy and Action Plan 2020–2023 in consultation with National and district-level stakeholders, focusing on skills training, employment generation, and destination development and encouragement for the participation of small and medium enterprises, and local communities. The inclusive nature of the Action Plan incorporates many actions on supporting the active participation of women and persons with disabilities in the industry and thereby giving equal opportunities to all.

She said, "It is my pleasure to be present at the launch of the Skills Strategic Action Plan which has been initiated and developed by the S4IG programme in collaboration with the Batticaloa District Secretariat to boost the tourism industry skills sector in the district. I appreciate the contribution of divisional secretariats, district chamber and trade associations, public and private training providers, local NGOs representing women and persons with disabilities and CBOs of the district in bringing in their inputs to the Action Plan."

"I wish the Ministries of Skills Development and Tourism would provide their fullest cooperation for the actions outlined in this Action Plan, especially on demand-oriented skills training (business-based and centre-based), post-training support services, destination development and tourism-related enterprise development. Let us work together to boost the economy of the Batticaloa District for the betterment of its people," she said.

S4IG Batticaloa District Manager Marina Umesh who briefed the objective of this programme, said, "Through the S4IG programme, we give priority to help manage and minimize the detrimental effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on people, their economic life and wellbeing. We believe tourism provides an opportunity to generate improved incomes for local communities across Sri Lanka through the provision of quality services and experiences for visitors interested in coming to Sri Lanka. Developing and marketing quality experiences and services is a key strategy through which visitors can enjoy Sri Lanka and obtain quality experiences, services, and products. This revenue can be used to generate local jobs and distribute tourism revenues across the island."

Small businesses dominate the tourism sector but are often overlooked in development programmes despite being the most likely to provide high-value experiences and products for visitors arriving in Batticaloa. The future of tourism, if it is to achieve Government policy objectives for improved local economic development and inclusion, requires the integration of small businesses to develop tourism value chains and economic development corridors. It is these small businesses that can employ



St. Mary's Cathedral, Batticaloa



The Action Plan being presented to participants.

local communities and ensure gender equity and improved social cohesion in Sri Lanka. These businesses need support to improve quality, to be adaptive and agile to be able to support the growth and potential of a vibrant visitor economy. This requires a quality and responsive skills development system and a network of training providers focused on local economic development and employment in Batticaloa.

This SSAP 2 has been developed

with the support of many training providers, industry associations, district planners and tourism-related enterprises who have committed to work with district planners and the Government to improve the skills development system in Sri Lanka to deliver more and better jobs and services to trainees and employers. The plan represents the repositioning and strengthening of local training providers to support employers in the tourism sector and ensure they obtain employable skills which should result in improved employment outcomes for trainees. The process has been guided and led by Dr. Sunil Chandrasiri, Consultant Labour Market Analyst from the Colombo University and R. Sivapragasam, S4IG Consultant supported by various stakeholders from local

Government, training providers and the private sector in the Batticaloa District.

This strategy includes a set of actions and priorities agreed by stakeholders which can be monitored and reported and can build the confidence of stakeholders to work together for local economic and inclusive growth outcomes. The Plan provides a quality analysis of data gathered and presents valuable insights from existing literature on skills development including key materials from the Ministries of Skills and Tourism. Importantly, the Plan provides strategies and actions that support women and persons with disabilities to gain access to diverse income-earning opportunities across the value chain. The focus on gender, persons with disabilities and the development of higher-level skills and micro- and small-scale enterprises reflects the Government policy framework that ensures access and opportunities for all citizens.

In 2018, the S4IG facilitated the development of the first-ever district level Tourism Skills Strategy Plan to generate jobs as well as to develop the tourism sector with the support of the Government, training providers and stakeholders in Batticaloa. It mainly focused on addressing severe issues emerged during the supply of skills and building institutional capacities of Government and private organizations involved in district level skills development implementation activities. The current document is an extension and revision of the plan launched in 2018 with the focus on promoting community-based tourism, E-Tourism interventions, Wellness Tourism, Capacity building of Travel Agents and Tour Operators through quality, relevant skills development.

"The S4IG programme is proud to work with the Government and industry stakeholders to improve planning for skills development and employment in the tourism sector and has developed an innovative approach to raising the profile and employment opportunities across the tourism value chain that can contribute towards local economic and inclusive growth outcomes in districts. The Tourism Skills Strategy and Action Plan 2020–2023 provides the framework for tourism enterprises to reshape the ways they have done the business and engaged in the visitor economy. Now it is the time to define a 'new' normal and reshape tourism services and products for higher-value visitors looking for unique and authentic experiences in Sri Lanka," S4IG Team Leader David Ablett stated.

