

PRESIDENT TELLS TEA PRODUCERS DO NOT ALLOW BRAND NAME "CEYLON TEA" TO BE TARNISHED SUPPLY HIGH QUALITY TO GLOBAL MARKET

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa urged the tea factory owners not to pave the way to tarnish the image of the Ceylon Tea brand which has attracted many countries in the world for a long time.

tea by mixing sugar, glucose, sodium bicarbonate and ferrous sulfate. The rejection of such tea in the world market has caused a huge setback to the tea industry.

President Rajapaksa emphasized that the country's reputation as well as the global demand for Ceylon

Tea could not allow it to be harmed in the future.

The President stressed that no room will be left for the tea industry to suffer the same fate that the pepper had met with.

President Rajapaksa made these comments during a discussion with

small and medium scale tea factory owners and exporters held at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday (18).

The deterioration of the quality of tea has resulted in the decline of its demand from 65% to 45% among the global consumers. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

PRESIDENT, PM TELEPHONE INDIAN PM EXPRESS STRONG COMMITMENT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN TIES



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa who telephoned Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed their strong desire and commitment to further strengthen the relationship between the two neighbouring countries, Prime Minister Modi's Office said in a statement.

The Sri Lankan President and the Prime Minister called Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on Thursday to convey their warm wishes on the occasion of the Indian Prime Minister's birthday.

"Both Sri Lankan leaders expressed their strong desire and commitment to further strengthen the relationship between the neighbouring countries. They expressed appreciation for the continued bilateral cooperation including in the joint fight against the COVID-19 pandemic". **▶ TO PAGE 02**

PCOI PROBING EASTER SUNDAY ATTACKS SIS CONDUCTED POLITICAL SPYING - FORMER DEFENCE SECRETARY

SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

Former Secretary of Defence Hemasiri Fernando told the Presidential Commission of Investigation (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks yesterday that the country's State Intelligence Service (SIS) became a political intelligence service.

He said that the period after the Constitutional crisis was a time of political turmoil.

He said the State Intelligence Service was conducting political spying.

He also said he had not

received an intelligence report on the possibility of a terrorist attack from the day he took over as Defence Secretary until April 8, and called on the Commission to investigate through a Committee of intelligence analysts if it could not accept what he was saying.

He said he had not received a direct message about the attack, but that he had received reports about Zuhair Hashim and that he was an extremist preacher.

Fernando was responding to a question raised by the

Commission as to whether he had prior knowledge of the Easter Sunday attacks.

Fernando told the Commission that Director of State Intelligence Nilantha Jayawardena had direct links with former President Maithripala Sirisena.

"Within two or three days of my appointment, I went to meet former President Maithripala Sirisena and took some files to sign. There, when I was talking about some intelligence matter, Nilantha told me not to take it up. A similar thing

happened on another occasion".

Fernando said if there was any information that threatens national security, Nilantha Jayawardena may have told the President.

"If such a problem arises, Nilantha Jayawardena should meet me and discuss. He did not speak about this at the Security Council meeting held on April 09".

When Sisira Mendis, the head of intelligence, asked him this, he said that he had sent a team. He said he would give a detailed report in two

or three days, Fernando told the commission

Fernando said at the time there was a rift between himself and the President.

"This was because of something I spoke at a meeting. I was on the verge of resigning in May. But unfortunately the attacks took place before that," he added.

Meanwhile on comments made by MP Harin Fernando on Thursday after appearing before the commission church sources said, a decision had been taken not to respond. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Sri Lanka progresses in human capital gains - World Bank

The World Bank Group's 2020 Human Capital Index, released on Thursday (17) has found that a child born in Sri Lanka today will



the average for South Asia region and lower middle-income countries, according to the World Bank report.

Sri Lanka's India's score be 60 percent as productive when he or she grows up as compared to if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is higher than

increased to 0.60 from 0.59 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank on Wednesday (17). **▶ TO PAGE 02**

No decision to withdraw from UNHRC - Information Director General

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Director General of Government Information Nalaka Kaluwewa in a statement yesterday said that the government has not taken any decision to withdraw from the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Refuting certain media reports which claimed that the government has decided to withdraw from the UNHRC,

Kaluwewa said that during the Cabinet Media Briefing held on Thursday (17) at the Government Information Department, Minister Keheloya Rambukwella didn't mention about Sri Lanka's withdrawal from the UNHRC and he only mentioned that Sri Lanka has already taken the necessary steps to withdraw from the co-sponsorship of Resolution 30/1. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



The Colombo International Book Fair organized by the Book Publishers' Association began at the BMICH yesterday under strict COVID-19 health guidelines. The Book Fair will be held until September 27 from 9.00 am to 10 pm. **Picture by Ranjith Asanka**

No increase in certified maximum price of rice

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Government has no intention of increasing the certified maximum price of rice due to any reason at a time when the people are economically distressed, Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardane assured.

The Minister made this observation addressing the media after a discussion held with a group of large, medium and small scale rice mill owners at his ministry auditorium yesterday. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

33,000 kgs of turmeric illegally removed from Customs seized; 10 suspects arrested



The three 40-foot containers containing 33,000 kilograms of illegally imported Turmeric seized by the Bloemendhal Police yesterday. **Pictures by Nissanka Wijeratne**

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Bloemendhal Police has seized 33,000 kilograms of turmeric and 3,000 kilograms of Orried illegally imported into the country and smuggled out of Customs.

The Police Media Division stated that the stocks of Turmeric and Orried were found in three container trucks. The importers had cleared the containers declaring that it was glass.

Police said that 10 suspects were arrested in connection with the detection of the illegally imported stock of turmeric while the three container trucks had been seized by the Bloemendhal Police. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

'Gotukolaya' in Police net

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The 50-year-old suspect identified as 'Gotukolaya', the main suspect in the assault of a group of Police officers at Atulugama in Bandaragama, had been arrested in Bandarawela last morning.

Four of the suspects wanted in connection with the attack on a group of Police officers attached to the Bandaragama Police who were conducting a cannabis raid at Atulugama, Bandaragama, on September 9 when they tried to arrest the suspect, had been arrested on the 17th by the Kalthota

Police in the Kurugala area. The suspects are 18, 22, 27 and 31 years of age and are residents of Atalugama. They were produced before the Balangoda Magistrate's Court yesterday (18).

However, the main suspect in this incident who was evading arrest was arrested in Bandarawela around 02.30 am yesterday by the Bandarawela Police. The 50-year-old suspect is a resident of Atalugama, Bandaragama.

Police said the suspect was wanted in connection with the assault on Police officers and for possession and trafficking of cannabis. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Female prison guard under investigation for supplying drugs to inmate

BUDDIKA IMBULANA

Prison intelligence has launched an investigation against a female prison guard who allegedly facilitated the delivery of drugs to an inmate of the Welikada Women's Prison identified as the mother of prominent underworld figure Dematagoda Chaminda.

It has been revealed that a person had thrown several packets of heroin over the

prison wall on September 12 and the female prison guard had allegedly given Chaminda's mother the opportunity to leave the ward to retrieve the heroin.

"Prison intelligence has uncovered that Dematagoda Chaminda's mother had retrieved the heroin and sold it to inmates at the Welikada Women's Prison at a high price," prison sources said.

Four Jaffna University undergrads suspended

MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

The Jaffna University has suspended four senior students for alleged sexual harassment of several first-year students using online platforms.

The suspension of students was announced yesterday by University authorities at a press briefing in Jaffna. The students are attached to the Management Faculty.

"Some first-year students had complained to officials of alleged online sexual harassment by some senior students, and on suspicion, these students were suspended," University sources said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

State Minister climbs coconut tree

Text and Pix by PRASAD POORNAMAL

State Minister of Coconut, Fishtail Palm, Palmyra and Rubber product Promotion and Allied Industrial Production and Export Diversification Arundika Fernando yesterday climbed a coconut tree to talk about the soaring prices of coconuts in the local market.

Speaking to the media from a top a coconut tree, the State Minister said Coconut prices in Sri Lanka have risen due to increased demand for coconut products in the world market.

The Minister had climbed the coconut tree at his home garden in Dankotuwa with the help of a coconut tree climbing machine manufactured by a person in the Warakapola area.

The Minister who personally tested the machine said that this will be introduced to the local market in the next few months

The Minister who plucked a few coconuts from the tree, said the price of a coconut today has gone up to 100 rupees and a worker who climbs a coconut tree should also be given Rs. 100.

The State Minister also said that there is a difficulty in finding workers for coconut plucking. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



State Minister of Coconut, Fishtail Palm, Palmyra and Rubber product Promotion and Allied Industrial Production and Export Diversification Arundika Fernando is seen climbing a coconut tree in his home garden at Dankotuwa with the help of a coconut tree climbing machine.

Motorbikes for over hundred PHIs

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

The Government gave motorbikes to over one hundred Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) under Health Ministry's Sri Lanka COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project, yesterday.

Another 749 PHIs are to receive the motorbikes on priority basis, Health Ministry sources told the Daily News. The bikes, each of which will cost around Rs.300,000, will be distributed to the other PHIs under the project, Health Ministry sources said.

The Health Ministry is distributing these motorbikes to strengthen the coordination and timeliness of national and regional response in emergencies of pandemic nature under a long-term health systems strengthening project, according to Ministry sources.

The ministry carries out the project with a soft loan extended by the World Bank.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa presided over the distribution of 107 bikes among the PHIs yesterday at the Presidential Secretariat. He was accompanied by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi and other ministry officials.



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa presided over the distribution of over 100 bikes among the PHIs yesterday at the Presidential Secretariat. Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi and other ministry officials were also present. Picture courtesy President's Media Division

The bikes were distributed free of charge among the PHIs. According to sources this was the first time that the bikes were issued without obtaining any money from the PHIs. The bikes were given among these PHIs in recognition of their excellence in carrying out their duties to pre-

vent the spread of COVID-19 virus, said Sri Lanka COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project Director Jayasundara Bandara. There are many plans on track to invigorate the health service to face future contingencies including infectious diseases such as

COVID-19, including construction of an isolation centre within the National Institute of Infectious Diseases premises, which will have facilities such as negative pressure rooms, Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and separate waste disposal and drainage systems, according to Bandara.

India, Lanka to deepen partnership in capacity building and skill development

Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay called on State Minister of State for Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation Dr. Seetha Arambepola on September 15 and discussed ways to deepen partnership between the two neighbouring countries in areas such as capacity building and skill development during the meeting.

Discussions focused on aspects such as training of trainers in vocational institutes in Sri Lanka, strengthening infrastructural capabilities of these institutes and generating interest among school-going children and youth in advanced space technologies. It was decided that both sides would work towards early realization of augmenting existing capacities and creating newer ones in chosen fields in an expeditious manner. Guided by the 'Neighbourhood First' Policy, the Government of India offers capacity building modules across a range of fields to Government Officials and other eligible Sri Lankan citi-

zens every year. Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, around 400 slots are reserved for Sri Lanka annually. Shortlisted personnel from Sri Lanka receive unique, fully-funded training programmes under this rubric. In addition, several other customized modules are also organized by Government of India. It also provides scholarships to more than 200 Sri Lankan students each year to pursue courses spanning from under graduate to doctoral studies in various academic streams in prestigious institutes in India including IITs and NITs. To support students from disadvantaged backgrounds, financial assistance is provided to around 650 students from among Universities and Schools in Sri Lanka. Government of India is also committed to strengthening infrastructure in educational institutes in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, infrastructural activities in several institutes across the island are being undertaken as High Impact Community Development Projects.

'Gotukolaya' in Police net ... From page 01

The suspect had escaped from police custody amidst attacks by the residents. Two Sub Inspectors and two women police officers were injured in the attack. The main suspect was produced in the Bandarawela Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Four Jaffna University undergrads... From page 01

A police complaint was lodged with the Kopai Police yesterday and Police are acting upon the complaint. The students were suspended from attending classes, soon as the matter had reached the officials.

"There was an incident of such manner last year, and stern action was taken on those involved. This is the second incident and those involved if found guilty will be dealt with severe action", a university official said.

Express strong commitment to further strengthen ties... From page 01



"The Prime Minister thanked both the Leaders for their warm wishes and conveyed that he looked forward to working with them to further expand cooperation between the two countries in line with India's Neighbourhood First policy" the statement from the Indian Prime Minister's office said.

Do not allow brand name "Ceylon Tea" to be tarnished... From page 01

The number of tea factories in this country stands at 705. Improper activities have been reported from 45 factories and production has been stopped in 18 among them following investigations, Chairman of Ceylon Tea Board Jayampathi Molligoda said.

Based on intelligence information the Special Task Force of the Police and the Police raid tea factories which produce garbage tea and use harmful chemical components.

No room should be left to hamper the revenue of the country or the tea industry due to substandard tea production. Tea factory owners as well as the exporters should ensure the supply of high quality tea to the world market. "Production of low-quality tea will not be allowed" said the President while giving instructions to officials to close down the factories that do not adhere to this rule.

The President also instructed the acting Inspector General of Police to continue to raid such factories after conducting investigations with the assistance of intelligence services.

State Minister Kanaka Herath, Principal Advisor to the President Lalith Weeraratna, secretaries to Cabinet and State Ministries, acting IGP and other officials, tea factory owners and exporters were present during the discussion.

No increase in certified maximum price of rice... From page 01

The Minister said that certain paddy mill owners hoard paddy and rice stocks without releasing to the market and attempting to create an artificial rice shortage in the country. If these paddy mill owners continue to do so, the government will have to take a decision of importing rice to maintain a buffer stock.

He further said that it is expected to seek the approval of the cabinet of ministers at the next cabinet meeting to import 100,000 Metric tons of rice as a solution for the artificially created rice shortage.

"If anybody attempting to increase the price of rice by creating an artificial shortage, the government is not ready to fulfill their narrow objective and will take measures to import rice." the Minister stressed.

SIS conducted political spying - Former Defence Secretary... From page 01

to the allegations made by MP Fernando as the Commission had already warned him with regard to his statement, which he had admitted that he had coined it up on the spur of the moment and not based on any facts.

"The church believes that it is a futile effort to keep responding to the unsubstantiated and reckless allegations and claims levelled by Fernando as the Commission had already reprimanded him regarding his derogatory statement," a source said.

33,000 kgs of turmeric illegally removed from Customs seized; 10 suspects arrested... From page 01

Meanwhile, speaking to the Daily News, Customs Director Sunil Jayaratne said that the turmeric had been imported from India through Letters of Credit and therefore, as of now the decision was to re-export the turmeric back to India.

He also noted that another consignment of around 1000kg of turmeric had been detected which were imported concealed in small quantities among other goods in 62 containers.

The Customs Spokesman added that the stock of turmeric would be destroyed and not released into the local market based on the government's policy of protecting the local farmers and promoting locally manufactured produce for the export market and promoting an agriculture based economy.

In addition to the above mentioned detections, the Sri Lanka Coast Guard had detected a stock of around 1058 kg of dried

turmeric being smuggled into the island, in the estuary of the Deduru Oya, Chilaw yesterday (18).

"During a special patrol in the estuary of Deduru Oya, the Sri Lanka Coast Guard detected the 1058 kg consignment of dried turmeric stuffed in 21 gunny sacks, upon inspection of a suspicious dinghy.

The stock of dried turmeric and the dinghy was handed over to the Customs Office of Sinna-



padu for further investigation. Meanwhile, operations are currently underway in search of the suspects involved in this racket," the Navy Media office stated.

The 10 arrested suspects are of the ages of 22,28,38, 42, 43, 45 and 52 and are residents of Mattakkuliya, Keselwatta, Maligawatta, Wellampitiya, Narahenpita, Kotahena, Akmeemana, Malwana, Kadirana and Colombo 12.

No decision to withdraw from UNHRC... From page 01

"It is observed that the contents of the answer given by Co-Cabinet Spokesman Minister Keheliya Rambukwella in response to a question of a journalist on the statement of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding Sri Lanka and the response of the Permanent Representative to Sri Lanka have been misinterpreted by few media outlets. During the press conference, Hon. Minister Keheliya Rambukwella did not mention Sri Lanka's withdrawal from the UNHRC. He only mentioned that Sri Lanka has already taken the necessary steps to withdraw from the co-sponsorship of Resolution 30/1. Sri Lanka

withdrew from Resolution 30/1 in February and informed the UNHRC of the decision during the March session in Geneva." Director General of Government Information said.

Responding to a query by a journalist at the cabinet media briefing held on Thursday at the Government Information Department, Co-cabinet Spokesman Mass Media Minister Keheliya, co-cabinet spokesman Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said that the government is not ready to fully accept the remarks made about Sri Lanka at the 45th sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), The Minister made this

observation He further said that since the end of civil war in 2009 the UNHRC has been making false allegations about war crimes.

Referring to a comment made by UN Human Rights High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet about the appointment of senior army officials to key positions in the government, Minister Rambukwella said that certain army officers retire before the age 55, so if they had performed exceptionally when considering their background then there should be some fairness in giving them some position in the government following standard procedure.

State Minister climbs coconut tree... From page 01

The Minister further stated that no matter how high the price of coconut is, no action will be taken to import coconut. The Minister also said that a program will be prepared in the next few days to provide coconut to the people at concessionary prices.



Heavy rains, strong winds expected

Naval and fishing communities are advised not to venture into the aforementioned deep sea areas of the Bay of Bengal from September 19 to September 22. Those who are in deep sea are advised to reach safer areas. Naval and fishing communities are requested to be vigilant in this regard.

