



50 % OF PHARMACEUTICALS TO BE PRODUCED LOCALLY



RS.60 BN ANNUAL SAVINGS

PHARMACEUTICAL INVESTMENT ZONE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN HAMBANTOTA

A PHARMACEUTICAL CITY FOR LOCAL INVESTORS

The Government plans to produce 50% of the country's requirement of pharmaceuticals locally within the next three years. The objective is to provide high-quality medicine to the public and the foreign market as well, at affordable prices. All products are made in accordance with the recommendations and standards of the World Health Organization.

Currently, 85 percent of the country's drug requirement is met through imports at an annual cost of Rs.130 billion. Producing pharmaceuticals locally will pave the way to save Rs.60 billion annually. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said that the country will be able to achieve these goals. The President made these remarks at a discussion held at the

Presidential Secretariat on Thursday regarding the future plans of the State Ministry of Pharmaceutical Production, Supply and Regulation, the President's Media Division said in a statement. Sri Lanka is currently the largest importer of drugs in the Asian region. President Rajapaksa stressing that it was high time to turn the

tables added that large scale local investors are willing to contribute to this effort. An Investment Zone of 400 acres will be established in the Hambantota Industrial Zone for manufacturing medicine targeting the global market. The world's topmost pharmaceutical companies have already expressed their inclination to

join this venture. There is a huge demand for pharmaceuticals in the African and Southeast Asian region and it is also a goal to grab those market opportunities. The Government is committed to improve the public sector as well as to promote the entrepreneurs in the private sector. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Number of National Schools to be increased to 1,000

A decision was taken to increase the number of National Schools to 1,000 and provide equal facilities to every School, the President's Media Division said. Issuing a statement, the PMD said several decisions pertaining to the welfare of the public and the progress of society were taken during a meeting between President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and all State Ministers at the Presidential Secretariat on Thursday (10). "Increasing the number of National Schools to 1,000 in the country is one such decision. Some of the existing National Schools are there only in name. They lack

adequate facilities. These schools will also be developed expeditiously," the statement said. During the meeting between the President and the State Ministers it was decided to appoint District Educational Committees for the development of the school network. A decision was also taken to improve coordination between zonal offices and divisional offices. The opportunity to contribute to any activity that will ensure the progress of the school system except the transfer of teachers and admission of students is available for politicians. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

World Bank supports Sri Lanka With \$56 mn to mitigate COVID-19 impacts



The World Bank has reallocated \$56 million from ongoing projects in Sri Lanka to protect the most vulnerable in the agriculture sector, improve COVID-19 protection measures on public transport, facilitate tele-education for school children, and provide digital solutions to improve delivery of public services. This new financing complements the \$128.6 million Sri Lanka COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Project, which was approved on April 2.

"We have been working closely with the Government of Sri Lanka to support its COVID-19 emergency response and prepare for a resilient recovery," said the World Bank Country Director for Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka Faris H. Hadad-Zervos.

"We're moving fast to reallocate financing from existing projects to improve food security and children's education, ensure that people can use public transit without getting sick, and harness digital solutions to continue delivering public services."

The financing will help poor and vulnerable farming households purchase seeds and rehabilitate storage facilities to help ensure food security. It will help facilitate learning at home by tele-education and e-learning for school children, especially in rural, smaller and under-resourced schools. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was the Chief Guest at the 'Capping Ceremony' of 298 newly recruited nurses to the State health sector who passed out from the Colombo Nursing School. The Prime Minister presenting a medal to one of the nurses during the ceremony held at Temple Trees yesterday. *Picture by Sulochana Gamage*

Country's excellent healthcare service helped contain COVID-19 pandemic - PM

Sri Lanka's excellent healthcare service and the healthcare workers were the main reason behind the country's success against the deadly COVID - 19 pandemic, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said yesterday.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the 'capping ceremony' of 298 newly recruited nurses to the State health

sector who passed from the Colombo Nursing School. Addressing the gathering at the event held at Temple Trees, the Prime Minister said "we know that the whole world is going through a difficult period due to the pandemic. But I am proud to say that if we have achieved success in controlling this deadly COVID - 19 pandemic, it

is mainly due to the country's excellent healthcare service". The Prime Minister also stated that the new government is committed to safeguarding the free health service of the country. "You may remember that every time we came to power we worked to improve the health service in this country. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

PCoI probing alleged political victimization reveals

Yahapalana 'Anti-Corruption Committee' wasted over Rs.33 mn

ROSHAN THUSHARA and DILSHAN THARAKA

The 'Anti-Corruption Committee', which was set up with the approval of the Cabinet of the Yahapalana Government to look into corruption, has wasted Rs.33,714,807.59 million of government money by committing large scale corruption for 29 months.

This was revealed before the Presidential of Inquiry investigations allegations of political victimization (PCoI) yesterday.

Further, it was revealed that the Anti-Corruption Committee which was set up by former Prime Minister

Ranil Wickremesinghe on January 21, 2015 has paid Rs. 22, 714, 079.27 million to 44 officers who worked for the Anti-Corruption Commission from February 2015 to June 2017.

Evidence also showed that the money was spent on telephones, electricity, overtime, vehicles, fuel, stationery and other expenses.

Accordingly, the Commission has instructed officials of the Prime Minister's Office to expose to the public the massive corruption that established an Anti-Corruption Commission to look into corruption. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Measures to increase renewable energy contribution

SHAVINI MADHARA

State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Generation Project Development Duminda Dissanayake emphasized that all necessary steps will be taken to increase the renewable energy contribution of the National Grid to 80% by 2030.

This was stated by the Minister during a meeting with the 10 member Committee of Experts appointed to look into the steps to be taken to achieve the Renewable Energy Development Goals by 2030.

Secretary to the Ministry of Power and Energy Wasantha Perera, Secretary to State Hemantha Samarakoon and several senior Ministry officials were present on this occasion.

The Committee members said that since renewable sources are



not always uniform and therefore special attention should be taken in this regard.

They also told the Minister that special attention should be paid to whether the existing renewable sources in Sri Lanka are sufficient to meet the growing demand for electricity. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Detection of illegal firearms

Cash rewards for Police informants increased

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Police have increased the amounts paid as rewards to Police officers and private informants assisting in operations to arrest suspects with illegal firearms.

"Accordingly, Police officers and private informants will be rewarded with Rs.250,000 each for providing information which leads to the detection of a T-56 firearm and arrest of a suspect. If a T-56 firearm is found without a suspect, a Police officer will be paid Rs.200,000 and a private informant Rs.250,000," Police said.

In addition, the reward money for repeater guns, ammunition pistols, revolvers, firearms and hand grenades has been increased. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Guilty plea without client's knowledge

CA orders discharge of accused

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal has set aside an order made by the Homagama High Court and Kesbewa Magistrate's Court over a motor accident following a situation where an Attorney-at-Law who had appeared for the accused had pleaded guilty without the instructions of his client.

Accordingly, the Court of Appeal two-judge-Bench comprising Kumuduni Wickremasinghe and Devika Abayratne ordered the discharge of the accused from charges levelled against him. Kitnan Rajendran of Hatton is the accused of the motor accident that had taken place in Piliyandala-Colombo bus route on July 7, 2019.

The said accident was a collision of a lorry with a motorbike and due to the accident the motorcyclist was severely injured and succumbed to his injuries while being taken to the hospital. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Arumugam Thondaman boldly espoused plight of plantation workers - Jeewan Thondaman

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Everyone understands that Arumugam Thondaman had boldly espoused the plight of the plantation workers in Parliament and in international forums, said his son Estate Housing and Community Infrastructure Facilities State Minister Jeewan Thondaman concluding

the condolence motion on his father in Parliament yesterday.

"Not only did he demand better wages for estate workers, he also demanded better housing and he had demanded a better stand for estate workers in mainstream society. Eventually, this has led to the plantation community getting involved **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Death sentence for drug peddler

DILSHAN THARAKA

A person who was found guilty of possessing and peddling around 30g of heroin was sentenced to death by the Colombo High Court on Thursday.

The accused, Nuwan Sanjeewa (28), a resident of the Mattakkuliya area in Colombo was arrested with 29.71g of heroin in his possession by the Ports Anti-Corruption Division on or about April 16, 2018 from the Inguru Kade Junction area in Colombo.

When the case was taken up before the Colombo High Court Judge, he issued the verdict after a lengthy trial while observing that the prosecution had proved the case beyond reasonable doubt.

Considering the facts, the Colombo High Court sentenced the accused to death.

Fifteen Boossa prisoners end hunger strike

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

One third of the remand-prisoners on hunger strike at Boossa high security prison ended their strike yesterday after the prison authorities listened to their demands and explained to them why some of their demands including allowing them to use personal phones in prisons cannot be allowed within the legal framework.

Commissioner General of Prisons Thushara Upuldeniya yesterday told the *Daily News* that the prison authorities hope that the other prisoners will follow suit eventually once they understand the situation. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

BASL appoints Special Committee to study 20A

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has appointed a Special Committee to study and submit views on the proposed 20th Amendment to the Constitution.

Issuing a press release, BASL Secretary Rajeev Amarasuriya stated that BASL appointed a Special Committee comprising Senior



Members of the BASL to study the Bill and submit their views to be taken up by the Executive Committee and the Bar Council for further action.

"The Committee will also address the many areas in the Constitution which require consideration on the need for further amendment in order to address law's delays and **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Main railway stations to be modernised

IRANGIKA RANGE

Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge said yesterday that the main railway stations across the country including the Colombo Fort Railway Station will be modernized with improved facilities to provide comfortable and safe train journeys for local as well as foreign commuters. The Minister was speaking dur-

ing the inspection tour of the Colombo Fort Railway Station recently.

The Minister said that attention has been paid to implement a joint programme with the support of the Trade Ministry to establish service areas at railway stations to purchase food, goods and services required by local and foreign travelers.

It was decided to repair railway carriages to provide a better service. The Minister further said the Colombo Fort and four other railway stations will be modernised as a pilot project.

The Minister said that by increasing the number of trains, more people will be able to travel by the Kelani Valley Railway Line.

Integrated Govt. mechanism vital – Defence Secretary

Public Administration, Planning Services, Accounting Service, Tri-Forces, Police, Prisons Customs etc. should be integrated into a unique government mechanism system while eliminating corruption in the system, Defence Secretary Maj. Gen. (Retd) Kamal Gunaratne said, yesterday (11).

While emphasising on creating a clear government administrative mechanism he said people's expectations must be achieved efficiently and speedily.

Stating on his new appointment as the State Ministry's Secretary in addition to the present duties he said this new assignment was to integrate the government mechanism to deliver an efficient service to the people.

Addressing Sri Lanka Administrative Service officials at the Water's

Edge Hotel, Battaramulla, he said he was expecting to visit the abandoned Bogambara Prison in Kandy to look into the possibility of resuming its operations again to the former standard to cater the increasing number of prisoners.

He said according to Commissioner General of Prisons Thushara Upuldeniya the number of prisoners in jails for drug related offences has exceeded 30,000.

Requesting not to misinterpret that only the drug users are attested while the drug lords are being scot free he said the law enforcement authorities are working to nab all the levels of drug peddling as envisioned by the President in his election manifesto.

Recalling one of his recent visits to a rural village in Dambulla area, he said villagers had handed over more

than 10 letters to the nearest Army camp where he was staying that night requesting him to get that village under his purview to curb drug menace.

"General public must aware of daily drugs seizures by law enforcement authorities because then they would feel that they are now safe," he said.

Maj. Gen. Gunaratne said their efforts were not fruitful if there was no room for people to rejoice the freedom in the country.

Stating on recently doused fire on MT New Diamond the Defence Secretary said it was one of the long term effecting disasters, had the ship been wrecked by the fire.

"However all local and foreign stakeholders were able to douse the fire and were able to manage the situation effectively," he added.

50 % of pharmaceuticals to be produced... From Page 01

The President made an open invitation to all the pharmaceutical importers to invest in manufacturing medicine locally.

An Investment Zone for local investors will be established in a 100-acre land at Oyamaduwuwa, Anuradhapura. Twenty-five medium scale businessmen are prepared to invest a sum of US\$ 300 million in this endeavour. A considerable improvement is evident in local pharmaceutical production owing to the efforts of the incumbent government. It has been revealed that currently there is no shortage of essential medicine within the country. Producing a new medicine each month

had already been commenced. The target is to elevate this practice in the future to one new medicine every fortnight.

It takes nearly a year to process the documents of registration in pharmaceutical manufacture. The President highlighted the significance of making legal amendments to expedite this process immediately. It was decided to establish a new unit within the Medicines Regulatory Authority to address issues including the registration of locally manufactured pharmaceuticals.

In addition, it was also discussed to set up 100 pharmacies in islandwide network of Sathosa and Coop Super-

markets to sell medicine manufactured by the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka (SPC). Moreover, a procedure to supply pharmaceutical requirements of the households to their doorstep was taken into consideration as well.

Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi, State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana, Head of the Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival Basil Rajapaksa, Secretary to the President P.B. Jayasundera, officials of the Cabinet and State Ministries, Line Institutes and representatives from pharmaceutical companies were present at the discussion.

Country's excellent healthcare service helped contain... From Page 01

We looked at the quality of medical and nursing staff, as well as the infrastructure of hospitals and training schools," the Prime Minister said.

"New hospitals were built in areas where new hospitals had to be built. However, this work was not done properly during the last government's period. As a result, the health service faced various difficulties. As a result the people of the country were affected," the Prime Minister added.

Prime Minister Rajapaksa said in this backdrop an overwhelming majority in the country

had given the government a mandate to overcome those difficulties and rectify anomalies and said he hoped all would give support to take that mandate on the right path.

"The nursing profession is a respected occupation not only in our country but in the whole world. From the moment you join a hospital service, your knowledge as well as behavior will play a crucial role in healing a patient," the PM said.

The Prime Minister also recalled the nursing history in the country while adding that the Colombo Nursing School,

a pioneering nursing school in the country had contributed in producing thousands of nurses since 1939.

He also pointed out that the government has already upgraded nursing upto degree level and the government hopes to upgrade the three year diploma to a four year degree.

"We are also developing a nursing training system that will allow you to improve your knowledge of English and work overseas in line with international standards. You too will be fortunate to be a part of it," the Prime Minister added.

In addition, the Premier said the government was taking steps to develop the infrastructure of nursing training schools throughout the country. "We will take steps to address the shortcomings in laboratory, building and hostel facilities, especially in nursing schools. Through all this, the government hopes to protect the free health service," he added.

Public Service United Nurses Union President Ven. Muruththettuwa Ananda Thera and Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi too were present.

SLMC's delisting of three prominent State Universities

Russian Govt. expresses serious concerns

CHAMINDA PERERA and MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

The Russian Government has expressed serious concerns over the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) decision to delist three prominent State Universities including world renowned Patrice Lumumba University.

The Russian Government has been awarding Sri Lanka with scholarships from State universities since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations and thousands of Sri Lankan students have graduated from Universities of Soviet Union and Russian Federation since then. A Senior official of the Russian Cultural Centre who wished to be anonymous told the Daily News yesterday that the two countries had signed an agreement recognising the degrees offered by the Russian and Sri Lankan state universities.

He said over 1500 students who have excelled in the Advanced Level examinations are presently studying in Russia.

Sri Lanka and the Russian Federation have signed a number of agreements promoting almost all sectors including education since the establishment of diplomatic relations 60 years ago. The SLMC decided to delist three

prominent state universities, namely the People's Friendship University of Russia (Formerly known as Patrice Lumumba University), Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University and the Tver State Medical University.

SLMC sources said that this decision was taken following a thorough review. He said that the Council had arrived at this decision before the COVID-19 pandemic and the decision was announced at the SLMC Annual General Meeting in June.

Meanwhile, the Russian Centre in a media communique yesterday said that this decision has been taken by the SLMC without prior information despite the fact that the SMC held several meetings with the officials of these Russian Universities who visited Sri Lanka throughout the past years, and regular payments to the SLMC were made by the universities in order to maintain the membership.

"The Cultural Section of the Russian Embassy hopes that the SLMC's decision will not influence the practice of providing Russian State Scholarships to Sri Lankan citizens in future, causing a loss of opportunities to young individuals to pursue their higher education free of charge in prominent Russian universities," the statement said.

Number of National Schools to be increased... From Page 01

However, the President pointed out, it is only for the benefit of society and not for political interference. Attention was drawn during the meeting to appoint Acting Principals to fill existing vacancies in Principal Grades.

Teaching exams should be held once a year according to the Teacher Service regulations. The main reason for vacancies in Principal posts is due to the failure to conduct these examinations in a methodical manner.

It was also decided to explore the possibility of appointing competent and experienced teachers in schools as Acting Principals.

Flooding in urban areas during

the rainy season was another topic taken up for discussion. Even a minor shower would inundate the City of Colombo.

"We introduced a permanent solution for this problem. It was not operative during the last five years and the issue remains.

The responsibilities have been assigned to multiple institutes and it is one of the reasons for this failure," President Rajapaksa said while emphasizing the significance of avoiding such weaknesses and resolving these issues immediately.

The need to implement more effective measures aimed at controlling illicit drug trade while establishing Civil Defence Com-

mittees to assist the exercise of eradicating the drug menace were discussed in detail.

The President also pointed out the importance of a Public Service that can actively contribute to the country's development process while improving the efficiency of the service. Some officials are afraid to make decisions. This situation must be changed.

President Rajapaksa emphasized the need for politicians and government officials to work together in making the Public Service more efficient and streamlined. Secretary P.B. Jayasundera also participated in the discussion.

Arumugam Thondaman boldly espoused... From Page 01

with the mainstream society for which we are very grateful and for which we are very proud of," he added.

Jeewan Thondaman stated that his father's acumen and negotiating skills in concluding collective agreements between the Employers Federation of Ceylon and trade unions were thornful at times, but, he would always emerge as a victor.

"The reason being that he was not just a trade unionist. He was Arumugam Thondaman and he was known for his negotiating skills and the strategies he had followed. Apart from that he had a desire to somehow receive the Rs.1000 wage for the estate workers before his last breath. But, unfortunately he could not. But, we would continue the struggle and we believe that we will definitely receive the Rs.1000."

He also said that his father Aru-

mugam Thondaman had another dream of starting a university in the upcountry region. "I was extremely happy and overwhelmed with the motions today after having heard Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena making a pledge that he will definitely bring a university to the upcountry and we are hoping to start it off within this year," he said.

He also stated that his father Arumugam Thondaman's services was not only extended to the plantation sector.

"His services extended from the Sinhala villages to the North Eastern areas. He noted that that is why members from both the ruling and the opposition parties had spoken so highly of Arumugam Thondaman."

Jeewan Thondaman also noted that his father had maintained cordial relations with the Indian Government and also with Tamil Nadu politicians.

"He always acted as a bridge. Whenever a bilateral issue arose, Arumugam Thondaman would stand at the forefront of it and face it."

He thanked the Maha Sangha, clerics of Hindu, Muslim and Catholic and Christian faith, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa for not only being the leader of this country but also for being a good friend of his father. Jeewan Thondaman also thanked Basil Rajapaksa for standing by his family through thick and thin even after his father's demise.

He did not fail to thank the Tri-Forces, Police, public health and the media, all trade unions and political leaders, employer organisations, members of parliament and governors of all provinces and all those who had stood by his father Arumugam Thondaman and all those who stood by him.

Measures to increase renewable energy... From Page 01

Minister Duminda Dissanayake pointed out that the current direction of the Power Sector in Sri Lanka is towards

renewable resources and that in order to achieve the future development goals, we need to look at strategies that can

encourage renewable energy entrepreneurs as well as investors in the public sector.

Yahapalana 'Anti-Corruption Committee' wasted... From Page 01

The Commission recalled the testimony of Ranil Wickremesinghe and Mangala Samaraweera who testified before the Commission recently that the Anti-Corruption Office was an institution with no legal status and did not know whether such an office was operational.

The commission also said that former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and former Minister Mangala Samaraweera should know whether such an office was functioning at Temple Trees.

According to the sub-Cabinet report in Ranil Wickremesinghe's Cabinet Memorandum, the Commission's Presiding Judge, former Supreme Court

Justice Upali Abeyratne stated that there was nothing wrong with publishing this massive corruption in the media as it was one of the functions of the media to publish office activities.

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

The Commission requested him to

submit the documents and the names of the persons who have been paid.

Accordingly, Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister's office Ganesh Dharmawardena and Chief Financial Officer W.A. Sarath Kumara produced these financial reports to the Commission.

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

CA orders discharge... From Page 01

The charge sheet in the Magistrate's Court contained five counts as follows: culpable homicide not amounting to murder, failure to avoid an accident, reckless driving, driving under the influence of liquor and driving a vehicle which is not roadworthy.

The accused pleaded not guilty for each and every count and the case was fixed for trial. When the case was fixed for trial, the Attorney-at-Law on behalf of the accused pleaded guilty for the aforementioned charges. The accused alleged that the Attorney-at-Law appeared for him had pleaded guilty without the instructions of the accused. Also the accused submitted that he is a native Tamil Language speaker and was unable to understand the discussion in Sinhala between the Magistrate and the Attorney-at-Law. Soon after the particular incident the accused has filed an Affidavit with the instructions of another Attorney-at-Law stating that the plea of guilty was without the knowledge of the accused.

However, the Keshwera Additional Magistrate rejected the application and proceeded to convict the accused and sentenced by his order dated 29.07.2019. Being aggrieved by the said order of the Additional Magistrate, the accused filed a revision application in the Provincial High Court of Homagama and the High Court Judge of Homagama refused to issue notice to the Respondents by his order dated 04.09.2019. Being aggrieved by the said order the accused filed this revision application before the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal observed that in terms of Section 182 (2) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Magistrate should read the Charge to the Accused and ask him whether he has any cause to show as to why he should not be convicted. In response to it, if the accused makes a statement which amounts to an unqualified admission that he is guilty of the offence which he is accused of, his statement shall be recorded then and there in the same words used by him. Thereafter, the Magistrate shall record a verdict of guilt and pass the sentence upon him according to law and shall record such sentence in light of Section 183.

"When considering the above mentioned sections, it is evident that the Magistrate should record what the accused had stated in his own words. Specially, a plea of guilt should come from the mouth of the accused person and not the Attorney-at-Law," the Court of Appeal observed.

The Court of Appeal further observed that the accused promptly took actions to submit an affidavit stating that such plea of guilty was without his knowledge.

Accordingly, the Court of Appeal ordered to set aside orders of the Homagama High Court dated 04.09.2019 and the order of the Additional Magistrate of Keshwera dated 02.07.2019. The accused was ordered to be discharged. The Court of Appeal Registrar was directed to send copies of the orders to the relevant High Court and the Magistrate's Court with the case record.

Counsel Ashan Nanayakkara and Subhani Abeysekere instructed by Anil Bandara appeared for the Accused. Senior State Counsel Maheshika Silva appeared for the respondents.

BASL appoints Special... From Page 01

other related matters affecting the administration of Justice," the BASL Secretary said

The Committee will include, among others, Nihal Jayamanne PC (Chairman), Ikram Mohamed PC, M.M. Zuhair PC, L.M.K. Arulanandam PC, Nihal Jayawardena PC, Nalin Ladduwahetty PC, Maithri Wickramasinghe PC, Anura Meddegoda PC, Mohan Weerakoon PC, S.T. Jayanaga PC, Priyal Wijayaweera PC, Maurapada Gunawansa PC, Attorney-at-law Ravi Algama and Shantha Jayawardena as the Convenor.

Cash rewards for Police... From Page 01

Police continue to search for suspects with illegal firearms and ammunition. However, some of the crimes reported in the past indicate that illegal firearms and grenades are still circulating.

Therefore, under these circumstances, such operations will be further expanded to establish the rule of law and to create a peaceful environment in which the public can live without fear of crime.

Accordingly, the IGP has decided to increase the value of the prize money already paid to them by the Police Gift Fund to encourage Police officers who arrest suspects with illegal weapons.

Fifteen Boossa... From Page 01

"Of course we have not deprived them of any facility," he said.

"Of about 45 prisoners who were on strike since Thursday morning, 15 have abandoned their protest," he said.

According to Boossa Prisons sources some prisoners with criminal backgrounds, such as Kanjipani Imran, Podi Lassie, Kosgoda Tharaka, and Wele Suda were on strike at the time this story went to press.

Upuldeniya said, about thirty prisoners among them, some with criminal records, are still refusing to take food.

"We hope that they will understand the situation and drop their strike as the others have done," he said.

Asked what are the demands that the Prison Authorities did not grant, Upuldeniya said, "there was a demand from them that the prison officers refrain from inspecting them and that their monthly allowance, which they pay in prison canteens for short meals, be increased from the current Rs.2000 to Rs.8000."

We explained to them that we are giving them food on a daily basis, and that meeting these requirements is beyond our legal competence.

We asked the Commissioner General of Prisons if any of these prisoners had posed any death threats as such to prison officials, he said nothing of the kind that was unusual.

World Bank supports Sri Lanka... From Page 01

It will also help create a safe and hygienic school environment for students once in-person lessons resume.

The financing will also help ensure that essential public transport is disinfected and equipped with hand sanitizers, protective gear and body temperature screening equipment, and also support a digital document management system to improve public services to

improve collaboration across government using digital technology and video conferencing to facilitate work from home.

These funds were made available by activating the Contingency Emergency Response Components (CERC) of four active projects. CERCs allow funds to be reallocated from existing projects to address emergency response needs. Funds for a total amount

of \$56 Million were reallocated with \$17 million from the Local Development Support Project (LDSP), \$15 million from the General Education Modernization Project (GEMP), \$9 million from the Sri Lanka Primary Healthcare System Strengthening Project (PHSSP) and \$15 million from the Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project (CSIAP).

President clarifies fallacies on 20A and MP Premalal



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Thursday responded to comments by the Opposition and its allies on the 20th Amendment to the Constitution and the court ruling on Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna Ratnapura District Parliamentarian Premalal Gunasekara.

Referring to the allegations by the Opposition during a meeting with State Ministers held at the

Presidential Secretariat, President Rajapaksa said the objective of the 20th Amendment to the Constitution is to remove the obstacles imposed by the 19th Amendment and move forward, the President's Media Division said in a statement.

"Everything cannot be changed overnight. It takes a long time. Various views have been expressed. We want to retain

some of the features of the 19th Amendment. The primary objective is to keep the tenure of the President unchanged and to move forward," President Rajapaksa explained.