This programme was also attended by Additional Government Agent S. Srikanth and other key training providers and tourism-related stakeholders.

This strategy includes a set of actions and priorities agreed by stakeholders which can be monitored and reported and can build the confidence of stakeholders to work together for local economic and inclusive growth outcomes. The Plan provides a quality analysis of data gathered and presents valuable insights from existing literature on skills development including key materials from the Ministries of Skills and Tourism

Kallady Bridge

The Dutch Fort

Brazil tops 4 mn COVID-19 cases

IPPR probe into origin of virus

Over 7,000 health care workers dead worldwide

BRAZIL: Brazil surpassed four million coronavirus cases on Thursday, as an international panel looking into the global response to the pandemic vowed to uncover how it was able to spread worldwide.

"This is a strong panel poised to ask the hard questions," said former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, co-chair of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR), which will take over the heavily criticized World Health Organization-led response.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International said more than 7,000 health care workers have died of the virus worldwide, including more than 1,300 in Mexico alone, the most for any country.

Brazil topped four million cases with 124,600 deaths, second only to the United States.

There were almost 44,000 new cases over the previous 24 hours alone, and 834 fatalities. However, some experts saw a silver lining in the statistics – the South American giant could be on the verge of improvement.

"In the last two months, we have seen a curve that mixes regions that are increasing, with others that are decreasing," said Paulo Lotufo, professor of epidemiology at the University of Sao Paulo, pointing to spikes in the south and center-west, while cases were falling in the major cities of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, as well as in the north.

But experts warned the situation could suddenly worsen again if local and regional governments give in to pressure from business groups to reopen the economy too soon, and if social distancing measures are abandoned.

As the death toll rose, the IPPR said its



Doctors at the University of Sao Paulo Clinical Hospital in Brazil look at tomography images of lungs of virus victims in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

members would have unfettered access to the WHO's files. The WHO "made it clear that their files are an open book. Anything we want

see, we see," said former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, who co-heads the panel with Sirleaf.

"We can't count on it being another cen-

tury until a pandemic like this comes around," Clark said. Virus disruptions and travel restrictions have played havoc on the global economy. -AFP

FACEBOOK to ban new political ads on cusp of U.S. ELECTION



Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said he fears "an increased risk of civil unrest" after the vote on November 3

US: Facebook said Thursday it will ban new political advertising the week before the US election, one of its most sweeping moves yet against disinformation as CEO Mark Zuckerberg warned of a "risk of civil unrest" after the vote.

The social media giant vowed to fact check premature claims of victory, stating that if a candidate tries to declare himself the winner before final votes are tallied "we'll add a label to their posts directing people to the official results."

The moves follow sharp criticism of Facebook's handling of the 2016 Presidential election, when it failed to restrict disinformation from Russian operatives that spread conspiracy theories and discouraged voting in some cases.

The US is gearing up for what is expected to be a bruising campaign season against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic and mass protests for racial justice that have led to violent conflict in some cities between civil rights groups and armed right-wing vigilantes.

Zuckerberg has long favoured a largely hands-off approach to candidate statements, but he said a new policy was needed for last-minute ads because "In the final days of an election there may not be enough time to contest new claims." The restrictions do not affect political ads posted more than a week before Election Day that have given opposing candidates enough opportunity to rebut inaccurate information. Zuckerberg said he and his wife donated \$300 million to groups working with election officials to provide protective gear or other resources to poll workers. -AFP

'Batman' star Pattinson tests positive for COVID

US: Filming for the latest Batman-centered film, starring Robert Pattinson, has been halted in Britain after the actor reportedly tested positive for the coronavirus, just days after shooting had resumed.

"A member of 'The Batman' production has tested positive for COVID-19, and is isolating in accordance with established protocols," Warner Bros. said in a statement to AFP. "Filming is temporarily paused."

The studio did not name the person infected or indicate when filming would resume.

Vanity Fair magazine,



'Batman' star Pattinson

however, said it had confirmed through "highly placed sources" that 34-year-old Pattinson was the sick cast member.

Pattinson's representation could not be immediately reached for comment.