Also windy conditions over the island and the showery condition over the south-western parts are expected to enhance temporarily to some extent until September 21.

Showers will occur at times in Central, Sabaragamuwa, Western and North-western provinces and in Galle and Matara districts. Heavy rainfalls, above 100 mm are likely at some places.

Several spells of showers will occur in North-Central Provinces

Showers or thundershowers may occur at a few places in Uva province and in Ampara district after 2.00 pm.

Strong gusty winds about (50-60) kmph can be expected

across the island, particularly in the Northern, North-central and North-western provinces, Trincomalee and Hambantota districts and in the western slopes of the central hills.

Meanwhile, showers or thundershowers may occur at several places in the sea areas off the coast extending from Puttalam to Hambantota via Colombo and Galle. Heavy rainfalls are likely at some places.

Winds will be South-Westerly in the sea areas around the island and the wind speed will

be (30-40) kmph. Wind speed can increase up to (60-70) kmph in the deep and shallow sea areas off the coasts extending from Trincomalee to Negombo via Kankasanturai and Puttalam and in the sea area extending from Matara to Pottuvil via Hambantota.

Wind speeds can increase up to (50-55) kmph in the deep and shallow sea areas off the coasts extending from Negombo to Matara via Colombo and Galle

There is a possibility that near shore sea areas off the

coast extending from Kalpitiya to Pottuvil via Colombo, Galle and Hambantota may experience surges due to the effect of swell waves, having 2.5 - 3.0 m height.

The sea areas extending from Trincomalee to Negombo via Kankasanturai and Puttalam and the sea area extending from Matara to Pottuvil via Hambantota can be rough or very rough at times.

The other sea areas around the island can be fairly rough or rough at times.

Sri Lanka progresses in human capital gains - World Bank ... From page 01

Investments in human capital—the knowledge, skills, and health that people accumulate over their lives—are key to unlocking a child's potential and to improving economic growth in every country.

In comparison to neighbouring India, Sri Lanka's adult survival rate is at 0.90 against India's 0.83. In addition, Sri Lanka scored higher in terms of the Probability of Survival to age 5 at 0.99 in comparison to India's 0.96.

World Bank Country Director for Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka Faris H. Hadad-Zervos states that, "In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, investing in people is more vital than ever, as it can lay the strong foundations needed for the recovery and for resilient growth."

He added that, "Stunting due to chronic under-nutrition and the need for higher quality learning are the two areas of the Human Capital Index in which Sri Lanka has an opportunity to accelerate progress, especially as a country on the threshold of upper-middle income status."

To help address these gaps, a strategic

focus on improving nutrition and enhancing learning in less developed regions of the country is needed, along with consistent measurement of stunting and internationally comparable learning outcomes to inform policy development and track progress in human capital development over time.

Globally, due to the pandemic's impact, most children – more than 1 billion – have been out of school and could lose, on average, half a year of schooling, translating into considerable monetary losses in the future. Data also shows significant disruptions to essential health services for women and children, with many children missing out on crucial vaccinations. The economic impact of the pandemic has been particularly deep for women and for the most disadvantaged families, leaving many vulnerable to food insecurity and poverty.

The 2020 Human Capital Index includes health and education data up to March 2020 for 174 countries covering 98 percent of the world's population, providing a pre-pandemic baseline on the health and education status of children.



The analysis finds that human capital outcomes for girls are on average higher than for boys. However, this has not translated into comparable opportunities to use human capital in the labor market. On average, employment rates are 40 percentage points lower for women than for men in South Asia. Moreover, the pandemic could exacerbate risks of gender-based violence, child marriage and adolescent pregnancy, all of which further reduce opportunities for learning and empowerment for women and girls.

Country Manager for Sri Lanka and the Maldives Chiyo Kanda stated, "Sri Lanka and the World Bank have worked together for decades to invest in human

capital and today these hard-won gains are at risk." However, she said, "We will continue supporting Sri Lanka to expand the coverage and quality of health services in underserved areas, boost early childhood development and learning outcomes, improve higher education, and support vulnerable families with social protection measures to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic."

The World Bank Group is working closely with governments all over the world to develop long-term solutions to protect and invest in people during and after the pandemic. In Sri Lanka the Bank is supporting initiatives to increase access to early childhood education and care, to improve learning in general education, and to strengthen the relevance of higher education for economic development. The Bank is also helping strengthen the efficiency of social safety nets to support vulnerable families and households. In addition, the Bank is assisting the government to strengthen health systems, including to respond to the challenges of the Covid19 pandemic.

Five more COVID-19 patients detected

SHAVINI MADHARA

The National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 (NOCCPC) said that five new COVID-19 patients were detected as of yesterday morning. One of them was a returnee from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who was being quarantined at the Five Star hotel, one from Qatar who was being quarantined at the Jetwing Blue quarantine center, another three from Madagascar and Oman respectively.

Issuing a media release, the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID 19 also stated that 22 patients returned home after recovering as at 6 am yesterday morning. Newly recovered 22 patients are returnees from abroad. The NOCCPC further stated that 5895 persons were undergoing quarantine at 59 centers under the Tri-Forces as at yesterday.

Meanwhile, a total of 320 persons concluded their quarantine process at the military-run quarantine centers yesterday and a total of 42,582 persons had returned home after completing the quarantine process. Thus, a total of 111 persons arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday morning. Among them, 22 returnees are from Dubai, 52 from Qatar, 30 from Japan and 7 from Australia. All those returnees will be directed to quarantine centers controlled by the Tri-forces upon their arrival," the NOCCPC further stated.

The number of patients reported from the Kandakadu cluster has increased to 649, out of which 528 are detainees, 67 are staff, 5 invited staff members, 48 close contacts and 1 close contact of the patient found from Welikada prison. A total of 638 have recovered from the Kandakadu Cluster and another 11 are still undergoing treatments, the centre highlighted.

PM pays tribute to Hector Kobbekaduwa

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday participated to mark the 37th death anniversary of the late Minister Hector Kobbekaduwa at the Hector Kobbekaduwa Center in Colombo.

The event was organised by the Hector Kobbekaduwa Forum and the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research Institute.

The Prime Minister paid floral tributes to the statue of late Hector Kobbekaduwa.

The Hector Kobbekaduwa Forum presented a memento and a book to the Prime Minister.

Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardana, State Ministers Shashendra Rajapaksa, Anuradha Jayaratne, MP Madura Vithanage and Hector Kobbekaduwa's family members, relatives and many distinguished guests were present on the occasion.



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa paying a floral tribute to mark the 37th death anniversary of late Minister Hector Kobbekaduwa at the Hector Kobbekaduwa Center in Colombo yesterday.

Measures to construct two LNG Power Plants by 2023 - Dullas

SHAVINI MADHARA

Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma stated that steps will be taken to construct two Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Power Plants by 2023.

This was stated by the Minister Dullas Alahapperuma during a visit to the Lanka Electricity Company (Pvt) Ltd.

"Only 300 MW has been added to the national grid during the last five years. However the demand for electricity is increasing by 6% per year. Accordingly, the problems

faced by the country in the future cannot be avoided", Minister added.

While the contribution of green and renewable energy should be increased by 70% by the year 2030 and the current 32% contribution of diesel electricity should be reduced to 5%. Obstacles to the implementation of generation plans should be removed. Our current contribution to renewable energy is only 900 MW and we hope to double this by 2023," Minister Dullas Alahapperuma said.

Case against former MP re-fixed for trial

SHAVINI MADHARA

The corruption case filed against former Parliamentarian A. H. M. Fowzie for allegedly causing an unlawful loss to the government by misusing a vehicle belonging to the Disaster Management Centre was yesterday re-fixed for trial by Colombo Additional Magistrate Priyantha Liyanage.

Former Minister A.H.M Fowzie appeared before court. The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption Director

General had filed the corruption case against the State Minister under Section 70 of the Bribery Act on four charges. The Bribery Commission alleged that Fowzie had unlawfully used a Land Cruiser jeep belonging to the Disaster Management Centre between 2010 and 2015 while he was serving as a senior minister during the previous regime. The value of the vehicle was estimated at Rs. 19.5 million.

The case will be taken up on December 8.

Incense sticks to be exported to Canada

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Incense sticks manufactured by Thai Sumedha Enterprise Private Limited are to be exported to Canada.

An event to mark this occasion was held in Kotte recently with the participation of Industries Minister Wimal Weerawansa and Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardana.

The Founder and Chairman of Thai Sumedha Enterprises Sumedha Elpitiya symbolically handed over a stock of incense sticks prepared for export to Ministers Wimal Weerawansa and Bandula Gunawardana at the launch of the new product.

Industrial Development Board (IDB) Chairman Upasena Dissanayake and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister Priyantha Rathnayake also participated at this occasion.



Ministers Wimal Weerawansa and Bandula Gunawardana together with Founder and Chairman of Thai Sumedha Enterprises Sumedha Elpitiya on the occasion.

Man with firearm, heroin arrested

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Kalutara Toxic Drugs Unit acting on a tip-off arrested a man from the Padagoda area with a firearm, 3.23 grams of heroin and a number of other items in the Aluthgama Police Division yesterday.

Accordingly, Kalutara Toxic Drugs

unit has recovered a 12-Bore firearm, a hand grenade, 07 live bullets of 9mm, 05 live bullets of T-56, 05 live 12-Bore bullets, two swords of various length, bullet proof vest, gas face mask, Cyanide capsule and some military uniforms in his possession.

The suspect along with the seized

weapons was handed over to the Aluthgama Police for further investigations.

The suspect was identified as a 43-year-old resident of Beruwala.

He was produced before the Kaluthara Magistrate's Court yesterday and Aluthgama Police are continuing investigations.

Parliament Goods Receiving Officer further remanded

SHAVINI MADHARA

The Parliament Goods Receiving Officer who was arrested by officials of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) while allegedly soliciting a bribe of Rs 60,000 from a fruit supplier, was further remanded till September 22 by Colombo Additional Magistrate Priyantha Liyanage yesterday.

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

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

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

Major drug dealer nabbed in Akkaraipattu

DILSHAN THARAKA

A major drug dealer and his accomplice were taken into custody with 122 grams of heroin from Old Cinema Road by the Akkaraipattu Police yesterday.

The raid was carried out on a tip-off received by the Akkaraipattu Police.

Police also seized Rs.54,000 in cash and a small digital scale in their possession.

The 30-year-old suspects are residents of the same area.

They were produced before the Akkaraipattu Magistrate's Court yesterday and Akkaraipattu Police are investigating.

Meanwhile, two suspects were arrested with 4.700 grams of heroin from the Kadawala road area by the Mount Lavinia Special Motorcycle Unit yesterday.

The suspects were handed over to the Mount Lavinia Police for further investigations.

The suspects are 23 and 24 year-old respectively and are residents of Ratmalana and Moratuwa.

They were produced before the Mount Lavinia Magistrate's Court yesterday. Mount Lavinia Police are investigating.

Notice of Sale Under Section 9 of The Recovery Of Loans By Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 Of 1990

Amāna Bank PLC Amāna Bank It's Your Bank

AUCTION SALE OF A VALUABLE PROPERTY

Description of the Property Mortgaged By Mortgage Bond No. 11383.

Land - 01
An allotment of land called "Ehelagahawatta", depicted in Lot No.01A in Plan No. 103/2012 dated 21.02.2012 drawn by S. Rasappah, Licenced Surveyor, bearing Assessment No. 186/47, situated at Egoda Uyana Road, in the village of Egoda Uyana, within the Municipal Council Limits of Moratuwa, in the Divisional Secretariat of Palle Pattu of Salpiti Korale, in the District of Colombo Western Province.

Containing In Extent : (AO-R0-P21.50)
Together with the building and all rights therein contained. This property is situated in the G.N. Division of Egoda Uyana South-556B.

The said allotment of land is a resurvey of the land called "Ehelagahawatta", depicted as Lot No. 01 in Plan No. 3912 dated 05.07.1995 drawn by S.J. Peris, Licenced Surveyor.

Land-02 (Reservation for Road)
An allotment of land called "Ehelagahawatta" (Reservation for Road), depicted as Lot No. F situated in the village of Egoda Uyana, in Palle Pattu, in the District of Colombo, Western Province.

Containing In Extent : (AO-R0-P1.5)
Together with all rights therein contained. Registered in volume folio D 225/101 in the Land Registry of Delkanda-Nugegoda.

Land-03 (Reservation for Road)
An allotment of land called "Ehelagahawatta"(Reservation for Road), depicted as Lot No. H situated in the village of Egoda Uyana, in Palle Pattu, in the District of Colombo, Western Province.

Containing In Extent : (AO-R0-P18.5)
Together with all rights therein contained. Registered in volume folio D 225/102 in the Land Registry of Delkanda-Nugegoda.

The Properties Mortgaged To Amāna Bank PLC By:
Meerasahib Mohamed Sajan & Ahamadu Lebbe Muhammadu Riyal as "Obligor" have made default in payments due on Primary Mortgage Bond No. 11383 dated 18th August 2017 attested by V Kanagaratnam, Notary Public of Batticaloa in favour of AMANA BANK PLC (formerly named and known as Amāna Bank Limited).

Under the Authority Granted to Us by Amāna Bank PLC
We Shall Sell By PUBLIC AUCTION
On Wednesday 7th October 2020
Commencing at 11.00 a. m. at the spot

Mode of Payment
The Successful purchaser will have to pay the following amounts in cash at the fall of the Hammer.

- 25% (Twenty Five Percent) of the Purchased Price.
- 1% (One Percent) of the sales Taxes payable to the Local Authority.
- Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2 % (Two and a half percent only) on the purchased price plus applicable taxes on the commission.
- Total cost of advertising.
- Clerk's & Crier's Fee of Rs.1,500.00
- The Notary's Fee for attesting conditions of Sale will have to be determined by the Bank.

The balance 75% of the purchased price together with any other statutory levies, duties, taxes or charges whenever applicable and imposed by the Government of Sri Lanka or any other authority to be payable within 30 days from the date of sale.

For further particulars, please contact the Legal Department of Amāna Bank PLC on Tel: 011-7756000
* The bank has the right to stay/cancel the above auction sale without prior notice

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Tel: 081-2227593
Tel/Fax: 081-2224371
E-mail: schokmankandy@slt.net

City Office:
6A, Fairfield Gardens, Colombo 8.
Tel: 011-2671467, 011-2671468
Tel/Fax: 011-2671469
E-mail: schokman@samera1892.com

Web: www.sandslanka.com
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ST & S SINCE 1892

Toyota Lanka

Superb Auction Sale of

TOYOTA

29 Nos. Diesel & Petrol Registered Motor Vehicles
(Exclusively used by the Managerial and Executive Staff, imported Brand New, company maintained and in excellent running condition)

On Sunday 27th September 2020
To Be Held At Toyota Plaza
337, Negombo Road, Wattala.
Commencing at 10.00 a.m.

COMPRISING :

DOUBLE & SINGLE CABS:

DAG-4XXX	TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 4WD S/CAB 4164 CC	2018
PJ-0XXX	TOYOTA HILUX 4WD D/CAB 2986 CC	2018
PL-1XXX	TOYOTA HILUX 4WD D/CAB 2755 CC	2017
PH-0XXX	TOYOTA HILUX 4WD D/ CAB 2494 CC	2015
PH-1XXX	TOYOTA HILUX 4WD D/CAB 2494 CC	2015
PJ-7XXX	TOYOTA HILUX 4WD D/CAB 2494 CC	2015
PV-6XXX	TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 4WD S/CAB 4164 CC	2012

BUSES:

ND-4XXX	TOYOTA COASTER 30 SEATER 4164 CC	2018
ND-0XXX	TOYOTA COASTER 30 SEATER 4164 CC	2017
NC-8XXX	TOYOTA COASTER 30 SEATER 4164 CC	2017
NC-6XXX	TOYOTA COASTER 30 SEATER 4164 CC	2016
NC-6XXX	TOYOTA COASTER 30 SEATER 4164 CC	2015
NB-8XXX	TOYOTA COASTER 30 SEATER 4164 CC	2014

MOTOR BIKE:

BBK-1XXX	HIRO MOTOR BIKE GLAMOUR 124.7 CC	2014
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CARS:

CAY-3XXX	TOYOTA COROLLA 171 1598 CC	2018
CAW-8XXX	TOYOTA WIGO 998 CC	2017
CAT-3XXX	TOYOTA WIGO 998 CC	2017
CAT-3XXX	TOYOTA WIGO 998 CC	2017
CAT-3XXX	TOYOTA WIGO 998 CC	2017
CAT-3XXX	TOYOTA WIGO 998 CC	2017
CAT-3XXX	TOYOTA WIGO 998 CC	2017
CAT-4XXX	TOYOTA WIGO 998 CC	2017
KY-5XXX	TOYOTA COROLLA 1398 CC	2014
KY-5XXX	TOYOTA PRIUS C 1497 CC	2014

JEEPS:

CBD-8XXX	TOYOTA RUSH 1496 CC	2018
CBC-6XXX	TOYOTA RUSH 1496 CC	2018
CAT-1XXX	TOYOTA FORTUNER 2694 CC	2016
KB-7XXX	TOYOTA LANDCRUISER PRADO 3956 CC	2006

TRUCK

LL-3XXX	HINO DIESEL WU710 R 4009 CC	2013
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CAR CARRIER:

LL-3XXX	HINO WRECKER 4009 CC	2014
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Viewing – Thursday 24th Onwards
At No.42, Old Negombo Road, Wattala.
Between 9.00 a.m – 5.00 p.m.