Responding to the accusations made by the Opposition regarding the member of Parliament Premalal Jayasekera, President Rajapaksa emphasized that neither he nor the Prime Minister did inter-

vene in the procedures of the court.

"If the intention was to influence in this regard it should have been done at the High Court stage. Something of this nature never occurred. The verdict was given by the judge who was appointed by the Constitutional Council. Members of the Constitutional Council included personnel from Opposition such as Karu

Jayasuriya, Sajith Premadasa and Thalatha Athukorala. One decision is acceptable for the opposition while the other is not," the President said.

The President observed that the Judge of the Court of Appeal was also appointed by the Constitutional Council itself and added that the Opposition is running a false propaganda campaign in this regard.

PM tells producers: Provide eggs at a fixed wholesale price

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday said he had instructed the Minister of Education to look into the possibility of providing an egg daily to all School children to improve their nutritional status.

The Prime Minister stated this at a meeting with the Bakery Owners' Association and the Egg Producers' Association at his official residence at Wijerama Mawatha, according to a statement issued by the Prime Ministers Media Division.

The Bakery Producers' Association briefed the Prime Minister on the impact of egg prices on bakery products and explained the high cost of egg production.

The Egg Producers' Association emphasized at this meeting that it is possible to provide eggs at a fixed wholesale price to all bakeries in the island.



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa meeting representatives of the Bakery Owners' Association and Egg Producers' Association at his official residence at Wijerama Mawatha.

Picture courtesy Prime Minister's Media Division

Accordingly, the Prime Minister informed the delegates to reach an agreement between the two associations in a manner which helps to provide relief to the consumers.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister instructed the Ministers in charge of

the subjects to reduce the price of baby chicks to between Rs. 175-200 and to intervene in reaching an agreement between the egg producers and the bakery owners.

State Minister for Cooperative Services, Marketing Development and Consum-

er Protection Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Livestock, Farm Development and Dairy and Egg Industries D.B. Herath and Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister Amanda Karunatilake were also present at the occasion.

House to be built for Geethika Shyamali's family

Jathika Nidahas Peramuna leader and Minister of Industries Wimal Weerawansa has intervened to provide a new house in the Kaduwela electorate to family members of Geethika Shyamali who died due to an earth mound collapse at Kotelawala, Kaduwela recently.

Geethika Shyamali was

tragically killed when an earth mound collapsed on her rented house.

The earth mound had fallen on the house when a wall surrounding an adjoining property being developed by a construction company collapsed.

As a result of a discussion held by Minister Wimal Weerawansa with

the heads of the construction company, they had agreed to give the family land in the Kaduwela electorate and build a new house within six months, the Minister's Media Unit in a communiqué said.

In addition to providing a new home, the company has also agreed to

contribute to the funeral arrangements and almsgiving and to provide the family with a home on a rental basis until the new home is built.

The agreement in this regard was handed over to the mother of the deceased by Kaduwela Mayor Buddhika Jayawilal on Wednesday.

'Welihinda Karu' arrested

DILSHAN THARAKA

Nuwan Ranawaka alias 'Welihinda Karu', an accomplice of notorious underworld drug kingpin 'Makadure Madush' was taken into custody with 2.96 grams of heroin from Denipitiya area by the Rajagiriya Special Task Force Intelligence Unit.

The suspect along with the seized heroin was handed over to the Weligama Police for further investigations.

He is a 35-year-old, a resident of Uruwitiya in the Denipitiya area. He was produced before the Matara Magistrate's Court yesterday. Weligama Police are investigating.

OLD TRINITIANS' RUGBY SCRUMMAGE

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

is hereby served to all Members of the Old Trinitians' Rugby Scrummage

DATE: SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2020
 TIME: 10.00 A.M.
 VENUE: THE OLD CLUBHOUSE, CEYLONESE RUGBY & FOOTBALL CLUB, 28, MALALASEKARA MAWATHA, LONGDON PLACE, COLOMBO 7.
 ATTIRE: DRESS SHIRT & COLLEGE TIE OR SMART CASUAL ATTIRE

Please login to the OTS Members website to obtain the Proposed Agenda.
www.trinityrugby.com

The adjournment of the AGM shall be followed by fellowship and refreshments.

Five returnees from Maldives test positive for COVID-19

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,
Galle Central Special Correspondent

Five persons who were quarantined at a hotel in Kogala, Habaraduwa after arriving from the Maldives were confirmed COVID 19 positive, Habaraduwa Medical Health Officer (MOH) Dr. Pramoda Siriwardana said.

"They had arrived from the Maldives on August 30 and according to PCR test reports received yesterday, they were found to have contracted COVID-19. All the victims are men. Arrangements were made to send them to the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) in Colombo," the MOH further said.

PCoI probing Political Victimization

Alleged conspiracy against former DIG Vass Gunawardena - Police Inspector

ROSHAN THUSHARA and DILSHAN THARAKA

CID officers allegedly conspired to file firearms charges against former DIG Vass Gunawardena, said Police Inspector Willawaarachchi testifying before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into Political Victimization on Thursday.

He was testifying in a complaint filed by Army Colonel Prabodha Siriwardena alleging political revenge by filing a case on false evidence.

Testifying before the Commission, Willawaarachchi revealed that, following the

arrest of Army Colonel Siriwardena, former CID Director Senior Superintendent of Police Shani Abeyssekera had called him and pressured Prabodha Siriwardena and that the telephone call conversation was recorded on his phone.

Accordingly, the Commission also issued a notice to forward the audio recording of the telephone conversation held with former Director Shani Abeyssekera and Inspector Willawaarachchi to University of Moratuwa and reveal the audio recording.

Case against Johnston, two others postponed

SHAVINI MADHARA

A corruption case filed against Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip Johnston Fernando and two others was yesterday postponed till December 04 by the Colombo Chief Magistrate Lanka Jayaratne.

The case is over allegedly causing an unlawful loss of Rs. 40 million to the government by employing 153 employees of

the Cooperative Wholesale Establishment for election work between 2010 and 2014.

Accordingly, the case against Road and Highways, Ports and Shipping Minister Johnston Fernando, former CWE (Lak Sathosa) Chairman Eraj Fernando and the former Minister's Private Secretary Raj Mohideen Mohammad Sakeer was postponed till December 4.

Ministry to be shifted to save Rs.8 mn rent

IRANGIKA RANGE

Clay, Cane, Brass, Furniture and Rural Industry State Minister Prasanna Ranaweera said yesterday that his Ministry will soon be moved from its current premises at the 36th floor of the World Trade Centre (WTC) to the "Ape Gama" premises at Battaramulla to save the Rs.8 million paid as rent for the WTC office and to facilitate easy access to islandwide craftsman.

Accordingly, Minister Ranaweera yesterday

observed the "Ape Gama" premises with the representatives of the Ministry and Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau to make initial plans for the relocation of the Ministry from the WTC.

He said that he expects to move to the "Ape Gama" premises immediately since the current premises at the WTC is hardly accessible for the craftsmen in rural areas. This will also help to save a huge amount of public money," he added.



Minister Prasanna Ranaweera and Ministry officials visiting the "Ape Gama" premises.

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 - Prospective buyers will be taken to the auction venue on a first come first serve basis & limited as per the Health Ministry guidelines & limited to the first 150 customers as per the Health Ministry guidelines.
 - Entrance:** By a non-refundable Ticket of Rs. 2,000.00 & a refundable deposit of Rs. 25,000.00 per person. The Gate will be opened at 8.30am for Registration.
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Thondaman's death a huge loss to Upcountry citizens: PM



The demise of Arumugam Thondaman is a huge loss to the Upcountry people, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said while joining the Condolence Motion on late MP Arumugam Thondaman in Parliament, yesterday.

"He met me just a few hours prior to his demise. Even during that meeting, he spoke about the development of the upcountry people and ways of overcoming the difficulties faced by

the upcountry Tamils," the Premier said. "Having commenced his active political life in 1985, he was fortunate enough to represent his people consecutively for 26 years, having been elected to Parliament at the 1994 General Election while representing the Nuwara Eliya District. In 1999 he became the leader of the CWC after the demise of his grandfather Saumyamoorthis Thondaman. He

fought steadfastly for the wage increase of estate labourers and also rendered a yeoman service in gaining citizenship for over 300,000 estate Tamils of Indian descent," the PM added. Prime Minister Rajapaksa noted that Thondaman had never promoted terrorism and ensured that the upcountry people never got involved in separatism or terrorism. This, he said, was a great contribu-

tion in ending the 30-year-long war. "Arumugam Thondaman not only opposed any force that promoted the division of the country, he also assisted the Government at all times to eradicate terrorism from this country. Hence, I must note that his contribution was a deciding factor in the Government's efforts to douse the flames of war," Prime Minister Rajapaksa said. He also noted that Thondaman

was a good friend who had always stood by him during trying times and never deserted him. Hence, the Prime Minister pledged to fulfil the requests made by the late Thondaman for his upcountry people. Expressing his condolences to Thondaman's family, the Premier expressed hope that Jeevan Thondaman would follow in the footsteps of his father and serve the upcountry people as his father did.

Thondaman worked tirelessly for all: Sajith

Joining the Vote of Condolence moved by the Government, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa yesterday observed that late Arumugam Thondaman was a politician who worked closely with everybody, sans any political discrimination. The sudden demise of Thondaman is a great loss to Sri Lankan politics, Opposition Leader Premadasa noted. The Opposition Leader observed that

hill country community won their rights as the Thondamans fought for them on behalf. Premadasa also observed that late Thondaman was a leader who worked with every community and treated them all equally. Late Thondaman had to discuss and demand many governments to provide the facilities that estate workers are due as a community, Opposition Leader Premadasa added.

Representing one of the most suppressed communities in the country would not have been an easy task, he added. "Thondaman was dedicated to these people and did every possible thing to uplift the quality of their lives," he said. The Opposition Leader also credited late Thondaman for the stance he held during the separatist conflict in the country



PARLIAMENT

Sandasen Marasinghe, Camelia Nathaniel and Amali Mallawarachchi

Thondaman was an exemplary humanist: Ratnayake

Wildlife and Forest Conservation Minister C.B. Ratnayake, extending condolences to the family of late Arumugam Thondaman, observed that late Parliamentarian was an exemplary humanist and political figure.

Minister Ratnayake made these observations when the House moved condolences for the family of late MP and former Ceylon Workers' Congress Leader Arumugam Thondaman.

Minister Ratnayake said, "Though many people attempted to mislead the late MP, my good friend Thondaman was firm in his



humanist approach towards the world. He always valued friendship and reconciliation among all communities; he gave leadership to a community that includes people from all walks of life.

"As a political leader, he was an exemplary figure. He was always for reconcili-

ation. He always had Sinhala bodyguards. That was the kind of trust he had in us," the minister added. Speaking on the kind of friendship they had, Minister Rathnayake said, "His demise was a shock. Even a few days before his demise, we sat together while having breakfast and discussed matters regarding estate workers; he was passionate about increasing their quality of life."

"Late Thondaman was planning to discuss with Indian Government about constructing a housing scheme for the estate workers who reside in slums," Minister Ratnayake said.

Thondaman rendered yeoman service to Estate Sector: Douglas



Late Nuwara Eliya MP Arumugam Thondaman rendered a yeoman service to the Estate Sector people as a Parliamentarian, Fisheries Minister Douglas Devananda said yesterday. He made this observation in Parliament while joining the Condolence Motion moved on the demise of Aumugam Thondaman. Fisheries Minister

Devananda said Arumugam Thondaman spent 26 years of his 55-year lifespan as a Parliamentarian. He always represented the people in the Upcountry Estate Sector and held many ministerial portfolios during his Parliamentary life, the minister added. He always had a smile in his face and was a brother to all in the Upcountry. He left his people untimely and

his demise is an irreparable loss to his people, Minister Devananda said, adding that it is a solace to those people is that his son, Jeevan Thondaman, could represent them as his successor. It reflects just how much Arumugam Thondaman helped his people, he added. Joining the Condolence Motion, Jaffna District Tamil National Alliance

(TNA) Parliamentarian S. Sriharan said that the Thondaman family has a history that surpasses 200 years. The service rendered by late Saumyamoorthis Thondaman was continued by his son, late Arumugam Thondaman and, now, Arumugam Thondaman's son Jeevan has been elected to represent the same people and he has to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

Thondaman never discriminated anyone: Nimal

Late Nuwara Eliya district Parliamentarian Arumugam Thondaman never spoke a word of discrimination, Labour Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said. He made this observation in Parliament, yesterday, joining the Condolence Motion moved on the demise of Aumugam Thondaman. The minister said he had associated with late Thondaman for few decades, and worked closely in the Parliament. Late Thondaman stood for the unitary status of the coun-



try when different forces attempted to get his support to bring about federalism to it, he added. The terrorism that pre-

vailed for three decades in the country did not infiltrate the Upcountry due to the farsighted intelligence of late Thondaman. He always held national unity, integrity, and cordial relationships among all communities in high esteem, Minister de Silva added. Thondaman always stood with the leadership, unlike many others who betrayed it. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party mourns the demise of Arumugam Thondaman with his family members, relatives, and the people of the country.

Thondaman played pivotal role in curbing terrorism: Gammanpila



Extending condolences to the family of late MP Arumugam Thondaman, Minister Udaya Gammanpila said that both late Arumugam Thondaman and late Savumiamoorthis Thondaman played vital roles in Sri Lankan politics where they did not allow separatist terrorism to spread in the Hill Country. Had it not been the case, defeating terrorism would have been more difficult, Minister Gammanpila pointed out.

Minister Gammanpila made these observations when the House moved condolences for the family of late MP and former Ceylon Workers' Congress Leader Arumugam Thondaman. "The name 'Thondaman' is very important. The name does not just define a person, but a role. The role played by the Thondamans was crucial in Sri Lankan politics. Terrorism was just as, or rather,

much more horrible than the Coronavirus," Minister Gammanpila said. "It spread in North and East, and any attempt to spread it in the Hill Country was deflected first by late Savumiamoorthis Thondaman and then by his grandson, late Arumugam Thondaman. The credit lays with late Thondaman for protecting Hill Country against terrorism," he added.

Thondaman used all privileges as a tool for justice: Imtiyaz

Late Arumugam Thondaman was dedicated to empower estate workers that were sidelined after Independence, SJB MP Imtiyaz Bakir Makar said yesterday. Extending condolences to late Arumugam Thondaman, Bakir Makar pointed out that late Thondaman used every privilege that he got as a tool to win justice and equal treatment for his community.

MP Makar said, "The Thondaman family, for decades, was dedicated to uplift the quality of life of the estate workers in the Hill Country. It is not easy to represent an underprivileged community. However, Thondaman did it while being targeted for ethnic discrimination." "He never for a moment walked out of the struggle. He stayed within the democratic stream and

achieved much for his people. He understood the different dimensions of our society. Today, Thondaman's son, Jeevan, has been elected to Parliament. We hope that he follows his father's and great grandfather's legacy," he added. The Parliamentarian said, "Thondaman was an extremely talented politician. When I was the Media Minister in our Gov-

ernment, late Thondaman was the Minister of Housing. I requested him to give me land to build a housing scheme for journalists; he did not hesitate to help me out. He requested me to develop the postal service in the Hill Country as a return of the favour. That's how he was. He took every opportunity to facilitate his people."

Thondaman opposed racism and intolerance: Gunatilake

Late Arumugam Thondaman was an exemplary politician, unlike some who always depend on racism, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna MP Gunatilake Rajapaksa said. MP Rajapaksa made these observations while extending his condolences to late Arumugam Thondaman's family as the Government moved a Vote of Condolence in Parliament, yesterday. MP Gunatilake Rajapaksa said, "Politicians such as Vigneswaran were living in Colombo and embracing

all kinds of luxuries. Then they went to the Northern region and tried to spread racism and discourage tolerance. This was not the case with the late Thondaman. He never encouraged racism. In fact, he was against racism and any such intolerance. The role played by late Thondaman during the conflict era in the country was exemplary." MP Gunatilake Rajapaksa also criticized the Opposition for questioning the funeral ceremony held to bid farewell to the late

Parliamentarian. "Many people came to bid farewell to late Thondaman despite the Government having imposed curfew in several parts of the country due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Thondaman was a people-centred leader. So, it was only natural that people come to pay tribute." "However, the Opposition was trying to use this incident as a means to an end. They were expecting that a second wave of COVID-19 would begin after the funeral ceremony," MP Gunatilake added.

Joining late Thondaman's Condolence Motion

Gajendrakumar pledges TNPF's 'unconditional support' for Upcountry Tamils

Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) Leader Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam yesterday offered his party's unconditional support to win the rights of the Upcountry Tamils. "The Thondaman family has represented the upcountry Tamil people from the very inception of Upcountry Tamil people's politics in this country. The Upcountry Tamil people have been the backbone of this country's economy for at least half of its time post-Independent," he added.

"However, despite them having contributed so much by way of blood, toil, tears, and sweat, this country has continued to treat that community shabbily. Even today, the CWC and other political parties representing the Upcountry Tamil people are fighting for their basic rights and privileges to be recognized. Therefore, when such fundamen-



tal nature of those people's cries is even prevalent today, to have to represent those people for decades is not a very easy task, by any means," the TNPF Leader said. Referring to Arumugam Thondaman's grandfather, Saumyamoorthis Thondaman, and his contribution to the upcountry Tamil people, Ponnambalam said, "He was a colossus and an

institution in his own right; not only in building up the trade union movement into a political party, but also going beyond to command the respect of all sections of society. "For his grandson to have to fill the shoes of that colossus is the most unenviable task one can be asked to do. Late Arumugam Thondaman did that in a very quiet way," he added. MP Ponnambalam referred to several comments made in Parliament yesterday during the Condolence Motion for late Arumugam Thondaman, adding that the Thondamans despised the 'Tamil Eelam' struggle. "Right along, they have both identified themselves with the struggle; late Saumyamoorthis Thondaman was a co-founder of the Tamil United Front, which was formed on May 4, 1972," he added.

"It was in 1976, when the TUF graduated to the TULF after the 'Waddukodai Resolution' that Thondaman decided to take the CWC out of that organization as he felt that when the Waddukodai Resolution was passed; and when the aspirations of certain people was for the creation of a separate state, he felt the Upcountry Tamil people's future was not along that path," the Parliamentarian said. The TNPF leader gave the assurance while speaking in Parliament, yesterday, that his party will unconditionally support State Minister Jeevan Thondaman or any leader working to address the issues of the Upcountry Tamils in order to win their rights and privileges. He said the Upcountry Tamils are a deserving community living in Sri Lanka.

Parliament Public Gallery to remain closed

The Parliament Public Gallery, which was closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, will continue to be closed until further notice. Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena informed Parliament yesterday that the

public gallery will remain closed until the health authorities grant approval to open it. He added that the decision to keep the public gallery closed was taken following discussions held on Thursday.

Too late to object Premalal's Parliamentary appointment: Speaker



Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said it was too late to object Premalal Jayasekera becoming an MP and the Opposition had had to raise the matter before the Court of Appeal before it was decided to allow Jayasekera to take oaths.

The Speaker made this observation when Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa raised objections to Jayasekera taking oaths as an MP in line with the Court of Appeal order. The court informed Parliament of its ruling to permit Jayasekera; "We carried out that order," Speaker Abeywardena said.

Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena said that the Speaker has already given a ruling on the matter, and that it cannot be put to debate. "That is against the Standing

Orders," Minister Gunawardena said. "Now, under the pretext of Points of Order, the Opposition keeps harking back to a past issue. This matter is over. Now these Points of Order are unjust to people who had voted for MP Jayasekera. You cannot raise Points of Order to discuss a matter pertaining to a ruling of the Speaker. If there is a matter against the ruling of the Chair, then there is a procedure. You have to bring it in the form of a Substantive Motion. There you have provisions to raise the issue in a motion. Then we could debate it here," the Leader of the House added.

Opposition Leader Premadasa, raising a Point of Order, said that by allowing Jayasekera to take oaths, the Speaker had set

a wrong precedent. "In 1982, Selvarajah Yogachandran, also known as 'Kuttimani', one of the leaders of the TELO, was nominated to Parliament. His name was gazetted to become an MP. However, then Speaker Bakir Markar, citing the Sections 89 and 91 of the Constitution, did not permit Yogachandran to take oaths as an MP because the latter had been sentenced to death. Yogachandran, too, had appealed against the sentence," he added.

"That is the precedence in Parliament. That should not have been breached. As per Section 91 (1) (a) of the Constitution, no person shall be qualified to be elected as a Member of Parliament or to sit and vote in Parliament if he is or becomes subject to any

of the disqualifications specified in Article 89. Section 89 (d) of the Constitution says that no person shall be qualified to be an elector at an election of the President, or of the Members of Parliament, or to vote at any referendum, if he is under sentence of death and he will lose his right to vote under such a sentence. The Speaker, by act of permitting Jayasekera to take oaths, has violated Constitutional provisions," the Opposition Leader added.

Chief Opposition Whip and Kandy District MP Lakshman Kiriella said that when the court gave an order that former Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake could not be subjected to questions of a Parliamentary Select Committee, then speaker Chamal

Rajapaksa ignored it, stating that Parliament is not bound to follow court orders. "Speaker Abeywardena said that it was a separate issue; that it has nothing to do with the issue at hand," he added.

Kurunegala District SJB MP Nalin Bandara Jayamaha said, "The Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary are the three main pillars of Government. The Speaker is the head of the Legislature. This matter should be taken seriously."

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said to move to the business of the day as the debate was deviating from what was in the Order Paper.

Parliamentary Committee appointments concluded

Appointments have been made to the Parliament Watchdog Committee [Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE)], Committee on Public Accounts, Committee on Standing Orders, and the Committee on Public Petitions; Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena announced yesterday in Parliament.

Accordingly, the following MPs have been selected for COPE: Mahinda Amaraweera, Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Rohitha Abeygunawardena, Susil Premjayantha, Jayantha Samaraweera, Dium Amunugama, Indika Anuruddha Herath, Dr Sarath Weerasekera, DV

Chanaka, Dr Nalaka Godahewa, Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Rauff Hakim, Anura Dissanayake, Patali Champika Ranawaka, Jagath Pushpakumara, Eran Wickremaratne, Ranajan Ramanayake, Nalin Bandara Jayamaha, SM Marikkar, Premnath C Dolawatte, Shankiyan Rajaputhiran Sasamanickam and Prof Charitha Herath.

The following MPs have been appointed to the Committee on Public Accounts: Udaya Gammanpila, Duminda Dissanayake, Dayasiri Jayasekera, Lashantha Lalagiyawanna, Dr Sudarshini Fernandopulle, Shehan

Semasinghe, Prasanna Ranaweera, Tissa Attanayake, Prof Tissa Vitarana, Harin Fernando, Niroschan Perera, Faizal Cassim, Ashok Abeyasinghe, Buddhika Pathirana, K Kader Masthan, Sivagnanam Sritharan, Dr Upul Galappatti, BYG Rathasekera, Weerasumana Dissanayake, Prof Ranjith Bandara, Mohamad Muxammil and Dr Harini Amarasuriya.

The following Parliamentarians have been appointed to the Committee on Standing Orders: Pavithra Wanniarachchi, Susil Premajayantha, Dilan Perera, Chandima Weerakkody, Mayantha Dissa-

mayake, Charles Nirmalanathan, Sujith Perera, Sagara Kariyawasam and Dr Suren Raghavan.

The following Members of Parliament have been appointed to serve the Committee on Public Petitions: Gamini Lokuge, Dayasiri Jayasekera, Nimal Lanza, Janaka Wakkumbura, S Vijalenderan, Thenuka Vidanagama, Jeevan Thondaman, Imthiaz Bakeer Markar, Jagath Pushpakumara, Dilip Wedarachchi, Manusha Nanayakkara, K Kader Masthan, Ashoka Priyanta, Jayantha Ketagoda,

Thushara Indunil Amarasena, Mujibur Rahuman, Geetha Samanmalee Kumarasinghe, Kulasingham Dhileepan, Nipuna Ranawaka and Rajika Wickramasinghe. In addition, MP Dharmalingam Sithadthan has been appointed to the Committee on High Posts, the Speaker said.

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Date: 12.09.2020

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THURSDAY
Date: 10.09.2020
Draw No.: 3387
Colour: RED

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 5,837,600/-

Winning Numbers: 16 24 56 58
English Letter: G

Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: 9372

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THURSDAY
Date: 10.09.2020
Draw No.: 1037
Colour: BLUE

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,432,320/-

Winning Numbers: 04 06 19 72
English Letter: N

Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: 4444
Winning number for Rs. 100/- cash prizes: 805

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Draw Number: 1211 Colour: Green
Draw Date: 10.09.2020 Date: Thursday

Winning English Letter and Numbers
S 13 20 48 61

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,775,020/-

SUPER 500 SPECIAL NUMBER: 1 7 7 9

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Date: 10-09-2020
Draw Number: 365 Colour: Blue

Super Jackpot
Rs. 11,342,524/-

English Letter: N Winning Numbers: 12 15 24 Fate Number: 4

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,640,040/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 11,498,060/-

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Date: 10-09-2020
Draw Number: 2918 Colour: Brown

Super Jackpot
Rs. 2,000,000/-

Winning Numbers: 02 16 27 32 Taurus

Total value of prizes
Rs. 9,517,180/-

Double Chance
SPECIAL NUMBERS
For Rs.500 prizes: 1663
For Rs.100 prizes: 871

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

President to State Ministers:

'Simple start can lead to great change'

A simple start can make a big difference over time. Therefore, initiate the process with the simplest step. Every ministry can render a great service with simple tasks, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said.

He was addressing State Ministers at the Presidential Secretariat on Thursday, the President's Media Division stated in a communiqué.

"When we came to power in 2005, we even could not get out; there were garbage everywhere. There were three garbage mounds within 100 yards from my official residence at that time. Proper waste removal is an easy process," the President said.

"The review of scope and role of the recently-established state ministries could be completed in the next three weeks," he said, adding that the structure of the state ministries was formulated to address the issues identified within last few years.

"I think that you have a clear understanding as to how much work can be done by these ministries. You have been entrusted with the responsibility of working in agreement with ministers on a common policy. It is our duty to meet the expectations of the people. Fulfill your responsibilities with the assistance of the officials," the President added.

President Rajapaksa emphasized that future works should be done according to a plan and asked to evaluate the amount of work that can be done from year to year and prepare a five-year plan.