Production for the new film – a dark, detective-style mystery take on the "Caped Crusader" – also had to shut down midway through production in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. - AFP

Britons brace for higher 'virus' taxes

UK: Britons face the prospect of higher taxes as the government looks to claw back vast sums spent during the pandemic – but the move risks harming economic recovery according to experts.

While Finance Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday vowed that there would not be "a horror show of tax rises with no end in sight", he stressed that the government "will need to do some difficult things".

Analysts said this was a clear signal that tax rises were on the way. Reports suggest that Sunak is mulling hikes to raise between £20 billion and £30 billion (\$26-\$39 billion, 22-33 billion euros).

This could be in the form of increasing income and corporation taxes, analysts said.

Helen Miller, deputy director at the Institute of Fiscal Studies, warned against acting too soon.

"Now is not the time to raise taxes," she said in response to Sunak's tax-raising signals.

Sunak, whose official title is Chancellor of the Exchequer, warned however that the state cannot "simply borrow" its way out of the current financial hole.

British government debt has exceeded £2 trillion for the first time following massive state borrowing as the coronavirus pandemic pushed the UK economy into a record recession.

That is equivalent to more than 100 percent of the country's annual gross domestic product, or total economic output, for the first time since 1961. - AFP



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak (L) and Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

MADRID builds NEW HOSPITAL for SECOND COVID-19 WAVE

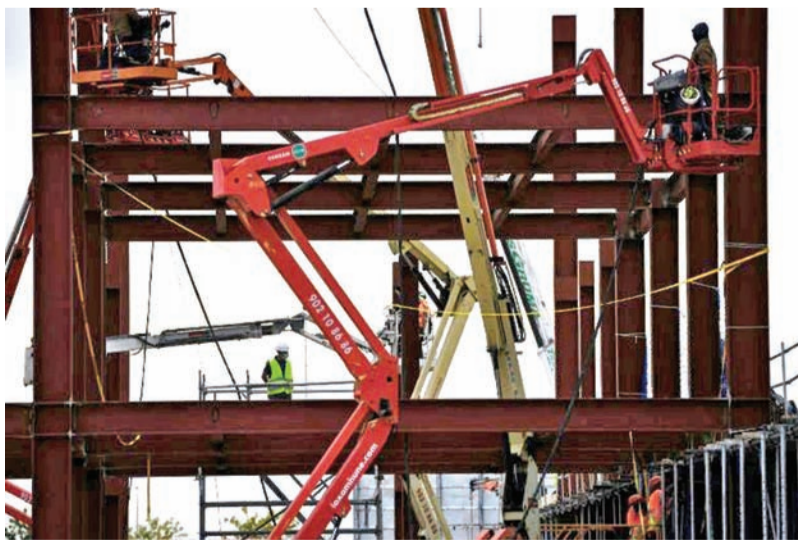
SPAIN: Near Madrid airport, an army of cranes works round the clock to build a new pandemic hospital which is expected to open in November.

But a second wave of the COVID-19 outbreak is already under way in Spain, straining the capital's public health care system.

Around 400 builders have been working round the clock since July to build the 45,000-square-metre (484,000-square-foot) Isabel Zenda hospital, which will be able to care for over 1,000 patients during a health emergency.

The opening of the new hospital however will come too late to deal with a surge in infections in the Madrid region, which Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has called "worrying".

Spain was one of the hardest-hit countries when the coronavirus



Around 400 builders have been working round the clock since July to build the 45,000-square-metre (484,000-square-foot) Isabel Zenda hospital in Madrid.

struck Europe this year before a strict lockdown helped reduce the outbreak's spread.

But infections have surged since the lockdown measures were fully removed at the end of June, especially in Madrid, with

the rise in infections often linked to the return of nightlife and social gatherings.

COVID-19 patients already fill 16 percent of all hospital beds in Madrid, compared to just six percent nationwide. - AFP

Beirut rescuers detect 'heartbeat' in rubble one month after blast

LEBANON: Rescue workers dug through rubble in a wrecked district of Lebanon's capital Thursday in search of possible survivors from a mega-blast at the adjacent port one month ago, after scanners detected a pulse.

A sniffer dog used by Chilean rescuers on Wednesday night responded to a scent from the site of a collapsed building in the Gemmayzeh area, the city's Governor Marwan Abboud told reporters at the scene.

"There could be survivors," he said, explaining that scanners had detected a pulse, however faint the hope of finding anyone alive more than four weeks after the explosion.