Visit our web site www.sandslanka.com for visuals of selected vehicles

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- Prospective buyers will be taken to the auction venue on a first come first serve basis & limited to 200 seats as per the Health Ministry, adhering to COVID 19 protocol.
- Entrance : By a **non refundable** Ticket of Rs. 2,000.00 per person & a refundable deposit of Rs. 25,000.00 per person on the day of Auction. The Gate will be opened at 8.30am for Registration.
- Payment : Non – refundable initial deposit of 25% in Cash at the fall of the Hammer & Balance 75% & Removal latest by 3:00 pm on **Tuesday 29th September 2020.**
- COVID 19 health guidelines are applicable.
- The Management has the right to withdraw any vehicle (s) from the Auction without prior notice.
- The decision of the Auctioneer will be final.

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Aiming at the target.



On combat mode

CRUISING ON THE WAVES OF VICTORY



In 2019, the 4th Fast Attack Flotilla was bestowed with the President's Colours in a grand parade.

DISHAN JOSEPH

Sri Lanka is an island nation. The responsibility and honour of being the country's first line of defence is assigned to the Navy. For more than six decades, the Sri Lanka Navy has duly fulfilled this obligation with valour and determination. It was on September 14, 1988 that the Dvora Squadron was formed at the Eastern Naval Command, Trincomalee.

All officers and sailors, both serving and retired, will agree that Trincomalee is the heart of our Navy. I consider it a privilege to have visited this massive base on many occasions, observing and realizing the important task this establishment has in the broader spectrum of maritime and National security. The Naval and Maritime Academy is also located within this compound.

As we all know Sri Lanka faced a prolonged conflict for three decades. Peace was gradually secured with sacrifice. There are many chapters of battles which were fought on the ground, air and sea. The latter played a key role as it firstly protected our EEZ (exclusive economic zone) in terms of commercial trade and shipping, and secondly kept the oceans supply routes safe and running to feed both the civilians and land-based Army battalions across the Northern and Eastern theatres of combat, when road transport was dangerously hampered. The active presence of the Navy was a strong deterrence to the seaborne activities of the LTTE. In his book *Asymmetric Warfare at Sea*, retired Admiral Jayanath Colombage (former Navy Commander) speaks of the radical changes adapted by the Navy to counter these threats and regain command of the sea.

The role and task of the Dvora Squadron surely changed the tide of the war in many ways. In the early years of the Royal Ceylon Navy, there were only a few vessels in our fleet. With time, our nation acquired new vessels with enhanced firepower. However, the sporadic attacks by small boats using "swarm" tactic was a daunting challenge to the Navy at one stage. The logistics supply at sea was facing a new threat. The Navy had to adapt and advance to maintain their superiority at sea.

The need for fast boats with firepower was the need of the hour. In 1985, the first such FAC (Fast Attack Craft) was brought from Israel. This was the first Dvora in the Naval fleet. At that time, these FACs were the best of their kind displaying speed and mobility. A few other FACs were added and the Dvora Squadron boldly initiated a formidable counter offensive. Subsequently, these boats and their crews blossomed into the 4th Fast Attack Flotilla of the Sri Lanka Navy. The

writer Mark Twain once stated "Courage is resistance to fear" and the Dvora crews have proved this many times in the oceans realm.

There are many tales of altruism and gallantry stemming from the Dvora fleet at their home base, Trincomalee. The first is the sea encounter of Lieutenant Jude Wijethunge. On March 30, 1996, the Dvora bearing number P-458 was tasked with the duty of escorting a convoy. After their sea passage began, P-458 was confronted by enemy boats, and took some heavy gunfire. The other sailors were decapitated. Lieutenant Wijethunge was alone and realized that the suicide boat would now target the convoy, in an attempt to initiate a contact blast. The officer had to make an instant decision. The suicide boat had already begun its full speed throttle towards the ferry. Disregarding his own life, the Navy officer steered the Dvora to intercept the enemy craft. The suicide boat rammed and exploded. P-458 was no more. The convoy reached safely. Lieutenant Jude Wijethunge became the first Navy officer to be posthumously awarded the PWV medal (the *Parama Weera Vibhushanaya* is the highest gallantry medal awarded to members of the Sri Lanka Armed Forces). He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander and his exemplary action lives on to inspire new cadet officers to this day.

Another young officer also laid down his life at sea on May 11, 2006. The Navy Dvora bearing number P-418 was under the command of Lieutenant Commander Lalith Edirisinghe. The crew was on routine patrol in the North-Eastern sea. They were aware that the ferry named Pearl Cruise would shortly sail on this route carrying 710 soldiers. This was a routine run from KKS to Trincomalee. The ferry was escorted by two Fast Attack Craft and one Fast Gun Boat. Shortly after seeing the Pearl Cruise, the crew of P-418 had spotted a few rebel boats in the area. Lieutenant Commander Edirisinghe had to make a tactical analysis of the impending danger. At this crucial moment, the engine of P-497 (the second FAC) developed an engine trouble when steering to combat speed. The sailors were confronted with a challenge.

This is the raw nature of asymmetric warfare. Lieutenant Commander Edirisinghe had to make an instant decision. He began to engage the cluster of rebel boats. A large suicide boat was already heading towards the Pearl Cruise at full speed. The action was raging in the sea. P-418 rapidly gave a chase to position itself directly in the path of certain death, covering the approach of the Pearl Cruise ferry. Within minutes, there was a violent explosion that rocked the sea as the suicide boat rammed. The crew of Dvora P-418 had saved 710 lives. Their shattered craft entered her eternal rest in the oceans domain. On that day, 19 Naval heroes made the ultimate sacrifice.

Since then the Navy has acquired a modern version of the Dvora, known as the Super Dvora class. I was able to go onboard P-4443 at the Eastern Naval Command, Trincomalee. These new boats are 29 metres in length and have a displacement of 72 tonnes. Their primary armament takes the form of a 30mm Bushmaster Gun, supplemented by other guns. The Super Dvora which is specifically built for interception and assault has a crew of 17 men and can reach combat speeds of up to 50 knots. Working in Dvora boats require a special breed of officers and sailors.

These crews are a close-knit family who knows the value of teamwork. The sea endurance of the Dvora is 48 hours but if required they can remain on duty for 72 hours. Since their inception three decades ago, the officers and sailors of the 4th Fast Attack Flotilla of the Sri Lanka Navy have been involved in dangerous confrontations at sea. They introduced a new concept of engagement at sea. In 2019, the 4th Fast Attack Flotilla was bestowed with the President's Colours in a grand parade. Today they continue their maritime patrols and assist other mariners at sea when required taking part in rescue missions.



Dvora patrol on duty.

A LARGE SUICIDE BOAT WAS ALREADY HEADING TOWARDS THE PEARL CRUISE AT FULL SPEED. P-418 RAPIDLY GAVE A CHASE TO POSITION ITSELF DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF CERTAIN DEATH, COVERING THE APPROACH OF THE PEARL CRUISE FERRY. WITHIN MINUTES, THERE WAS A VIOLENT EXPLOSION THAT ROCKED THE SEA AS THE SUICIDE BOAT RAMMED. THE CREW OF DVORA P-418 HAD SAVED 710 LIVES. THEIR SHATTERED CRAFT ENTERED HER ETERNAL REST IN THE OCEANS DOMAIN. ON THAT DAY, 19 NAVAL HEROES MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE



Prepare for development revolution backed by attitudinal change: President

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa stated that he has observed that country's common problem is the unwillingness of the people to work. He lamented slow moving pace of action on the part of both the government and private sectors, the President's Media Division stated in a press release.

The President cited the state of stagnation seen in the construction work in Colombo and suburbs as an example. He instructed each on-going construction to be completed immediately and requested all the parties to prepare themselves for a development revolution, backed by an attitudinal change, the statement read.

President Rajapaksa made these comments during a discussion with the State Ministry of Rural Home Constructions and Building Material Industry Promotion to review its future activities at the Presidential Secretariat, yesterday, the statement added.

The National Policy Framework "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" envisages in guaranteeing a "comfortable house for every family". The need of a residence is faced by many and construction of a house on their own is difficult. The President emphasized that it was absolutely necessary to meet the housing requirement of the people in urban, rural and estate sectors elevating their living standards.

State Minister Indika Anurudda, in response expressed that his ministry under the concept of "A House for You: A Future for the Country", has commenced building 14,022 residences at Grama Sevaka Division-level for the families with low incomes. It is expected to complete 70,100 houses through this project at the end of coming five years, the President's Media Division stated.

The State Minister added that to coincide with the World Habitat Day on October 5, they have devised plans to commence the

construction of 1,500 housing units in Werellawatta, Mihindupura, Parangiyakumbura, Dahaiyagama, Mattegoda Soizapura, and Tangalle under the "Multi-Facility Apartment Programme", the statement read.

President Rajapaksa highlighted the importance of participation of the private and state sectors in all the constructions. A long-term loan scheme with a repayment period of 30 years at 6.25% interest rate to purchase houses is to be introduced soon, the statement added.

"Steps will be taken to provide lands free of charge for the ministry to construct apartment complexes suitable for middle-income earners," the President added. He directed the officials to build houses for 409 displaced families now sheltered in 22 welfare camps in the Northern Province.

Pointing out that more than 526,000 households across the country are without toilets,

Basil Rajapaksa, Head of the Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival, urged to accelerate the process to provide sanitary facilities for them.

State Minister Indika Anuruddha stated that the sewerage systems in the old apartment complexes need to be repaired and maintained and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said that the Building Materials Corporation should be revived. The President suggested that the regional branches of the Corporation should be used as agents for supplying building materials, the press release stated.

The present status of the Department of Buildings, Department of Government Factory, National Machinery Institute, State Development & Construction Corporation, State Engineering Corporation and Construction Industry Development Authority, as well as the steps to be taken to develop these institu-

tions, were discussed at length at the meeting, the statement added.

Basil Rajapaksa stressed that all these institutions should work with great enthusiasm as a revolution in the fields of construction, agriculture and sports is expected from next year.

The government plans to build and renovate a large number of houses, roads, bridges and tanks, the President's Media Division stated.

He instructed the relevant officials to involve all government and private sector institutions under the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing in the process of construction.

President's Secretary P.B. Jayasundera, Secretaries to Cabinet and State Ministries, Heads of Line Institutions, and Private Investors in the Construction Sector participated in the meeting.

Industries Ministry calls for local manufacturing of Bhikku robes

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Industries Ministry plans to manufacture robes required for Buddhist monks locally instead of importing them from Thailand, Industries Ministry sources said.

During a discussion held recently with Industries Minister Wimal Weerawansa at his Ministry, the Anunayake of the Kotte Sri Kalyani Samagri Maha Sangha Sabha, Ven. Prof. Kotapitiye

Rahula Thera pointed said it is required to have more than 100,000 standard robes for more than 40,000 Buddhist monks currently living in the country, and that a significant amount of robes is annually imported to Sri Lanka to see to that demand.

Ven. Rahula Thera also briefed the minister about the possibility of manufacturing robes locally to cater the demand. "A few decades ago,

quality robes required for Buddhist monks were produced locally through 'Lanka Salusala', but later, production was not sufficient to cater the demand. As a result, a large amount of robes were imported from Thailand," Ven. Rahula Thera said.

He further said Buddhist monks in countries such as Myanmar and Laos have their own unique identity, and that it is also required to

maintain such an identity in Sri Lanka as well.

After considering all the information pointed out by the Anunayake Thera, Minister Weerawansa instructed relevant authorities to take immediate measures to produce robes locally and further instructed Sri Lanka Institute of Textile & Apparel to do a comprehensive study on the manufacturing of robes using high-quality raw materials.

Court of Appeal rejects bail for Ajith Prasanna

A bail application filed by retired Army Major, Attorney-at-Law Ajith Prasanna, requesting to enlarge him on bail, has been refused by the Court of Appeal. Prasanna had been remanded by Colombo Magistrate's Court over an allegation that he had intimidated witnesses in a case before Magistrate's Court during two media conferences. Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justice Achala Wengappuli and Priyantha Fernando decided to dismiss the bail application, citing that there is no exceptional circumstances to enlarge the petitioner on bail.

The petitioner had filed this application requesting that he be enlarged on bail under Section 10(1)(a) of Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crimes Act No. 04 of 2015.

The petitioner stated that he had organised two media conferences in December 2019 "to educate the public about the harassment faced by individuals and their families attached to various intelligence branches of the armed forces due to subjective, arbitrary, and unjustifiable arrests of the security personnel by certain individuals

of the Police who are no longer in service." Subsequent to these two media conferences, the Petitioner was directed to make a statement to the Criminal Investigations Department after it had commenced investigations into a complaint by the Registrar of the Magistrate's Court of Fort.

He stated that he became aware that an Attorney-at-Law who appeared for the aggrieved party in a case before Magistrate's court had brought to the notice of Court that the Petitioner had intimidated witnesses during the media conferences.

President's Counsel Anil Silva, appearing on behalf of the Petitioner, submitted that the emotional and social impact on the daughter of the Petitioner due to the continued incarceration of her father had resulted in a psychologically termed illness of Adjustment Disorder.


He invited the attention of the Court to the fact that she entertains suicidal thoughts. In the circumstances, he contended that her illness is qualified to be accepted as an exceptional, a factor in favour of the Petitioner, in the consideration of bail.

Senior State Coun-

sel Janaka Bandara, appearing on behalf of the Attorney-General, submitted that although he was sympathetic towards the young girl's psychologically traumatic experience, he is unable to concede to the position that such circumstances are exceptional in nature, since an arrest and detention of a family member will undoubtedly result in varying degrees of adverse impact, both psychological and financial, on his immediate family; and therefore, the daughter of the Petitioner too is not placed in a situation that is different to the one faced by a daughter of any another detainee.

"This Court, having considered the circumstances urged by the petitioner's Counsel, is of the view that they fail to qualify themselves from the circumstances that are of a general nature to circumstances that are 'out of ordinary', so that they could be taken as exceptional," the Court of Appeal observed.

The allegation against the Petitioner is that he is concerned with an offence under Section 8 of Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crimes Act No. 04 of 2015.



INVITATION FOR MANUFACTURE OF TEXTILES WITH SALUSALA

Salusala is a fully Sri Lankan Government owned corporation established for manufacturing garments and fabrics for use in all government sector institutions and the private sector. It was established in 1991, and currently functions under the State Ministry of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products.

Salusala has obtained the concurrence of the Hon. State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products to enter into joint ventures with potential investors/manufacturers.

Accordingly, interested parties are requested to submit their EOI in a sealed envelope by registered post or by hand addressed to the Chairman, Salusala, No.93, Jawatta Road, Colombo 5, on or before 30th September 2020 at 10.30 a.m. Delivery by hand should be between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on working days.

The top left hand corner of the envelope shall be marked "Terms of Reference (TOR) for manufacture of textiles with SALUSALA." Interested parties may obtain further information about EOI at the office of the Chairman, Salusala or by calling.

EOI can be handed over on working days between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. within twenty one days from today. (Sep.19th)

The Chairman, Salusala
No.93, Jawatta Road, Colombo 5
Tel: 011 2586732
E-mail: lankasalusalalimited@gmail.com

Draw Number ▶ 1218 Colour ▶ Green

Draw Date ▶ 17.09.2020 Date ▶ Thursday

Winning English Letter and Numbers

W 09 14 34 67

The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,937,920/-

SUPER 500 SPECIAL NUMBER
8 5 7 5

Enriching Your Life
Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Hotline: 0114 824 824
Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

Date : 17-09-2020

Draw Number : 367 | Colour : Blue

Super Jackpot
Rs. 11,648,340/-

English Letter **Winning Numbers** **Fate Number**

(B) 16 22 62 (1)

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,884,580/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 11,813,176/-

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Enriching Your Life
Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Hotline: 0114 824 824
Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

THURSDAY
Date: 17.09.2020
Draw No.: 3374
Colour: RED

Winning Numbers
10 14 18 74

English Letter
(S)

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 5,688,500/-

Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes
(9278)

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Enriching Your Life
Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

THURSDAY
Date: 17.09.2020
Draw No.: 1044
Colour: BLUE

Winning Numbers
16 33 60 77

English Letter
(Q)

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 5,748,000/-

Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes
5448

Winning number for Rs. 100/- cash prizes
922

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Enriching Your Life
Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

Date : 17-09-2020

Draw Number : 2925 | Colour : Brown

Super Jackpot
Rs. 2,194,813/-

Winning Numbers
09 18 35 57

Sagittarius

Total value of prizes
Rs. 10,171,900/-

Double Chance
SPECIAL NUMBERS

For Rs.500 prizes
3584

For Rs.100 prizes
401

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Enriching Your Life
Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Hotline: 0114 824 824
Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

Infant dies in road accident

DILSHAN THARAKA

A six-month-old infant died while two others were injured in a motorcycle-car collision that occurred near the Puttalam Forest Conservation Office, yesterday.

The victims were rushed to the Puttalam Hospital, where the infant succumbed to his injuries on admission.

The body of the deceased lies at the Puttalam Hospital and the car driver has been arrested over the incident. Puttalam Police are investigating.