"Officials may say that everything has been done

and in order. But strategies and plans are useless if they are confined only to their files and folders. You have to take them to the ground and make them a reality. It's the key role of a State Minister," the President said.

President Rajapaksa reminded everyone of his promise of a "true change" he made during the Presidential election and reaffirmed that he would change the current political culture in the country.

"I am bound by that responsibility and you as well. Make the maximum out of this opportunity to shape your political life," President Rajapaksa added.

During his discussion with the State Ministers, the President touched upon number of areas including, Agriculture, Technological innovations, Housing Development, Water supply, Urban Development, and Cost of living. As an example, the President cited that he had established three state ministries to ensure development of agriculture.

"Some paddy lands are abandoned; they are no longer suitable for cultivating paddy.

We granted permission for the Agrarian Services Centres to cultivate other crops in them. Likewise, you can use such lands to plant coconut trees as well," the President added.

President Rajapaksa said he expects to meet the state ministers every month to exchange ideas, and that it would assist them in resolving issues they encounter when they move forward with their actions.

Palestinian Ambassador calls on Speaker



Palestinian Ambassador to Sri Lanka Zuhair Mohommed Hamdallah Dar Zaid, called on Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena at the Speaker's VIP Room in Parliament, yesterday. Parliament Secretary-General Dammika Dassanayake was also present at the meeting.

Drug dealer arrested with 1,012 narcotic pills

S.M.WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Corr.

A trader who sold narcotics to schoolchildren in the Kurunegala District has been arrested by Mawathagama Police, recently.

The suspect had been selling the contraband under the guise of a phar-

macist. He was arrested on Wednesday with 1,002 narcotic pills.

Police said the suspect had been selling a pill at Rs.150. He added that 1,567 drug dealers have been arrested from the Kurunegala District during the past two months.

Case against Kurunegala Mayor

MC decides to pay legal fees; Mayor refuses help

S.M.WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Corr.

A proposal to pay the legal fees for the court case against Kurunegala Mayor Thushara Sanjeewa Vitharana and other officials, over the alleged demolition of the Royal Court of King Buwenakabahu II, was approved with a majori-

ty of 14 votes by the Kurunegala Municipal Council at their monthly meeting, yesterday.

The proposal was forwarded by Opposition Councillor Buddhika Allepola of the United National Party (UNP).

Seventeen councillors took part in the vote; three were against the proposal. The Kurunegala Mayor thanked the councillors for their decision, but said he would pay the fees himself. He said that he would file a private case in court against those who were "attempting to tarnish his reputation".

Man dies in wild elephant attack

S.M.WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Corr.

A 65-year-old man was killed in a wild elephant attack in Nikaweratiya, yesterday.

The victim has been identified as H.M.M. Thilakarathne, a father of

three who was a carpenter by profession. He was a resident of the Mahakirindawa village in the Kurunegala District.

Police said that three persons have lost their lives during the past

three months due to wild elephant attacks in the area.

Thilakarathne was attacked by a wild elephant while he was returning home after a fishing trip with three of his friends.

900 dengue cases reported from Kalmunai this year

ADDALAI CHENAI CENTRAL CORR.

Kalmunai Regional Health Services Director (RDHS) Dr. G. Sugunan said that 900 dengue patients have been detected from the Kalmunai area since January. Furthermore, two persons died from Kalmunai North and Thirukkivil areas, he said.

In January and February, 700 patients have been detected in the region, he said. He said that many dengue awareness programmes and eradication

campaigns were held this year, but the response was very poor. About 27,000 cases and 25 deaths due to dengue have been recorded across the country between January and September 08, Dr. Sugunan said.

Red alerts have been issued in the Kalmunai North, Kalmunai South, Nintavur, Addalaichenai, Akkaripattu, and Pottuvil MOH areas coming under the purview of Kalmunai RDHS, he said. The Sammanthurai, Alayadivembu, Karaitivu, Saintha-

maruthu, Irakkamam, Navithanveli, and Thirukkivil MOH areas in the region are with less cases, he added. He requested all heads of state and private departments and principals of schools to pay much attention to eradicate dengue mosquitoes in their respective premises, and also to keep same clean.

Residents with mosquito-breeding grounds in their home gardens were identified and warned to clean their premises. Uncleaned garbage is another cause of the spread of dengue fever, the RDHS said.

Canadian investors discuss North - East development plans with Prime Minister

MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

Canadian investors called on Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees, yesterday, to discuss potential investment and development plans in the North and East.

The Prime Minister and investors exchanged matters concerning the employment in the North and East, and investments to create employment opportunities.

The meeting was attended by reputed investors who have major investments in Canada and now wish to invest in Sri Lanka.

According to sources, Prime Minister Rajapaksa was interested in the plans the investors have for the North and East, and emphasized on the work that could be done with Palm Development Corporation. Minister of Fisheries, Douglas Devananda was also present at the meeting.

Sources said the Prime Minister ensured that Sri Lanka will support investment plans in the North and East and engage those in the provinces with good employment opportunities. The Government will extend its fullest support, the Prime Minister added.



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa with Minister Douglas Devananda and Canadian investors.

Shop owner arrested with narcotics

MAHANAMA VITHANAGE, Malwana Group Corr.

A shop owner at the Bandarawatta Junction in Biyagama was arrested by the Narcotics Unit of the Kelaniya police Crime Branch for selling narcotics to schoolchildren.

At the time of the arrest, police found 303 pills hidden in the suspect's shop. The shop owner is a 49-year-old resident of Galle, and is to be produced before the Mahara Magistrate's Court, soon.

Batticaloa MC, UNICEF sign MoU for childcare project

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa Special Corr.

The Batticaloa Municipal Council (MC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at improving the childcare sector at the Batticaloa Town Hall, yesterday.

UNICEF Representative in Sri Lanka Tim Sutton, speaking on the occasion, said that children are the future of the country and the world. Therefore, they should grow up in a safe and congenial environment, he added.

"UNICEF has extended financial support to the Batticaloa Municipality for this endeavour and will continue to support it with technical and other advisory cooperation," he added.

Khawaja admits he framed Sri Lankan workmate in fake terror plot

The man who caused a UNSW colleague to spend a month in jail by framing him with a fake terror plot has tearfully admitted in court he was "a coward", ABC news reported.

Arsalan Tariq Khawaja was jealous of Mohamed Kamer Nizamdeen's friendship with a woman when he scrawled terror blueprints in a stolen notebook in August 2018.

Khawaja, the 40-year-old brother of cricketer Usman Khawaja, sobbed as he told Downing Centre District Court the friendship triggered insecurities and mental health issues.

"To be blunt, I was a coward," he said. "I lacked the courage to come forward. I didn't want him arrested ... I should have come forward."

Usman Khawaja gave evidence via video link from Brisbane and told the court prior to his offending his brother had been an ideal citizen.

The cricketer said his younger brother was popular and was well liked among his Australian teammates who regularly asked after him.

Mr Nizamdeen spent a month in Goulburn Supermax before charges were dropped when a handwriting expert could not conclusively prove the notebook contained his writing.

The 2018 framing was not the first time Khawaja had used sham terror allegations against someone out of jealousy over a woman, the court heard.

A year before, he made false allegations against another man to remove him from a woman with whom he developed a deep connection. The name of his previous victim cannot be published for legal reasons, however Khawaja today explained the first woman, referred to as F1, was at the centre of his fear of abandonment.

He worried the second woman, with whom Mr Nizamdeen was friends, would cut contact with him after she sent him "triggering" text messages that "fed on the pain, the fears I had" the night before the framing.

"When I came in that morning, I wanted him (Mr Nizamdeen) gone," he said. "Khawaja wiped away tears speaking about the extent of pain he had caused."

"Kamer is a top bloke," he said. Whenever I saw him, it triggered those symptoms."

He said he had spent an "immense" amount of time in jail working with psychologists, particularly on his issues linked to F1.

"I don't think any of them will ever forgive me but all I can express is my remorse for what I did to them, particularly Kamer," he said.

Mr Nizamdeen returned to Sri Lanka following his release but has since spoken out about how the ordeal ruined his life.

Source: ABC News

Water supply interruptions in Colombo today

DILSHAN THARAKA

Water supply to certain areas in Colombo will be interrupted between 9:00 p.m. today and 5:00 a.m. tomorrow due to decommissioning of DMA-26 in nine different locations for the Greater Colombo Water and Wastewater Management Improvement Pro-

ject, the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) stated. The areas that will be affected by this are Colombo 13, 14, and 15.

Meanwhile, water supply will be interrupted between 10:00 p.m. today and 10:00 a.m. tomorrow due to the Kolonnawa branch connection and

installation of a valve in the O2O line at Kolonnawa to improve the Kolonnawa water supply.

Accordingly, water supply will be completely interrupted in Colombo 10, 12, and 13. The NWSDB has requested the public to call the hotline 1939 for further information.

Spike in Ampara wild elephant invasions

ADDALAICHENAI CENTRAL CORR.

Invasion of wild elephants has increased in the Kalmunai, Sainthamaruthu, Sammanthurai, Nintavur, and Addalaichenai Divisional Secretariat Divisions in the Ampara District.

Wild elephants are invading villages in search of food and water. Earlier, these elephants were entering the villages only during the night time, but now, they are entering even during the daytime, residents said.

Wild elephants have begun to invade nearby villages from the Pallakadu Jungle in Oluvil, located in the Addalaichenai Divisional Secretariat Division of the Ampara District.

The jungle is located near the Deegavapi Oluvil Ashraff Nagar resettlement village, they added. People residing along the border of the divisions have also been affected by this issue. They have requested the authorities to find a solution to the issue.

Wild elephants have found their way to villages in Addalaichenai, Palamunai, Ashraff Nagar, Hira Nagar, Meelath Nagar, and Sambu Nagar. Residents are in a state of fear, they said. Wild elephants destroy not only crops and paddy fields, but also properties. As a result, the daily income of low-income families has also dropped considerably, residents added.

Navy seizes over 142kg Kerala cannabis

The Navy seized over 142kg of Kerala cannabis during special search operations conducted in the Northern and North-Central Naval Commands between Wednesday and Thursday, the Navy stated in a press release, yesterday.

After having spotted a suspicious dinghy in the sea area off Vaththirayan in Vettalakeni, the Northern Naval Command apprehended a suspect attempting to enter the land at the Vaththirayan beach.

When the arrest was made, the Navy recovered nine packages containing 43.27kg of Kerala cannabis concealed in the dinghy, the statement read.

Furthermore, a suspect at the beach to take the delivery of Kerala cannabis was also taken into custody, along with his motorcycle, the press release added.

In another search opera-



The seized cannabis.

tion, the North-Central Naval Command found 98.78kg of Kerala cannabis stuffed in 24 packages, hidden in shrubs by rackets at Kaththalampiddi in Illuppukaddawai, the statement said.

The Navy said these operations were conducted following the guidelines stipulated by health authorities for the COVID-19 pandemic.

In total, the Navy took

into custody over 142kg of Kerala cannabis, a motorcycle, a dinghy, and two suspects, the Navy stated.

The apprehended persons have been identified as residents of Pesalei and Vaththirayan, aged 32 and 42. The accused, along with seized items, were handed over to the Palai and Illuppukadawai Police for further investigations, the statement added.

Navy removes debris under Aviththawa Bridge



The Navy last week cleared debris collected under the Aviththawa Bridge over Bentara Ganga, as it hampered the free flow of river water. Following the showers that prevailed last week, the river was in full spate, carrying a large amount of debris, collecting them under the Aviththawa Bridge and disturbing the downstream of water. A team from the Southern Naval Command was sent to the location to clear the debris under the bridge, restoring the proper downstream of water.

DEATH NOTICE



TONY OPATHA

A former Sri Lankan ODI Cricketer - and Old Boy of St. Peter's College, Colombo.

Beloved husband of Indrani, darling father of Tenuli & children, loving brother of John (late), Theodore (late) and Mervin Opatha (Central Finance). His remains lie at Barney Raymond's, Borella. Cortege leaves at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday 13th September 2020 to Borella Cemetery.



DILSHAN THARAKA

Held for heroin possession

The Organized Crime Division, acting on a tip-off, arrested a couple with 100.983 grams of heroin from Wennawatta, yesterday.

The suspects are of the ages 27 and 42 year and are residents of Wellampitiya.

They were produced before the Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court, yesterday.

The Organized Crime Division is investigating.

Arrested with heroin

A suspect was arrested with 22g of heroin close to the Bondupitiya Junction by the Horana Special Task Force, yesterday.

The suspect is a 39-year-old resident of Bondupitiya.

He was handed over to the Welipenna Police for further investigations.

He was produced before the Mathugama Magistrate's Court.

Welipenna Police are investigating.

Held with bushmeat

Five suspects were apprehended with 5.31 kilograms of bushmeat and a firearm while hunting near the Nuwaragala Reservoir in Lathugala, yesterday.

The raid was carried out by Uhana Police.

The seized bushmeat was handed over to the Ampara Wildlife Conservation Department branch for further investigations.

The suspects are between the ages of 32 and 44 and are residents of the same area.

They were produced before the Ampara Additional Magistrate's Court, yesterday.

Puttalam police are investigating.

Cannabis chena detected

A cannabis chena cultivated in a 1/4-acre land in the Uswetiya area was discovered by the Udawalawa Police Special Task Force, yesterday.

Three thousand cannabis saplings were taken into custody and handed over to the Koslanda Police for further investigations.

The saplings are to be handed over to the Department of Ayurveda on a court order. Koslanda Police are investigating.

Arrested with Kerala cannabis

Two suspects were arrested with 3.195 kilograms of Kerala cannabis from Milla-watta by Batapola Police.

The suspects are of the ages 25 and 40 and are residents of Kahaduwa and Batapola. They were produced before the Balapitiya Magistrate's court, yesterday.

Batapola Police are investigating.

Held with 'goda'

Ingiriya Police, acting on a tip-off, arrested a suspect with 1,438 liters (8 barrels) of 'goda' from Kurana.

The suspect had stored the illicit liquor on a 40-acre land.

The suspect is a 60-year-old resident of Hadapangoda.

He was produced before the Horana Magistrate's Court, yesterday.

Ingiriya Police are investigating.

Apprehended with hand grenade

A suspect was apprehended with a hand grenade from the Kumbagoda area, yesterday. The raid was carried out on a tip-off by Ambilipitiya Police.

The suspect, identified as a 37-year-old resident of the same area, was produced before the Ambilipitiya Magistrate's Court, yesterday.

Ambilipitiya police are investigating.

Man drowns in lake

A person drowned at a lake near the Dipangoda Bridge, yesterday. The victim was identified as a resident of the Homagama area.

Police and residents of the area rendered assistance to find a corpse of the deceased. Mattegoda Police are investigating.

Arrested for narcotics possession

A suspect was arrested with 22 grams of heroin close to the Bondupitiya Junction by the Horana Special Task Force, yesterday. The suspect, along with the seized heroin was handed over to the Welipenna Police for further investigations.

The suspect is 39-year-old resident of Bondupitiya. He was produced before the Mathugama Magistrate's Court, yesterday.

Welipenna Police are investigating.

Child dies in elephant attack

A 16-year-old child died in an elephant attack that took place in the Pahalarathkida area in Giradurukotte, yesterday.

The body of the deceased has been placed at the Giradurukotte Hospital after a Magisterial Inquiry and postmortem was carried out yesterday.

Giradurukotte Police are investigating.

Police hunt Buttala cattle thieves

Police have commenced investigations into two complaints received regarding the theft of 14 cattle worth Rs.640,000 in the Hadapanagala Thalokolawewa area in the Buttala Police Division, recently.

A complaint has been lodged with the Buttala Police regarding the disappearance of these cattle on Tuesday. More than 30 cows belonging to a mother of three have been stolen by a person or a group on five previous occasions, and not a single cow has been found yet.

Lamenting on the disappearance of the cows, dairy farmer G.A. Wasantha Kumari said she is a single mother of three children, and that she makes a living by selling cow's milk.

"I have complained to the Buttala Police many times about this. The cattle stolen are worth Rs.100,000. I just want them back," she said.

"This is the only way I know to make a living and feed my children.

"All I ask is for the law to be enforced against those who do such a heinous acts," Kumari added.

Overcrowding impedes studies at Anuradhapura Government schools

B.M. WIJESURIYA,

Anuradhapura Central Special Corr.

Teachers in government schools in the Anuradhapura Education Zone have revealed that students and teachers are unable to pursue their studies

freely due to overcrowding in the classrooms from Grade 6 to Grade 13. This situation has arisen in many government schools in Anuradhapura. Although the number of students has been limited to 44 in many

schools, the number of students in one class has increased to 50 or 60, they said. "Children cannot do their work freely. They are all stuffed into single classroom; neither can they learn nor

can we teach. They find it difficult to move as there is no space," teachers said. Commenting on this, President of the Ceylon Teachers' Union S. Priyantha Fernando said that international schools have 35 students in a

classroom, but most government and are filled beyond capacity. He added that in some instances, there are nearly 70 children cramped in a small classroom. When contacted regarding the matter, Anuradhapura Zonal

Director of Education Mahesha Manjarika Hettiarachchi said, "Yes, this situation is very serious in some schools; we have increased the number of classrooms in some schools to 14 due to this problem."



Legal News

IN THE SUPREME COURT LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

JAYANTHA JAYASURIYA P.C. (C.J.)
MURDU N.B. FERNANDO P.C.J.
P. PADMAN SURASENA J.
S. THURAIRAJA P.C. J.
E.A.G.R. AMARASEKERA J.)

COURT NO. 502 (FROM 10.00 A.M.) FOR SUPPORT

1. SC.MISCELLANEOUS NO. 03/19

PRIYANTHA JAYAWARDANE (P.C.) (J)

VIJITH K. MALALGODA P.C. J.
YASANTHA KODAGODA P.C. J.

COURT NO. 403 (FROM 10.00 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED

1. SC. CHC NO. 13/15 - HC 203/11

2. SC. CHC NO. 24/15 - HC Civil 314/17

3. SC. CHC NO. 25/15 - HC Civil 25/15

4. SC. Application FR 226/17

5. SC.HC.CA.LA 16/18 - HCCA 32/12

6. SC. Appeal 21/18 - HCCA 114/14

7. SC. Application FR 380/18

8. SC. Application FR 19/19

9. SC. Application FR 72/19

10. SC.HC.CA. LA 242/19 - HCCA 52/14

11. SC. CONTEMPT NO. 03/2020

12. SC.HC.CA. LA 26/20 - HCCA 09/18

13. SC.HC. LA 67/20 - HC (Civil) 51/19 with 66/20

FOR SUPPORT

1. SC. Appeal 69/19 - HCCA 106/2001

FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED

1. SC. Application FR 272/18

2. SC. Application FR 384/18

3. SC. Application FR 66/19

4. SC. Application FR 398/19

5. SC. Application

FR No. 194/20
FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.CA. LA 166/17 - HCCA 126/10

2. SC. (Spl.) LA 227/17 - CA 127/17

3. SC.HC.CA. LA 477/17 - HCCA 12/16

4. SC. (Spl.) LA 409/18 - CA 197/13

5. SC.HC.CA. LA 443/18 with 445/18 - HCCA 118/08

6. SC.HC. LA 20/19 - CHC 664/01

7. SC.HC. LA 23/19 - HC. 01/18

8. SC.HC. LA 66/20 - HC. Civil 08/16

(FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.) FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.LA 109/18 - HCA No. 08/16

2. SC.HC.LA 28/19 - CHC No. 618/16

3. SC.HC.CA. LA 166/19 - HCCA 65/14

4. SC. (Spl.) LA 218/19 - CA 486/11

5. SC.HC.CA. LA 341/19 - HCCA 10/18

6. SC.HC.CA. LA 342/19 - HCCA 11/18

7. SC. (Spl.) LA 384/19 - CA 274 - 275/17

8. SC. (Spl.) LA 421/19 - HC 52/10

9. SC.HC.CA. LA 422/19 - HCCA 33/19

10. SC. HC. LA 446/19 - HCCA 48/10

11. SC. HC. LA 41/20 - HC. (Civil) 30/19

12. SC.HC.CA. LA 29/20 - HCCA 41/18

13. SC. (Spl.) LA 83/20 - CA 141/02

14. SC. (Spl.) LA 84/20 - CA 208/17

15. SC. (Spl.) LA 110/20 - CA 423/13

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. CHC. No. 62/12 - HC (Civil) No. 194/09 (Top of the list)

2. SC. Appeal 61/13 - HCCA 501/04 (Top of the list)

3. SC. Appeal 237/14 - HCCA 12/14 (Top of the list)

4. SC. Application

5. FR 162/15 **(FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.) FOR ARGUMENT**

1. SC. CHC. Appeal No. 32/08 with 32A/08 - HC (Civil) No. 17/01

2. SC. Appeal No. 79/15 - HC (Civil) 36/12

3. SC. Appeal No. 159/16 - CA 494/99

4. SC. Appeal No. 249/17 - CA 04/17

5. SC. Writ 22/18 with No. 23/18

6. SC. Appeal No. 37/18 - CA 280/12

7. SC. Appeal No. 144/18 - HC 4538/17

8. SC. Appeal No. 146/18 - HCCA 182/10

9. SC. Appeal No. 84/19 - CA 70/15

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

A.H.M.D NAWAZ (J)(P/CA)
SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J.

COURT NO. 301 AT 09.00 A.M. FOR ARGUMENT

1. 13/17 TRF A.H.M.D NAWAZ (J)(P/CA)
SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J.

COURT NO. 301 AT 10.00 A.M. FOR ORDER

1. 98/20 Writ of Cert (A.H.M.D. Nawaz J.) (P/CA)

TO BE MENTIONED

1. 288/14 Writ of Cert

2. 315/19 Writ of Cert

3. 516/19 Writ of Cert

4. 22/20 Writ of Cert

5. 16/19 TAX

6. 08/20 TAX

7. 60/15 HC

FOR SUPPORT

1. 477/19 Writ of Cert

2. 549/19 Writ of Cert

3. 67/20 Writ of Cert

4. 297/20 Writ of Cert

5. 160/16 PHC

6. 162/16 PHC

7. 152/16 PHC

8. 154/16 PHC

9. 156/16 PHC

10. 158/16 PHC

11. 160/16 PHC

12. 162/16 PHC

13. 31/16 PA

14. 27/19 PA

15. 75/20 PA

16. 09/17 LTA

17. 230 - 235/13 HC

18. 281 - 282/15 HC

Writ of Cert

4. 218/20 Writ of Cert

5. 221/20 Writ of Cert

6. 222/20 Writ of Cert

FOR INQUIRY

1. 877/10 RII **FOR ARGUMENT**

1. 11/19 Writ of Cert

2. 277/19 Writ of Cert

with WR 278/19

3. 01/19 TRF

COURT NO. 301 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED

1. 19/13 Writ of Cert

2. 01/18 MCR

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

A.H.M.D NAWAZ (J)(P/CA)

ARJUNA OBEYESEKERE J.

COURT NO. 301 AT 01.30 P.M. FOR INQUIRY

1. 01/19 COC

K.K. WICKRAMASINGHE (J.)

DEVIKA ABEYRATHNE J.

COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M. ASSIGN COUNSEL

1. 33/20 HC

2. 35/20 HC

3. 37/20 HC

TO BE MENTIONED

1. 53/16 PHC

2. 135/16 PHC

3. 144/16 PHC

4. 146/16 PHC

5. 148/16 PHC

6. 150/16 PHC

7. 152/16 PHC

8. 154/16 PHC

9. 156/16 PHC

10. 158/16 PHC

11. 160/16 PHC

12. 162/16 PHC

13. 31/16 PA

14. 27/19 PA

15. 75/20 PA

16. 09/17 LTA

17. 230 - 235/13 HC

18. 281 - 282/15 HC

19. 151/16 HC

COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M. CONTD.... TO BE MENTIONED

20. 273/16 HC

21. 294/17 HC

22. 335/17 HC

23. 359/17 HC

24. 43/18 HC

25. 350 - 353/18 HC

26. 233/19 HC

27. 319/19 HC

28. 333/19 HC

29. 343/19 HC

30. 347/19 HC

31. 349/19 HC

32. 353/19 HC

33. 355/19 HC

34. 399/19 HC

35. 403/19 HC

FOR SUPPORT

1. 93/20 PA

2. 95/20 PA

3. 31/20 BA

FOR OBJECTIONS

1. 108/19 PA

2. 57/20 PA

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 161-167/10 HC (Top of the list)

A. L. S. GOONERATNE J.
DR. RUWAN FERNANDO (J)

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

1. 94/15 PA

WITH 63/15 PHC

2. 21/20 PA

NOTICE RETURNABLE

1. 07/16 PHC A,B,C,D,E,

2. 06/20 PA

TO BE RESUMED

1. 2028/01 REV

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 107/14 PHC

2. 71/16 PHC

ACHALA WENGAPPULI J.

K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J)

COURT NO. (110) AT 10.00 A.M. FOR ORDER

1. 18/20 BA

(Achala Wengappuli J.)

ASSIGN COUNSEL

1. 32/20 HC

2. 34/20 HC

3. 36/20 HC

4. 38/20 HC

TO BE MENTIONED

1. 231/15 PHC

2. 17/20 BA

WITH PA 81/18

3. 198/17 HC

4. 250/17 HC

WITH LTA 07/17, LTA 08/17

5. 410/19 HC

6. 412/19 HC

7. 14/20 HC

FOR SUPPORT

1. 96/20 PA

FOR INQUIRY

1. 40/20 PA

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 104/15 HC

2. 168/15 HC

3. 40/16 HC

Daily News



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

Don't overlook Dengue

With the nightmare of the Coronavirus largely behind us there could be a tendency on the part of the public to drop their collective guard as regards lesser diseases in our midst that had been common in this country. Dengue appears to be rearing its ugly head once again with 26,000 cases reported up until August and 25 deaths.

The onset of the monsoons and the massive floods that submerged many parts of Colombo City following the heavy downpours is bound to aggravate the situation. Last year a total of 105,000 dengue cases were detected with 95 deaths. All precautions, therefore, need to be taken to avert such a situation during the remaining months of this year. Certainly this is not going to pose a problem for the health authorities given that the Covid-19 defence apparatus is still very much intact which could be depended upon to act in an emergency although dengue is a different kettle of fish that is far widespread in this country as an epidemic.