"We hope someone will make it out alive," Abboud said.

Michel al-Mur of the Beirut Fire Department also said a pulse was detected about two metres (six feet) below the rubble.

"One person, according to



Rescuers look for a survivor under the rubble in Beirut.

the (thermal) camera, still has a pulse," Mur said.

The building has completely collapsed as a result of the blast that killed 191 people, wounded more than 6,500 others and destroyed swathes of Beirut. Seven people are still missing,

according to the Lebanese army.

Chilean rescuers, Lebanese civil defence teams and Beirut fire department workers were excavating the site.

Speaking to local broadcaster LBCL, a rescue worker said scanners had picked up a

respiratory rate of "19 breaths a minute".

Lebanon on Friday marked one month since the blast that authorities say was caused by a shipment of ammonium nitrate left to languish for years at Beirut's port. - AFP

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.

Name of the Company:
MINAMI TRADING (Pvt) Ltd
 Company Reg. No.: PV 131705
 Registered Address:
Seema Sahitha Matara Pessa
Karmikayange Samoopakara Samithiya,
Meera Road, Issadeen Town, Matara.
Company Secretaries

Mali junta Chief visits ousted President in hospital

MALI: Mali's junta Chief Colonel Assimi Goita visited the man he ousted, former President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in hospital on Thursday.

Keita, 75, was admitted to the private hospital on Tuesday after suffering what is called a transient ischaemic attack. The junta has said that Keita is

authorised to leave the country for medical care if need be. Keita was ousted two years into his second five-year term. Keita was forced out of office on August 18 by young

military officers who staged an uprising at a base near Bamako before heading into the city, where they seized Keita and other leaders. Meanwhile, former President

Keita left hospital on Thursday after being treated for a mini-stroke, sources said. Keita may now head to the United Arab Emirates for further treatment, they added. -AFP

BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND MAINTENANCE OF CCTV CAMERA SYSTEM TO COVER THE AREA OF ADMIN BUILDING AND MAIN ENTRANCE BUILDING AT SEETHAWAKA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE
CONTRACT NO. : BOI/SEPZ/ES/2020/23.09.041

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee 1 on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of CCTV Camera System to Cover the Area of Admin Building and Main Entrance Building at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, Avissawella.**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Accredited agents of manufacturers of CCTV Camera Systems who meet the qualification criteria are eligible to submit bids.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Office of Director (SEPZ), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, Avissawella, on Tele: 036-2231082 or Fax 036-2222046 and inspect bidding documents from the same address between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs during normal working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Director (SEPZ) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone from **03.09.2020 until 23.09.2020 between 0900 hrs. and 1500 hrs.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs 1000.00 + VAT** in cash to the Shroff at the Finance Department of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, Avissawella .
- Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate to reach the **Chairman, Procurement Committee 1 , C/o Director (SEPZ), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, Avissawella** on or before **1400 hrs. on 25.09.2020.** The contract number and the name should be written on the envelope containing the bid. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- All bids shall be valid up to **24.12.2020.**
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rupees Fifteen Thousand (Rs. 15,000/-). Bid Security shall be valid up to **22.01.2021.**
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1000 hrs. on 10.09.2020** at the office of Director (SEPZ) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone at Avissawella.

CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

Palestinian factions close ranks against Mideast initiative

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: Palestinian factions on Thursday staged a rare show of unity to underline their rejection of the US-backed normalisation deal between Israel and the UAE. "We cannot accept anyone speaking in our name. We have never allowed it, and we will not

allow it, ever," said President Mahmud Abbas at a meeting in the West Bank town of Ramallah beamed live by videoconference to a parallel meeting held at the Palestinian embassy in Beirut. "We will never accept the United States as the sole mediator for negotiations (with Isra-

el), and we will not accept its plan" for a peace settlement, said Abbas, calling for Palestinian "unity" in the face of Washington's strategy. The meeting was the first since 2013 bringing together Abbas, head of the mainstream Fatah party and West Bank-

based Palestinian Authority, and Islamist Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh - albeit virtually, rather than in the same room. Haniyeh, whose rival movement controls the Gaza Strip, also called for a united front, via videoconference from Beirut. -AFP

Ibex return to French Pyrenees

FRANCE: With a bumper litter of new kids, the recently introduced ibex population in the French Pyrenees is thriving more than a century after the native species of wild goats was wiped out in France.