Sri Lanka Institute of Architects

Speakers

- Arch. Upendra Randeniya, FIA (SL)**
Chairman, Professional Affairs Board
- Arch. Dr. Senaka Dharmatileke, AIA (SL)**
Chairman, CPD Committee
- Dr. Vagisha Gunesekara**
A critical Overview 'Effects of Urbanization in Sri Lanka- Socio, Political and Economic paradigms'
- Arch. Prof. Chitra Weddikara, FIA (SL)**
Equity in Urban growth and building economics
- Prof. Wille Mendis**
A fresh look at the Implementation strategies
- Arch. Dr. Locana Gunaratna, FIA (SL)**
Ensuring equitable urban growth in managing urbanization
- Arch. Prof. Indrika Rajapaksha, AIA (SL)**
Equity in Urban Health
- Arch. Dr. Upendra Rajapaksha, AIA (SL)**
Redefining quality of life, urban form, climate and environment
- Arch. Prof. Lal Balasuriya, FIA (SL)**
Dependency of cities in rural sector

How social justice can be brought to production of space in the city

Wednesday, 23rd September, 2020 from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm

PAB e-CPD
Professional Affairs Board The Continuing Professional Development Programme

Arch. Harshan De Silva, FIA (SL)
Chairman, UDA
UDA's point of view on the way forward

Arch. Pali Wijeratne, FIA (SL)
The explanation of 'Social impact assessment in urban regeneration scheme'; A new vision for, planning and evaluating options for city development

Arch. Anura Ratnavibhushana, FIA (SL)
On conservation & development of pristine landscapes.

Vidya Jyothi Archt. Ashley De Vos, FIA (SL)
Inclusive human cities

Arch. Dr. Janaka Wijesundara, FIA (SL)
Evidence based research for Urban Design in Sri Lanka and other developing countries; A comparative analysis

Arch. Hiranthe Welandawe, FIA (SL)
Inclusive cities

Arch. Veranjan Kurukulasuriya, FIA (SL)
President, SLIA, General Overview

Arch. D. B. Navaratne, FIA (SL)
Moderator

Arch. Shahdia Jamaldeen, AIA (SL)
Event Co-ordinator

Access to pre Recorded presentations link
<https://youtu.be/eXqktGCTm0M>
live telecast will be on SLIA website.
www.slia.lk

Farmers' issues to be solved soon: NCP Governor

NIMAL WIJESINGHE,
Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

North-Central Province (NCP) Governor Maheepala Herath ensured that all issues faced by farmers would be solved soon. He said so while taking part in an inspection tour at the Anuradhapura, Nachchaduwa, Thalawa, and Eppawala Agrarian Development

Centres. The Governor also discussed the arrangements being made for the 2020/21 Maha Season's cultivation requirements, matters pertaining to the provision of seeds and fertilizer, and the human-elephant conflict.

Governor Herath urged farmers to expedite their work in order to bring President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's vision for an agro-centric

country to fruition. Furthermore, he said that the government has halted the importation of 16 crop varieties in order to boost local production.

The Governor also said that the strategies to boost the local agriculture sector include the use of modern technology and traditional methodology.

He added that under the direc-

tions of President Rajapaksa, the government would give priority to strengthening the national economy and the livelihood of farmers.

Governor Herath also said that farming activities have neither been postponed or halted due to the Coronavirus pandemic, and that food security has been ensured throughout the country.



Governor Herath with Agrarian Development Centre officials. Picture by Nimal Wijesinghe, Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

Government to step up engineering faculty enrollments: GL

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

The government is taking steps to increase the number of students enrolled in engineering faculties. Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said yesterday at his ministry during a discussion that they have stepped up actions to enable enrollment of additional 405 stu-

dents to the country's universities, which have six engineering faculties in each.

Accordingly, steps will be taken to enroll additional 405 students in the engineering faculties of the Universities of Peradeniya, Jayawardeneperuwa, Jaffna, Ruhuna, Moratuwa, and South Eastern, this

year. Prof. G.L. Peiris said. He said neither he nor the government intends to interfere with the country's university administration. "We are only working to achieve the objectives set out in the President's 'Visions of Prosperity and Splendor' Policy Statement," he said.

"We are planning to address inconsistencies that exist between the job market trends and the courses conducted by our universities," he said. "The enrollment of 405 additional engineering students to these universities is a forward step taken by us in that direction."

'Private buses to continue operations as long as there are no hindrances'

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Private buses will continue operations as long as there are no hindrances—without any congestion. However, if lane rules are implemented and the movement of private buses is hampered in any way, they would be removed from operation, Lanka Private Bus Owners' Association President Gemunu Wijeratne, told the *Daily News*.

He said the lane rule enforced by the police is an utter failure, and that it had only served to further complicate the traffic congestion. "Yesterday, we did not face any traffic blocks as the motorcycles and three-wheelers had been assigned a separate lane. However, if we have to face traffic congestion as we did when the lane rule was implemented, we will definitely pull out of operations."

He said that the Lanka Private Bus Owners' Association had planned to invest in low-floor buses, but under the current situation, where they allege that the police is hampering their operations, a decision had been taken not to invest in low floor buses at this stage.

According to Wijeratne, the solution

to the traffic congestion is not merely implementing the lane rule. "Merely implementing the lane rule is insufficient to address the traffic congestion on our roads; we have discussed this with the government and the relevant authorities. In order to reduce congestion, it is vital to change the school times by dividing the times into two sections," he said.

"Furthermore, even office times need to be changed where private sector and state sector off times are divided in order to ease the traffic blocks. Heavy vehicles should be restricted on main roads, especially during peak rush hours. These are the ways that solutions to the traffic congestion issue needs to be found and not by merely herding all the buses, three-wheelers, and motorcycles onto one lane and accommodating only the private vehicles to operate smoothly," Wijeratne added.

"The police is also playing havoc. Hence, without proper mechanisms in place, we will not invest in better buses in order to improve the private bus service. We cannot invest when we have to face this uncertain future," he said.

'SL to halt turmeric imports and grow its own'

ARIYAPALA WANSHATHILAKE,
Kurunegala Central Special Corr.

The Agriculture Ministry has decided to halt the importation of turmeric from India in order to grow it here. Furthermore, aside from encouraging farmers to grow the crop, the ministry has also planned to encourage residents to grow turmeric in their home gardens.

The Agriculture Ministry said it plans to grow turmeric in the Northwestern Province (NWP). They added that they have received several complaints from

consumers who allege that certain traders were mixing flour with yellow dyes and selling it as turmeric.

Turmeric is also a product widely used in the cosmetic industry. There is a high demand for turmeric in Sri Lanka that is one the rise and, therefore, cultivating it here would be profitable to the agriculture sector, the ministry said.

Raids are being carried out by the Consumer Affairs Authority against traders who are selling overpriced turmeric as well, the Agriculture Ministry added.



IN THE SUPREME COURT LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

JAYANTHA JAYASURIYA P.C. (C.J.)
B.P. ALUVIHARA (P.C.) (J)
L.T.B. DEHIDENIYA J. COURT NO. 502 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)

FOR DELIVERY OF JUDGMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 148/12 - HC 68/08

TO BE MENTIONED

1. SC. Application FR 131/14 with 133/14 & 132/14
2. SC. Application FR 314/16
3. SC. (Spl.) LA 130/20 - CA 102/16
4. SC. Application FR 147/20

TO BE RESUMED

1. SC. Application FR 132/14

FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED

1. SC. Application FR 191/09
2. SC. Application FR 179/19

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC. HC.CA. LA 109/18 - HCCA 14/10
2. SC.HC. LA 12/19 - HCCA 277/05
3. SC. HC.CA. LA 296/19 - HCCA 626/05
4. SC. (Spl.) LA 353/19 - CA 261/00

(FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.CA.LA 229/19 - HCCA 68/17
2. SC. (Spl.) LA 449/19 - HCALT 21/327/19
3. SC.HC.CA. LA 18/20 - HCCA 131/17
4. SC. HC.LA 42/20 - HC 482/19

(FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 101/15

182/20 - HCCA 40/18

FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED

1. SC. Application FR 189/17
2. SC. Application FR 215/19
3. SC. Application FR 274/20

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.LA 97/18 - HC 04/16
2. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 324/18 - HC 578/17

(FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.LA 79/17 - HC. (Civil) 18/17
2. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 288/19 - CA 401/00
3. SC.HC.CA. LA 305/19 - HCCA 127/17

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal 45/20 - CA 65/98 (Top of the list)

(FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 45/17 - CA 1178/98 (Top of the list)
2. SC. Miscellaneous No.02/11
3. SC. Appeal No. 90/11 - HCCA 68/01
4. SC. Appeal No. 44/13 - HC (Civil) 110/07

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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

COURT NO. 301 AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED

1. 437/19 Writ of Cert
2. 487/19 Writ of Cert
3. 500/19 Writ of Cert
4. 223/20 Writ of Cert
5. 25/17 REV NOTICE RETURNABLE

1. 295/19 Writ of Cert
2. 307/20 Writ of Cert

FOR INQUIRY

1. 211/20 Writ of Cert WITH WR 208/20

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 17/19 Writ of Cert
2. 354/19 Writ of Cert

COURT NO. 301 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED

1. 289/15
2. Writ of Cert 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)
SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J.

COURT NO. 301 AT 11.00 A.M. TO BE RESUMED

1. 238/20 Writ of Cert with WR 239-252/20, 259-272/20, TO BE MENTIONED
- WR 313-316/20 TO BE MENTIONED
- WR 318-326/20 TO BE MENTIONED
- WR 329-332/20 TO BE MENTIONED
2. 254/20 Writ of Cert
3. 278/20 Writ of Cert
4. 279/20 Writ of Cert
5. 280/20 Writ of Cert
6. 281/20 Writ of Cert
7. 282/20 Writ of Cert
8. 283/20 Writ of Cert

YASANTHA KODAGODA P.C. J.

COURT NO. 404 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED

1. SC. Application FR 405/19
2. SC. Application FR 477/19
3. SC. (Spl.) LA 45/20 - CA 989/96
4. SC. HC.CA. LA 226/20 - HCCA 40/18

FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED

1. SC. Application FR 189/17
2. SC. Application FR 215/19
3. SC. Application FR 274/20

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.LA 97/18 - HC 04/16
2. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 324/18 - HC 578/17

(FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.LA 79/17 - HC. (Civil) 18/17
2. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 288/19 - CA 401/00
3. SC.HC.CA. LA 305/19 - HCCA 127/17

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal 45/20 - CA 65/98 (Top of the list)

(FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 45/17 - CA 1178/98 (Top of the list)
2. SC. Miscellaneous No.02/11
3. SC. Appeal No. 90/11 - HCCA 68/01
4. SC. Appeal No. 44/13 - HC (Civil) 110/07

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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

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

1. 44/19 Writ of Cert

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

TO BE MENTIONED

1. 715/97 (F) DC
2. 100/17 Writ of Cert
3. 329/20 Writ of Cert
4. 330/20 Writ of Cert
5. 331/20 Writ of Cert
6. 332/20 Writ of Cert
7. 10/18 COC with WR 182/16, 93/19
8. 11/19 PA with HC 103/19

182/20 - HCCA 40/18

3. SC. Appeal No. 150/15 - HCCA 30/11

4. SC. Appeal No. 164/15 - HCCA 184/13

SISIRA J. DE ABREW J. S. THURAIRAJA P.C. J. E.A.G.R. AMARASEKERA J.)

COURT NO. 403 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED

1. SC. Application FR 61/18
2. SC. Writ No. 11/19 with 09/19
3. SC. Application FR 441/19 with 415/19, 417/19, 419/19
4. SC. HC.LA 57/20 - HC. (Civil) No. 122/04

FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED

1. SC. Application FR 23/20
2. SC. Application FR 260/20

COURT NO. 403 contd.. FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 34/18 - CA 210/14
2. SC.HC.LA 98/18 - HC 5244
3. SC.HC.CA.LA No. 158/18 - HCCA 36/17

(FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.CA.LA 172/19 - HCCA 1182/18 WITH 173/19 - HCCA 1182/18
2. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 456/19 - HCCA 21/14
3. SC.HC.CA.LA 132/20 - HCCA 26/19

FOR ARGUMENT AT 10.00 A.M.

1. SC. Appeal 25/14 - HCCA 378/02 (Top of the list)

(FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 07/14 - HCCA 269/10
2. SC. Appeal No. 36/14 - HCCA 136/10
3. SC. Appeal No. 138/16 - HCCA 47/09
4. SC. Application FR 360/16

VIJITH K. MALALGODA P.C. J.
MURDU N.B. FERNAN-DO P.C.J.

FOR SUPPORT

1. 437/19 Writ of Cert
2. 487/19 Writ of Cert
3. 500/19 Writ of Cert
4. 223/20 Writ of Cert
5. 25/17 REV NOTICE RETURNABLE

1. 295/19 Writ of Cert
2. 307/20 Writ of Cert

FOR INQUIRY

1. 211/20 Writ of Cert WITH WR 208/20

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 17/19 Writ of Cert
2. 354/19 Writ of Cert

COURT NO. 301 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED

1. 289/15
2. Writ of Cert 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
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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)
SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J.

COURT NO. 301 AT 11.00 A.M. TO BE RESUMED

1. 238/20 Writ of Cert with WR 239-252/20, 259-272/20, TO BE MENTIONED
- WR 313-316/20 TO BE MENTIONED
- WR 318-326/20 TO BE MENTIONED
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6. 281/20 Writ of Cert
7. 282/20 Writ of Cert
8. 283/20 Writ of Cert

YASANTHA KODAGODA P.C. J.

COURT NO. 404 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED

1. SC. Application FR 405/19
2. SC. Application FR 477/19
3. SC. (Spl.) LA 45/20 - CA 989/96
4. SC. HC.CA. LA 226/20 - HCCA 40/18

FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED

1. SC. Application FR 189/17
2. SC. Application FR 215/19
3. SC. Application FR 274/20

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.LA 97/18 - HC 04/16
2. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 324/18 - HC 578/17

(FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.LA 79/17 - HC. (Civil) 18/17
2. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 288/19 - CA 401/00
3. SC.HC.CA. LA 305/19 - HCCA 127/17

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal 45/20 - CA 65/98 (Top of the list)

(FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 45/17 - CA 1178/98 (Top of the list)
2. SC. Miscellaneous No.02/11
3. SC. Appeal No. 90/11 - HCCA 68/01
4. SC. Appeal No. 44/13 - HC (Civil) 110/07

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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

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

1. 44/19 Writ of Cert

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

TO BE MENTIONED

1. 715/97 (F) DC
2. 100/17 Writ of Cert
3. 329/20 Writ of Cert
4. 330/20 Writ of Cert
5. 331/20 Writ of Cert
6. 332/20 Writ of Cert
7. 10/18 COC with WR 182/16, 93/19
8. 11/19 PA with HC 103/19

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

COURT NO. 301 AT 02.00 P.M. FOR ARGUMENT

1. 11/16 TAX WITH 01/16 TAX
- 11/16 TAX WITH 01/16 TAX
- 11/16 TAX WITH 01/16 TAX
- 11/16 TAX WITH 01/16 TAX
- 11/16 TAX WITH 01/16 TAX

K.K. WICKRAMASINGHE (J.)
DEVIKA ABEYRATHNE J.

COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M. ASSIGN COUNSEL TO BE MENTIONED

1. 39/20 HC
- 173/15 PHC
- 177/19 PHC
- 249/19 PHC
- 253/19 PHC
- 255/19 PHC
- 15/17 PA
- 100/19 PA
- 121/19 PA
- 9/12/20 PA
- 145-148/15 HC
- 324/15 HC
- 153 - 155/16 HC
- 255/17 HC
- 35/18 HC
- 61/18 HC
- 281 - 282/19
- 383/19 HC
- 409/19 HC
- 11 - 12/20 HC

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

FOR SUPPORT

1. 45/17 PA

FOR OBJECTION

1. 02/20 MCR

NOTICE RETURNABLE

1. 79/20 PA
- 01/11 HCA

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 371/17 HC

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

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

1. 57/10 PHC
- 129/16 PHC
- 132/19 PA

WITH 212/19 PHC

FOR SUPPORT

1. 88/20 PA

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 230/01 PHC
- 32/09 PHC
- 55/16 PHC

ACHALA WENGAPPULI J.

K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J)

COURT NO. (110) AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED

1. 68/17 PA
- 198/16 HC
- 14 - 16/19 HC
- 294/19 HC
- 296/19 HC
- 328/19 HC
- 376/19 HC

NOTICE RETURNABLE

1. 232/19 HC

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 02/08 HC
- 142/14 HC
- 164/16 HC
- 194/17 HC
- 250 - 252/19 HC
- 300/16 HC

MAHINDA SAMAYAWARDHANA J.
ARJUNA OBEYSEKERE J.

COURT NO. (206) AT 10.00 A.M. FOR JUDGMENT

1. 387/14 Writ of Cert (Mahinda Samayawardhana J.)
- 2196/02 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.)
- 387/17 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.)

TO BE MENTIONED

1. 369/18 Writ of Cert
- 380/18 Writ of Cert

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 299/14 Writ of Cert
- 341/17 Writ of Cert

IN THE PROVINCIAL COURT OF CIVIL APPEAL WESTERN PROVINCE (COLOMBO) LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

LAFFAR THAHIR (H.C.J.)
SAMPATH B. ABAYA-KOON (H.C.J.)