The Epidemiology Unit has warned the public to be vigilant of all types of mosquito breeding sites and to destroy them regularly. Construction sites are one of the most congenial spots for mosquito breeding together with abandoned structures and old rambling and unoccupied homes that could be found in many cities. Schools that were closed down for over four months may also be vulnerable. It is not known if these schools did a proper cleanup before reopening or if the mosquito breeding spots received due attention.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa won high praise from all quarters for taking steps to promptly deal with the Coronavirus pandemic before things got out of hand by deploying health teams together with the Tri-Forces to tackle the emergency. A similar response will be anticipated from the health officials to deal with the dengue epidemic as well, perhaps with greater intensity. While the Coronavirus cases numbered only a little over 3,000 and 12 deaths in this country dengue is known to claim a far heavier toll. Hence, the same efficiency, commitment and dedication shown by the health officials is called for in dealing with dengue, if not more, since, as already mentioned, more monsoonal rains have been forecast giving rise to a spike in the number of the victims.

Initial measures should be promptly put into operation that would minimize the impact. All construction sites, neglected buildings, dilapidated structures etc. should be smoked out to destroy the mosquito larvae. All polluted canals should be cleaned up especially those lying alongside shanty dwellings. The cleanup ought to start from Government offices and buildings which appear to be the worst offenders. Stiff penalties should be slapped on residents and households who willfully neglect their surroundings, inviting the breeding of mosquitoes.

The Grama Sevakas should be asked to keep a constant vigilant eye for signs of dengue risks in the designated divisions and work in tandem with the PHIs. It will be ideal if the relevant health officials fan out across the country to curb the dengue threat. Special programmes should be conducted in schools to educate the children on the dangers of the dengue epidemic and precautionary steps to be adopted.

A Presidential Task Force should be set up for the Prevention of Dengue. Nothing will move faster in getting into action unless it is under the watchful eye of the President as we have seen during the Coronavirus pandemic and other emergencies.

Reforming the Police

The physical assault on a police party who went on a drugs raid to a house in Bandaragama on Wednesday, no doubt would have appalled many who witnessed the scene on television and left many wondering if the police would be able to perform the task of protecting the ordinary public anymore. Such a scenario would certainly have been incomprehensible decades ago when the khaki uniform evoked awe and respect that made criminals and wrong doers running for cover at the sight of a guardian of the law. The manner in which the policemen (including two WPCs) were manhandled and the fierce nature of the assault was a clear indication that the Police no longer held any fears for law breakers. Perhaps, the police have brought this upon itself. The recent spate of arrest of police officers for drug running, collusion with the narcotics underworld, their shenanigans in the prisons, revelation of details of their well stacked bank accounts from illegal activities etc., have all contributed to the esteem of the police service taking a heavy beating with the result that its officers have now lost for them that element that drew fear and dread of the khaki uniform, by breakers of the law. Things should be put right without delay by reforming the Police service and restoring public confidence in it.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Health is not valued till sickness comes. - Thomas Fuller

SPORTS, CRICKET STADIUMS AND THE SHALIKA GROUNDS



Shalika Grounds



GUEST Column

RAVI PERERA

Undeniably, one of the most attractive developments witnessed in the city of Colombo of late is the planned improvement of its parks and walking tracks. While the very popular Independence Square walking track is the star of the category, there are several other walks that were developed about the same time: Nawala, near Parliament, Waters Edge, Bellanwila to name a few. These popular facilities have not only positively altered the appearance of what was once a derelict, war-scarred city, they also, while providing the city dweller a pleasant open area for working out, have improved the air quality.

Colombo is changing helter-skelter, high rise buildings sprout up virtually overnight; in a 10 perch plot of land where earlier one family had their residence, now stands an apartment block, perhaps housing twenty families. They demand services; power, water, garbage disposal, parking space for their vehicles. In this urban monstrosity, where space equals big money, clean air and open spaces are losing out in priority.

PARKS AND WALKING TRACKS

In the overall scheme of things, one may play down the significance of maintaining parks and walking tracks. But you would not do that after experiencing a Government which could not even manage that minimum, relegating parks to the insignificant, neglecting them; left with rutted walks, overgrown grass and burnt out lights. Recent history has taught us that Governments that cannot deliver on small things, will invariably fail on the large matters; peace, economy, integrity.

In this country, good examples are overlooked, while any shoddy deed is eagerly copied and multiplied. When once neglected parks are cleared, enclosed and walled public spaces are opened up and made wholesome, there is no response from counterpart sports grounds occupying other Government, ultimately public lands. These various grounds, in the different parts of the city, are generally sport specific; mainly Cricket, some managed in the form of clubs, others claimed by schools. In these places, walls are not coming down, barricades are going up.

Most cricket grounds in the city are now being turned into stadiums, ugly concrete structures are constructed around, constricting them; where once sparkling green expanses soothed the eye, the gloomy rear side of the stadium now glares; forbidding, hostile and grimy. In my youth, the area bordered by Park Road, Havelock and Greenland Roads was park like, beautiful greenery extending away in every direction. In this one invaluable location we had several

sports clubs: the BRC, the Havelock, the Colts, a Soccer ground and even a children's park. We saw hockey, a lot of softball cricket for the youngsters, even tennis at the Colts, and there were no ugly walls. The different grounds were ringed by thoughtfully planted Cassia, Flamboyant and Neem trees; majestic, providing a cool shade, the gentle breeze rustled the leaves.

The very philistine idea now prevailing seems to be that Cricket will become a massive spectator game, raking in the millions. It is not enough that we have in Colombo, the SSC, the Tamil Union and the Khetarama stadiums; any ground will swell with thousands coming to watch 22 young men battling it out occasionally. It matters not how often these contests are held. Every club committee is eager to build stadiums, a venture, temptingly open to not so sportsman like motives.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Like in many other things, have we lost our way here? Even is sports, such a disorganised, mutinous development bodes ill. No one sport can thrive, if the spirit of the outdoors, the exhilaration of the green, the joy of a gentle walk is denied to the millions. One cannot conceive of sporting achievements, when to the average person in the country, a green is something he can only see inside a concrete stadium, and that, only after paying to enter the enclosure.

It is clear that while we have placed all bets on one game, Cricket, the overall sporting standards have dropped drastically. Sri Lanka hardly counts in other sports and athletic events, reduced to celebrating an occasional Bronze; due to its rarity, the celebrations for the consolation prize going over the top. In most athletic events, we have steadily retreated below international standards, often failing to even qualify to participate, performing below entry level competence.

Even in Cricket, an extremely chancy sport, achievements are few and far between. A nation not given to a general outdoor sporting culture, simply cannot thrive on a myth of athleticism.

Of all the grounds that have lost their way, probably the most pathetic is the fate of what is referred to as the Shalika, formerly known as CTB grounds at the Lanka Hospital (Apollo) end of Park Road. This area used to be semi-marsh, in an earlier era I am told, eager golfers practiced here. Later, during the socialist days of the early 1970s the grounds ended up with, of all institutions, the Ceylon Transport Board (CTB).

Those who in the 1960s and 70s were victims of its deplorable service, will tell you that the CTB was one of the reasons for the drubbing the then Government received at the 1977 General Elections. When it was floundering so badly in providing public transport, its core service, how it managed a sports ground, needs no elaboration.

This is a very residential area; for the residents of the adjacent Anderson Flats (Golf-links Flats) Park Road,



Shalika must be one of the worse maintained grounds in the city; uneven surface, grass growing wild, often water logged and mosquito infested, they are clearly challenged in the art of park maintenance. Even in design, the complex is primitive. The main gate at the Anderson Flats end opens into the "jogger's toilet", a good fifty years old, unmistakable, the stench hits you yards away.

Proper grounds are needed for recreational purposes

application for a National Identity Card.

A visit to the corner photo shop is necessary as two 'stamp size' photographs must be attached to the form. Before submitting the form, it needs certification by "an amortized person", perhaps half a day spent searching for a Justice of Peace. In addition to this unbelievable run-around, there is a Rs. 1,000 being levied annually from the "jogger".

WORSE MAINTAINED GROUNDS

Primarily a transport provider, the CTB, can be forgiven for being a poor groundsman. Shalika must be one of the worse maintained grounds in the city; uneven surface, grass growing wild, often water logged and mosquito infested, they are clearly challenged in the art of park maintenance. Even in design, the complex is primitive. The main gate at the Anderson Flats end opens into the "jogger's toilet", a good fifty years old, unmistakable, the stench hits you yards away.

One evening, about two years back, I was at the Shalika Grounds, there were only a few walkers at the time, when I saw some men hastily opening the gate on the Park Road side to allow a convoy of impressive looking cars to drive in. There were several men, in the standard white short-sleeve shirt and dark trouser of security staff. They were waiting for something to happen or someone to arrive.

After about half an hour, we heard the drone of a helicopter which appeared presently, landing in the middle of the green. The cars drove even closer to the helicopter. A few persons alighted from it and quickly got into the cars, which then drove off. Making inquiries, we learnt that it was a well-known businessman who was also a leading personality in the then Government. The helicopter was privately owned we were told. I do not know whether landing rights were previously arranged with the CTB or if there was a payment involved.

This scene stayed with me, the suggestion of power, of mystery; the overpowering sound of the helicopter, the cars with tinted windows, the fussing security detail, clashing sharply with the surrounding feebleness, neglect and inefficiency. It could easily be from a Graham Green thriller, a sharp display of power and glitter, all the more effective in that neglected ground, having neither.

As for Shalika Grounds, the only remedy I can see is in the form of an intervention by the UDA (Urban Development Authority); either they run it as a public service, or lease the grounds to an appropriate sports club to develop it, with meaning and purpose for the people of the area.



A transport provider is not the best entity for maintaining a sports ground

UK THREATENS TO BREAK INTERNATIONAL LAW ON BREXIT

ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

The UK is drawing up legislation that will override the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement with the European Union on Northern Ireland, a move that threatens the collapse of the EU - UK talks, and is widely regarded as a violation of international law, and so accepted by the Conservative cabinet secretary.

PM Boris Johnson will put an ultimatum to negotiators this week, saying the UK and Europe must agree a post-Brexit trade deal by October 15 or Britain will walk away for good.

Progress on the already fragile talks will be threatened by plans by the UK government's controversial section of the internal market bill that will intentionally try to unpick parts of the Withdrawal Agreement signed in January, including elements of the special arrangements for Northern Ireland that are legally binding.

The UK's Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis told the House of Commons a new bill to amend the UK's Brexit deal with the EU will "break international law". He conceded it would go against the treaty in a "specific and limited way".

Senior Conservative MPs and many legal experts urged the government not to go ahead with plans to drive through a change to the Brexit agreement on Northern Ireland, after it has been conceded it would break international law.

Many analysts see this as moving towards a "No Deal" exit from the EU, which has been a key aim of Boris Johnson from the beginning of the Brexit process. There are also concerns this move would be a breach of the Good Friday Agreement that brought peace between the UK and the Irish Republic.

Former PM Theresa May warned the change could damage "trust" in the UK over future trade deals with other states.

The permanent secretary to the Government Legal Department, Sir Jonathan Jones, has announced his resignation in light of the bill, making him the sixth senior civil servant to leave Whitehall this year. Sir Jonathan, who is the government's most senior lawyer, is understood to have believed the plans went too far in breaching the government's obligations under international law.

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer condemned the bill and accused No 10 of "reopening old arguments that had been settled", saying the "focus should be on getting a [trade] deal done" with the EU.

The new UK moves are expected to "eliminate" the legal force of the Withdrawal Agreement in areas including state aid and Northern Ireland customs. As part of the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol, the region is expected to continue to follow some EU rules after the transition period ends in 2021 to ensure there is no hard border.

Labour said the prime minister was "threatening to renege on the UK's legal obligations" and called it "an act of immense bad faith: one that would be viewed dimly by future trading partners and allies around the world".

The news was condemned by Ireland's Foreign Affairs Minister, Simon Coveney, who helped broker the original Brexit settlement. He said any change would be "very unwise".

It reported that the US will be opposed to this move, as it was very strongly supportive of the Good Friday Agreement, signed in 1998, between the British and Irish governments, and most of the political parties in Northern Ireland, on how Northern Ireland should be governed.

Key figures close to the negotiations have already warned that EU leaders and heads of state must intervene before the end of the month to save the talks from collapse. Industry leaders have previously said no deal would spell disaster for the UK, with tariffs imposed on goods sending costs for industry and consumers soaring.

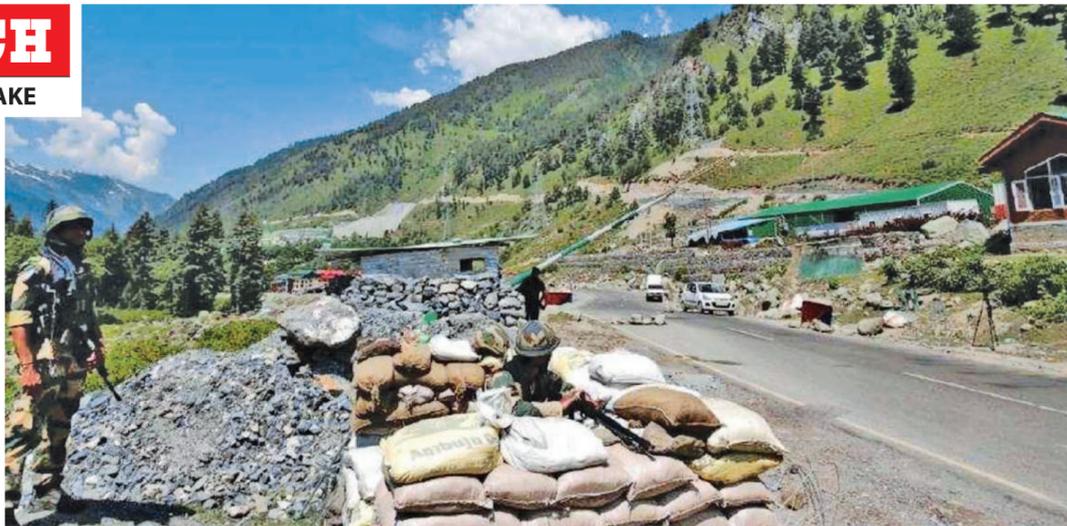
Brexit negotiations reopen in London with a warning from the European commission president that Britain must respect international law. The EU's Ursula von der Leyen said "I trust the British government to implement the withdrawal agreement, an obligation under international law & prerequisite for any future partnership," as posted on Twitter. "[The] protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland is essential to protect peace and stability on the island & integrity of the single market."

Business leaders warned that a Brexit deal was essential for safeguarding Britain's economic recovery from the coronavirus outbreak and avoiding higher prices in the shops for British consumers as pressure mounts on household finances. Manufacturers have warned that Brexit stockpiles had been depleted during the Covid lockdown and many firms were running out of cash and time to prepare for leaving the EU. Retailers warned that the price of food and drink could rise due to border disruption, the imposition of tariffs and a weaker pound.

The pound fell on Monday as City investors bet on the growing likelihood of the UK leaving the Brexit transition without a deal. Sterling fell about 1% against the US dollar on Monday to trade below \$1.32, and fell by a similar amount against the euro to below €1.12 on the international currency markets.

INDIA - CHINA TALKS

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi are set to come face-to-face at least three times in Moscow this week, with the bilateral meeting being seen as key to reducing tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Himalayas.



Galwan Valley has seen an India-China standoff



French President Emmanuel Macron with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Jaishankar and Wang will participate in a meeting of foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on Thursday morning, to be followed by a luncheon meeting of foreign ministers of the Russia-India-China (RIC) grouping.

This will be the first between Jaishankar and Wang since the standoff in Ladakh sector began in May. The two leaders spoke on phone on June 17, two days after the deadly clash in Galwan Valley that left 20 Indian soldiers dead and caused an unspecified number of Chinese casualties.

Ahead of his departure for Russia, Jaishankar emphasised the need for political contacts to reduce tensions and end the stalemate in the disengagement process along the LAC. The standoff goes against all understandings on border management dating back to 1993 and the serious situation calls for "very deep conversations...at a political level", he said.

The RIC meeting between Jaishankar, Wang and their Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov assumes significance as Moscow has pushed for dialogue between New Delhi and Beijing to ease the border tensions. Given its good ties with India and China, Russia also doesn't want to be forced into taking sides, experts said.

Roman Babushkin, the Russian deputy chief of mission, said on Tuesday his country wasn't directly mediating between India and China but was "focusing on the creation of a positive atmosphere through SCO, BRICS and RIC for practical cooperation". He added: "Any kind of dialogue would be better than escalation."

China and India have accused each other of firing shots on their flashpoint Himalayan border in a further escalation of military tension between the nuclear-armed Asian rivals.

The situation between India and China has deteriorated since the combat clash in the Ladakh region in June this year, where 20 Indian troops were killed. There are no confirmed reports of Chinese troops killed there.

Beijing's Defence Ministry accused India of "severe military provocation" saying soldiers crossed the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the western border region on Monday and "opened fire to threaten border defence patrol officers". According to the Chinese, Chinese troops approached the India side for negotiations, when some Indian troops fired at the Chinese side.

New Delhi has given a swift response, accusing Chinese border forces of "blatantly violating agreements" and "firing a few rounds in the air" to intimidate the Indian troops. "It is the PLA that has been blatantly violating agreements and carrying out aggressive manoeuvres" the Indian Army said on Tuesday.

Both sides have sent thousands of troops to the disputed Himalayan border, which sits at an altitude of more than 4,000 metres (13,500 ft).

US POLLS

Less than two months to go before the US presidential election, former Vice-President Joe Biden, the Democratic party's nominee, is polling ahead of incumbent Republican President

Donald Trump in key battleground states, though he has seen his lead narrow in some states since the summer.

National polls show Mr. Biden at a significant advantage. White seniors in particular, a group that helped propel Mr. Trump to victory in 2016, have shown signs of disapproval towards the president's handling of the pandemic. The Black Lives Matter activist actions have dual reactions, with increased support for Joe Biden among mixed communities, and the anti-Black and Law & Order supporters for Trump, especially from the White communities. Reports of President Trump making disparaging remarks about US soldiers who were captured or killed in battle, have brought a major negative for him in the current polling.

According to *The Atlantic* magazine, Mr. Trump cancelled a visit to a US cemetery outside Paris in 2018 because he said it was "filled with losers". During a visit to France in 2018, Mr. Trump cancelled a visit to the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, and at the time the White House blamed poor weather. However *The Atlantic* reported he rejected the idea of visiting because the rain would dishevel his hair, and he did not believe it important to honour America's war dead.

But in a tweet, the president denounced the claims as "made up fake news". Speaking with reporters, Mr. Trump called *The Atlantic's* report "unthinkable".

"To think that I would make statements negative to our military and our fallen heroes when nobody's done what I've done with the budgets, with the military budgets, with getting pay raises for our military," said the president. "It is a disgraceful situation by a magazine that's a terrible magazine."

These reports and the responses to them from US Forces personnel, and some Republicans too, have placed Trump in a tough situation in drawing voter support, which is also affected by his bad handling of the Covid 19 pandemic, with the US having the highest numbers infected more than 6,350,000 and more than 190,869 dead.

September 7 - the Labour Day holiday, signifies the beginning of the most aggressive stretch of campaigning in the presidential poll. In the campaigning from this day Trump is largely engaged in claims of a sooner-than-expected coronavirus vaccine, and the hurling of insults at rival candidate Joe Biden, and his Vice President candidate Kamala Harris. He has called Biden a 'stupid person'.

Joe Biden is attacking Trump as one who is 'not made of the same stuff' as working Americans, and has obtained support of the country's largest trade union federation. Biden has said that Trump, a billionaire, 'lives by a code of lies, greed and selfishness' and is 'not made of the same stuff' as the US working class.

The national polls are a good guide as to how popular a candidate is across the country as a whole, but they're not necessarily a good way to predict the result of the election. In 2016, for example, Hillary Clinton led in the

polls and won nearly three million more votes than Donald Trump, but she still lost - that's because the US uses an electoral college system, so winning the most votes doesn't always win you the election. In the electoral college system the US uses to elect its president, each state is given a number of votes based on its population. A total of 538 electoral college votes are up for grabs, so a candidate needs to hit 270 to win.

BELARUS PROTESTS

Mass protests continue in Belarus against President Alexander Lukashenko who claimed to win a national election by 80 percent more than a month ago.

Amidst protests this week, Maria Kolesnikova, a prominent female Belarusian opposition leader, resisted efforts to deport her to Ukraine, by ripping up her passport at the border. The *Interfax-Ukraine* agency reported: "When attempting to deport her, she tore her passport and could not be allowed into the territory of Ukraine by border guards."

Deputy Ukrainian Interior Minister Anton Gerashchenko said in a Facebook post that Ms. Kolesnikova, who had been missing for the past 24 hours, successfully prevented "a forcible expulsion from her native country".

"Maria Kolesnikova was not able to be deported from Belarus as this brave woman took steps to prevent herself from being moved across the border," he said. "She remained on the territory of the Republic of Belarus. Alexander Lukashenko is personally responsible for her life and health."

Since the contested vote on August 9, large protests have taken place in the former Soviet country, which borders Russia and has been ruled by Mr. Lukashenko since 1994.

Some 100,000 demonstrators took to the streets at the weekend and the protest movement shows no sign of waning after four weeks of mass demonstrations and strikes.

Emboldened by the backing of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Mr. Lukashenko has denied vote-rigging and accused foreign powers of trying to topple him in a revolution. It is now reported that Belarusian, Russian and Serbian military forces will take part in joint military exercises in Belarus, the RIA news agency cited Belarus' defence ministry as saying on Tuesday.

The Russian and Serbian forces would arrive in Belarus from September 10 to 15.

Opposition candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya who claimed to have won a decisive first-round victory with at least 60% of the vote, and called on Lukashenko to start negotiations. Her campaign subsequently formed the Coordination Council to facilitate a transfer of power and stated that it was ready to organise "long-term protests" against the official results.

She has called for people to demonstrate peacefully over the weekend while accusing the authorities of turning the protests into a "bloodbath". Tikhanovskaya fled to Lithuania after publicly denouncing the results which



Former US Vice President Joe Biden



Alexei Navalny

handed victory to the incumbent Alexander Lukashenko, who has been in office for 26 years.

INDIA - FRANCE - AUSSIE TALKS

India, France and Australia on Wednesday jump started a new strategic alliance proposed by French President Emmanuel Macron two years ago, with the first meeting of top foreign ministry officials of the three countries. Maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region got the top billing at Wednesday's video conference.

The officials spoke about "enhancing maritime security cooperation" including maritime domain awareness, mutual logistics support and capacity building of other friendly countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

There was broad agreement among the three partners that they should look at a multipolar world where countries join hands for mutual benefit and support rather than a unipolar or multipolar world.

China did figure in the discussions but the meeting wasn't focussed on one country. The virtual meeting was co-chaired by India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, secretary-general in French ministry for Europe and foreign affairs François Delattre, and secretary in Australian department of foreign affairs Frances Adamson.

French President Macron was among the first to call for building a strategic alliance between the three countries that could respond to challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and the growing assertiveness of China. On a visit to Australia back in May 2018, President Macron had spoken about the need for the partners to 'organise' themselves. "We're not naive: if we want to be seen and respected by China as an equal partner, we must organise ourselves". He also said: "This new Paris-Delhi-Canberra axis is absolutely key for the region and our joint objectives in the Indian-Pacific region".

Visiting India later, President Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a blueprint to step up cooperation in the Indian Ocean to counter China's growing influence in the region. "The Indian Ocean, like the Pacific Ocean, cannot become a place of hegemony," President Macron said, as the two countries signed pacts that gave Indian warships access to French naval bases in the Indian Ocean.

At Wednesday's meeting, Indian Foreign Secretary Shringla underscored PM Modi's vision for the Indo-Pacific that he had articulated at the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2018 to promote the concept of Security and Growth for All in the Region or SAGAR.

SOUTH AFRICA / INDIA - COVID IMPACT

South Africa has become the worst hit country on its economy and growth due to Covid 19. South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted 51.0% in the second quarter of 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions which were imposed from late March 2020 until June.

The manufacturing industry contracted by 74.9% in the second quarter, and all ten manufacturing divisions reported negative growth rates in the second quarter," the statistics agency said. The trade, catering and accommodation industries decreased by 67.6%.

The mining and quarrying industry decreased by 73.1% contributing to -6.0 percentage points to GDP growth.

South Africa's latest Covid-19 infections are 642, 431 and 15, 168 deaths.

INDIA RISE...

India on Thursday recorded its biggest one-day COVID-19 case rise yet, with nearly 96,000 fresh cases in the last 24 hours bringing the total number to date to 4.4 million. Indian Health Ministry figures Thursday morning showed that 95,735 new cases and 1,172 deaths were recorded in the country.

This is for the first time India has witnessed such a huge increase on a single day. With a massive increase of coronavirus cases on a daily basis, the country recently surpassed Brazil to become the country second-worst hit by the virus. Total COVID-19 related deaths in India have now reached 75,062.

Indian experts say that by the end of September India may even surpass the US - the worst-affected country worldwide - in the severity of the pandemic.

NAVALNY

Doctors treating Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny say he is out of an induced coma and his condition, since being poisoned, has improved.

Mr. Navalny, 44, was flown to Germany after falling ill on a flight in Siberia in August. German doctors say the Putin critic was poisoned with a Novichok nerve agent.

The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said there was a "substantial chance" the poisoning of Navalny was ordered by senior Russian officials. Pompeo reiterated that the United States and its European allies all wanted Russia to "hold those responsible for this accountable" and said Washington would also try to identify the perpetrators.

The UK Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, said the Russian ambassador was being summoned over the incident. "It's completely unacceptable that a banned chemical weapon has been used and Russia must hold a full, transparent investigation," he said in a statement.

The German chancellor, Angela Merkel, said last week there was "unequivocal evidence" that Navalny, a vocal critic of Vladimir Putin, had been poisoned using the Soviet-era nerve agent. The Kremlin has repeatedly denied responsibility, with a spokesperson on Monday denouncing "absurd" attempts to link the poisoning to Putin.

Ebony Holdings to go global, to launch on-line sales soon

ANANDA KANNANGARA

Ebony Holdings Pvt Ltd and its Apparel brand Vantage are looking for a mega expansion drive overseas to Europe, Gulf and selected Asian countries when the pandemic settles.