Officials have counted 70 newborn ibex this year at the Pyrenees National Park (PNP) and nearby Ariege Regional Park in the craggy mountains that separate France and Spain.

The French population now stands at some 400 animals, though they are not the original Pyrenean ibex, the last two of which in France were shot and killed in 1910.

The Pyrenean ibex became totally extinct in 2000, when the last known female was found dead on the Spanish side.

The new goats are Western Spanish ibex, another subspecies of the Iberian ibex that began to be brought over from a Spanish reserve in 2014.

Recognisable by their long, curving horns, the ibex can eas-

ily scamper up cliffs in search of grass, leaves and moss.

"In relation to the initial goal of establishing a viable core population, for now we can say the operation has been a success," Jerome Lafitte, head of fauna operations at the Pyrenees park, told AFP.

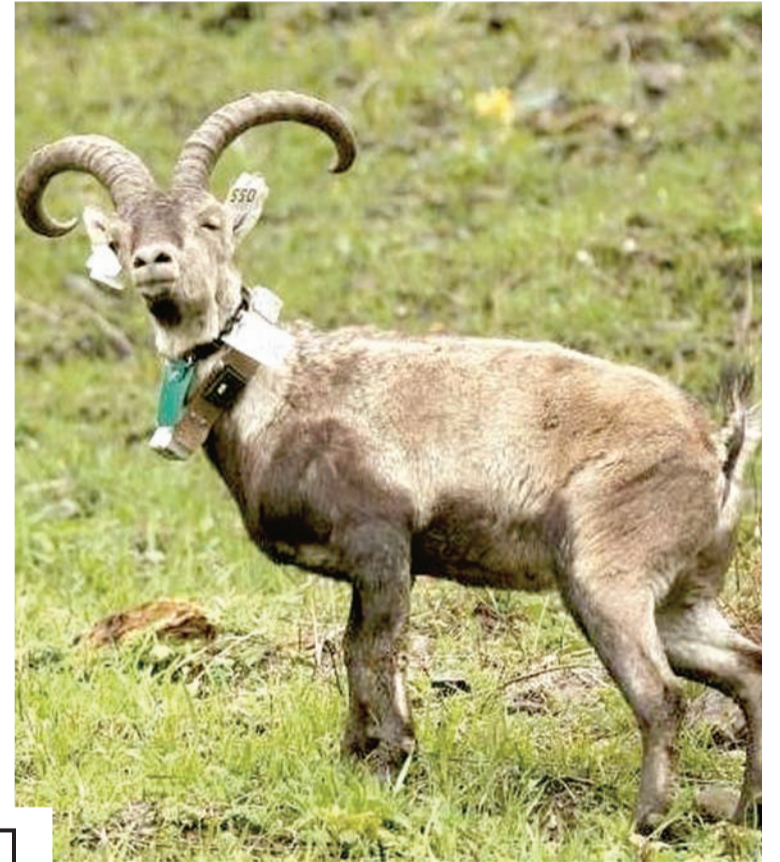
For Matthieu Cruege, director of the Ariege park: "These are majestic animals, and it really is exciting when you're able to see them. The ibex really adds to the mountain tourism industry."

New introductions are planned this fall in the Aspe valley closer to the Atlantic Ocean, while next year officials will attempt to diversify the genetic pool by adding ibex from other areas.

"We'll have to wait another 30 years to see ibex all across the Pyrenees," said Jean-Paul Crampe, a member of the PNP's scientific committee.

"It's a popular species - and it's much easier to re-introduce than bears or wolves," he said.

-AFP



An ibex shortly after its release in the Pyrenees National Park in southern France in April 2019.

Invitation for Bids

Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Rural Development

Southern Provincial Council

Amending the Invitation for Bids which appeared on 20th August 2020 regarding above

Please note that para 01 of the said advertisement must be amended as follows:

- Sealed bids will be received by the Chairman of the Procurement Committee, Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, rural Development of the Southern Province located on the 3rd floor of the "Dakshinapaya", Labuduwa, Galle from qualified and eligible bidders registered within the Southern Province for the project of **"Constructing for roof of the Multi Purpose Service Centre at Narigama, Hikkaduwa"**.
- Other information in the advertisement remains unchanged.

Ranjith Yapa,
Secretary,
Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Rural Development,
3rd Floor, Dakshinapaya, Labuduwa,
Galle.