(AT 10.00 A.M.) FOR JUDGMENT

- 173/04 (F) B HCCA/Colombo
- LA 126/17 HCCA/Colombo
- 141/14 (F) HCCA/Colombo
- 06/20 RA HCCA/Colombo
- LA 48/20 HCCA/Colombo
- 56/18 (F) HCCA/Colombo
- LA 49/19 HCCA/Colombo
- LA 33/20 HCCA/Colombo
- LA 74/20 HCCA/Colombo
- LA 83/20 HCCA/Colombo
- 38/19 RA HCCA/Colombo

FOR SUPPORT

1. 230/01 PHC
- 32/09 PHC
- 55/16 PHC

HCCA/Colombo

Magistrate dismisses police plea against holding 'Pongal Pooja' on Mt. Vedikkunari

RASULA DILHARA GAMAGE,
Northern Province Special Corr.

Vavuniya Magistrate Fazlina Felshana dismissed a plea made by the Nadunkeni Police to prevent the 'Pongal Pooja' organized to be held yesterday on Mount Vedikkunari in Olumadu, Nadunkeni.

Police and Archaeological Department officials plead before the Magistrate to prevent the 'Pongal Pooja' as there were ruins of a Buddhist Temple on top of the mountain.

They also pointed out that as there was a separate case on the ownership of the same land, allowing to hold a Hindu Pooja at the site could create a number of other related issues.

Selling overpriced, expired goods

73 supermarket owners fined Rs.489,000

ARIYAPALA WANSHATHILAKE,
Kurunegala Central Special Corr.

Seventy-three supermarket owners in Kurunegala were apprehended between August and September for selling overpriced and expired goods, Provincial Consumer Affairs Authority Deputy Director H.A. Gunaratne said.

The owners of the shops are being fined a total of Rs.489,000, he added.

The suspects were arrested in several raids that were conducted in the district following tip-offs and complaints received by the Kurunegala District Secretariat, Gunaratne said.

Ex-soldier arrested with heroin

PRIYADARSHANI KAHAWALA
Ingiriya Central Group Corr.

Ingiriya Police arrested an ex-soldier from Perengiyawala with 1.47g of heroin, recently. A sum of Rs.100,000, two mobile phones, and a motorcycle were also seized from his possession.

The ex-soldier is a resident of Amupitiya, and had been excommunicated from the Army due to drug-related offences. The suspect is to be produced before the Horana Magistrate's Court. Police are investigating.

Obituaries

REV. SISTER MARY YOLAND FERNANDO of St. Agnes Convent Bolawalana, expired, her mortal remains laid to rest at **Good Shepherd Convent Bolawalana, Negombo.** Holy Mass at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday 19th followed by Burial. 056775

WIJAYASIRI - WETTIMUNY - Beloved husband of Lakshmi, father of Sarasi and Samangie, father-in-law of Chanaka, brother of Seelawathi, Nandani and Chandra, expired. Cortege leaves residence **No: 20, Galle Road, Kalutara North** on September 20th, Sunday at 3.30 p.m. Cremation at Kuda Waskaduwa Cemetery at 4.00 p.m. 056591

Infrastructural facilities at National Parks to be developed

NIMAL WIJESINGHE

Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has instructed wildlife conservation authorities to take action to develop infrastructural facilities at 19 National Parks in the country in order to attract more local and foreign tourists.

The development work at Yala and Wilpattu National Parks have already been started. The Wildlife Conservation Department is planning to recruit employees to the additional staff since the present workforce, which includes nearly 1,000 guards, is inadequate to cater to the tourist inflow. It is reported



Tourists at Wilpattu Sanctuary.

that the number of local tourists who visited these parks including the Bar Reef in Kalpitiya and Ele-

phant Transit Home in Udawalawe up to May 2020 was limited to 162,225.

The number of foreign tourists who made visits to these parks during this period was 162,392. In 2019, a record number of tourists visited National Parks. The total number of foreign tourists who visited the parks was 856,804 and the total number of local tourists was 1,217,877. Last year, the Wildlife Conservation Department earned around Rs. 1,890,472,242 through the sale of tickets and catering services. The highest income was reported from the Yala National Park. That is Rs. 538,206,669. The Lahugala Kitulana National Park earned an income of Rs. 83,890 which is the lowest.



An Almsgiving including a Sanghika Daana was conducted by the Akuressa Regional Survey Superintendent's Office at its office premises recently to mark the 220th anniversary of the Survey Department of Sri Lanka. Senior Superintendent of Surveys P.D. Anurasiri and employees of the office engaged in this meritorious deed. (Picture by Wajira Pujitha Gunawardene - Thelijawila Group)

Issues in EP will be resolved soon - EP Governor

AMPARA DISTRICT GROUP CORRESPONDENT

The Government will give a permanent solution for the shortage of school teachers for some subjects in the Eastern Province, Eastern Province Governor Anuradha Yahampath said recently at a public gathering held at the auditorium of the Nintavur Divisional Secretariat.

She said steps are being taken to recruit English Higher National Diploma holders. She said issues of preschool teachers will be discussed with the President, as it is her responsibility to find a solution.

"Every issue of every community in the Ampara District will also be resolved as soon as possible. The Government has



taken at the district-coordinating meeting held last Wednesday. The issues such as the lack of second language Sinhala teachers and non-academic employees in schools will also be addressed by this Government," Governor Yahampath said.

"This country will be developed under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The President and the Prime Minister took stern action to control the pandemic which severely attacked most of the developed countries," she said. The event was organized by Nintavur Predeshiya Sabha Vice Chairman Y.L. Sulaimalebbe. Nintavur Divisional Secretary T.M.M. Ansar, politicians and the public were present.

taken many steps to eradicate poverty from this country. The Government also recruited unemployed graduates to the public sector," she said.

"We have identified many serious issues in this district for which solutions will be given soon. Fishermen face immense hardships due to sea erosion in these areas. This issue was

Over Rs. 200 mn to renovate Madagalla-Siyabalangamuwa road

HIRIYALA GROUP CORR.

Maho Highways Executive Engineer H.I.M. Innon told the Daily News that a sum of Rs. 250 million has been allocated to develop the Madagalla-Siyabalangamuwa road which runs through Hiriyala and Yapahuwa electorates.

According to residents of the area, this road which is 50-kilometres in length has not been renovated for the last 40 years. It is full of potholes and not in a motorable

condition. The Executive Engineer said Highways Minister Johnstone Fernando has instructed him to take action to renovate this road.

"Under the Stage I of this project, four kilometres will be developed at a cost of Rs. 250 million. And the rest of the road will be developed under the Stage II. The construction company has agreed to complete the work within 18 months," he added.

Held for selling intoxicant pills in Dambulla

A.A.L. DIAS

Matale District Group Corr.

A former private pharmacy owner and a woman lottery seller were taken into custody by Dambulla Police for possessing 803 intoxicant tablets on Thursday afternoon at Dambulla town.

Police investigations revealed that doctors prescribe these pills as painkillers. Three varieties of these painkillers were seized from their possession while the suspect woman was selling them secretly.

The suspects were to be produced before the Dambulla District Magistrate's Court yesterday, Police said. Dambulla Police are investigating.

Mushroom cultivation promoted in Addalaichenai

ADDALAICHENAI CENTRAL CORRESPONDENT

The Addalaichenai Agricultural Extension Centre launched a programme to propagate mushroom cultivation in the Addalaichenai Divisional Secretariat division, Agricultural Extension Centre Agricultural Instructor and Officer-in-Charge A.H.A. Mubarak said.

Under this programme, a practical project on mushroom cultivation was held recently at Thaikkanagar in

Addalaichenai to educate mushroom cultivators.

Subject Matter Officer Farmer Women Agriculture Extension Jeevitha Sinthujan was the chief resource person of the programme. Production and marketing were also discussed in detail. During the programme, the American Oyster mushroom variety that contains high protein and has a lifetime of 40 days was introduced to participants. This species can be cultivated in a small area.



Addalaichenai Agricultural Extension Centre officials explaining about the American Oyster mushroom variety.

'Hela Osu' programme launched in Ampara



Medicinal plants were presented to participants. (Picture by Addalaichenai Central Correspondent)

ADDALAICHENAI CENTRAL CORRESPONDENT

The programme 'Hela Osu', a brainchild of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was launched at the Government Ayurvedic Research (NCD) Hospital, Nintavur in the Ampara District on Thursday under the guidance of Promotion of Indigenous Medicine, Development of Rural Ayurvedic Hospitals and Community Health State Minister Sisira Jayakody, the Ministry Secretary and the Commissioner of Ayurveda. Nintavur Government Ayurvedic

Research (NCD) Hospital Director Dr. K.L.M. Nagfer presided over the function, while Nintavur Al-Mazhar Girl's High School Principal M.M. Nizamdeen graced the occasion as the chief guest.

To mark the occasion, they planted a sapling in the premises of the NCD Hospital. Registered traditional medical practitioners, leaders of community based organizations, students and members of the Environmental Pioneer Club and staff were gifted medicinal plants by NCD Hospital Director Dr. K.L.M. Nagfer.

Canada HC calls on Batticaloa GA

BATTICALOA SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

High Commissioner of Canada in Sri Lanka David Mackinnon met with Batticaloa Government Agent Kalamathy Pathmaraja at the District Secretariat on Thursday (17) to discuss urgent requirements of the district and the projects that have to be expedited.

The Government Agent explained the High Commissioner about the current situation of the district. She presented a memo to the High Commissioner in order to mark his visit. Additional Government Agent Sudarshini Srikanth, Director of Planning Sasikala Punniyamoorthy and Assistant Director of Planning R. Jatheeswaran were present.



High Commissioner of Canada in Sri Lanka David Mackinnon was presented a memento by Batticaloa Government Agent Kalamathy Pathmaraja. (Picture by Sivam Packiyannathan - Batticaloa Special Correspondent)



The Dhamma schoolchildren of the Gangaramaya, an ancient Buddhist temple in Thihagoda, held a shramadana campaign to clean the temple premises recently. Parents, senior citizens, Dhamma schoolchildren, members of the Dhayaka Sabha and well-wishers participated. (Picture by P.P.G. Sugathadasa Thihagoda Group)

17.09.2020 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 746,703
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 29,981,360.00
Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 28

Vasana Sampatha
Official Results
 Draw No. 1614
 Date 2020.09.17
ONCE A HERO
S
 Winning Nos. **29 58 62 73**

Prize	Prize Structure	Prize Money	No. of Winners
01 Prize	If only Four Numbers are correct	1,000,000/-	0
02 Prize	If Three Numbers and English Letter are correct	100,000/-	02
03 Prize	If only Three Numbers are correct	2,000/-	71
04 Prize	If Two Numbers and English Letter are correct	500/-	163
05 Prize	If only Two Numbers are correct	100/-	3,871
06 Prize	If one Number and English Letter are correct	60/-	2,340
07 Prize	If only One Number are correct	20/-	58,102
08 Prize	If only English Letter is correct	20/-	9,728

Total prize money won in this Draw
Rs. 2,307,600.00
Next Super Prize
Rs. 23,694,758.90

Govisetha
Official Results
 DRAW NUMBER 2543 DRAW DATE 17.09.2020
Z 29 47 49 55

Prize	Prize Structure	Prize Money	No. of Winners
1st Prize	If all 4 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000,000/-	01
2nd Prize	If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 50,000/-	08
3rd Prize	If ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 2,000.00	184
4th Prize	If LETTER & ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 1,000.00	441
5th Prize	If ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 100.00	10636
6th Prize	If LETTER & ANY NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 40.00	6953
7th Prize	If ANY NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	174483
8th Prize	If ONLY THE LETTER IS CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	31831

TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW 224,537
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 8,077,000.00
SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW
Rs. 61,854,267.20
 Winning tickets are valid for a period of six months from the date of the draw. Prizes of Rupees Five Lakh and above are liable to govt. taxes. To obtain prizes, Presenting National Identity card is a must.

Mega POWER
Official Results
 DRAW NUMBER : 615
N 17 02 43 46 71

Prize Structure	Prize Money	No. of Winners
1st Prize	If all 4 Numbers are correct	1,000,000.00 01
2nd Prize	If only 3 Numbers with English Letter is correct	100,000.00 06
3rd Prize	If all 3 Numbers are correct	1,000.00 161
4th Prize	If only 2 Numbers with English Letter is correct	500.00 364
5th Prize	Only 2 Numbers are correct	100.00 8,980
6th Prize	If only 1 Number with English Letter is correct	40.00 5,825
7th Prize	Only 1 Number are correct	20.00 147,121
8th Prize	Only English Letter are correct	20.00 26,922

Biggest Prize in Sri Lanka
Next Mega Super Prize
Rs. 235,405,516.35
Next Power Super Prize
Rs. 10,170,563.60
Next Grand Super Prize
Rs. 15,631,962.40
Total Prizes Won In This Draw
Rs. 6,552,860.00

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA
DATE: 17-09-2020
T 131578
 Prize structure - from right to left

1st Prize	1 3 1 5 7 8	Rs. 2,000,000/-	01
2nd Prize	3 1 5 7 8	Rs. 100,000/-	12
3rd Prize	1 5 7 8	Rs. 10,000/-	112
4th Prize	5 7 8	Rs. 1,000/-	1,120
5th Prize	7 8	Rs. 100/-	11,197
6th Prize	8	Rs. 20/-	110,920

 Prize structure - from left to right

7th Prize	1 3 1 5 7	Rs. 10,000/-	10
8th Prize	1 3 1 5	Rs. 1,000/-	112
9th Prize	1 3 1	Rs. 100/-	1,157
10th Prize	1 3	Rs. 50/-	11,046
11th Prize	T	Rs. 20/-	44,245

Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs. 10,543,000.00
The Super Prize of next draw
Rs. 11,632,896.00

NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD
 32, Deshamanya N. W. J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo - 01.
 Phone : 0114 607 000, 0112 324 324
 Fax : 0114 663 416 Web : www.nlb.lk

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

Dropping the guard - Lankan style

In typical Sri Lankan style, the public seem to have forgotten that only three months ago the country was in the throes of a deadly pandemic that has now claimed nearly a million lives the world over and have let down their guard and going about their business, like in the old days, with nary a care in the world.

Despite regular warnings by the authorities, over the media, that the Coronavirus, though conquered for the moment in the Sri Lanka, could make a comeback in the form of a second wave, the people appear to take no notice, if one were to observe the passing scene.

The CTB and private buses are back to carrying their full loads, despite strict instructions that only seating accommodation is permitted, hotels, eateries and kiosks are serving meals indoors, although, as per the guidelines, only 'takeaways' are allowed, cinemas are back to their full capacities, and musical shows, sporting events, including bicycle races, are back with a vengeance in clear violation of the health regulations.

Not only that. Protest demonstrations too are gradually picking up reminiscent of the pre-Coronavirus days. A full blown protest was observed on television, the other day, where several hundred agitators sans the regulation face masks were battling with the Police who too were 'bare faced' over the shifting of the Labour Office in Ratnapura to Avissawella, while another protest was staged by University students opposite the University Grants Commission (UGC) calling for the release of colleagues in Police custody.

The situation is obviously was getting out of hand which, no doubt, prompted Army Commander Lt General Shavindra Silva to sound the alarm to drive some sanity into the general public. Lt.Gen. Silva who is also the Head of the National Operation Centre for the Prevention of COVID-19 outbreak, bemoaned that the health guidelines issued by the Health Ministry to prevent the spread of COVID-19 were being ignored and violated by the public as well as the organisers of the various events. "Unfortunately, at some events people behave like there are no Coronavirus patients in Sri Lanka. That is dangerous" he told a newspaper pointing out that COVID-19 patients had risen to 3,274, though there were no Coronavirus patients within society.

The Lt. General, no doubt, is echoing the sentiments of the various health authorities who had warned of the very real possibility of the Coronavirus re-visiting us if the guard is let down and the health guidelines ignored, which is exactly what is happening at present.

Although we talk glibly of a "new normal", from all appearances, its back to business once again for all. Most people have even dispensed with face masks even when traveling in buses despite strict guidelines issued to bus crew not to allow any persons board their buses sans the face mask. There is also the annual Book Fair to mark the Literary month at the BMICH where thousands are bound to congregate. In fact the organisers, the other day, boasted about 500,000 attending the event this year, though down from one million in previous years. Who is to ensure the health guidelines, particularly, social distancing, will be observed in the melee. In the same breath certain musical bands too have already put out their year-end programmes such as the traditional new year bashes, which, needless to say, is fraught with risk. One recalls the staging of a famous annual Big Match in the early days of the Coronavirus in defiance of health warnings, only to see a group of school boy participants contracting the virus. Hence, precautions are in order in instances where large gatherings flock, Dinner dances and New Year bashes cannot be exceptions although one might feel that worst is behind us.

There had been warnings from the GMOA too that the threat was far from over and the social spread of the pandemic was a very real possibility if the guidelines were not followed. Regrettably though after the initial compliance with the regulations caution was thrown to the winds by the public.

Perhaps the apparent leniency shown to offenders has made sections of the public disregard the regulations. It is time the authorities acted firm with those ignoring the health guidelines.