An undisputed leader in men's fashion apparel in Sri Lanka, Ebony Holdings has remained innovative and fashionable for over two decades, spearheading the promise of the Sri Lankan apparel industry. "We have received many requests from overseas clients and buyers to make our products available to them and we will commence exports soon, taking 100% Sri Lankan brand to the global market," Managing Director, Raseen Raheem, said.

"We hold over 14% of market share for our range of products due to our style, design and quality which is driven towards innovation. Now we look to the future with a view of achieving international success as well."

He said that moving with the new trends they hope to launch one line sales soon and a payment gateway has already been formulated.

Commenting on their future



Chairman Rasmey Raheem, and Managing Director, Raseen Raheem.



expansion he said in a bid to make locals buy Sri Lankan products they will introduce a kids and also youth segment (for school children) range.

Their products are manufactured to precession at their three factories in Kurunegala which employs over 2,000.

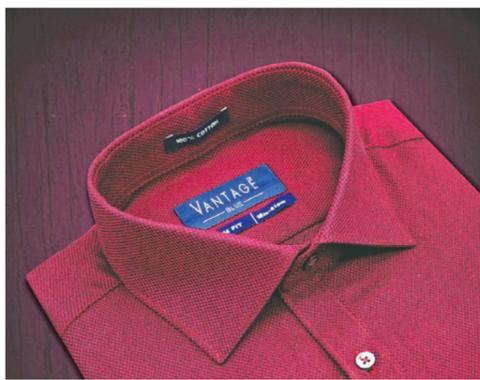
Throughout history, Ebony Holdings has adhered to the highest standards of quality through the use of latest technology and produced fashionable clothing on par with international standards.

Ebony holdings was the first company to come forward to

stitch protective masks and offer them free of charge to frontline health workers and armed forces who were battling against the Covid pandemic.

As a part of another CSR initiative Ebony Holdings is also engaged in the beautifications of Colombo Fort Railway station and lighting up the signage of the station.

Chairman, Ebony Holdings, Rasmey Raheem said that they see tremendous potential for Football for the future and became the title sponsor of the Vantage FFSL Presidents Cup 2020, the biggest tournament



during the past two years consecutively.

Football is played in more than 180+ countries and locally more than 1,000 Football clubs are active on different scales.

"We feel that The Vantage FFSL President's cup is an effective tournament which exposes the best and talented players to support football development in Sri Lanka. We partnered as the title sponsor seeking the best for the future of Sri Lankan Football."

"We remain committed to do our part in this challenging journey, seeking Sri Lankan football being established at the highest standards in the near future."

Vantage was also the co-sponsor of the Siyatha Mr. World Sri Lanka 2018 pageant. Ebony Holdings, offering a wide range of men's clothing including shirts, trousers and inner wear through its popular portfolio of brands such as Vantage, Ebony and Flash.

Angela Sirisena donates Elders Home for her birthday



Angela Sirisena, Director of Araliya Group, recently celebrated her birthday with the donation of a newly built elders home in Polonnaruwa. The elders home was built with her own money. At the opening ceremony, she said she

was delighted to celebrate her 60th birthday in this manner.

Former President Maithreepala Sirisena, several parliamentarians, Provincial Councillors and various well wishers graced this occasion



Daraz Mall Fest from Sept. 15 to 21

Daraz's exclusive online mall featuring a range of leading brands will be hosting 'Daraz Mall Fest' from September 15 to 21 with exciting offers and discounts on some of the favourite brands. Daraz Mall is a platform that showcases over 400 official trusted brands and certified stores that sell 100% authentic products, with an exclusive 14-day return policy.

The Daraz Mall Fest will be the largest online brand space that brings together a variety of authentic brands, ranging from electronics, general merchandise, FMCG and Fashion, into a single platform for the benefit of shoppers. Over a 100 brands will be offering the lowest prices available at Daraz Mall Fest together with top 200 brands handing out exciting vouchers.

Daraz is known for its interactive and engaging online shopping experience, which will continue at the Daraz Mall Fest as well. Through the One Rupee Game, shoppers can stand a chance to buy a Samsung Galaxy A20s phone, OPPO Enco W11 air dot, Stainless Steel 4 Burner Gas cooker, Multimedia speaker, Industrial Stand Fan or Bean Bag.

In addition, any purchases above Rs. 1,500 between 5 pm and 7 pm during the Daraz Mall Fest can win an iPhone SE 2020. Playing the Daraz in-app games like chor police, ninja duo and kick'em, gives a chance to win a JBL Go2, Haylou smart watch or Philips gaming headphone, making the Daraz Mall Fest an even more amazing experience.

Over 25 leading brands on Daraz Mall will offer a 25% discount on some of the best loved items, and



shoppers can follow their favourite brands to get hold of vouchers to shop for friends and family.

Oppo, Revlon, Janet, Arpico, Mitshu, The Concept store, Bean Bag Lanka, Vantage and GMT will be partnering Daraz Mall Fest, adding to the best deals that the brands can give, whilst NDB Bank, Sampath Bank, HSBC, Commercial Bank, and Seylan Bank will be offering 10% off on their credit cards, with an extra 12% off on all Master Cards, under terms and conditions.

Early bird offers from a range of favourite brands can be obtained through <https://bit.ly/3bMViO8>.

Ebert Silva Holidays commences Colombo City Tour Open Deck rides

Ebert Silva Holidays recommenced the Colombo City Tour Open Deck double decker city tours last weekend amidst much enthusiasm and interest from Sri Lankans young and old.

Colombo City Tour showcases Sri Lanka's premier city to both Sri Lankans as well as foreign nationals and is a venture by Sri Lanka Tourism and Ebert Silva Holidays with unmatched panoramic views of the city in its big red Open Deck double decker coaches.

As the country embraced the 'new normal' Sri Lankans eagerly came on board to enjoy the "Heritage of Colombo" and "Colombo at Night" weekend tours. It was an opportunity to responsibly break free from restricted activities and have a refreshing and joyous open deck sightseeing experience in the city of Colombo. The tours conform to strict health guidelines ensuring maximum safety and precautionary measures to safeguard passengers and team members against the pandemic.

Known as 'Kolon Thota', the native name of the city meaning 'port' became 'Colombo' with the advent of the colonial rulers to the island. Today the city is an interesting and colourful tapestry



of many races, religions and cultures and showcases a wonderful colonial heritage blended in its many moods. With a rapidly changing skyline, Colombo is indeed a unique city of 'old and new' that is swiftly unfolding into a spectacular tourist destination in the region.

Both the 'Heritage of Colombo' and 'Colombo at Night' tours with duration of approximately 4 hours, operate during the weekends sightseeing within the city limits of Colombo and extending to the administrative capital, Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte. The tours feature many places of historic significance in the city such as the prison cell of the last King of the Kandyan Kingdom.



In the administrative capital the tour will present a thrilling experience of a boat ride for nearly 30 minutes on Diyawanna Lake.

All city tours include live commentaries by professional guides, snacks and mineral water, entrance tickets to sites and other experiences and are conducted under strict guide-

lines that are stipulated by Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority ensuring the safety of all those on board.

Ebert Silva Holidays with the Colombo City Tour showcases the history of the city of Colombo and also enables the passengers to get unique views of the new rapid developments of the city.

Medical Camp by JCI Colombo and Humanitarian International



The Colombo Chapter of Junior Chamber International Sri Lanka (JCI) which was introduced in 1954 and Humanitarian International that commenced operations in 2014 founded by Dr. Dilhan Sampath Jayatilke and serves in the position to date organized a Medical Camp at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Balagala, Wattala.

Jayatilke is also the President of JCI Colombo this year.

The project had the presence of five Doctors who went on to serve 340 patients during the day which commenced at 9.00 a.m. and went on till 4.00p.m. Medication required was provided and at the same time while a separate Blood Sugar Test counter was also in place. This initiative was ably supported by the St. Vincent De Paul



Society of the Church as well. The main sponsors of the project were Dreams Consolidated which is a company providing marketing communication solutions as well

as Dreams Trading which is into commodity trading. Dr. Dilhan Sampath Jayatilke serves as the Head - Business Development of both these companies.

CatchMe.Ik opens Super Store in Colombo

Bringing in the convenience and affordability factors of shopping experience, renowned e-Commerce platform CatchMe.Ik recently opened its Super Store in Galle Road, Colombo 4.

Founding Partner of Catchme.Ik Afthab Azeez noted, "During the recent lockdown Catchme.Ik was able to transform our product portfolio from electronics, household items and novelties to essentials, groceries and other household necessities as well. Our network of more than 100,000 customers relied on us during the lockdown to provide them with daily essentials and while working on stocking and warehousing and delivery we found a need for a super store concept where one could walk in and purchase a variety of items under one roof."

"The super store concept that we have developed houses groceries and household essentials and many of our products that are available online in one place. It is the ideal setting for customers who prefer to look and feel prior to making a purchase. We also chose a convenient and easily accessible location with ample parking to give customers added value," said Siddeek Azeez, Founding Partner of Catchme.Ik

A fully-owned subsidiary of the Katalyst Group that was established in 2012 Catchme.Ik is a household name among online shoppers specifically for its cost-effectiveness and superior after sales service.

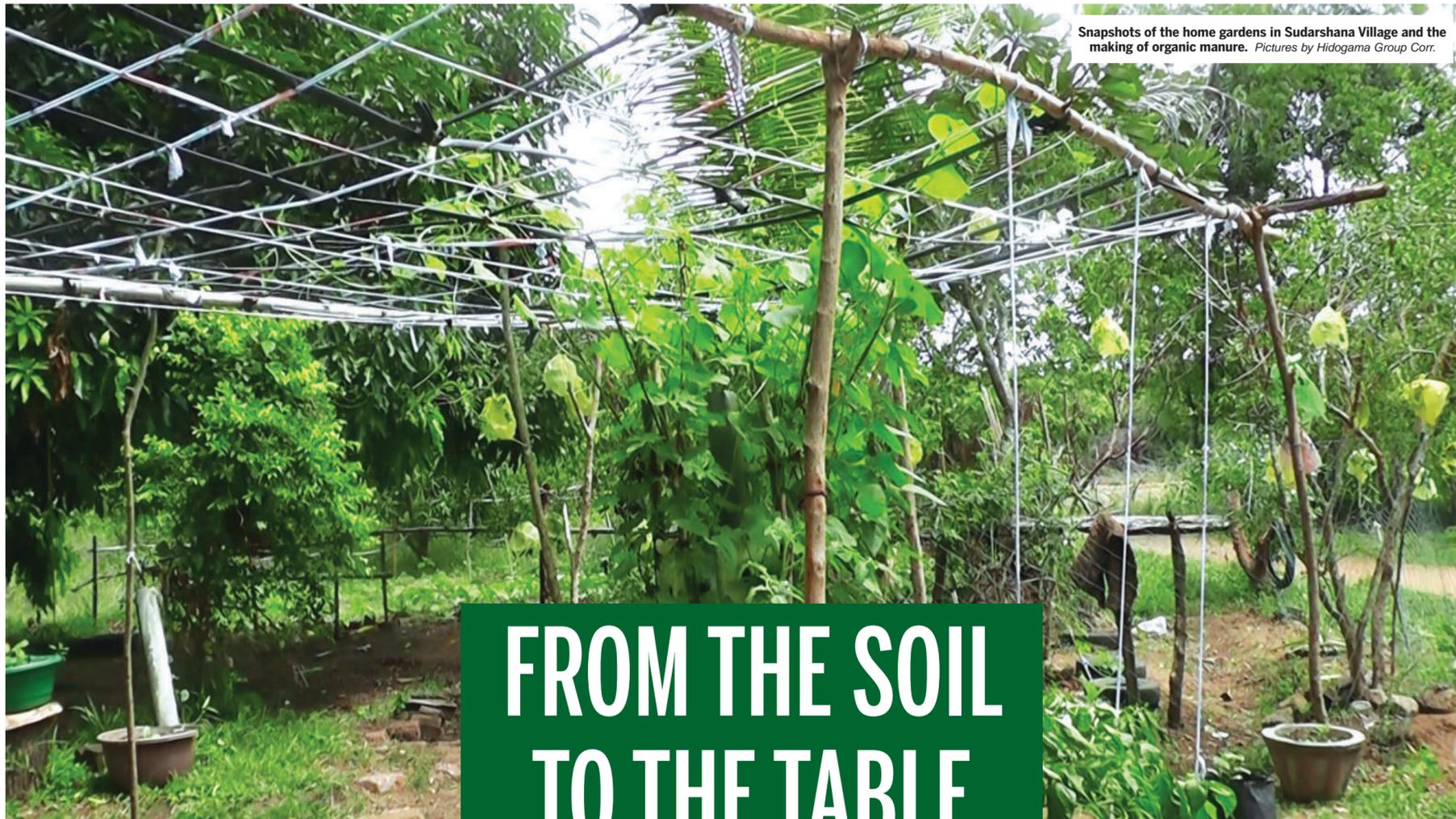
"Lessons we learnt in consumer buying



patterns have been put in to practice at our new super store. We have also adhered to all health and safety regulations and continue to educate our staff and customers on the required safety measures while shopping within the super store. We are also very excited to be introducing

a range of new brands to our portfolio including a wide range of chocolates and confectionaries that are sure to be favourites among young and old shoppers alike", said Damitha Ginigadara, Chief Technical Officer and Director at the Katalyst Group.

Snapshots of the home gardens in Sudarshana Village and the making of organic manure. Pictures by Hidogama Group Corr.



FROM THE SOIL TO THE TABLE

An organic farming community shows the way in Anuradhapura



A.W. Achini Sadamali.

W.S. Dhammika

CHITHRARATNE KALUARACHCHI
Hidogama Group Corr.

A group of enterprising women in Sudarshana Village, Padaviya, Anuradhapura, have turned to organic farming in a big way, helping to feed their entire village with wholesome food, free of pesticides and chemical fertiliser.

"We enjoy nurturing organic gardens. Now our children and husbands do not have to consume harmful chemicals with their food. We used to spend about Rs. 5,000 a month on vegetables. Now that money too is saved. Everyone in the house is now happy to help with our organic cultivation," says W.S. Dhammika, who pioneered the concept in the village.

"A gentleman who works for a newspaper came and informed us about the potential of organic farming. Nimal Padmasiri of the Institute of Rural Society Development helped us to realise that dream. Previously we were under the impression that vegetables could not be made without chemical fertilizers and chemical oils. But we did as they told us to do. At first, we were wary of the project. Now it is successful and vegetables are freely available all over the village and they have no toxins. The value of growing vegetables and fruits using organic fertilizers cannot be overstated. Now there is no possibility of us eating poisoned food and falling ill. The mental healing that is felt is invaluable. Also, in the morning, we have a beautiful garden to look at."

Dhammika also thanked President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for promoting the idea of a localized economy sans imports of essential food items that can be grown locally, possibly without using chemical fertilisers and weedicides. "Thanks to his astute leadership during the Coronavirus crisis, we did not suffer. In fact, the Coronavirus crisis was a blessing in disguise for us, as we tended to our gardens more during the lockdown. The entire village participated in our home gardens programme. We now invite the President to come to Sudarshana Village in Padaviya and look at our home gardens and encourage us even more."

A.W. Achini Sadamali, another organic farmer, said she could well remember the time when weeds had grown around the house and they had other work to do every day. "So when these gentlemen informed us about organic home gardening, we thought we could take to it. We started work and now it is successful. Now we do not eat poison. A successful harvest is becoming a reality. The person who works for the newspaper told us that 25 vegetables could be grown easily in our plot of land. The gentle-

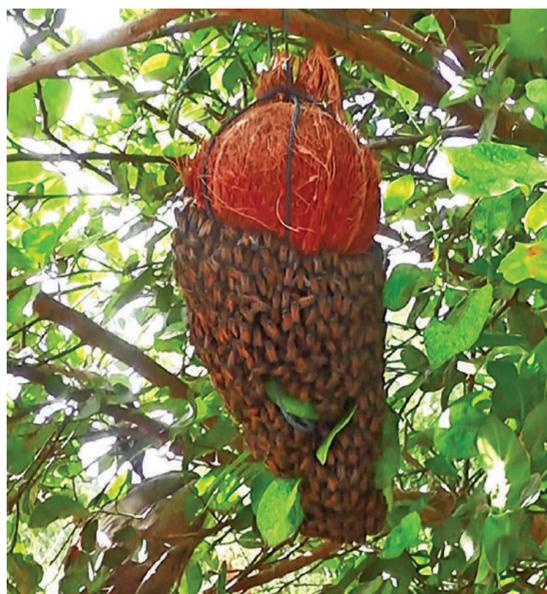
man said that it is sufficient to apply fertilizer only once for the plants. We could not believe that. But we did not give up. Actually, he is right."

"In a three-foot plot of land we have now planted 15 to 20 varieties of vegetables. The harvest can be reaped now. Organic manure made from dung, straw, garbage, water hyacinth (Japan Jabara), albizia leaves and neem leaves in our village is now available in every home. I think the women who live in Sudarshana Village are lucky. Now we do not eat poison anymore. We are grateful to the person who works for the newspaper, Nimal Padmasiri and all those who supported this programme and to all those who contributed to this programme in Sudarshana Village."

The village has another programme to produce organic fertilizer. Speaking on this eco-friendly project, H. Pathma Mayadunne of Sudarshana Village said, "We are using the aquatic plants and cow dung that we could access easily in this area to produce the organic fertilizer. The leftovers in our home kitchens will also be used. Today, with the coordination of a journalist, the Institute of Rural Social Development taught us how to make money by utilizing everything disposable and environmentally friendly. Following the project, now we understand the amount of resources we wasted due to lack of knowledge. Now we understand that all we disposed of earlier can be turned into a source of income. We would like to extend our gratitude to those who made us aware of this means of livelihood."

Another villager who is part of the project, W.M.G.M. Daya Kumari said, "Since we are using all the unnecessary aquatic plants, the lake will be beautiful in the future. Our houses and home gardens will be beautiful. We will also get an income. Also, the women in our village who will consume organic vegetables will be beautiful."

Nimal Padmasiri, the Executive Director of the Institute of Rural Social Development, speaking on the occasion said, "When the President tries to give organic fertilizer to the farmers, we have to produce the organic fertilizers from the village. That is our duty. The President hopes to provide non-toxic food to the people of Sri Lanka in the future. We would like to thank all these women in Sudarshana Village who have contributed to the success of this project. We are happy to provide guidance for this project. These women are talented. Organic fertilizer will be produced in 50 houses in this village. The women who claimed to be poor will get an income as well," Padmasiri said.



Vaccine trust growing in EUROPE, dips in ASIA, AFRICA - Researchers



The World Health Organization lists vaccine hesitancy as one of its top 10 global health threats.

FRANCE: Public trust in vaccine safety is slowly growing in Europe even as it dips in parts of Asia and Africa, researchers said Friday, calling for more investment in health information campaigns for the forthcoming COVID-19 vaccine. The largest ever global survey of

vaccine confidence, published in the Lancet medical journal, shows clear links between political instability and misinformation and the levels of trust in the safety of medicines. The World Health Organization lists vaccine hesitancy as one of its top 10 global health threats, and

dipping levels of immunisation coverage have seen outbreaks of preventable diseases such as polio and measles in recent years. The survey of nearly 300,000 respondents shows trust in vaccine safety increasing - with some exceptions - across Europe.

In France, where confidence in vaccines has been consistently low for decades, it shows an increase from 22 percent to 30 percent of people strongly agreeing they are safe. In Britain, confidence in vaccine safety rose from 47 percent in May 2018 to 52 percent in Novem-

ber 2019. Poland and Serbia however saw significant declines in public vaccine confidence. Afghanistan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan saw "substantial" increases in the number of people strongly disagreeing that vaccines are safe between

2015 and 2019. In Azerbaijan, public mistrust surged from 2 percent to 17 percent in that timeframe. Authors of the research attributed this "worrying trend" in part to political instability and religious extremism. - AFP



COVID-19 patients lie on beds in a field hospital built inside a gym in Santo Andre, on the outskirts of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Brazil is the worst hit country in Latin America.

Over 8 mn COVID-19 cases in Latin America and Caribbean

URUGUAY: Latin America and the Caribbean on Thursday passed the milestone of eight million cases of COVID-19, days after logging more than 300,000 deaths from the virus, according to an AFP tally of official records. The region, which is the worst hit in the world, had 8,035,484 cases as of yesterday, out of a global total of 28.02 million people infected with the disease. The region made up of the United States and Canada has the second largest number of infections worldwide, with 6,504,734

cases. Europe is second to Latin America in the number of deaths, with 220,085 fatalities from the disease. Brazil is the worst hit country in Latin America, with 4.23 million people infected with COVID-19 and 129,522 dead from the disease. Peru holds second place in the number of infections with 702,776 cases, as well as 30,236 dead - but Mexico holds second place in the number of fatalities in the region, with 69,095 having succumbed to the virus. It has logged 647,507 infections. - AFP



COVID-19 Infection higher in hospital cleaners

UK: Intensive care medics were significantly less likely to have been infected with COVID-19 than hospital cleaners and other healthcare workers in departments deemed lower risk, according to a study of several British hospitals at the peak of the pandemic. The research also found that people of black, Asian and minority ethnicity were nearly twice as likely to have been infected as white colleagues. It follows several studies suggesting race, income and allocation of personal protective equipment (PPE) create biases in the burden of infections. Researchers said the results could be because those working in intensive therapy units (ITU) were prioritised for the highest level of masks and other equipment.

In the study, published in the journal Thorax, researchers tested more than 500 staff at the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, which runs several hospitals and employs more than 20,000 staff. All the staff were at work in late April, when cases were peaking around a month after the UK went into lockdown. Nearly 2.5 percent - 13 out of 545 - staff tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19 infection. Researchers also took blood samples from 516 staff and found that 24 percent of them had antibodies for the virus. This compares to six percent generally in the Midlands region of England at the time. - AFP

Finland's new virus app puts PM in isolation

FINLAND: Finland's 34-year-old Prime Minister Sanna Marin will work remotely until further notice, officials announced after the country's new coronavirus app warned that she may have been exposed. Marin was tested for COVID-19, her office said in a statement. "She is asymptomatic and feeling fine." Finland launched its coronavirus tracing app on September 1, allowing smartphone users to receive an alert when they have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for the coronavirus. The app has since been downloaded approximately 1.8 million times, equal to one-third of Finland's 5.5 million population. On Thursday, Marin's government agreed to relax Finland's travel restrictions and allow visitors from Germany, Sweden, Norway and other EU states with fewer than 25 new cases per 100,000 population in the last fortnight. Finland's tight rules currently ban arrivals from all but a handful of EU countries. - AFP



Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin (R) with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron (C) at a recent meeting.

China-India flashpoint

Both sides have sent tens of thousands of troops to the disputed Himalayan border



Troops have had a number of showdowns since a clash in the Ladakh region on June 15 in which 20 Indian troops died

China, India agree to disengage at disputed border

CHINA: India and China have agreed to "disengage as soon as possible" after troops engaged in a series of clashes at their disputed Himalayan border, according to a joint statement from the two countries. The nuclear-armed neighbours accused each other this week of firing shots across the flashpoint border - intensifying a month-long standoff that has already claimed at least 20 lives. Tens of thousands of troops from both sides have been deployed to the border, which sits at an altitude of more than 4,000 metres (13,500 feet). After a meeting Thursday

between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyan Jaishankar in Moscow, a joint statement said the two sides had agreed to de-escalate. "The border defense forces of both countries should continue dialogue, disengage as soon as possible, maintain the necessary distance, and ease the situation on the ground," the statement said. The two also agreed to "avoid actions that may escalate the situation". Throughout the dispute, China and India have issued similar statements calling for restraint and to ease tensions. - AFP

Portland's Mayor bans Police from using tear gas

US: The mayor of the protest-hit US city of Portland, Oregon on Thursday ordered city police to stop using tear gas for crowd control purposes. The northwestern city has endured more than 100 days of dem-

onstrations against racism and police brutality. Mayor Ted Wheeler, a Democrat, has been fiercely criticized by "Black Lives Matter" and anti-fascist activists that have been in the streets since the death of George Floyd, the African-American

man who died gasping for air under the knee of a white police officer in late May in the city of Minneapolis. In his dual job as Mayor and Chief of Police, Wheeler has been criticized for failing to meet commitments to reduce racial discrimina-

tion and police brutality, which demonstrators believe especially target racial minorities. Separately, Portland on Wednesday banned the use of facial recognition technology by all city departments, including the police. - AFP



Oregon Police wearing anti-riot gear march towards protesters through tear gas smoke during the 100th day and night of protests against racism and police brutality in Portland, Oregon in this September 5, 2020 file photo. - AFP



A health worker checks the temperature of people to protect against the coronavirus in Pyongyang, North Korea.

NORTH KOREA ISSUES SHOOT-TO-KILL ORDERS TO PREVENT VIRUS

US: North Korean authorities have issued shoot-to-kill orders to prevent the COVID-19 coronavirus entering the country from China, according to the commander of US forces in the South.

North Korea whose crumbling health system would struggle to cope with a major virus outbreak – has not confirmed a single case of the disease that has swept the world since first emerging in China.

Pyongyang closed its border with China in January to try to prevent contamination, and in July state media said it had raised its state of emergency to the maximum level. US Forces Korea (USFK) commander Robert Abrams said that the border

shutdown had increased demand for smuggled goods, prompting authorities to intervene. The North introduced a new “buffer zone, one or two kilometers up on the Chinese border,” Abrams told an online conference organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington on Thursday.

“They’ve got North Korean SOF (Special Operations Forces) out there. ... Strike forces, they’ve got shoot-to-kill orders in place.” The border closure had effectively “accelerated the effects” of economic sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear programmes, he added, with imports from China plunging 85 percent.

The isolated country is also grappling with the aftermath of Typhoon Maysak, with its state media reporting more than 2,000 houses have been destroyed or inundated.

As a result, Abrams did not expect to see any major provocations from Pyongyang in the near future, although he said it might show off a new weapons system at next month’s celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the founding of Kim Jong Un’s ruling party.

“The regime right now – the military – is focused principally on getting their country recovered and to help mitigate the risk of COVID-19,” he said. - AFP



WATERGATE journalist Bob Woodward’s “RAGE” tops bestseller list

US: Nearly 50 years after Watergate, Bob Woodward is still breaking front page news and rattling US presidents.

His reporting about the Watergate scandal as a journalist for The Washington Post brought down Richard Nixon.