OPCW voices 'grave concern' over Navalny case

THE NETHERLANDS: The head of the world chemical arms watchdog expressed "grave concern" on Thursday after Germany said Russian opposition

leader Alexei Navalny had been poisoned with the nerve agent Novichok.

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Director-General Fernando Arias added that the Hague-based body was ready to help any member country that asked for its assistance. "Under the Chemical Weapons Convention, any poisoning of an individual through the use of a nerve agent is considered a use of chemical weapons. Such an allegation is a matter of grave concern," Arias said in a statement.

The OPCW chief added that the "use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances" was "reprehensible and wholly contrary to the legal norms established by the international community." "The OPCW continues to monitor the situation and stands ready to engage with and to assist any states parties that may request its assistance," Arias added.

Germany said on Wednesday that it was going to contact the chemical weapons watchdog about the case but did not say if it would seek its assistance. -AFP

Geological Survey & Mines Bureau

Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment



Obtaining Office Space on Rent or Lease for Matara Regional Office

It is required to obtain a building on rent or lease to maintain the Matara Regional Office of this Bureau. The said building should fulfil the following requirements :

- ✓ Should be a building having obtained the due approval of the relevant local authority.
- ✓ The area of the building should be above 2500 sq. ft.
- ✓ Should contain a minimum of 04 rooms.
- ✓ Should contain 02 inner toilets and at least 01 outside
- ✓ Should have tap water facilities and electricity
- ✓ Should be situated facing a main road where public transport is functioning from the Matara town limits and within a 02 kilometre (two) limit
- ✓ Should contain either a security fence or a wall with a gate
- ✓ Have space to park at least 03 vehicles
- ✓ The space required for the office should entirely be reserved for the office only and cannot be used for any other purpose

Quotations, the relevant cover marked **"Quotations for obtaining a building for Matara Regional Office on rent or lease"** at the left side top corner along with a copy each of the Deed and Plan of the place and owner's contact numbers, should either be sent by registered post to the undermentioned address or placed in the Tender Box kept at the Admin Section of the Head Office, to be received at or before **2.00 p.m. on 18.09.2020.** Tenderer or one of his authorized representatives can be present at the tender opening.

N.B.

- 1.) It will be the responsibility of the owner of the building to insure it against fire/burglary and disasters when it is given on either lease or rent, which is selected from among the applications received.
- 2.) The quotations submitted by the owners of the relevant buildings will be submitted for government valuation again.

Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Geological Survey & Mines Bureau,
No. 569,
Epitamulla Road,
Pitakotte.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES & AQUATIC RESOURCES

INVITATION FOR BIDS

SALE OF VEHICLES REMOVED FROM USE

Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources invites sealed Bids for the purchase and removal of following vehicles removed from use.

| Lot No. | Description | Diesel / Petrol | Non-Refundable Tender Form Fee (Rs.) | Refundable Tender Deposit (Rs.) |
|---------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 01. | Vehicle No. GE-8942 Mitsubishi Double Cab 2000 | Diesel | 1000/= | 10,000/= |
| 02. | Vehicle No. 61-6620 Toyota Jeep - 1993 | Diesel | 1000/= | 10,000/= |
| 03. | Vehicle No. PB-8059 Micro Jeep - 2009 | Diesel | 1000/= | 10,000/= |

01. A Bidder can submit Bids for all three lots and Bid documents could be obtained from 07.09.2020 to 11.09.2020 on office days between 09.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. upon payment of the non-refundable fee as per above in cash to the Shroff of Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. The above vehicle kept at the premises of Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources could be inspected from 07.09.2020 to 11.09.2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

02. Refundable deposit should be paid in cash to the Shroff of this Department and the copy of the receipt should be submitted along with Bids.

03. Receiving of Bids will be closed at 10.00 a.m. on 15.09.2020. Bids should be deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Room of Accountant (Supplies), 3rd Floor of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources before the scheduled time. The vehicle number should be mentioned on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing Bids.

The address to which Bids should be submitted.

Director General,
03rd Floor, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources,
Maligawatte, Colombo 10.

Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 15.09.2020 and Bidders or their authorized representative could be present at the time. The successful Bidders will be declared on the day itself and they should pay 25% of the Bid value of the vehicle by cash to the Shroff the same day and the balance should be paid in cash within 07 days and remove the vehicle.

The decision of Director General of Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources will be final.

Further details could be obtained from Chief Accountant of this Department - Telephone 0112438291.

Ginige Prasanna Janaka Kumara,
Director General