What was upon us was not an enemy you fight with guns and swords but a hidden menace of a deadly pandemic that has wreaked havoc across the world. The number of COVID-19 affected the world over has risen to an astonishing 30 million, with the death toll closing upon the one million mark. In India 5 million persons have contracted the virus which is too closer home for Sri Lanka to remain complacent. One cannot be more careful under the circumstances. This country won much encomiums and plaudits from the world's health authorities including WHO for the success achieved in combating the pandemic and preventing its spread by the measures taken by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. It would be well to keep this record intact, by the public adhering to the same kind of discipline observed in the early days of the Coronavirus in this country.



South Asian countries have been typically known for their high population density.

COVID 19: The new 'South Asian Enigma'?

KRITI KAPUR and
DOMMEN C. KURIAN

South Asian countries have been typically known for the high population density, with a large number of people surviving in compact spaces in urban slums and rural areas, making it a typical breeding ground for the Novel Coronavirus pandemic. Home to a half of the world's multidimensionally poor people in 2017, South Asian countries lack in various health and nutrition indicators, with inadequate public healthcare facilities. Some of South Asia's human development indicators, especially in the area of nutrition, have been worse than Sub-Saharan Africa, despite impressive poverty reduction and better economic growth, resulting in experts calling it the "South Asian Enigma". The persisting inequality and gaps in provision of basic amenities further cemented the belief that Covid-19 could be deadly for this region. However, six months into the Covid-19 pandemic, South Asia's fatality rates have left most confused.

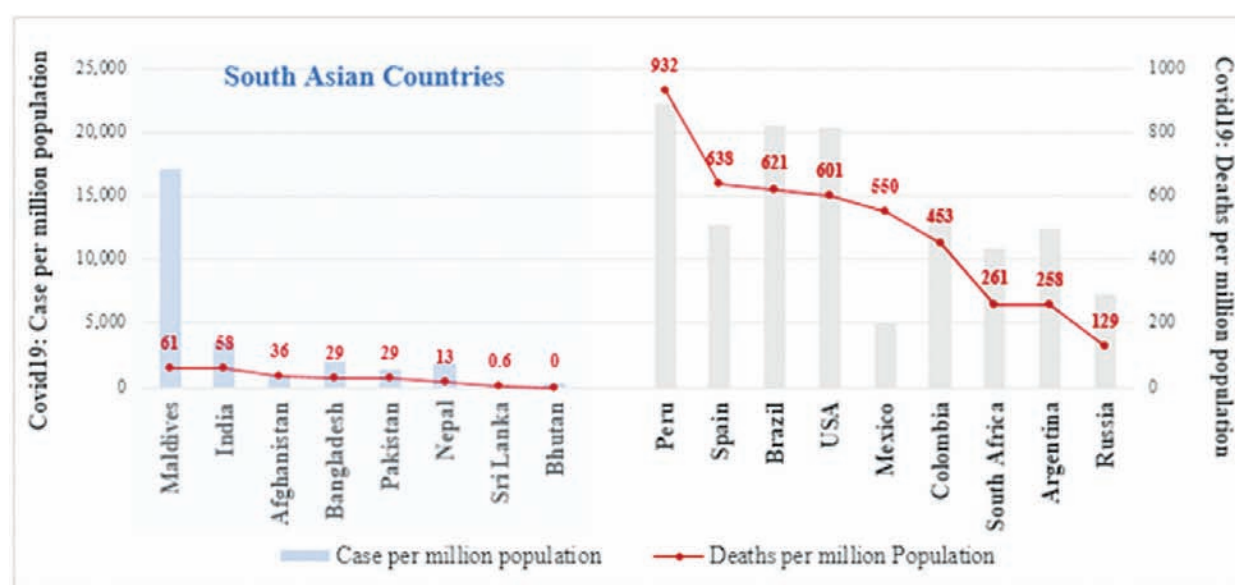
One month into the pandemic, the world's most developed economies witnessed an unprecedented surge in Covid-19 cases as well as deaths, seemingly unable to cope with the virus. Meanwhile, the South Asian region—comprising of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka—when compared to the North American, East Asian or Western European region saw far lesser infections and deaths. On April 20th, South Asia, while accounting for 23.4 percent of the world's population, only contributed to 1.25 percent of the infections, and 0.5 percent to the deaths. Interestingly, Africa's morbidity and mortality burden from COVID-19 are similarly low, with experts talking about an "African Enigma" as well.

As of September 15, 2020, South Asia contributes to 19 percent of the global reported cases and 10 percent to the global reported deaths, skewed due to India's contribution of 87 percent of South Asia's cases and 86 percent to South Asia's deaths. When taking into consideration the large population size of South Asia, it seems to show a somewhat optimistic figure of 3,054 infections per million population and 50 deaths per million population, on completion of half a year of the pandemic.

Low death rates in South Asia

It has been argued that the low numbers could have been the result of a delayed onset of community transmission in these countries, and perhaps an earlier adoption of country-wide lockdowns and international travel bans, given the healthcare system deficit. It has also been hypothesized that the mandatory BCG vaccination against Tuberculosis or the prevalence of other coronaviruses in these countries could have strengthened the immune system. On the other hand, lack of testing kits and infrastructure, leading to testing of symptomatic patients only, could also partly explain this paradoxical situation. However, it remains clear that death rates in South Asia remain surprisingly low.

A look at the South Asian countries reveals that, while cases have been rising and seem frightening when observed in absolute terms, the same numbers when looked at as population proportions reveal a different story. Graph 1 shows a comparison of the cases and deaths per million population in South Asian countries and the Top 10 most infected countries (except India). South Asian countries clearly indicate a lower spread of infection and the subsequent deaths caused by the disease. The most infected country with respect to population, Peru's deaths per million population (932) is 15 times higher than that of the most infected South Asian Country, Maldives (61). The low number of infections in South Asia could be hypothesized to be



South Asia Novel Coronavirus case per million population v/s deaths per million population
Data as of September 15, 2020, Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

One month into the pandemic, the world's most developed economies witnessed an unprecedented surge in Covid-19 cases as well as deaths, seemingly unable to cope with the virus. Meanwhile, the South Asian region—comprising of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka—when compared to the North American, East Asian or Western European region saw far lesser infections and deaths. On April 20th, South Asia, while accounting for 23.4 percent of the world's population, only contributed to 1.25 percent of the infections, and 0.5 percent to the deaths. Interestingly, Africa's morbidity and mortality burden from COVID-19 are similarly low, with experts talking about an "African Enigma" as well.

a result of low testing, but the lower number of deaths indicate a different story altogether.

Currently, only three out of the eight South Asian countries—namely, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan—are in the top 20 most infected countries across the world. In terms of deaths, India is the only one to be in the top 20 list of the world.

A sub-country analysis

When comparing the case and death per million population, Maldives seems to be performing badly, but these numbers can be misleading due to its very low population base making clusters of cases result in higher per population figures. In absolute terms, Maldives seems to be performing adequately, considering the limited health infrastructure. The Covid-19 trend line (graph 2) seems to be showing a gradual flattening of the curve. While the nation seems to be strongly fighting and coping with the virus, the pandemic has offset other alarming issues. Two-thirds of the country's GDP is generated through its tourism industry, and the worldwide lockdown, travel bans and panic may threaten the country's immediate economic future.

India, while showing surprisingly low levels of infections and deaths during the initial few months of the pandemic, has now become the second most infected country in terms of cases, and third in terms of deaths. India has a

population of 1.3 billion, therefore the high number of cases in country *vis-à-vis* rest of its South Asian counterparts is not surprising. The figures when adjusted for population seem less alarming, but the rising number of cases and deaths in India is concerning nevertheless. Graph 2 shows the upward trend in India's infections, without any particular sign of a flattening in the near future. The entire month of September has observed record-high increase in daily cases (more than -90,000) and deaths (more than -1000). Although cases and deaths are steadily rising in India, it is imperative that India ensures they fight not only Covid-19, but also the other infectious diseases that plague the country, especially with the disruption of health care services and livelihoods of Indians, due to one of the most stringent lockdowns. While it picked up pace rather late after allowing the infection to spread, India has been testing aggressively lately, reaching 42,000 tests per million.

Bangladesh and Pakistan present similar scenarios, wherein Covid-19 infections have surpassed 300,000 and death per million population is 29 for both the countries. Both countries have been demonstrating a flattening trend in terms of cases as well as deaths, however, they have also shown a lower testing per million population—Pakistan (13,510 tests per million) and Bangladesh (10,645 tests per million)—which could be one of the possible reasons for the lower number of

cases. Similarly, Afghanistan has as low as 38,772 confirmed cases and 1,425 confirmed deaths, as of September 15th, but Afghanistan has one of the world's lowest testing statistics, with a total of 107,167 tests conducted, which make up 2,740 tests per one million population. The low level of tests and the subsequent fall in the cases has raised questions regarding the reliability and transparency in the data being shared.

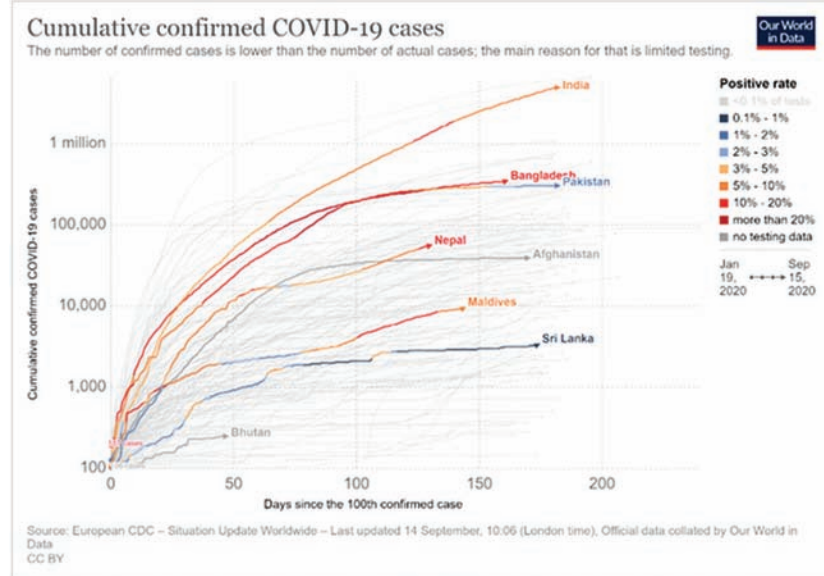
The trajectory of Nepal and Sri Lanka has been completely different. Nepal has observed a lower number of cases as well as fatalities from the beginning, while maintaining strong testing capabilities, but the month of September has seen a surge in cases. The surge in cases has raised some concerns, but at just 12 COVID-19 deaths per million, the mortality burden is low, and the government seem confident that the spread can be effectively contained. Amongst the South Asian countries, Sri Lanka has the lowest levels of infection (152 cases per million population), with only 13 recorded Covid-19 deaths so far. The country has been applauded for its strict quarantine rules and robust contact tracing, effectively curbing the spread of the disease.

Termed as the 'Coronavirus Success Story', Bhutan has been successfully detecting and containing the spread of the disease by strongly imposing quarantine on returning international citizens, and deployment of tech-based solutions to enhance contact tracing. Bhutan has also borne the cost associated with testing, quarantine and treatment, in addition to providing financial assistance to its citizens to ease the pandemic stress. With only 246 cases and no deaths, Bhutan has devised an effective prevention and control system.

In the global comparison sheet, South Asia's performance has been more or less positive, but with no vaccination in the picture, these countries must remain vigilant. South Asia also constitutes a large conflict-affected population, in addition to a considerable poor and highly immune-compromised population, making it extremely volatile to the future events. It was recently suggested by an industry leader that at least four to five years will be needed to provide vaccinations to the global population.

Moreover, multiple barriers still need to be overcome to determine whether the emerging vaccine will be able to effectively reach the masses. Given the high population densities and low income in the South Asian countries, a vaccine may not present the perfect solution. Past experiences have taught us that lesser developed countries need to be prepared for delayed availability of the vaccine and therefore need to dedicate resources in to preventive measures; while at the same time re-starting their economies cautiously to maintain the levels of human development that have been achieved in the past decade, and to prevent a parallel human tragedy.

- Observer Research Foundation



Covid-19 confirmed cases: Trajectory of South Asian Countries
Data as of September 15, 2020, Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases>

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Principles are guidelines for human conduct that are proven to have enduring, permanent value. - Stephen Covey

Major US-led ME accords with Israel

ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

Israel signed two normalization agreements with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain this week in what is seen as a historic move in Middle Eastern relations. Earlier only Jordan and Egypt had such relations with Israel.

The signing took place at the White House in Washington, with President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu joining the foreign ministers of the UAE and Bahrain.

President Trump hailed the occasion, claiming it will “change the course of history” and marks “the dawn of a new Middle East”.

“Together these agreements will serve as the foundation for a comprehensive peace across the entire region, something which nobody thought was possible, certainly not in this day and age,” Trump said. “These agreements prove that the nations of the region are breaking free from failed approaches of the past. Today’s signing sets history on a new course and there will be other countries very soon that will follow these great leaders.”

Netanyahu described the day as a “pivot of history, a new dawn of peace.”

“Since the moment of its birth, Israel has yearned for peace with our Palestinian neighbours and peace with the broader Arab world. For decades, that peace has proved elusive, despite so many well-intentioned plans. One after the other, they failed. Why did they fail? They failed because they did not strike the right balance between Israel’s vital security and national interests, and the Palestinians’ aspirations for self-determination,” Mr. Netanyahu said.

The UAE and Bahrain are close allies of the US, with each country hosting a significant US military presence. The US Air Force has deployed F-35 fighter jets to an air base in Abu Dhabi, while the Navy’s Fifth Fleet and Central Command are based in Bahrain. That military presence has drawn the leaders of the UAE and Bahrain closer to the US, and because of the anti-Iran alliance, closer to Israel.

The last time such a ceremony took place in Washington was in 1994, when President Bill Clinton looked on as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordanian King Hussein signed a declaration that paved the way for a peace deal months later.

For Trump, the timing was crucial. Less than two months before an election in which he trails in the polls, normalization agreements between Israel, the UAE, and Bahrain are considered major foreign policy achievements.

The UAE has made clear that one of the benefits it sees from the normalization agreement with Israel is that it should be easier to acquire F-35s from the United States, a view also shared by Trump’s senior adviser Jared Kushner. That would give the Emiratis the latest fighter jet in the US inventory and a significant edge over any other military in the region, with the exception of Israel.

The UAE called for a suspension of Israel’s intended annexation of parts of the West Bank, and made it clear this was one of its conditions for normalizing relations. Though it’s unclear how long the suspension lasts, for the UAE, this kept alive the possibility of a two-state solution, which it says is the only possible end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Speaking at the White House, the UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed thanked Israel for “halting” the planned annexation of Palestinian territories, saying it “reinforces our shared will to achieve a better future for generations to come.”

For both the UAE and Bahrain, the agreements also open up the possibility of purchasing Israeli high-tech, including military technology such as the Iron Dome missile defense system, as well as cooperation on economics, health, tourism and more.

Israel’s Netanyahu gets to show a major foreign policy achievement, one that only two other Israeli leaders have been able to achieve. Menachem Begin signed a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979. Yitzhak Rabin signed a peace treaty with Jordan in 1994.

The White House ceremony also helped distract from Netanyahu’s domestic issues: a tattered economy dealing with 18% unemployment, a coronavirus crisis that has forced Israel into a second general lockdown, and his own trial on corruption charges. He has repeatedly proclaimed his innocence.

For decades, Washington has

been the key broker of peace in the Middle East and the crucial moderator in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. It was President Jimmy Carter who stood between Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat, and Bill Clinton between Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein.

The Palestinians feel betrayed by current developments. The 2002 Saudi-led Arab Peace Initiative called for an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict before Arab states normalized relations with Israel. The Palestinians cut off contact with the White House after the Trump administration moved the US Embassy to Jerusalem and took other pro-Israel steps.

While the Palestinians have the support of Iran, Turkey, and a few others, but its traditional Arab partners are moving closer to Israel. In a sign of that movement, the Arab League failed to pass a resolution backed by the Palestinians that would have condemned the UAE-Israel agreement.

Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani has said the UAE and Bahrain would be responsible for any ‘consequences: resulting from their normalisation of relations with Israel. He said Israel is ‘committing more crimes in Palestine every day’.

UK - No Deal?



British Prime Minister
Boris Johnson

The United Kingdom is moving ahead with its legislation that would break international law, in the departure agreement with the European Union (EU).

The Internal Market Bill giving Boris Johnson’s government the power to override parts of the Brexit agreement with the EU was passed in its first reading in the Commons, with 340 votes for and 263 against.

Ministers say it contains vital safeguards to protect Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK, if negotiations on a future trade deal break down. But critics, including a number of Tory MPs, warned it risks damaging the UK by breaching international law.

There’s increasing concern of a dangerous no-deal exit from the European Union, of the Good Friday Agreement with Ireland unraveling in Northern Ireland and of the U.K. needing to take back control of its sovereignty.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is fully supportive of the new legislation, the U.K. Internal Market Bill, which seeks to override key provisions in that deal over the future of Northern Ireland. Under the withdrawal deal with the EU, Johnson agreed to keep Northern Ireland aligned to EU rules and regulations, an arrangement seen as critical to keeping an open border between Northern Ireland and Ireland, an EU member.