Now a best-selling author, the 77-year-old Woodward’s latest book, “Rage,” is shaking the White House of President Donald Trump less than two months ahead of the November 3 election.

In one of the 17 on-the-record interviews Woodward conducted with Trump for the book, the President admits to minimizing the threat from the COVID-19 coronavirus at the outset of a pandemic which has gone on to take nearly 200,000 lives in the United States.

“I wanted to always play it down,” Trump said in one conversation with Woodward. “I still like playing it down, because I don’t want to create a panic.”

Trump also told Woodward that he understood early on that the virus was “deadly stuff” and far more dangerous than the common flu. At the same time, he was reassuring the American public the virus would just “disappear.”

Woodward, in an interview with the CBS show “60 Minutes,” described as a “tragedy” the President’s failure to inform the public early on about how deadly the virus was.

“The president of the United States has a duty to warn,” he said. “The public will understand that but if they get the feeling that they’re not getting the truth, then you’re going down the path of deceit and cover up.” It was the unraveling of a cover-up – Watergate – that made the reputation of Woodward and his colleague Carl Bernstein. Woodward studied at Yale University and did a five-year tour in the US Navy, before turning to journalism.

After a stint at a local paper in the Washington suburbs, he got his shot at the Post in 1971.

Woodward had barely a year of reporting experience when he and Bernstein stumbled into the story of a lifetime – the 1972 break-in by Republican operatives of the Democratic Party offices in Washington’s Watergate compound.

Their classic gumshoe investigation prompted congressional hearings and led to Nixon’s resignation in 1974.

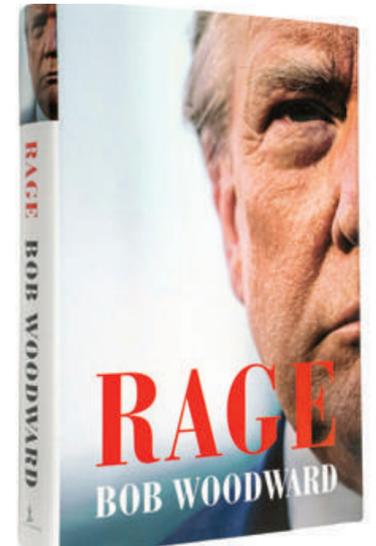
Woodward and Bernstein wrote a best-selling book, “All the President’s Men,” about the scandal which was turned into a hit 1976 film starring Robert Redford as Woodward and Dustin Hoffman as Bernstein.

“Rage” is already topping the Amazon bestseller list even before it goes on sale on September 15. Since leaving daily journalism, Woodward has put out 20 books, including authoritative tomes on Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump.

His in-depth reporting about Washington’s corridors of power is unmatched, and his ability to back up whatever insider tales he hears has earned him grudging respect in the US capital. Why Trump agreed to conduct 17 on-the-record interviews with Woodward – 16 of which were recorded – is something of a mystery, particularly after his previous book portrayed the president in an unflattering light. - AFP



Watergate journalist Bob Woodward.



The cover of Bob Woodward's latest book “Rage”.



Will the peace talks bring Afghanistan’s 19-year-old war to an end?

Afghan peace talks to begin today

AFGHANISTAN: Long-delayed peace talks between the Taliban and Afghan government negotiators will begin Saturday in Qatar, officials said, marking a potentially momentous milestone in Afghanistan’s 19-year-old war.

The US-backed talks had originally

been slated to start in March but were repeatedly pushed back amid disputes over a prisoner exchange that included the release of hundreds of battle-hardened Taliban fighters. The insurgents, the Afghan government and Qatari officials all confirmed on Thursday the talks would

begin Saturday following an opening ceremony in Doha. Qatar’s foreign ministry said the talks “are a serious and important step towards establishing sustainable peace in Afghanistan”. Afghanistan’s former chief executive Abdullah Abdullah, who now heads the High Council for

National Reconciliation (HCNR), was set to fly to Qatar on Friday. Peace talks were delayed for six months as the Taliban and Kabul conducted a US-backed prisoner exchange. The Taliban released 1,000 Afghan troops, while Kabul freed 5,000 insurgents. - AFP

Nazi warship found after 80 years

NORWAY: A World War II Nazi cruiser which was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Norway in 1940 has been found by chance at a depth of 490 metres (535 yards) during a subsea power cable inspection,

the engineers who discovered the wreck said Thursday. “Sometimes, we discover historical remains. But I’ve never found anything as exciting as this one,” Ole Petter Hobbestad, a chief engineer

at Norway’s power network operator Statnett, told AFP.

The German navy ship Karlsruhe, measuring 174 metres (571 feet), took part in the World War II invasion of Norway.

After troops had disembarked on April 9, 1940 the ship was hit by Norwegian artillery then torpedoed by a British submarine. Badly damaged, it was finally ordered sunk by the German captain off the port of Kristiansand, at Norway’s southern tip. Three years ago, Statnett’s sonars detected an unidentified wreck close to a high-tension cable between Norway and Denmark, but the company’s engineers did not have time to investigate further at the time, Statnett said. But on June 30, after a storm in the area, a team was sent out to inspect the wreck with a remotely-operated vehicle (ROV).

About 15 metres from the underwater cable, the ROV “showed a huge shipwreck that was torpedoed. But it was not until the cannons – and Nazi symbol – became visible on the screen that Ole Petter Hobbestad and the crew understood it was from the war,” Statnett said in a statement. Norway’s Maritime Museum later confirmed that there was no doubt: the wreck was indeed that of the Karlsruhe, which had never been found.

The sunken ship is located 13 nautical miles off Kristiansand. It lies upright on the seabed, a rare sight for warships with a high centre of gravity which normally list over, according to experts. Built in Kiel in northern Germany, the cruiser was launched in 1927. - AFP



The submerged wreck of the Nazi cruiser which was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Norway in 1940.



An artistic rendering of Astrobotics’ Peregrine lander, contracted to take payloads to the Moon for NASA’s CLPS programme.

NASA wants to buy MOON ROCKS

US: NASA on Thursday announced it was in the market for Moon rocks, and wants to pay companies to scoop out the dirt, take a photo, and then have it ready for collection by a future mission.

The contract doesn’t actually involve getting to the Moon itself – a feat only achieved by the national space agencies of three countries – but instead envisages companies designing a robot that NASA or major private sector players can then launch.

“NASA is buying lunar soil from a commercial provider! It’s time to establish the regulatory certainty to extract and trade space resources,” tweeted administrator Jim Bridenstine.

The US wants to become a leader in the exploitation of resources found in the soil or subsoil of asteroids and the Moon, a policy outlined in an executive order by President Donald Trump last year, despite an absence of international or legal consensus on the best way to manage extraterrestrial mining.

The major space treaties are vague on the question. For the current tender, it has asked companies from around the world to present proposals to collect 50 to 500 grams of Moon rock, or regolith, from anywhere on the surface, provide imagery to prove it, then transfer sole ownership to NASA.

Companies would set their own

and be paid 20 percent up front with the remainder upon successful completion of their mission.

NASA anticipates that the contracts will be worth some tens of thousands of dollars, according to the tender documents.

The mission represents a proof of concept as NASA looks to return humans to the lunar surface by 2024 and then set its sights on Mars, harnessing the resources of the Moon and using it as a way-point.

NASA hopes to excavate lunar ice from the polar regions to supply both drinking water and to split the molecules apart to make rocket fuel for the onward journey. - AFP

OVER 500,000 CALIFORNIANS FLEE INFERNO

- Eight deaths reported
- Firefighters battle 900,000 acres of wildfires

US: California firefighters battled the state's largest ever inferno Thursday, as more than half a million people fled blazes up and down the US West Coast and officials warned the death toll could shoot up in coming days.

At least eight people have been confirmed dead in the past 24 hours across California, Oregon and Washington, but officials say some areas are still impossible to reach.

The August Complex Fire became the biggest recorded blaze in Californian history on Thursday, after multiple fires in the state's northwest combined in high temperatures and winds to rip through 470,000 acres of dry vegetation.

Half a million people have been evacuated in neighbouring Oregon, authorities said.

"Firefighters are prioritizing life (and) safety as they battle a record 900,000 acres of wildfires," said an Oregon government statement.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown said that the amount of land incinerated by fires in 72 hours was twice the state's annual average, and that at least five towns had been "substantially destroyed."

"We have never seen this amount of uncontained fire across our state," she told a press conference. "We know that there are fire related fatalities."

And as soon as we are able to provide confirmed information, we will do so." Local Oregon officials have confirmed two deaths in the Santiam Canyon region, 60 miles (95 kilometers) south of Portland, and another was recorded in the Ashland area, near the California border.

Police went door to door to make sure that residents were evacuating the Molalla, marking their driveways with spray paint to show they had left.

"It's one thing to leave your house, it's another thing being told that you have to leave," said Denise Pentz, a resident of the town for 11 years, who was loading her family belongings into a camping trailer. In northern California's Butte County, where three people have been killed, firefighters battled flames through the night after a day of apocalyptic orange skies over the Golden State.

Another dozen people were reportedly unaccounted for in the area.

One unidentified person was killed in far northern California,



A Coulson 737 firefighting tanker jet drops fire retardant to slow Bobcat Fire at the top of a major run up a mountainside in the Angeles National Forest on Thursday north of Monrovia, California. - AFP



Mormon Lake Hotshots firefighter Sara Sweeney uses a drip torch to set a backfire to protect mountain communities from the Bobcat Fire in the Angeles National Forest of California. - AFP

near the remote rural community of Happy Camp, a Cal Fire spokeswoman told AFP. California has seen more than 3.1 million acres burn this year – an annual record,

with nearly four months of fire season still to come. California's Governor Gavin Newsom blamed the ferocity of this year's fires on climate change.

"We must do more," he tweeted. "We need action at EVERY level. CA cannot do this alone. Climate change is REAL." - AFP

Californian teen learns to drive the hard way



Fourteen year-old Ruben Navarette poses at the wheel of the vehicle he had to drive for the first time when escaping the Creek Fire on Labour Day from his home in Tollhouse, California. - AFP

US: Fourteen-year-old Ruben Navarette learned how to drive the hard way – heading down a steep narrow road at night with giant flames leaping behind him.

No room for mistakes. Just focus, ignore the blaze and the steep cliff on the side of the road.

Ruben lives with his uncle Joshua Smith and his uncle's wife Jamie in the Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, a Native American reserve threatened by the Creek Fire.

As of late Thursday the Creek Fire had razed 176,000 acres in the hills of the Sierra National Forest in central California, according to Cal Fire officials.

Ruben's family had two days to prepare for a possible evacuation, and in that brief time his aunt and uncle managed to show him some basics of driving.

"It's like a video game, Ruben," the teenager recalled his uncle Josh telling him.

The fateful call came Monday at midnight. The flames were approaching – evacuate immediately.

Ruben's aunt and uncle, his three younger cousins and his wheelchair-bound brother piled into the family's three cars.

Aunt Jamie led the pack driving the family Kia SUV, followed by Ruben in a Chevrolet with his brother at his side. Uncle Josh took up the rear driving a pickup truck with busted front lights.

"When it came down to when I had to drive, I was really nervous, scared," Ruben told AFP, speaking from the safety of a hotel room in the town of Clovis. The flames were moving right behind the small convoy. "I didn't want to look because I was so focused, I didn't want to crash or anything," he said. But if you looked out the side window there was "a really big steep hill," he recalled.

Ruben said that he started feeling comfortable behind the wheel only halfway into the 20-mile trip. - AFP

'James Bond', 'The Avengers' and 'Game of Thrones' actress Diana Rigg dead

UK: Award-winning British actress Diana Rigg, who starred in the original "The Avengers" television series and "Game of Thrones", has died aged 82, her agent announced on Thursday.

"It is with tremendous sadness that we announce that Dame Diana Rigg died peacefully early this morning," Simon Beresford said in a statement.

"She was at home with her family who have asked for privacy at this difficult time," he added, calling her "an icon of the theatre, film and television".

Rigg's daughter Rachael Stirling said her mother had been diagnosed with cancer in March and "spent her last months joyfully reflecting on her extraordinary life, full of love,



Diana Rigg in the British TV series The Avengers (L) and as The Queen of Thorns, Olenna Tyrell in the HBO series Game of Thrones.

laughter and a deep pride in her profession".

"I will miss her beyond words," she added.

Rigg – who as Emma Peel alongside Patrick Macnee's John Steed in "The Avengers" became a 1960s icon – won Emmy, Tony and Bafta awards

during her lengthy stage and screen career.

Classically trained at Britain's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, she also played James Bond's wife in the 1969 film starring George Lazenby, "On Her Majesty's Secret Service". - AFP

Bruce "The Boss" Springsteen is back



Bruce Springsteen

US: Bruce Springsteen announced Thursday he will release a new album on October 23, giving fans a sneak peek by dropping its title track "Letter To You."

With its layered guitars and dramatic percussion the song is classic E Street Band – the group Springsteen has performed with since 1972 – which returned to back The Boss's 20th studio album after he released his 2019

record "Western Stars" solo. "I love the emotional nature of 'Letter To You,'" the 70-year-old performer said in a statement.

"And I love the sound of the E Street Band playing completely live in the studio, in a way we've never done before, and with no overdubs," he continued, saying they made the album in just five days, recording at his home studio in New Jersey.

"It turned out to be one of the greatest recording experiences I've ever had." "Letter to You" features nine songs Springsteen penned recently, along with new versions of three previously unreleased tracks from the 1970s: "Janey Needs a Shooter," "If I Was the Priest" and "Song for Orphans." The album is Springsteen's first time back with the E Street Band since his 2016 tour "The River." - AFP

Brazilian Minister and DiCaprio clash over the Amazon



Ricardo Salles and Leonardo DiCaprio.

BRAZIL: Brazil's Environment Minister Ricardo Salles challenged Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio to "put your money where your mouth is," after the actor and environmentalist criticized President Jair Bolsonaro's policies on the Amazon rainforest.

DiCaprio had shared a video on Twitter Wednesday from a campaign called DefundBolsonaro.org, which claims that "Bolsonaro's government has taken the destruction of the Amazon to unbearable levels," and calls on investors to pressure the president to take

steps to protect the world's biggest rainforest. Environment Minister Salles fired back with a taunt.

"Dear @LeoDiCaprio, Brazil is launching 'Adopt-1Park' preservation project which allows you or any other company or individual to pick one of the 132 parks in the Amazon and directly sponsor it at 10 euros per hectare per year. Are you going to put your money where your mouth is?" Salles wrote on Twitter. Bolsonaro retweeted the message.

The president, who took office in January 2019, has

presided over a surge in fires and deforestation in the Amazon, which scientists say is a vital resource for curbing climate change.

DiCaprio, who has called for stronger action to protect the rainforest, has become a favourite target of the Bolsonaro administration. Last month, Vice President Hamilton Mourao challenged the "Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood" star to an eight-hour hike in the Amazon, saying he wanted to show him the rainforest was not actually burning.

Salles landed in a new row Thursday when he

tweeted a video by a Brazilian agricultural lobby group that claims, "The Amazon is not burning," with images of verdant forest, smiling indigenous people and cute animals. However, it soon emerged the video featured animals that do not actually live in the Amazon.

Though Bolsonaro has called reports on the Amazon fires "a lie," figures from his own government show there were 29,307 fires in the rainforest last month, just slightly shy of the crisis levels that triggered international condemnation last year. - AFP

Rugby star Sisira did Navy and Sri Lanka proud

ALTHAF NAWAZ

To become a prominent figure in any field, one should possess some extraordinary talent. A man who sailed through life in the sporting field from childhood until maturity, contributing immensely to become the cynosure of all eyes, both in Schools, Clubs and the International arena as a top sportsman, was Sisira Henakankaname, better known as HK, Sisira who was called a five-star player while in school due to his involvement in all major sporting activities.

Sisira Henakankaname started and ended his academic career at Isipathana College, Colombo. He started his sporting career at the age of ten, engaging in Cricket and Rugby. While being a schoolboy he was mostly involved with his friends in playing rugby using tennis balls or a shoe.

According to HK, Rugby was like a religion at Isipathana, and was the favourite sport amongst most of the children who studied there.

The story behind being named HK is an interesting one.

When he was playing under-12 cricket the Master-in-charge found it difficult to write his name in the score book as it was too long and difficult to pronounce. As a result, he decided to shorten his

name to HK, which has ultimately remained unchanged.

From the age of 12 up to senior level he played cricket for his alma mater, and ended up captaining the first eleven team in 1976. With his all-round ability, whilst still a school boy he was invited to play for Colts Cricket Club and went on to be a member of the Rahman Hathy championship winning team under the captaincy of Beverly Paul. He gradually blossomed and turned out to be one of the dynamic figures in school, where he donned the college jersey in all sporting events, excluding hockey. Along with cricket he also captained the senior college athletic teams, was a Cadet Sergeant and later was appointed head prefect in 1977.

HK's rugby career started with the under-15 team. At the time he entered the field it was a tough task to find a place in the side, as the whole team was filled with highly skilled players. Nevertheless, HK proved his mettle and became a regular member of the side in 1974, when he was a mere 17-years-old. He recalled that it was his former school coaches Kamal Jayawardena and Dan Ratnam who transformed him into a quality rugby player, and expressed his sincere gratitude to the two of them.

In 1976, when he was vice-captain of the first fifteen team, he established a record in school's rugby by scoring 25 tries in seven matches in that particular season, which his school mate Hisham Abdeen equalled in eight matches in 1980. Due to his belligerent performance in the season, he was appointed captain. He rates the team under his captaincy as a star-studded

side comprising players like M.P.F. Salley, Gamini Gunawardena, Mohin Buhary, Aruna Samarajewwa and Anuruddha Bowala to name a few.

Halfway through his tenure as captain, he got an appointment with Sri Lanka Navy as an officer cadet in 1977. After considering his sporting and academic performance Navy chose him along with another 13 personnel out of 20,000 applicants.

HK says departure from school was due to a very unfortunate incident. When they took on Royal College in their annual rugby

fixture the match was evenly poised with the score reading 12-6 in favour of the visitors. HK got an opportunity to grab the ball and covered 40 metres and almost scored, but was brought down by Susantha Ratnayake just a few yards away from the line due to the crowds



Commander (Rtd.) H.K. Sisira

shouting and enormous pressure, when victory was within sight if he had scored the try and converted.

After joining the Navy he was based in Trincomalee, but just two days later the management requested HK to come to Welisara immediately. He then joined the rugby team and made his debut

against Kandy Sports Club at Galle Face. The Sailors won the match comfortably and HK ended up scoring two tries. In his 12-year tenure as a player for Sailors he holds a rare honour of captaining them on four occasions, 1983, 1986, 1987 and 1988, occupying the centre three quarter position. One year after he was recruited, he was sent to India for further training (in 1980) and on his return was asked to rejoin the rugby squad. He also represented the Sailors in cricket for over five years.

He made his international debut in 1982 at the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong sevens under Saman Jayasinghe's captaincy. From then onwards he was a regular member of the sevens and fifteens teams. In the same year he was chosen to play in the Rugby Asiad held at Singapore under the same skipper. He toured Hong Kong in 1983 to play in the sevens tournament under C.P. Abeygunawardena. Next year he was compelled to dedicate his attention to his job with the outbreak of terrorism, and had to withdraw from the national pool which was preparing to tour Fukuoka, Japan for the 1984 Asiad followed by the Hong Kong sevens. He virtually gave up rugby due to National duties. In 1983 he led the Defence Services

team which consisted of 8 from Army, 3 from Navy and the rest from Air Force, which trounced the touring Blackwell team from UK in Colombo, which game was officiated by the late General Denzil Kobbekaduwa.

HK hung up his boots in 1989 and decided to engage himself in coaching the Navy team from 1990 onwards. In 1993 the Navy administration appointed him Rugby Chairman.

He was then promoted to the rank of Commander of the Navy for his unstinted contribution. Sri Lanka Rugby appointed him as one of the National Selectors under the chairmanship of Lionel Almeida (1996 to 1998) and continued again from 1999 to 2000 under Tikiri Marambe.

He prematurely retired from the Navy in April 1998 and devoted his time to his family.

His two sons Navod and Naveen Henakankaname excelled in sports at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. His younger son Naveen followed in the footsteps of his father and has transformed himself to be a top player and donned the National jersey as a school boy, which is a rare achievement. He was awarded the Thomian Blue for rugby for his achievement.

Amila Thuruwan Perera a fine all rounder

DILWIN MENDIS
Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

First year player, right hand bat, right arm leg spinner, number three batsman and, good close in fielder, Amila Thuruwan Perera playing in his first year for St. John's College, Panadura excelled as an all rounder.

He commenced his schooling at Wadduwa Central and initially joined the D. R. Cricket Academy, Wadduwa under Danushka Perera at the age of none years. In his first year in the under 13 he played in three matches mainly as a leg spinner and in his second year too he could not do well and in his third year in 2014 he scored 724 runs with three centuries and four fifties. He scored 118 runs against Mahinda College and versus Madampagama Vidyalaya and 105 runs and 183 runs and against Sri Sumangala College, Hikkaduwa he scored a fifty in 14 balls and set a record for under 13 division two tournament.

In his first year in under 15 he



Amila Thuruwan Perera

passed the 400 run mark and scored 110 runs against Madampagama Vidyalaya and in the following year he scored 250 runs and versus Prince of Wales' College he scored 172 runs and a fifty. In the first year in the under 17 he played for Wadduwa Central and through out his career over there the coach was Danushka Perera.

In his second year he shifted to St. John's College, Panadura and in the first season itself he amassed 782 runs with two centuries and against Ananda Vidyalaya, Elpitiya he scored 150 runs and 105 runs in the same match and four fifties and captured 29 wickets.

In the mean time he represented Kalutara Zone in the under 19 District Tournament and scored 75 in a match.

When he was at Wadduwa Central in their Big Match against S. de S. Jayasinghe Vidyalaya, Dehiwala in 2017 he played in the one dayer and in 2018 played in the Big Match and the Limited Over and in the two day game he scored 96 runs and won the Best Batsman's Award.

This year Johnians were down to take on their arch rivals Panadura Royalists in the Big Match and a Limited Over Match. But unfortunately these two events were postponed due to the prevailing situation in the country.

Zahra crowned under 14 swimming champion of Gateway, Negombo

SHERIFFDEEN AMATH

Zahra Maharooof excelled by bagging two gold medals and a silver to be crowned under 14 champion at the Inter-House Swimming Meet of Gateway College, Negombo held on September 4, (Friday) in Negombo.

She has been the champion swimmer for the past three years and was also selected to represent her school in the Novices Age Group Swimming Champi-

onship in her pet breast-stroke event. She won the individual gold medal in the 50 metre breaststroke and 50m backstroke events, and silver medal in the 50m freestyle.

Making it a family affair, her brother Aqil claimed a silver medal in the under 16 50m freestyle event.

Zahra's cousin sister Hanna Samsudeen also excelled in the meet winning a gold medal in the 4x50m relay event and

three bronze medals in the 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke and 50m butterfly events.

In other results, Faiq Mauroof competing in the under 14 category won two silver medals in the 50m Breaststroke and 50m Freestyle in addition to a bronze in the 4x50m relay event.

Alisha Rushdy won a couple of gold medals in the 4x50m relay and 50m Butterfly event.



Zahra Maharooof



Hanna Samsudeen

When will Up Country rugby regain its lost prestige?



HAFIZ MARIKAR

Will the new Sri Lanka Rugby president Rizly Iliyas and his committee, bring back Up Country rugby to his former position. Today there is only one Kandy team Kandy SC and Colombo has teams like Havelock SC, CR FC, CH & FC, and the services teams Police, Army, Navy and Air Force. In the early days Kandy had Kandy Lake Club, Kandy RFC, Old Trinitian SC, Kandy Youth Sc playing the game

In those good old days the Clifford Cup finals were played in Radella (Dimbula A & CC), Darawella (Dickoya MCC) and Uva Gymkhana Club (Badulla).

The three planters clubs, Dickoya MCC, Dimbulla A & CC and Uva Gymkhana Club, at one time were the top three rugby playing clubs in the country.

Dimbulla A & CC was formed in 1856, and their sports were rugger, cricket, squash, tennis, and badminton and cue sport. They were a major force in rugby and it was their main sport. They gave their best from the day they started playing rugby in 1880s to 1970s. Sports declined after the the estates were taken over in 1973

They won the Clifford Cup in 1953 and the first from the Up-country - In 1956 a combined Dim/Dicks team was second to CR & FC in the Clifford Cup. Then in 1959 Dimbulla A & CC shared the cup with CR & FC.

Another fine moment came in 1970 when under the leadership of ever-green Ken Murray, Dimbulla A & CC emerged as the 'A' Division Clifford Cup League Champions and they were deprived of the double by Abdul Majeed's Policemen, where they lost the Clifford Cup semifinals 0-8.

Dimbulla were not only a major force in rugby, but also produced

some of the finest ruggerites in the country, like D.R. Macare, H. Warning, Miles Chrittoffelsz, Larry Schokman, Selva Canagasabai, Mike Parry, I. CoDonald, Mike de Alwis, Stanley Unamboowe, Dharmsiri Madugalle, Owen Mottau, Jayantha Jayawardene, Rohan Wijenayake, Clifford Elhart, Roger da Silva, Tommy Kelaart, Wilhelm Koch, Peter. Amarasinghe, R., Kulatunga, Tuan Dole, Iswan Omar, Lanil Tennakoon, Brian Lieversz, Brian and Cedric Munweera, Trevor Nugawela, Mohan Samarakoon to name a few.

Dickoya MCC was formed in 1874, and their sporting activities were rugger, cricket, tennis, squash, and badminton and cue sports. They too were once a major force in rugby. They were one of the top 'A' division rugby clubs. In 1972 their standard declined and they were relegated to 'B' division, due to the take over of the estates.

Dickoya too like Dimbulla, have produced great teams and players. Thrice they entered the Clifford Cup finals and went down fighting to CR & FC and Havelocks SC respectively in 1958 and 1961. In 1961 they lost to Dr. Hubert Aloysius Havelocks, in the dying moments of the game, due to an off side. Havies got a penalty and goaled it to take the cup back to Havelock Park.