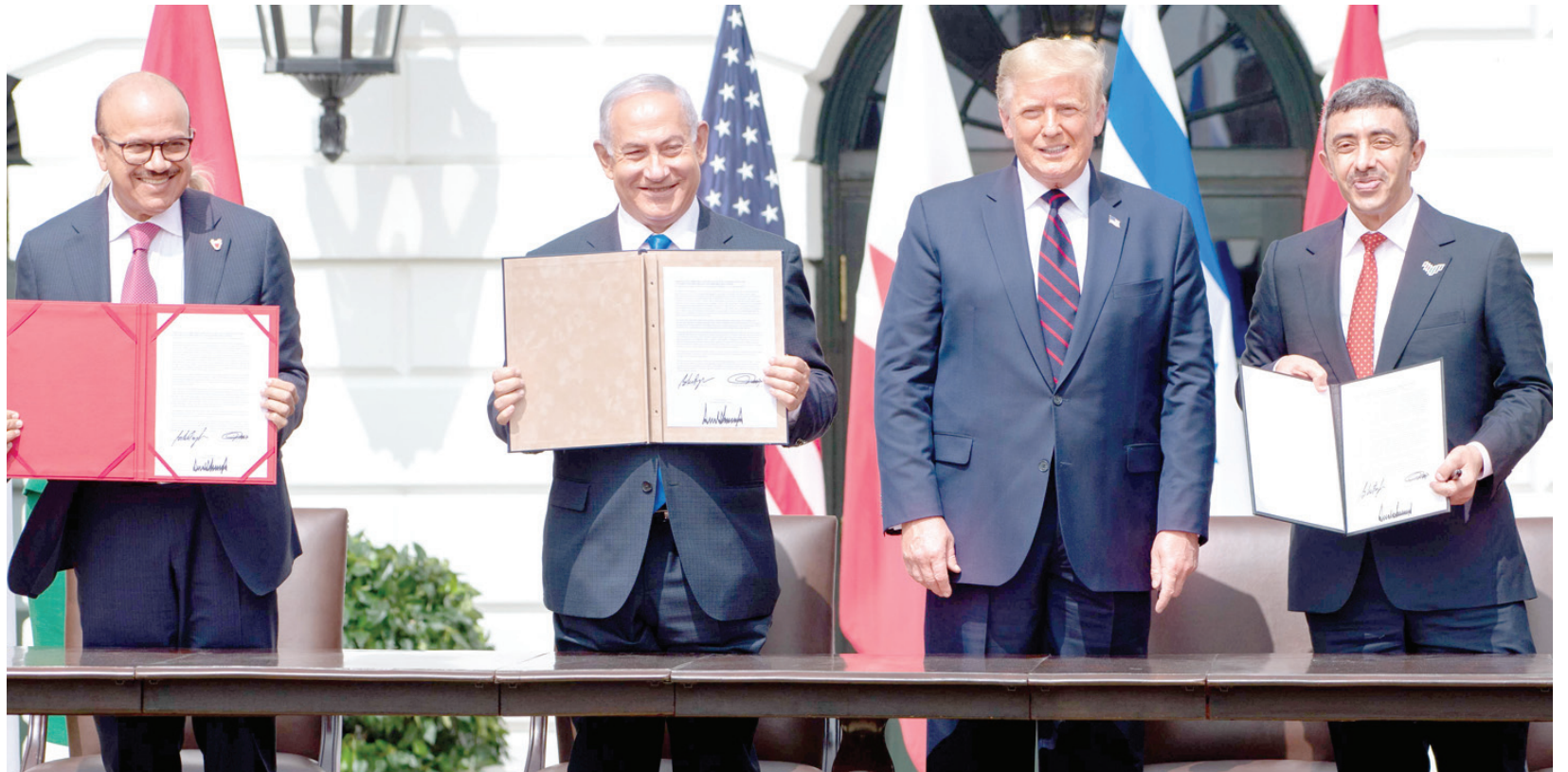
In a stunning reversal, Johnson now claims the protocol over Northern Ireland can be annulled and that the U.K. cannot be bound by the deal. He says the new legislation “clarifies” the U.K.’s position.

His stance has opened up a ferocious legal debate about the limits and boundaries of international laws and Parliament’s sovereignty. At the time when he negotiated the agreement, Johnson called the deal “oven ready” and he touted it as a “great deal” during a successful election last December which gave him a wide majority in the House of Commons and ended the hopes of those seeking to stop Brexit.

Now, evoking hardline pro-Brexit language, the Tory prime minister says the deal his government agreed to threatens to “carve up” the U.K. He even stated that the deal, if enacted, would threaten peace in Northern Ireland.

All five living former prime ministers have come out against the bill, arguing that it would damage the U.K.’s reputation as a paragon of the rule of law and jeopardize the fragile peace in Northern Ireland. They are John Major, David Cameron - Conservative, and Tony Blair and Gordon Brown - Labour.

The EU leaders are calling Johnson untrustworthy. Unless the Internal Market Bill is withdrawn, the EU is threatening to take legal action against the U.K. Regardless,



(L-R) Bahrain Foreign Minister Abdullatif al-Zayani, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, US President Donald Trump, and UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan hold up documents after participating in the signing of the Abraham Accords where Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates recognize Israel. The Abraham Accords were signed at the White House in Washington, DC, on September 15, 2020. - AFP

Johnson’s move to torpedo the withdrawal agreement is seen as damaging the prospect for a trade agreement even though both sides say they want one to avoid economic disruptions and damage.

EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen stressed that both the EU and Britain negotiated and ratified their Brexit divorce deal and warned the UK that it “cannot be unilaterally changed, disregarded or dis-applied.” “This is a matter of law, trust and good faith... Trust is the foundation of any strong partnership,” she said, referring to the UK government’s stated intention to breach elements of the pact.

US presidential candidate Joe Biden also warned of the new bill’s implications for a future UK-US trade deal, adding to concerns among senior US politicians that changes associated with the Internal Market Bill will undermine the Good Friday Agreement, which many US leaders were associated with negotiating.

Japan - New PM



Japan's new Prime Minister
Yoshihide Suga

Japan’s parliament has elected Yoshihide Suga as the country’s new prime minister, following the resignation of Shinzo Abe.

A close ally of Mr. Abe, the new prime minister is expected to continue his predecessor’s policies. Mr. Suga easily won a poll for prime minister in the Diet, Japan’s lower house, receiving 314 out of 462 votes.

A veteran politician and long-time cabinet member he takes the lead at a difficult time for the world’s third-largest economy. Japan is struggling with the coronavirus pandemic which has caused the biggest economic slump on record following years of economic stagnations.

The country is also dealing with a rapidly aging society, with nearly a third of the population older than 65.

Mr. Suga has served for years as Chief Cabinet Secretary, the most senior role in government after the prime minister. He has already promised to carry on much of the previous administration’s agenda, including the economic reform programme dubbed Abenomics.

The son of a strawberry farmer, the veteran politician comes from a humble background that sets him apart from much of Japan’s political elite. The 71-year rose only slowly within the political ranks.

EU - Green Deal



EU Commission chief
Ursula von der Leyen

EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen announced plans to relaunch Europe’s coronavirus-devastated economy through a Green New Deal, in her maiden State of the European Union address.

With wildfires, drought and collapsing glaciers wreaking havoc around the world, von der Leyen said decisive action to tackle climate change could create millions of extra jobs, aiding Europe’s economic recovery. She said the EU should set a target to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, up from a current target of 40%. The upgrade would put the EU “firmly on track” for its plan to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

She acknowledged the proposal would divide the European Parliament and member states, who must approve the legally binding target but who disagree on how ambitious it should be. “I recognise that this increase from 40 to 55 is too much for some, and not enough for others,” von der Leyen told European lawmakers in Brussels.

The goal will require huge investments in transport, heavy industry and energy — where businesses will also face higher carbon costs under EU plans to revamp its carbon market. Von der Leyen said 30% of the bloc’s 750 billion euro coronavirus recovery package of grants and loans, which the EU as a whole will borrow, should be raised through green bonds.

But in July the EU agreed on a stimulus plan that paved the way for the European Commission to raise billions of euros on capital markets on behalf of them all, an unprecedented act of solidarity in almost seven decades of European integration.

She added: “This is the moment for Europe to lead the way from this fragility towards a new vitality.”

Belarus protests



Belarus President
Alexander Lukashenko

The Belarus opposition activist Maria Kolesnikova has been officially charged with incitement to undermine national security. She is currently in jail in Minsk after ripping her passport last week to thwart an attempt to expel her to Ukraine. She is a strong critic of President Alexander Lukashenko and played a key role in the continuing mass demonstrations by protesters who accuse Lukashenko of rigging the recent election that saw his re-election, with 26 years in office.

With more than 400 protesters now in custody, more than 100,000 demonstrators calling for the authoritarian president of Belarus to resign, marched through the capital of Minsk on Sunday as the protests that have gripped the nation entered their sixth week.

The embattled President Lukashenko, held lengthy talks with his Russian President Vladimir Putin, on Monday, in a meeting seen as crucial to determining whether or not Lukashenko can survive a protest movement against him.

Putin said Russia would offer a loan of \$1.5bn to Belarus, which could help Lukashenko avoid an economic crisis in the short term. He stands ready to send Russian police into Belarus if the protests turn violent, stoking fears that Moscow could use the political dissent as an excuse to annex its neighbour as it did in Crimea in 2014.

Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, who was defeated by Lukashenko in the now questioned election in August, and now in exile in neighbouring Lithu-

ania, in a statement said: “I want to remind Vladimir Putin, whatever you agree on in Sochi will not have legal force, any agreements signed with the illegitimate Lukashenko will be revisited by the new government. Because the Belarusian people withdrew their trust and support for Lukashenko at the elections. I regret that you have decided on dialogue with a usurper, and not with the Belarusian people.”

India - China

India and China have agreed to “quickly disengage” from a standoff that has seen gunfire at a disputed border and accusations of kidnapping. Their foreign ministers said they would ease tensions.

Soldiers from both countries have periodically skirmished along the poorly demarcated border, called the Line of Actual Control. Both sides have accused each other of straying into their territory, and the clashes have sometimes turned deadly.

In a joint statement, the neighbours said the “current situation is not in the interest of either side.” “They agreed, therefore, that the border troops of both sides should continue their dialogue, quickly disengage, maintain proper distance and ease tensions,” said the statement, released by Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

They added that they would expedite new measures that would “maintain and enhance peace and tranquillity”, but did not explain further what these would entail.

India’s Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who addressed the Lok Sabha on the border tension with China, said India is “very serious about issues of sovereignty” and the country is “prepared for all outcomes” to ensure that it is maintained. India remains committed to resolving the current issues in our border areas through peaceful dialogue and consultations. The Chinese actions reflect a disregard of our various bilateral agreements. The amassing of the troops by China goes against the 1993 and 1996 Agreements, he said.

Venezuela



Venezuelan President
Nicolas Maduro

UN investigators have said the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has committed systematic human rights violations including killings and torture amounting to crimes against humanity.

The report says reasonable grounds existed to believe that Maduro and his interior and defence ministers ordered or contributed to the crimes documented in the report to silence opposition. Specifically they had information indicating Maduro ordered the director of the national intelligence service SEBIN to detain opponents “without judicial order”.

The report was based on more than 270 interviews with victims, witnesses, former officials and lawyers, and confidential documents.

Most unlawful executions by security forces and state agents have not been prosecuted in Venezuela, where the rule of law and democratic institutions have broken

down, the investigators said. They said other national jurisdictions and the International Criminal Court (ICC), which opened a preliminary examination into Venezuela in 2018, should consider prosecutions.

“The Mission found reasonable grounds to believe that Venezuelan authorities and security forces have since 2014 planned and executed serious human rights violations, some of which – including arbitrary killings and the systematic use of torture – amount to crimes against humanity,” panel chair Marta Valinas said.

US - Fire and rain

As the fires continue to blaze on the US West Coast the billowing wildfire smoke that has blanketed much of the West Coast with a caustic haze also begins settling into the atmosphere thousands of miles away in New York in the US.

While more favourable weather has allowed firefighters to make some progress against the devastating blazes in Oregon, the crisis was far from over: The largest fires were still mostly uncontained, the air has been some of the most polluted on the planet for a week, and the state was setting up a mobile morgue as crews continued to sift through the rubble for missing people.

In California, where 25 people have died this year and 3.2 million acres — a modern record — have burned, officials had both successes and setbacks: Firefighters there contained two fires, one in Yuba County and the other north of Willits, and were trying to suppress 33 new blazes as stiff winds in the northeast pushed fires into new territory. There was still no significant rain in sight, and lands parched by warm weather remain at risk of igniting.

At the North Complex Fire, which has burned more than 270,000 acres northeast of Sacramento, winds whipped the flames across a clearing that had been plowed by bulldozers.

Crews back in Los Angeles were working on Tuesday to beat back one wildfire that approached to within 500 feet of the famed Mt. Wilson Observatory, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

West Coast residents from San Francisco to Seattle and beyond have for days suffered from the smoke, which has sent air-quality readings soaring to hazardous levels, closed some schools and led officials to shut parks and beaches while pleading for people to stay indoors.

Meanwhile in the US East Coast Hurricane Sally was moving very slowly with 90-100 mph winds, bringing many hours of rain, wind and a storm surge for the central Gulf Coast, giving heavy rainfall through Friday.

COVID spread

The COVID 19 spread continued strong globally, with the number infected in India passing the five million mark midweek, with India being second to the US in the number of cases confirmed.

The death toll from Covid in India is much lower than other countries.

The midweek figures of the Covid spread shows 29,868,230 globally, with 940,716 dead. In the US it is 6,630,891 infected and 196, 802 dead, approaching 200,000 speedily. The figures for India are 5,118, 253 infected and 83,198 dead. Brazil had 4,419,083 infected and 134,106 dead.

As of Midweek, 2 675 637 cases have been reported in the EU and the UK: Spain -603 167, France -395,104, United Kingdom -374,228, Italy -289 990, Germany -263,663. The numbers of deaths are 184,154, with UK 41,664, Italy 35,633, France 30 999, Spain 30,004, Germany 9,368.

Registration of supplier community for e-GP System

The Government of Sri Lanka is inviting the supplier community to register with Electronic Government Procurement System (e-GP System) who wish to supply goods, works and consultancy and non-consultancy services to the Government, the Finance Ministry said yesterday.

This system has been developed with all the essential modules such as Vendor Registration, Procuring Entity Registration, Announcement of Bids, Calling and Receiving of Bids, Electronic Bid Opening, Electronic Bid

Evaluation and Contract Awards, facilitating Shopping and National/International Competitive Bidding procurement procedures, the ministry in a statement said.

All Government organizations have been requested to use the e-GP system in procuring goods, works and services at earliest. Therefore, all the suppliers are requested to register with the e-GP system by 31 December 2020 as the use of e-GP system will be made mandatory in due course.

Firms that are registered with

the system are eligible to participate in bidding for all procurements of all the government entities, without registering manually with each Procurement Entity.

Annual Registration Fee: Firms who wish to register before 30 November 2020 are given a concessionary registration fee of Rs 5000. Also international suppliers are charged USD 50 as the registration fee. Each registration is valid for a 12 calendar months period. Payment should be made via credit/debit cards through the system.

Meeting the Registration Criteria: Firms wishing to register are required to logon to the website and follow the process as required.

Firms are requested to upload their business registration certificate in Adobe Acrobat pdf file format. Other basic information such as name, address, contact information, telephone, e-mail, etc. are also requested through the on-screen application form.

As a part of the registration process, vendors are required to

declare that they meet the prerequisites for eligibility. Vendors are also required to comply with the e-GP User Declaration.

Registration Assistance & Support: Firms are requested to log in to www.promise.lk web portal and review the "User Guide for Vendors" published therein or visit https://promise.lk/user_guides/vendor_v1.pdf for guidance.

Hotline number for registration support: 1925, Director, e-GP Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, Colombo 1.

SJB invites UNP to join alliance to contest PC election

MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

The Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) yesterday invited the United National Party (UNP) to join the alliance it was forming and contest the Provincial Council election.

SJB General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara said the SJB has extended its invitation to the UNP to join the alliance. "I congratulate the newly appointed UNP Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardene, and I call upon the UNP and its members to join the SJB for the progress of the party and the country".

When asked if Wijewardene will oblige to the invitation, Bandara said, the new UNP Deputy Leader was a very educated man, with vast experience and he knows what's best for the party.

He further added, if Wijewardene is appointed as UNP leader talks will take place regarding the joining of both parties, until then there only an invitation.

"Ranil (Wickremesinghe), should consider in handing over the leadership, for the betterment and this is what everyone wants.

This week, Ruwan Wijewardene was elected as the new Deputy Leader of the United National Party (UNP).

Feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta



The Thalagaswala Church in the Galle Diocese dedicated to St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta will celebrate the feast tomorrow, (September 20). His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe, the Bishop of Galle Diocese will preside over the festive Holy Mass.

This is the first and only church dedicated in honour of St. Teresa of Calcutta in Sri Lanka and it is situated 20 kilometres from the Kurundugaha Expressway entrance, on the Mapalagama Road. Mother Teresa who was a great role model to all was declared a Saint of the Universal Church on 4th September 2016. Her way of life inspires us to lead a saintly life. The feast is celebrated for the eighth consecutive year.

Parishioners belonging to this parish, on September 29, 2010 commenced the construction work of this new church dedicated to the then Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, with the financial support of generous public and parishioners offering their hard labour and the spiritual presence of the Saintly Mother.