The 1961 Dickoya Cup final team was packed with whites and the four Sri Lankan who played in the cup final were T.B. Pilapitiya, Rohan Wijenayake, B.L. Gunawardene and Uvais Odayar. Some of their past players were Barry Cameron, Tony Johnson, Lionel Almeida Manik Jayakumar Chris Bean, Uvais Odayar, John Bousfield David Bretherton, Mohan 'Baila' Samarasinghe, Dharmsiri Madugalle, Rohan Aheysundara, C. Hanies, J.M.E. Warning, C.D. Gibson. Most of the planters played for all three clubs, Dimbulla, Dickoya and Uva, due to transfers from estate to estate.

Uva Gymkhana Club was found-

ed in 1980 and played rugger, cricket, tennis, hockey and badminton and also they conducted horse racing.

In 1952 Uva Gymkhana Club entered the Clifford Cup final, and became the first club from Up country to enter the semis of the Clifford Cup. In that final they lost to CR & FC by 19 points to nil. Some of their top players were A.C.B. Horfall, C.D. Hearth, M.M. Clarke, J.T. Pettigrew, Fred. Aldons, K. Ariarajah, D. Parkar, J. Howe, R.G. Bowie, J. Boyd Moss, J. Garner, R. Gauder, S.B. Pilapitiya, A. Hamer, Ryan Howie, Ronnie Gunaratne, Lanil Tennakoon, Sarath Zoysa, Uvais Odayar, Nipa Pili-matalawa.

Kandy Lake Club and Kandy RFC gave a big hand for rugger, where unknown players, who never played school rugger, earned a name and made them proud by becoming top players. Rugby was introduced to Kandy Lake club owned by E.W. Balasuriya, in 1963 and they started playing in the "B" division. Some who backed him to start the game were Col. Stanley Ratwatte, Noel Paranagama, Dr. C.D.L. Fernando, Sidney Ratwatte; all are not among the living. It was Sydney Ratwatte and Maurice Perera who started coaching first, and Niyas Majeed was the first Captain. This club turned the team to a champion outfit in 1966. They became the "B" division champions under Farook Dole, the original captain of the year was T.B. Wijesinghe, half way through he crossed over to CR & FC.

That year, they beat all the teams in the "B" division, but failed to beat NCC it was a draw. In the following year, Kandy Lake Club entered the "A" Division and played along with clubs like Kandy SC, CR & FC, CH & FC, Havelock SC, Uva Gymkhana Club, Dimbulla A & AC, Dickoya MCC and Sri Lanka Army.

In the very first year in the "A" division in 1967, they opened the

season with the game against defending champions Havelock SC, this match was played at Havelock Park and the game ended in a 3-all draw, next was against the star studded CH & FC, the side was packed with Englishmen. This game, too, ended in a 3-all draw at Maitland Crescent.

Then in the third game, beat Sri Lanka Army at Galle Face. Then in the return clash against Champion Havelock SC played at Nitawela, Kandy Lake Club was able to beat them. Some of the players who were in the first "A" division team of 'EW's club were Farook Dole, Gavin Stevens, Maurice Silva, Mahesh Sabaratnam, Hector Galuge, Carl Fernando, George Jayasena, Maurice Windus, George Thambiraja, A. Etipola, Didaeus de Almeida

This club, after entering the "A" division, went places. Sad to say however, they got the knockout blow from the authorities of that era, for playing professional players. With that blow from the controlling body, the owner of the club E.W. Balasuriya formed the Kandy RFC (KRFC), and played up to 1973. In 1973, on a suggestion made by one time Ceylon Rugby Football Union president, Dr. K.B. Sangakkara. E.W. Balasuriya honoured the request and amalgamated with Kandy Sports Club (KSC) in 1974. That year Royalist Jeremy Pereira led the side. In the following year 1975, Iswan Omar became the first from 'EW's club to lead Kandy Sports Club and that is the year 'EW' became the President for the first time of the Nitawela Club and took the club up to the Clifford Cup Semi-finals, but had no luck and lost to Sri Lanka Air Force during extra-time.

Then again in 1986, 'E.W' became the President of Kandy Sports Club and Ashan Ratwatte was the Captain and this writer was the team Manager cum rugger convener. The club came to the R. Premadasa Trophy semi-finals.

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Sports revenue to reach US\$ 1 bn within five years: Namal

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

Sports will be made a US\$ 1 billion revenue-generating subject within the next five years, said Minister of Youth and Sports Namal Rajapaksa.

He was speaking at the launch of the Lanka Sportreizen organised Open/National Surfing Championships which will be held on September 26 and 27, at Arugam Bay.

The Minister said that his plan to convert Sri Lanka Sports to a US\$ 1 billion includes the local manufacture and export of sports equipment, sports apparels, and services to the world.

He is also said that hosting water and adventure sports events can also woo high spending tourists to Sri Lanka and hope to work with the Ministry of Tourism in this regard. "It will also be a good destination marketing tool for Sri Lanka." He also said that professional-



(Second left): Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa addressing the media while Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga (centre) and other officials look on. Picture by Sulochana Gamage

ism should be introduced to sportsmen and women. "Today parents specially in rural areas consider a child taking to sports as a burden to the family. This should and will be reversed. The sportsman in a family should not only bring honour to a family but also rev-

enue. The fabric in sports will be changed in this manner," he assured.

he also said that professionalism would be introduced to sports bodies as well and they will also look at the financing aspect of sports associations.

Lanka Sportsrizen is a leading Destination Management Company in Sri Lanka which has been in the forefront of promoting Tourism through Sports and Adventure has organised the event.

"In fact, we were planning with the World Surf League to conduct a similar event in September in the East which did not happen due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic which brought Worldwide activities including tourism and sports to a standstill, said Chairman LSR Tilak Weerasinghe.

He said this event is organised in order to revive both

sports and tourism on the advice of Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth and Sports, who himself is a keen surfer.

This event will be conducted with the blessings of the Ministry of Youth & Sports and the Surfing Federation of Sri Lanka to coincide with the World Tourism Day which falls on September 27.

This Event is expected to reawaken the interest that the sporting fraternity has on surfing since the period from January 2020 has not seen any event taking place in the Eastern Coast of Sri Lanka due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Furthermore, stakeholders in the Eastern Province who have been starved of business with the break of the virus will be able to sigh a relief about the future of their livelihoods with the conduct of this event.

In this scenario, locals, as well as foreigners living in Sri

Lanka, will be able to show off their skills to the large number of visitors that are expected to witness this event. Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd Sri Lanka and Lin Asia Holdings (Pvt) Ltd will be the main Sponsors.

Following Surfing Events in the past.

The events that will be conducted are,

- British Pro- Surf Championships,
- Rating Tournament for the Japanese Pro- Surfing Association,
- ASP WQS 6 Star Men's Short Board Event with the Australian Surfing Professionals.
- ASP WQS 6 Star Men's Long Board Event & Women's Short Board Event with the Australian Surfing Professionals.
- WSL WQS 3000 Men's Short Board Event with the World Surf League.

Sri Lanka Rugby outlines future work plan

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Sri Lanka Rugby (SLR) headed by incumbent President Rizly Ilyas, and his team of officials, revealed their immediate work plan which they hope to execute to revamp rugby in the country, which was disclosed at a press briefing held in Colombo, yesterday.

After being elected to office uncontested at the Annual General Meeting held last month, Ilyas briefed the media about the new plan they have drafted to conduct the new look domestic tournament, which has prioritized promoting the seven-a-side rugby arena. This proposal will be submitted to the relevant authorities for their perusal and final approval.

"From the inception, I wanted to have a change in all our activities. As an initiative, I got my team which will work indefatigably towards achieving the goals. We have some strategic plans segregated among my team members who will strive hard in developing the game to the next level," said a confident looking Ilyas, who is to embark on the all important aspect

of finding sponsors in the upcoming weeks.

"While preparing our domestic tournament calendar, we are also in the process of doing the spade work in formulating the documents to meet the Sports Minister to get his blessings and support. We are pretty confident he will not only help us, but also guide us on the right path," added Ilyas.

Briefing the media Nazeem Mohamed, the Deputy President and the Tournament Committee Chairman, emphasized on the importance of prioritizing the sevens tournament by pruning down the time span of the 15-a-side tournament to 11 weeks from 18 weeks. The whole idea behind the reduction is to give more prominence to sevens rugby where Sri Lanka has shown great potential in reaching the pinnacle.

The domestic tournament will kick off with the commencement of the sevens tournament at the end of October, and will comprise two legs - Colombo and Southern Province respectively. All matches are to be held on Friday's and

Saturdays commencing from 4.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. each day under lights. SLR is to accommodate a limited number of spectators provided the concerned authorities grant them permission. They will make adequate arrangements to live stream the matches on internet based channels, while telecasting in some channels, which will be notified in due course. The eight 'A' division teams and six women's teams will be in the fray for honours.

SLR has also drawn up a plan to popularize the game in the outstation. As an initiative they will play the remaining two legs in Kandy and Radella, for which dates and venues will be notified later.

The SLR Tournament Committee is to reintroduce the under-24 XV-a-side tournament which was withdrawn from their annual calendar for the last decade. They are mainly focusing to accommodate the school leavers who were forced to give up rugby soon after school due to stiff competition to get into clubs. This too will involve the 'A' division clubs where the competi-

tion will be completed in six weeks, and which will be more or less a semi league. This tournament is to be held in mid-January.

The Dialog Rugby League is scheduled to commence in the latter part of February, and at the completion of the first round the eight teams will be divided into two groups depending on their performance. The top four will play each other and proceed to the "Cup Championship" while the bottom four will compete in the "Plate Championship" and the respective winners will be honoured as Cup and Plate winners. The super round which was played until last season will be scrapped from the tournament calendar. The prestigious Clifford Cup will be held soon after this tournament in Colombo next year.

Meanwhile, HAUD Hettiarachchi, who is the Vice President and the Chairman, Women's Development Committee, elaborated on women's rugby. They too have drawn up several programmes with a view of spreading the game to all provinces. There are over 150 schools playing the game in this segment currently and they are in the process of increasing it to 250 schools. With a view of developing this entity they are scheduled to conduct over 70 tournaments in the 2020/21 season to unearth hidden talent to form a strong National side. Hettiarachchi was very confident of achieving his target with the support of his colleagues.

SLR introduced two new faces in their ranks, with the inclusion of big business tycoon and great rugby lover Ranjith Weerasinghe as Director SLR, sevens arena, and Kevin Herft, as Executive Director of SLR replacing Rohan de Silva.



Rizly Ilyas, President, SLR (fourth from left) briefs the media on their future programmes at a press conference held in Colombo. Also in the picture (from left) - Dilroy Fernando, Consultant Training and Education, SLR, Jude Dimithri, Secretary, SLR, Rear Admiral Deshapriya Hettiarachchi, Vice President, SLR and Womens Development Committee Chairman, Ranjith Weerasinghe, Director, SLR 7's, Nazeem Mohamed, Deputy President, SLR and Tournament Committee Chairman, Kevin Herft, Executive Director, SLR.

Sports Minister pays commendation to sports media

Minister of sports Namal Rajapaksa played a glowing tribute to sports media and said that when the country was on lockdown and sports events were not happening, the

sports media turned it around. "This was done by sports media by egging on sportsmen as well as authorities to revive sports according to

health guidelines," he lauded this. The Minister said that he would also talk with International Sports Bodies and try to host events in Sri Lanka again.

Former Sri Lanka cricketer Tony Opatha dies

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Former Sri Lanka cricketer Anthony Mariner Opatha better known as Tony died yesterday at the age of 73. A right-arm medium pace bowler, he played five One Day Internationals at the 1975 and 1979 Cricket World Cups. He played for CCC and SSC at the domestic level.

He was educated at St. Peter's College, Colombo later joined the Royal Ceylon Volunteer Air Force in 1968. He played for his college cricket team from 1965 to 1967 captaining in his final year and went on to play for the Air Force cricket team till 1977.



Anthony Mariner Opatha

He first played for Ceylon in 1971 and was a member of the Sri Lanka teams which played in unofficial tests till 1979. He later played club cricket in Ireland for one season in 1979 and was offered the post

of coach of the Holland team.

As player/manager of the rebel tour to South Africa in 1982-83 in defiance of the sporting ban against apartheid, he and the other members of the team received a life ban from international cricket.

In September 2018, he was one of 49 former Sri Lankan cricketers felicitated by Sri Lanka Cricket, to honour them for their services before Sri Lanka became a full member of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

His funeral arrangements will be notified later.

MCA "E" division 25 Over League Tournament

Eagle Logistics take on Allianz Insurance in the final

Eagle Logistics will use "luck" as a winning charm on their opponents, Allianz Insurance when they confront them in the final of the 18th "DPGC" Challenge Trophy MCA "E" division 25 over League Tournament 2020 today, at the MCA Grounds commencing at 10 am.

Eagle Logistics lost their pre-quarter-final game against LOLC by 38 runs on August 23 at Mattegoda. As LOLC was disqualified from the tournament, for violating MCA rules on playing conditions, the Eagle got their next back.

Eagles Logistics riding on their luck, went on to beat UB Finance by 75 runs in the quarter-finals and Commercial Leasing and Finance by 63 runs in the semi-finals.

Eagle Logistics played in Group "B" in the round-robin stage; They beat 3DH International Group by four wickets, beat AIA Insurance by 37 runs, beat Stafford Motors by 11 runs; surprisingly lost to Arpico by two wickets and beat Emerchemie NB by seven wickets, to top the group.

The top performers for Eagle Logistics are Dineth Thimodaya (five innings, 213 runs), Nimesh Praveen Bandara (eight innings, 191 runs), Dulaj Egodage eight innings, 187 runs), Asanka Priyamantha (eight matches, 152 runs, 17 wickets), and Mohamed Farri (eight matches, 187 runs, 15 wickets).

Allianz Insurance played in group "A" in the round-robin stage and topped the group with wins against, LOLC by 74 runs, Amana Bank by 60 runs, Std. Chartered Bank by 184 runs, but lost to Virtusa by 40 runs; Allianz Insurance in the knock-out stage, beat Emerchemie NB by 11 runs (PQF), beat Akbar Brothers by 50 runs (QF) & beat 3DH International Group on the bowl-outcontest (SF).

The top performers for Allianz Insurance are: Sameera Fernando (six innings, 01 not out, 228 runs), Ranga Dias (six innings, 01 not out, 224 runs including one century) Charinda Fernando (six innings, 206 runs & 137 runs, eight wickets), Sidath Vimukthi (six matches, 140 runs, 12 wickets)

and Mayura Ranasinghe (five matches, 117 runs, 10 wickets)

Allianz Insurance finished runners-up to Fairfirst Insurance in the "F" division last year, thus they earned their due promotion to this division. The MCA appointed Match Referee cum Adjudicator at the Final is Sena Nandiweera.

The Teams:
Allianz Insurance: Sameera Fernando (captain), Charinda Fernando, M.S. Sampan, Demian Debyser, Ranga Dias, P. Brinthapan, Dhanushka Kumara, Dulaj Jayawardena, Mayura Ranasinghe, Malith Peiris, Sidath Mallawarachchi, Chathun Ranasinghe, Amila Liyanaarachchi.

Eagle Logistics: Prabuddha Ranaweera (captain), Isuru Mendis (v. captain) Asanka Perera, Mohamed Farri, Kalhara Senarathna, Dineth Thimodaya, Mark Abeyasundara, Pradeep Kumara, Nishan Fernando, Nimesh Bandara (wk), Dulaj Egodage, Dilanga Fernando, Chamalka Mahanama, Ujith Nishantha, Prageeth Fernando, Harsha Gunaratne. - (YK)

Azarenka stuns Serena to set up US Open final against Osaka

NEW YORK, FRIDAY: Victoria Azarenka came from a set down to stun record-chasing Serena Williams on Thursday and set up a US Open final against Japan's Naomi Osaka.

Azarenka recovered from a 6-1 hammering in the first set to win the next two 6-3, 6-3 and schedule her first Grand Slam final appearance in seven years. The former world number one is enjoying a remarkable renaissance in New York that the Belarusian credits to finding humility, following several years disrupted by injury and a custody battle over her son.

"I think when you're coming up from kind of nothing, then you become a number one player in the

world, sometimes you can start to think you're invincible and that you're better than everybody, and it's not true," Azarenka said.

"So the ego starts to grow. It's very hurtful when it gets damaged. Instead of getting the ego damaged, I tried to remove that and learn from my mistakes," she added.

After a first set plagued by double faults and unforced errors, Azarenka turned the tide in the second, upping her service game and getting more returns in play as she began to dictate lengthy rallies.

"I knew I needed to step up with my aggressivity, play a little smarter, play

with a little bit more width of the court and bring the intensity up," Azarenka explained.

Two-time Grand Slam winner had never beaten Williams before in a Grand Slam.

Her last appearance in a Grand Slam final came in the US Open in 2013 when Williams beat her.

Azarenka also suffered a heartbreaking loss to Williams in the 2012 US Open final, when she served for the match at 5-3 in the third set only to lose 7-5.

Azarenka was determined that history would not repeat itself. Serving for the match, she hit a double fault before smashing her fastest serve of the night at 109 mph.

'Responsibility'

When Williams then challenged and lost an ace that was called in on the next point, it was Azarenka's match.

"I've been there before. Today was gonna be different," Azarenka said.

Williams said she started the 1 hr 56min-match "really strong."

"(But) then she just kept fighting. She just changed and started playing better and better. Maybe I took a little too much off the gas pedal at some point," the American added.

The defeat ended Williams' hopes of winning a record-equalling 24th singles Grand Slam at Flushing Meadows. - AFP



UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA - SRI LANKA

VACANCIES

Applications will be received from qualified persons to fill the vacancies of the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

1. Post : Management Assistant (Book keeping) Grade 111

Qualifications :

- Should have passed the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in six (06) subjects at one sitting with credit passes in :-
 - Sinhala Language / Tamil Language
 - English Language / English Literature
 - Mathematics

&

- Should have Passed in all subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the Common General Paper) at one sitting.

Preference will be given to those who possess the following;

- An acceptable qualification in computer applications of not less than six (06) months duration obtained from a recognized institute.

&

- Two years of experience in the use of computer application packages.

Post specific Qualifications

In addition to the qualifications mentioned above, candidates should have possessed post specific qualifications mentioned below.

- The National Certificate for Accounting Technicians of the Sri Lanka Technical College/ College of Technology under the Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training or any other equivalent qualification obtained from the recognized institute.

OR

- G.C.E. (A/L) qualification should be in the Commerce Stream.

NOTE :-

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age on the closing date of applications.
- Should be of good character.

Salary Method : UMN 1 (III) Rs. 30,725 - 17x300 - 35,825 (Monthly)

Method of Selection : By Written Examination and interview.

2. Post : Management Assistant (Store keeping) Grade 111

Qualifications :

- Should have passed the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in six (06) subjects at one sitting with credit passes in :-
 - Sinhala Language / Tamil Language
 - English Language / English Literature
 - Mathematics

&

- Should have Passed in all subjects at G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the Common General Paper) at one sitting.

Preference will be given to those who possess the following;

- An acceptable qualification in computer applications of not less than six (06) months duration obtained from a recognized institute.

&

- Two years of experience in the use of computer application packages.

Post specific Qualifications

In addition to the qualifications mentioned above, the candidates should have possessed post specific qualifications mentioned below.

One year experience in Store - Keeping and/or a pass in the subject of Commerce at the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination or in the subject of Accountancy at the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) Examination.

NOTE :-

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age on the closing date of applications.
- Should be of good character.
- A Security Deposit to be furnished as determined by the UGC/ Higher Educational Institution

Salary Method : UMN 1 (III) Rs. 30,725 - 17x300 - 35,825 (Monthly)

Method of Selection : By Written Examination and interview.

3. Post : Management Assistant (Shroff) Grade 111

Qualifications :

- Should have passed the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in six (06) subjects at one sitting with credit passes in :-
 - Sinhala Language / Tamil Language
 - English Language / English Literature
 - Mathematics

&

- Should have Passed in all subjects at G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the Common General Paper) at one sitting.

Preference will be given to those who possess the following;

- An acceptable qualification in computer applications of not less than six (06) months duration obtained from a recognized institute.

&

- Two years of experience in the use of computer application packages.

Post specific Qualifications

In addition to the qualifications mentioned above, candidates should have possessed post specific qualifications mentioned below.

Out of the three passes expected at the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) Examination under the general educational qualifications mentioned in the Schemes of Recruitment, one shall be for Accountancy.

NOTE :-

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age on the closing date of applications.
- Should be of good character.
- A Security Deposit to be furnished as determined by the UGC/ Higher Educational Institution.

Salary Method : UMN 1 (III) Rs. 27,794 - 17x271 - 32,401 (Monthly).

Method of Selection : By Written Examination and interview.

4. Post : Supervisor (Civil) Grade 111

Qualifications :

- National Certificate in Technology or equivalent qualifications with 3 years experience may be obtained while following the NCT course ;

OR

- G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination in 6 subjects at not more than 2 sittings with at least 5 years experience as a Supervisor in the relevant field in a Government, Local Government or State Corporation or a recognized Engineering Establishment.

- Age - Not more than 45 years.

Salary Method : U-MT 1(III) Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275 (Monthly).

Method of Selection : By an interview.

5. Post : Supervisor (Electrical) Grade 111

Qualifications :

- National Certificate in Technology or equivalent qualifications with 3 years experience may be obtained while following the NCT course ;

OR

- G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination in 6 subjects at not more than 2 sittings with at least 5 years experience as a Supervisor in the relevant field in a Government, Local Government or State Corporation or a recognized Engineering Establishment.

- Age - Not more than 45 years.

Salary Method : U-MT 1(III) Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275 (Monthly).

Method of Selection : By an interview.

6. Post : Supervisor (Landscape) Grade 111

Qualifications :

- G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination in 6 subjects at not more than 2 sittings;

And

- Successful completion of one year's practical training course in Agriculture conducted by the Department of Agriculture or equivalent.

Age - Not more than 45 years.

Salary Method - U-MT 1(III) Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275 (Monthly).

Method of Selection : By an interview.

7. Post : Works Superintendent (Civil)

Qualifications :

- National Diploma in Technology or equivalent qualifications and have at least four years experience in the relevant field after obtaining such qualifications.

NOTE: Period of in-plant training will not be counted for the four years' experience

- National Certificate in Technology or equivalent qualifications and have at least ten years experience in the relevant field after obtaining such qualifications.

- Age : Should be not above 45 years.

Salary Method : UMN 2 (11) Rs. 37,275 - 18x470 - 45,735 (Monthly).

Method of Selection : By an interview.

8. Post : Carpenter Grade 11

Qualifications :

- Ability to read and write;

- Should be conversant with the -

- various types of joints and preparation of such joints for work in carpentry used in building and furniture trade;
- use of various types of tools, various species of wood and reading of drawings;
- reading of scales up to 1/32" accurately.

- Not less than 2 years' experience in carpentry.

NOTE : Preference will be given to those having passed the 7th standard.

- Age - Not more than 45 years.

Salary Method : (U-PL 3 III) Rs. 29,915 - 16x 270 - 34,235 (Monthly).

Method of Selection : By trade test and interview

9. Post : Nurseryman, Grade (11)

- Ability to read and write.

- Must have a thorough knowledge of all aspects of plant propagation techniques such as propagation of cuttings, layerings, in archings, buddings, grafting and potting and nursery management and pruning.

- Must be able to identify different plants and seeds cultivated on the farm or garden.

- Must have a knowledge of packing plants for despatch.

- At least 2 years experience as a Nurseryman.

- Age - Not more than 45 years.

Salary Method : (U-PL 2 III) Rs. 28,025 - 16x270 - 32,354 (Monthly).

Method of Selection : By Aptitude test and interview

10. Post : Technical Officer (ICT) Grade III

Qualifications :

- Should pass in three (3) subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) examination in one sitting in Science subjects in the Science stream; Subject combination/s to be decided by the Faculty concerned upon the recommendation of the Department.

AND

- Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the N.V.Q. Level 5 issued by a Technical/Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or recognized Institution in the field of Information Communication and Multimedia Technology / Information and Communication Technology/Information Technology or Equivalent.

Preference will be given for who have work experience in ICT.

- Age should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years.

Salary Method : U-MT 1(IIIA) Rs. 31,625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37,275 (Monthly).

Method of Selection : By written and /or practical test and interview

Method of Application :

Application forms could be downloaded from the University Website (www.kln.ac.lk). Duly completed Applications on prescribed forms should be sent with copies of relevant certificates, indicating the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach the Assistant Registrar/ Non-Academic Establishment Division, University of Kelaniya, Dalugama, Kelaniya, to be received on or before 28th September 2020.

Age limit will not be applicable for applicants from Higher Education Institutes, Government Departments, Corporations and Statutory Boards and they should channel their applications through the respective Head of Institutions.

The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Applications which are not fulfilling the required qualifications, incomplete, illegible applications and those received after the closing date will be rejected and they will not be considered again under any circumstance.

Registrar
University of Kelaniya

09.09.2020

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Procurement Notice

Uva Provincial Department of Education Uva Provincial Council

Sealed bids will be received up to 2.30 p.m. on 07.10.2020 by the Chairman, Procurement Committee of the Uva Provincial Department of Education, from qualified Contractors having registration at the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) to attend to the undermentioned work, implemented under OFID Funds.

S/ No.	Name of Work	Regional Engineer's Office	Value of Civil Work - Rupees Million -	Minimum ICTAD Registration required and the field	Bid Security Amount - Rs. -	Construction Period - Days -	Bid Form Fee - Rs. -
01	B/Keppetipola MV - Construction of Three Storeyed Building with Technical facilities	Bandarawela	47.31	C5/C4	475,000.00	360	6,000.00
02	M/Obbegoda MV - Construction of Three Storeyed Building with Technical facilities	Moneragala	49.31	C5/C4	495,000.00	360	6,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedure and as the full estimated cost of the above work doesn't exceed the Rs. 50 Million limit, the Contractor's Provincial preference and the CIDA Registration Grade preference will be taken into consideration when evaluating bids, as per the Finance Ministry Circular No. 4/2016(ii).

- (2) Successful, qualified and non-black-listed bidders having the above minimum CIDA registration will be qualified for granting of bids.
- (3) The following qualifications will be considered when evaluating bids:
 - i) Carried out any work equal to the work stated in the Table above or carried out the construction of a building valued at 60% or above the said value of work and equal to the same work, during the last five years.
 - ii) Maintained a Rs. 50 Million turnover per year during the last five years.
 - iii) The value and the physical progress of work being carried out by the bidders.
 - iv) Attach a qualified Engineer and a Technical Officer, either full-time or part-time, for the worksite.
- (4) For work of which the civil work value exceeds Rs. 5.00 million should get registered under the Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987. (No. 100, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10) and the relevant Registration Certificate should be attached to the bid.
- (5) Procurement Forms can be obtained from 14.09.2020 up to 05.10.2020 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. during office hours, on payment of the Bid Security and the bid fee relevant to each work as stated in the table above, made to the Shroff of the Department, drawn in favour of the Uva Provincial Director of Education. For the Bid Security, it can either be paid by cash as stated in the Table or by a Bid Security obtained from a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, as a Bank Security, valid for 120 days, valued in twice the above amount. If the Bid Security amount is paid by cash, it should be done at or before 3.00 p.m. on 05.10.2020.
- (6) Duly completed bids in two copies should be submitted to the Procurement Committee at or before 2.30 p.m. on 07.10.2020. The copies of the bid as the original and duplicate, should be placed in two separate covers and marked accordingly, should be placed in a sealed single cover marked the name of work at the left-side top corner and sent either by registered post addressed to, **Chairman, Procurement Committee, Uva Provincial Department of Education, Welagedera Road, Badulla** or placed in the Tender Box kept at the office. Bids received late will not be accepted. Further details can be obtained on Telephone No. 055-2229635.
- (7) Every page of the duplicate copy should be certified photocopies of the original.
- (8) Bids should be valid for the period up to 07.02.2021.
- (9) A pre-bid meeting relevant to this will be held at 10.00 a.m. on 30.09.2020 at the Auditorium of the Uva Provincial Department of Education.
- (10) Bids received will be opened at 2.30 p.m. on 07.10.2020 at the office of the Uva Provincial Department of Education and bidder or one of his authorized representatives can be present at the opening.
- (11) The Procurement Committee retains the full right to either accept suitable bids from among those received or reject any incomplete bids received and the decision of the Procurement Committee in this regard shall be the final.

R.M.P. Ratnayake,
Chairman,
Procurement Committee

Uva Provincial Department of Education,
Welagedera Road,
Badulla.
Date - 12.09.2020



Take pride in Contributing to the National Development

The Uva Wellassa University is setting new trends in Undergraduate, Specialty, Corporate as well as Continuing Education by focusing on value addition to the national resource base. The academic programs of the University have been carefully designed to bring up a new generation of graduates competent in creating value to their employers. You could also become a partner in this great national endeavour.

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of Uva Wellassa University invites bids from eligible bidders to provide the following service.

No.	Description	Tender No.	Value of Bid Security
01	Supply of Manpower Service	UWU/GA/05/MPS/2020-2021	Rs. 425,000.00

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any bidder, on submission of a written application to the Senior Assistant Registrar (Admin) and upon production of a receipt in respect of payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 10,000.00 to each tender for the Shroff of the Uva Wellassa University between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on any working day or directly deposit cash to the Bank of Ceylon A/C No. 3114820 from 14.09.2020 to 02.10.2020. The bidder can also download the bidding documents from the University website <http://www.uwu.ac.lk/procurement/>. Those who are obtaining bidding documents from the University website should submit the complete documents along with a Bank Draft drawn in favour of the "Uva Wellassa University" for Rs. 10,000.00 as non-refundable fee or the payments could be made any branch of the Bank of Ceylon to Uva Wellassa University, A/C No. 3114820 and the cash receipt/deposit slip to be attached with the bidding documents. Bidders may also examine the bidding documents free of charge.

Bids must be delivered or sent under registered post to reach on or before 2.30 p.m. on 05.10.2020 and bids will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidder or his authorized representative (with a letter of authorization) is allowed to be present at the time of opening of bids. The tenders enclosed in a sealed envelope and should be marked as Tender No. "UWU/GA/05/MPS/2020-2021" on the top left corner of the envelope and should be sent either by registered post to the Chairman Procurement Committee, Uva Wellassa University, Passara Road, Badulla or can be deposited in the tender box at the Registrar's office of Uva Wellassa University.

Further details could be obtained from Senior Assistant Registrar (Admin) on telephone No. 055-2226470

Chairman
Procurement Committee
Uva Wellassa University
Badulla

12.09.2020

BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the following contracts.

- 1) Asphalt concrete surfacing along the perimeter road of Wagawatta Industrial Zone
Contract No.: BOI/TS/WIZ/2020/33.01.011
- 2) Supply and installation of sand filters for existing waste water treatment plant at Horana Export Processing Zone
Contract No.: BOI/TS/HEPZ/2020/08/03.024

Contract No./ Description	Contract period (Days)	Submission of Bid Document	Qualification / Requirement	Pre Bid Meeting Date/ Time/Place	Bid Security (Rs)
Contract No.: BOI/TS/WIZ/2020/33.01.011 The work consists of surfacing with asphalt concrete (690m length), Construction of hume pipe culverts for link roads & house accesses along the perimeter road	90	On or before 10:00 hrs. on 06.10.2020	Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements: 1) CIDA Registration Specialty: Irrigation and Land Drainage Works/ Highway Construction Grade: C7 or above. 2) Experience as a main contractor for at least one work of a similar nature and complexity equivalent to proposed works over the period of last 5 years.	22.09.2020 at 10:00 hrs. BOI Zone Office Horana	100,000.00
Contract No.: BOI/TS/HEPZ/2020/08/03.024 The work consists of supplying and installation of sand filters for existing wastewater treatment plant within the available space at HEPZ	90	On or before 14:00 hrs on 06.10.2020	To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted. 1) Bidding documents will be issued only to those who are manufacturers or their local accredited agents for Supply of filter feed pumps or chemical dosing pumps.	23.09.2020 at 10:00 hrs. BOI Zone Office Horana	40,000.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Deputy Director (Technical Services), Zonal Office, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Horana Export Processing Zone, Boralugoda, Poruwadanda through Tele No. 034 2255751, Fax No. 034 2255687 and inspect the Bidding documents from the same address between 09 00 hrs. and 16 00 hrs during weekdays.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application on a business letterhead to the Director (Technical Services), Technical Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 05, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Echelon Square, Colombo 01 from 14.09.2020 until 05.10.2020 between 0900 hrs. and 1500 hrs. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000.00 +VAT for each of the above two contracts. The method of payment is by cash.
- Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate to reach "The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, C/o Director (Technical Services), Technical Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 05, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Echelon Square, Colombo 01. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time and in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 05.01.2021.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in favor of Chairman, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 26, WTC, Colombo 01 & valid up to 01.02.2021.

Chairman
Board of Investment of Sri Lanka

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION



Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka

Notice by the Director General of Civil Aviation Under the Air Navigation Regulation 196

Members of the public are hereby notified that this office has received on 09th September 2020 an application dated 08th September 2020 from Spark Air, No. 33/1, Halpe Mawatha, Kandana, seeking an Air Operator Certificate and Airline Licence to engage in International Regular Transport Operations and Charter Operations carrying Passengers, Cargo and Mail in compliance with Civil Aviation Act (Act No. 14 of 2010) and Regulations made thereunder. Business name of the company is Spark Air (Private) Limited with the trade name as "Spark Air (Private) Limited". The Directors of the Spark Air (Private) Limited are as follows:

Capt. Robert. L. Spittel
Capt. Mohamed Ramzi Raheem
Capt. Samin Attanayake
Capt. Ashan De Alwis
Mr. Suranjan De Silva

Spark Air (Private) Limited has nominated Capt. Mohamed Ramzi Raheem to be the Accountable Manager in charge of the proposed operations.

A copy of the aforementioned application is kept at the Technical Library, 4th Floor of Headquarters of the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka, No. 152/1, Minuwangoda Road, Katunayake, for perusal of the members of the public, during office hours of any working day of the week.

Members of the public are hereby informed that this office would proceed with the certification process of this application after 20th of October 2020 as per the established procedures to examine the degree of applicant's compliance with the applicable legislative provisions, Air Navigation Regulations in accordance with associated local requirements adopted by this office and ascertain the applicable level of compliance with the requirements for the safe, secure and efficient operation of proposed air services, prior to granting the requisite Air Operator Certificate and other relevant approvals for the commencement of proposed operations.

Any person may, not less than 10 days before the aforementioned date in the penultimate paragraph, make representations to me in writing, setting out the specific grounds on which such representations are made in respect of this application, in accordance with the Air Navigation Regulations. Such representations shall accompany written evidence as to the truth of any statement contained therein. A copy of every such representation shall be sent to the applicant, at the same time as it is sent to this office and a certificate to that effect shall be attached to the representation.

Capt. Themiya Abeywickrama
Director General of Civil Aviation &
Chief Executive Officer

Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka,
No. 152/1, Minuwangoda Road,
Katunayake.

10th September 2020

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Vardharajah Manjula Niroshan Prasanna Rajah** (Holder of NIC No. 812704222V) of No. 162/K, Sapumal Uyana, Kendaliyadda, Paluwa, in Mahara Divisional Secretariat Division, District of Campaha, do hereby inform that I shall use the name **Vincenzo Manjula Niroshan Prasanna Rodriguez** hereinafter.

REVOCACTION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

Notice is hereby given to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public, that I, **Undugodage Don Aruna Pramesh Perera** (N. I. C. No. 730061501V) of No. 30/1, Wijayamangalarama Road, Kohuwala, Nugegoda have cancelled and revoked the Power of Attorney granted by me to Undugodage Dona Sardha Prabhali Gunaratne (N. I. C. No. 635072105V) of No. L 2/3, Elvitigala Flats, Colombo 08 in the said Republic of Sri Lanka, bearing No. 3180 dated 25th February 2006 attested by Dhammika D. Yapa, Attorney-at-Law & Notary Public of Colombo and registered under Day Book No. 324 in Folio 35 (Page No.) Volume 3748 in the Registry of Written Authorities and Power of Attorney at the Registrar-General's Department and I shall not be responsible for any act done by the said Undugodage Dona Sardha Prabhali Gunaratne from the date hereof.

Date: 04.09.2020

Undugodage Don Aruna Pramesh Perera**SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY****TENDER NOTICE****SALE OF UNCLEARED CARGO**

DATE OF TENDER : 23.09.2020

TENDER NO : 437

Sealed Quotations are invited for the purchase and removal of the following cargo in the Warehouses & Yards at the Port of Colombo.

Tender No. 437

Electric Tricycle	Empty LPG Cylinder
Poly Propylene Bag	Natural Stones
Airconditioner	Flexi Bag Aqua Wax
Sport Items	Chemicals
Packing Material	Garment / Used Cloths
Tile/Wall Tiles	Carpet
Marble Blocks	Kitchen Items (Glasswares)
Talc Ds/Grad Lumps (Bulk)	Wooden, Stone, Iron Handicrafts
Compaction Ground	Solar Power Plant
Aluminium Foil	Household Items
Furniture	Metal Furniture
Fabric	Electrical Appliances
Used Machinery	Motor Bicycle Spare Parts
Motor Spare Parts	Food Items
	Other Merchandise etc.

Tender lists can be obtained from the Office of Sale Section, Logistics Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority at No. 11, Olcott Mawatha, Colombo 01 from 10.00 hours on **14.09.2020** at 14.30 hours to **21.09.2020** on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 250/= (Plus VAT).

Visit www.spa.lk for more details.

Chief Manager (Logistics)
Sri Lanka Ports Authority,
Logistics Division,
No. 11, Olcott Mawatha, Colombo 01.
12.09.2020

BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF LIGHTNING ARRESTOR SYSTEM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AT MIRIGAMA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE

CONTRACT NO.: BOI/TS/MEPZ/2020/06/04.002

- The Chairman, Zonal Procurement Committee (New Zones) on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI), invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for supply and installation of lightning arrestor system for Administrative building at Mirigama Export Processing Zone.
- The Contract period is **45 Days**.
- The bidders who have previous experience in supplying and installation of lightning arrestor systems during last 3 years are eligible to submit bids.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Senior Deputy Director (Zone), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Mirigama Export Processing Zone, Loluwegoda, Mirigama on Tel. No. 0332274657, 0332273702 or, Fax No. 0332274656 and inspect the bidding documents free of charge from the same address between **0900 hrs** and **1500 hrs** during weekdays.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Senior Deputy Director (Zone), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Mirigama Export Processing Zone, Loluwegoda, Mirigama from **10.09.2020** until **29.09.2020** between **0900 hrs** and **1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 2,000.00 + VAT**. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Sealed Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to reach "The Chairman, Zonal Procurement Committee, C/o Senior Deputy Director (Zone), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Mirigama Export Processing Zone, Loluwegoda, Mirigama" on or before **1400 hrs on 30.09.2020** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened at the above location soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **29.12.2020**.
- Sealed Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of **Rs. 10,000.00**. Bid Security shall be valid up to **26.01.2021**.
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1430 hrs on 17.09.2020** at the Zone office of BOI at the Mirigama Export Processing Zone at Loluwegoda Mirigama.

Chairman,
BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA



SRI LANKA AIR FORCE EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

**Notice is hereby given that the
40th Annual General Meeting**

of this Association will be held
at 1000 hrs. on Sunday the
18th October 2020
at the

"Eagles Lake Side Banquet & Convention Hall"

of Sri Lanka Air Force at **Attidiya, Dehiwala**. Resolutions, Motions and Nominations of Office Bearers are to reach the Hony. Secretary in writing by **Monday the 28th September, 2020**.

E H P Fernando USP, JP (All Island)
Hony Secretary
Sri Lanka Air Force Ex-Servicemen's
Association
C/O Sri Lanka Air Force Headquarters,
P O Box 594
Colombo

WENNAPPUWA PRADESHIYA SABHA**Lease Assets Procurement - 2021**

**Sealed Bids will be received from eligible applicants for the
Leasing-Out of, for the Year 2021, of
Meat Stalls / Shop Stalls / Weekly Fair / Yield**

- * The Schedule relevant to the assets will be displayed on Notice Boards of Sabha Sub-Offices and State Institutions in the authority area.
- * Bids should only be submitted on forms obtained from our office on payment of the specified security and application fee amounts, as stated in the schedule.
- * Bidder should prove his identity when obtaining bid documents.
- * Bid applications can be obtained from the Head Office of the Sabha on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 500.00.
- * Issuance of Bid Forms and acceptance of Bids will be done from **12.09.2020 up to 2.00 p.m. on 29.09.2020** and opening of Bids will be done at **2.30 p.m. on 29.09.2020** at the Head Office of the Wennappuwa Pradeshiya Sabha.
- * Sealed Bids could either be sent by Registered Post addressed to **"Secretary, Pradeshiya Sabha, Wennappuwa"** or delivered personally.
- * This Procurement will be subject to the conditions made available with the Bid documents.
- * For further details : **Tel. Nos : 031-2255276 / 031-2255379, Fax : 031-2253249**

Secretary
Wennappuwa Pradeshiya Sabha

**Ministry of Plantation****Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation**

Invitation of Quotations for the Sale of 529 Timber Trees in the Allakolla and Midland Estates that are under the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation

Sealed quotations are invited under the following tender for cutting and removal of 544 timber trees in the Estates that are under the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation.

Tender No.	Plantation	Field No.	Division	Kind of Tree	Tree Nos.	Total Number of Trees	Refundable Deposit
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-128/2020	Midland	A	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus	01 to 16, 18 to 26	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-129/2020	Midland	A	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus	27 to 35 37 to 47 49 to 53	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-130/2020	Midland	A	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus	55 to 64 66 to 69 71 to 81	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-131/2020	Midland	A	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus	82 to 87 89 to 99 101 to 108	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-132/2020	Midland	B	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus	01 to 25	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-133/2020	Midland	B	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus	28 to 32 34,35,37,38,39,40 41 to 59	31	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-134/2020	Midland	B	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus	61 to 75 77,79,80, 82 and 84 to 89	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-135/2020	Midland	B	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus	90 to 114	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-136/2020	Midland	B	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus / Red Gum	115 to 121 123,125 to 132 and 134 to 142	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-137/2020	Midland	B	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus / Red Gum	143 to 149 151 to 155 157 to 169	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-138/2020	Midland	B	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus / Red Gum	170 to 178 180,181,182 and 187 to 190 197 to 203	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-139/2020	Midland	B	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus / Red Gum	205 to 213 215 to 219 221,222,224 to 229 and 232,235,236	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-140/2020	Midland	B	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus / Red Gum	238 to 241 243 to 255 256 to 263	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-141/2020	Midland	B	Bambaragala	Eucalyptus / Red Gum	264,265,267 to 273 and 275 to 281 283,285,286,288 to 297	29	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-142/2020	Allakolla	8SD	Upper Division	Eucalyptus	96,97,98,99,100,101, 102,103,104,106,107, 108,109,110,111,112, 113,114,115,116	20	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-143/2020	Allakolla	8SD	Upper Division	Eucalyptus	117,118,119,121,122, 123,124,125,126,127, 128,129,130,133,134, 135,137,138,139	20	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-144/2020	Allakolla	17 SD 18 SD 19 SD	Rannatenna	Eucalyptus	1,6,8,10,12,21,33, 34,35,38,40,43,44, 46,47,55,57,66 7,9,12,13,15 5,11,14	27	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-145/2020	Allakolla	8SD	Upper Division	Eucalyptus	53,55,56,60,62,71, 72,73,74,77,78,84, 87,90,93,94,95,97, 100,101	20	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-146/2020	Allakolla	8SD	Upper Division	Eucalyptus	108,112,115,116,118, 121,122,124,125,126, 127,128,130,131,132, 133,136,137,138,139, 140,141,142,144,145	25	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-147/2020	Allakolla	8SD	Upper Division	Eucalyptus	180,182 to 197	17	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-148/2020	Allakolla	8SD	Upper Division	Eucalyptus	01 to 11 15 to 17 20,21,24,26,27,28	20	Rs. 100,000.00
SLSPC/PL/Tb/T-149/2020	Allakolla	8SD	Upper Division	Eucalyptus	30 to 34 36 to 38 40 to 51	20	Rs. 100,000.00

Tender documents including the conditions for quotations and the forms required for the submission of quotations may be purchased upon payment of a tender fee of Rs. 2000/- either to the Head Office in Colombo or Regional Office in Galphilla Estate up to 3.00 p.m. on 28.09.2020.

Tenders may be deposited up to **10.30 a.m. on 29.09.2020** in the Tender Box kept at the Head Office of the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation and they will be opened at 11.00 a.m. on the same day at the Head Office.

Tender documents will not be issued after **3.00 p.m. on 28.09.2020** under any circumstance and the Procurement Board of the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation in full or part thereof and to cancel and it will be the final decision.

Chairman
Procurement Board
Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation
No. 21, Meerania Street, Colombo 12.

Date: 09.09.2020

Inquiries: 0115 235 749

Classifieds

Employment

319
Positions Vacant
Domestic

Can anyone recommend a boy 18-20 years old to do household and odd jobs for a house in Wellawatte. Residents close to preferred. Working hours 6.30 am to 4 pm. 1200/- paid daily. Extra hours paid extra. Call 0714771132. 053997

Real Estate

641
House & Property
COLOMBO District
To let or lease

Wellawatta, Galle Road, 3 B/R house, furnished with electronics, car parking, for immediate rent (opposite Ramakrishna Road). 0768904063, 0770570806. 052795

Replies to Classifieds & Casual Advertisements published C/o the Daily News should only be sent by ordinary post. Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION



Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka

Notice by the Director General of Civil Aviation Under the Air Navigation Regulation 196

Members of the public are hereby notified that this office has received on 09th September 2020 an application dated 09th September 2020 from Aura Airlines (Pvt) Ltd, Colombo International Airport, Ratmalana, seeking an Air Operator Certificate and Airline Licence to engage in Private Operation, Aerial Work and Domestic Charter Operations carrying Passengers, Cargo and Mail in compliance with Civil Aviation Act (Act No.14 of 2010) and Regulations made there under. Business name of the company is Aura Airlines (Pvt) Ltd. with the trade name as "Aura Airlines (Pvt) Ltd". The Directors of the Aura Airlines (Pvt) Ltd. are as follows.

Mr. T.A.C.V.Thambugala
Ms. S.M.Chandani

Aura Airlines (Pvt) Ltd. has nominated Mr. R.M.H.V. Rathnayaka to be the Accountable Manager in charge of the proposed operations.

A copy of the aforementioned application is kept at the Technical Library, 4th Floor, of Headquarters of the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka, No. 152/1, Minuwangoda Road, Katunayake, for perusal of the members of the public, during office hours of any working days of the week.

Members of the public are hereby informed that this office would proceed with the certification process of this application after 20th of October 2020 as per the established procedures to examine the degree of applicant's compliance with the applicable legislative provisions, Air Navigation Regulations in accordance with associated local requirements adopted by this office and ascertain the applicable level of compliance with the requirements for the safe, secure and efficient operation of proposed air services, prior to granting the requisite Air Operator Certificate and other relevant approvals for the commencement of proposed operations.

Any person may, not less than 10 days before the aforementioned date in the penultimate paragraph, make representations to me in writing, setting out the specific grounds on which such representations are made in respect of this application, in accordance with the Air Navigation Regulations. Such representations shall accompany written evidence as to the truth of any statement contained therein. A copy of every such representation shall be sent to the applicant, at the same time as it is sent to this office and a certificate to that effect shall be attached to the representation.

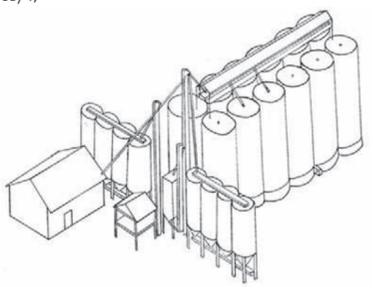
Capt. Themiya Abeywickrama
Director General of Civil Aviation & Chief Executive Officer

Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka,
No. 152/1, Minuwangoda Road,
Katunayake.
11th September 2020

PADDY MARKETING BOARD (PMB)

Invitation of Preliminary Proposals for Possible Utilization of Paddy Silo Storage Complexes

Paddy Marketing Board (PMB) is in possession of four reinforced concrete silo complexes located in Hasalaka, Inginiyagala, Polonnaruwa and Galgamuwa. Paddy storage and processing activities of some of these complexes started in 1976/7, continued for a few years and abandoned in 1983/4,



The concrete works are still in good condition but would require coating for water proofing. Most of the mechanical works are in poor condition or non-existent. PMB is interested in renovation and augmentation of these sites for possible beneficial uses. Initial thoughts on possible uses are;

- Paddy storage and milling:** it is possible to use silos with new or reconditioned mechanical Conveying systems for storage of paddy. Several options are;
 - Storage with bulk transport to large mills with weigh bridges
 - Storage with automatic weighing/bagging for transport to smaller mills
 - Storage and milling complexes with new or relocated ~4 tph rice mill
- Maize and Soybean storage and processing:** It is also possible to use silos for storage of maize and soybean for human consumption or animal feed. This requires mechanical conveying systems. The storage capacity should be derated by about 25% due to property differences between physical properties of paddy and maize. Some possibilities are;
 - Storage with bulk transport
 - Storage with automatic weighing/bagging
 - Storage and processing
- Other Possibilities:** PMB is open to other potential uses not mentioned here.

Suggestions should be forwarded before 01.10.2020.
Further information about the silo complexes can be obtained by contacting

Jatal D. Mannapperuma, PhD
Chairman,
Paddy Marketing Board
Telephone: 077-2267175
jatalm@live.com

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KANDY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender applications are received up to 10.00 a.m. on 02.10.2020 for the leasing of Trading Rights in Stalls of the Kandy Municipal Council mentioned in the schedule below.

Tender applications will be issued up to 2.45 p.m. on 30.09.2020 and tender applications will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 02.10.2020. Sealed applications may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Council, Kandy" or hand delivered. Name of the Central Market and the Stall Number should be mentioned on the left-hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.

Further details may be obtained from the Municipal Accountant (Revenue) of the Kandy Municipal Council during office hours either by calling Tel. No. 081-2227395. Tender documents may be inspected during office hours.

No.	Market	Stall No.	Business	Non-Refundable Procurement Application Fee (Rs.)	Refundable Procurement Deposit (Rs.)	Minimum Bid	Period	Monthly Shop Rent (Rs.)
01	Central Market	158	Beef	1,090.00	100,000.00	700,000.00	02 Years (01.12.2020-31.11.2022)	5,000.00
02		169	Beef	1,090.00	100,000.00	400,000.00	02 Years (01.12.2020-31.11.2022)	5,000.00
03		129	Beef	1,090.00	100,000.00	400,000.00	02 Years (01.12.2020-31.11.2022)	5,000.00
04	Sangaraja Mawatha	2-H	Tea, Short Eats and Local Foods & Grocery	1,090.00	60,000.00	731,000.00	02 Years (15.10.2020-14.10.2022)	26,000.00
05	Restaurant D.S. Senanayake Public Library Ground		Tea, Short Eats and Local Foods	1,090.00	50,000.00	16,500.00 (Monthly)	02 Years (02.10.2020-01.10.2022)	0.00

> Government taxes will be charged in addition to the tendered amount. Shop rent may be subject to revision.
> **No. 01-04** - 55% of the amount mentioned in the Tender Application accepted by the Council should be paid as first installment and enter into agreement and the balance 45% should be paid in 03 installments within 06 months and complete after entering into agreement.

Refundable Tender Deposit
Refundable Tender Deposit may either be paid in cash to the Shroff of the Kandy Municipal Council and the receipt obtained or an On Demand and Irrevocable Bid Security obtained in favour of Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Council, Kandy should accompany the procurement application. Applications without the Bid Security will be rejected. (Tender conditions are displayed on the Notice Board of the Kandy Municipal Council for pre inspection).

Chandana Tennakoon
Municipal Commissioner, Kandy.

Office of the Kandy Municipal Council
10.09.2020



Uva Wellassa University

Take Pride in Contributing to the National Development

COMMENCEMENT OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021 (2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR BATCH) UVA WELLASSA UNIVERSITY

The academic programme for the academic year 2020/2021 will be started on 16/09/2020. The newly enrolled students of the 2018/2019 academic year batch are requested to report to the University on 15/09/2020 at 8:30 a.m. An email has been sent to all enrolled students and letters also were sent via registered post.

Registrar
Uva Wellassa University
08/09/2020

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AVAILABLE AT 



A Revolution in Emergency Healthcare in Sri Lanka

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY



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