With the completion of the construction, steps were taken to declare open the new church on January 24, 2012 fulfilling a long-felt need of the parishioners of Thalagaswala who had no church building proper to celebrate Holy Mass and conduct other religious services. The nearby pond and beautiful tea estates add extra beauty to this new church.

People, the devotees across the country come to celebrate the feast of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Those come from far and near vouch that many miracles had happened in their lives through the intercession of St. Mother Teresa and this is very evident with the increase in attendance of devotees every year.

This church functions as a mission to the Catholics of the area under Rev. Fathers of the Carmelite Order. This church invites to come in groups to this holy place for Novena Mass, for recollections and, one-day retreats in addition to attending the feast. For more information dial 0750473011 or email arunrex17@yahoo.com

No evidence to back sexual harassment claims - SriLankan Airlines

Responding to a New Delhi court case against one of its former senior officials, SriLankan Airlines yesterday said it was not a party to the legal action and that an Internal Committee was of the view that the former Sales Executive's complaint of "sexual harassment" could not be justified and her transfer to Cochin would stand.

Issuing a statement in regard to the Delhi court case against a former senior official of the airline and the subsequent media reports that are currently being circulated, SriLankan Airlines said an inquiry had found there was no evidence

to support sexual harassment allegations made by a former employee against a former airline official.

SriLankan Airlines had received a complaint from the Sales Executive in 2011 alleging an incident took place in 2009 involving the former Regional Manager and she had been transferred from the airline's office in New Delhi to the office in Cochin.

Upon receiving the complaint, the airline had conducted an inquiry in terms of the Company's special policy against harassment in 2011 and the Committee had determined that her transfer to Cochin had been based on com-

mercial requirements. As the former Sales Executive had been dissatisfied with the outcome of the inquiry and she wanted another inquiry, the airline had conducted a further inquiry into her complaint in 2014 in line with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal Act of 2013 in India, where the Committee had been of the view that her complaint of "sexual harassment" could not be justified and her transfer to Cochin would stand.

However, SriLankan Airlines stated that as the former Sales Executive did not comply with

the requirement of the Company to report to the office in Cochin, the airline was compelled to terminate her services on disciplinary grounds following the due procedure in terms of laws in India.

The airline further stated that SriLankan Airlines is one of the first corporate entities in Sri Lanka who adopted a policy against harassment at workplace way back in 2007, adding that they are committed to ensure a safe working environment for all its employees and maintains a zero-tolerance policy against any kind of harassment.

'Podi Lassi' interrogated for over six hours

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The Criminal Investigations Department (CID) had interrogated underworld figure Janith Madushanka alias 'Podi Lassi' for over six hours yesterday at the Boossa Prison in connection with the threats issued to several VIPs, according to the Police.

The Galle Chief Magistrate had Podi Lassi named as the second suspect in the case filed over the death threats made in public at the Boossa Prison against the President, the Defence Secretary and certain high-ranking officers of the Prisons Department.

He had made these threats to prison officials who had visited the Boossa Prison during the recent hunger strike staged by several prisoners, including 'Podi Lassi', based on various demands including the demand for phone facilities and more time with their lawyers.

A team of CID officers had visited the Boossa Prison yesterday to record the statement from Podi Lassi.

He had taken the decision, after considering a request made by the CID through a motion. Podi Lassi was ordered to be remanded until September 25.

Case filed against Sajin Vass re-fixed for trial

SHAVINI MADHARA

The case filed against former Foreign Ministry Monitoring MP Sajin Vass Gunawardena for allegedly causing an unlawful loss of Rs.883 million to Mihin Lanka Airlines, while he functioned as the Chief Executive Officer of Mihin Lanka, was yesterday re-fixed for trial by Colombo Additional Magistrate Priyantha Liyanage.

The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption had filed this case against the former MP under Section 70 of the Bribery Act.

The Commission alleged that the former MP had awarded a contract to a private company between June 27, 2008 and May 29, 2008, in violation of the law.



Minister Taro Kono who introduced the new hotline.

Japan's red-tape hotline hits a snag hours after launch

JAPAN: Just nine hours after Japan's new minister for administrative reform launched an online system for reporting excessive bureaucracy and red tape, it hit a snag: too many complaints.

Former Defence Minister Taro Kono, now charged with the reform portfolio, said it had been effectively overwhelmed and would be closed temporarily.

Kono, an enthusiastic Twitter user who regularly interacts with people on the platform, announced the complaints system shortly after he was appointed by newly elected Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Wednesday. "Please send information, such as unnecessary regulations, rules that are making your job difficult and bureaucratic silos that are problematic," he wrote on his Japanese Twitter account.

Not long after, he proclaimed excitedly on his English-language account that the digital complaints box had "received more than 3,000 emails in just hours!" But the deluge apparently proved too much.

"I received far more emails than I'd expected," he conceded. "I'm suspending reception of new emails to go through what I've received so far." Japan's new leader Suga has said dealing with red tape and excessive bureaucracy will be a top priority for him.

Cutting through red tape was also a key plank of the "Abenomics" economic policy of his predecessor Shinzo Abe. - AFP

India to boost defences on China frontier



The strategic Rohtang tunnel is being built at an elevation of 10,171 ft under the Rohtang Pass in the Himalayas' eastern Pir Panjal Range.



Labourers work inside the Atal Rohtang Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh state on September 1, 2020.

INDIA: A tunnel nearing completion in the Indian Himalayas will slash by hours the time it takes troops to reach the Chinese border, part of an infrastructure blitz by New Delhi that is gathering pace since a bloody border clash.

The nuclear-armed Asian giants blame each other for a brutal high-altitude battle in June that left 20 Indian soldiers dead and an unspecified number of Chinese casualties.

Both have sent massive troop reinforcements, but India has also stepped up its activities behind the frontlines - belatedly so, analysts say.

Its stepped-up infrastructure programme includes roads and bridges as well as high-altitude helipads and airstrips for civilian and military aircraft.

The showpiece is a \$400-million tunnel in Himachal Pradesh state, providing an all-weather route for military convoys to avoid a 50-kilo-

metre (30-mile) trudge through mountain passes that are snow-bound in winter and subject to frequent landslides.

From late this month, what used to be a four-hour, winding, high-altitude crossing will be cut to a 10-minute dash through the mountains in the state-of-the-art tunnel.

"There have been times on the pass route when vehicles have broken down, causing traffic jams of even six to eight hour," said Lieutenant-General Harpal Singh, head of India's Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

"This tunnel and the other infrastructure plans change a lot for the troops," he told AFP.

Labourers are working overtime to get the tunnel ready before Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to open it later this month.

Currently, essential items such as arms, ammunition and food have to be transported up in bulk before

winter starts in an area where temperatures can plunge to minus 40 Celsius (minus 40 Fahrenheit). Constructed at an altitude of more than 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) and stretching nine kilometres (six miles), the Atal Rohtang tunnel is also a feat of engineering.

A decade in the making, freezing winter temperatures meant work could only take place from April to September. Workers wore special microchips to help locate them if they got trapped in an avalanche. Still, India's efforts only belatedly mirror those of China, experts say.

"Earlier administrations wasted two decades," said Harsh Pant, from the Observer Research Foundation think-tank in New Delhi. "China, and its infrastructure, is much stronger today."

Sanjay Kundu, the Himachal Pradesh police chief, has also proposed arming locals and training them to report possible Chinese

spies and drone and helicopter sightings.

"Ultimately, whether it is at the border or the hinterland, people need to be trained and they need to be trained in defending themselves," he told AFP. The government hopes it will reassure worried villagers.

"In the last few weeks they've seen a lot more activity of fighter planes over the region," said Lobsang Gyaltsen, an elected representative from a village around 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the border. "They often wonder if China is attacking," Gyaltsen told AFP. The BRO says it has built more strategic roads - most in the high-tension zone next to China - the last four years than in the previous decade and aims to complete 15 more key routes by the end of 2021.

Labourers are upgrading a recently-completed 250-kilometre stretch parallel to the Chinese frontier that

cuts journey times from Ladakh's capital Leh from one week to less than a day.

Significantly, by next month all bridges along the route will be able to support the weight of a 70-tonne T-90 tank on a trailer, or a truck carrying a surface-to-air missile, according to press reports. There are several strategic high-altitude tunnels as well as 125 bridges at different stages of planning in the states of Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim bordering Tibet and Xinjiang.

Besides the strategic value, the improvements will also be life-changing for people who can be cut off from the rest of India for months in winter. This will boost the local economy and attract more people to the sparsely populated area, and so make it less prone to cross-border incursions by the Chinese, the government hopes. - AFP

Over 200,000 COVID-19 deaths in Europe



● Broad new restrictions imposed

● Global virus cases top 30 million

● WHO warns of "alarming rates of transmission"

DENMARK: Broad new restrictions were imposed yesterday across large parts of Europe to stop the COVID-19 coronavirus, after infections worldwide topped 30 million and the World Health Organization warned of "alarming rates of transmission".

Britain is limiting gatherings and France is set to roll out new curbs for major cities as governments across the continent battle fresh spikes of the disease.

More than 943,000 people have now died from COVID-19 since it first emerged in China late last year, according to an AFP tally, with Europe accounting for more than 200,000.

WHO regional director for Europe Hans Kluge said a surge seen this month "should serve as a wake-up call" after the continent recorded 54,000 infections in a single day last week – a new record.

"Although the numbers reflect more comprehensive testing, it also shows alarming rates of transmission across the region," Kluge told an online news conference from Copenhagen.

The Spanish capital of Madrid said it had been overwhelmed by the virus and called for "decisive" action from the central gov-



ernment, which is set to unveil a raft of new restrictions Friday.

Madrid officials warned that the region's healthcare system was coming under increasing pressure, with one in five hospital beds occupied by Covid patients amid a second wave of the illness.

Anxiety has been growing in the city about the prospect of a return to lockdown after a top regional health official on Wednesday raised the possibility for the worst-hit areas.

"It would be bad for shops, for small businesses and little bars that survive on people coming in," said 55-year-old Maribel Quesada. "People are really sick of being at home, the (spring) lockdown was very difficult."

In Britain, new curbs came in to effect on Friday, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson warning that pubs may have to close earlier to help avoid a "second hump" of infections.

About two million people in

northeast England, including in the cities of Newcastle and Sunderland, will no longer be allowed to meet people outside their homes. Only table service will be allowed in bars and entertainment venues will have to close by 10pm.

The government already imposed rules across England on Monday limiting socialising to groups of six or fewer, as daily cases reached levels not seen since early May.

French authorities are also preparing tighter restrictions in several cities to curtail a resurgence that has seen nearly 10,000 new cases per day in the past week.

Health minister Olivier Veran said Lyon and Nice would be under new rules by Saturday, after curbs on public gatherings were imposed this week in Bordeaux and Marseille.

Israel is set to become the first developed country in the world to enforce a second nationwide shutdown, beginning Friday afternoon.

The move sparked protests in Tel Aviv late Thursday when hundreds took to the streets against the restrictions, which are set to take effect just hours before Jewish New Year and will cover other religious holidays including Yom Kippur. - AFP

COVID-19, cash crunch leaves UN in a quandary



The United Nations

SWITZERLAND: Meetings postponed and marble-clad hallways echoing empty: The coronavirus pandemic and a liquidity crunch have all but silenced the usual frenzied diplomatic wrangling at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva.

As the world grapples with multiple towering crises linked to COVID-19, fears abound that the world body is sinking into lethargy and that the already suffering multilateral system risks buckling.

"The response to the crisis must be multilateral," French Ambassador Francois Rivasseau told the UN Human Rights Council this week, stressing that it was "essential that the international organisations resume their work."

"The resumption of activities is slow and we are beginning to worry," agreed a European diplomat who asked not to be identified.

Usually bustling with delegates and UN staffers from across the world, the UN cafeteria has for weeks been eerily quiet, with a handful of masked people carrying trays of pre-portioned food past a former salad bar draped in plastic.

The dramatic slowdown at the UN's Palais des Nations headquarters has come even as host country Switzerland has remained relatively unscathed by the pandemic, dodging the strict confinement measures seen in neighbouring countries. The UN, which usually houses thousands of staff, delegates, activists, journalists and others on any given day, decided back in March to halt all in-person events and shut its doors to all but a few dozen essential workers.

By early September, only around 30 percent of the UN Geneva Secretariat's some 2,900 staff members had returned to their offices.

The UN has since asked remote workers to come back, but on a rotational basis so as not to pass 60 percent of the pre-pandemic occupancy.

The Human Rights Council is one of the only UN bodies that has maintained physical meetings at the Palais, largely due to the tenacity of council president Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger of Austria, who quickly pushed through a hybrid system.

But only one representative per country delegation is allowed into the meeting hall, and the UN has barred countries and non-governmental organisations from holding their usual slew of side events on its premises during the council sessions.

Trine Heimerback, Norway's deputy permanent representative in Geneva, hailed the UN for doing its best in difficult circumstances, but voiced concern over the reduced access for civil society actors.

"It is not as inclusive as Norway at least would have liked," she told AFP. As for other UN bodies, many have postponed or cancelled their planned assemblies and meetings. Too many, some say.

"When it comes to disarmament, the annual meetings have been postponed," another European diplomatic source said, blaming some countries who had insisted people from their capitals needed to travel in to participate.

- AFP



Democratic Presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden participates in a CNN town hall event on Thursday in Moosic, Pennsylvania. - AFP

Biden targets working-class in town hall speech

US: Joe Biden on Thursday lashed President Donald Trump over his "close to criminal" handling of the coronavirus as the Democrat fielded questions from voters impacted by the pandemic in a state that is key to his election hopes.

Returning to the gritty city of his birth, the former vice president engaged in an outdoor town hall in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he painted himself as the champion of hardworking Americans who he said have been ignored by a President more concerned about boosting Wall Street than helping working families. Biden, appearing energized as he handled participants' questions, also accused Trump of knowing the seriousness of the coronavirus threat early this year and hiding it from the nation.

"He knew it and did nothing. It's close to criminal," Biden said in one of several fiery criticisms of Trump. "This President should step down," he added.

The 77-year-old candidate also used a populist inflection, framing the 2020 election between him and billionaire real estate mogul Trump as "a campaign between Scranton and Park Avenue." Blue-collar Americans – like the family Biden grew up in – "are as good as anybody else," he said. With less than seven weeks before the November 3 election, Biden has ramped up

his public appearances after spending large chunks of time at his Delaware home, even as Trump repeatedly barnstorms swing states.

Now both candidates are hitting the physical campaign trail in earnest, although still in different ways.

Trump returned to Wisconsin Thursday for a public rally fueled by his signature bravado – a contrast to Biden's quieter style. Biden is attempting to project a calming alternative to Trump's fury. At the CNN town hall Biden took questions from a live, socially distanced audience of 100 people, who parked in front of the stage to watch the event.

Trump, talking to supporters in Wisconsin, branded Biden's drive-in town hall "the weirdest thing I've ever seen."

Trump focused on promises of economic growth – one area where polls consistently show him ahead of Biden – and claimed that under the Democrat pension funds would "go down like to depression levels."

Biden has largely kept close to his home in Delaware during the pandemic which has so far killed nearly 200,000 Americans.

He has traveled to swing states like Wisconsin, Florida and Pennsylvania, but has dodged crowds and engages with voters in small, controlled settings.

- AFP

WHO urges safety for health workers

SWITZERLAND: Too many doctors and nurses are paying the ultimate price while battling Covid-19, the World Health Organization said Thursday as it launched a charter aiming to boost safety for health workers.

The UN health agency said that the pandemic had exposed health workers and their families to "unprecedented levels of risk".

While the coronavirus crisis has taken a heavy toll overall, data from many countries and regions show that healthcare workers have been infected at a far higher rate than the general population.

Health workers represent less than three percent of the population in most countries and less than two percent in low- and middle income countries, but account for around 14 percent of all Covid-19 cases reported to the WHO.

In some countries, the proportion has been as high as 35 percent, the body said.

On Wednesday, the International Council of Nurses said thousands of nurses had likely died in the pandemic, pointing to numbers from just 44 countries showing 1,097 deaths by mid-August.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded all of us of the vital role

health workers play to relieve suffering and save lives," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing.

"We all owe health workers an enormous debt, not just because they have cared for the sick, but because they risk their own lives in the line of duty."

The risks are not only physical. The WHO pointed to "extraordinary levels of psychological stress" on health workers, who have been asked to work long, draining hours battling Covid-19, living in constant fear of being infected.

Many are also living separated from their families, and facing social stigma amid fear they are carrying the virus.

These strains are increasing the likelihood of depression among medical professionals, who were already more at risk of suicide than the general public in a number of countries prior to the pandemic.

One in four health care workers surveyed for a recent study said they were struggling with depression and anxiety amid the pandemic, while one in three said they had suffered insomnia, the WHO said. In its charter presented Thursday, the WHO emphasised the legal and moral obligations governments have to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of health workers. - AFP



Health workers face physical danger and psychological stress in the pandemic.



US President Donald Trump, flanked by White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany, speaks to reporters onboard Air Force One after a campaign rally in Mosinee, Wisconsin on Thursday. - AFP

Trump will not attend UN General Assembly

US: US President Donald Trump will not attend next week's UN General Assembly gathering in person, his chief of staff told journalists aboard Air Force One Thursday, according to a pool report.

The decision marks an about-face for Trump, who last month said he wanted to deliver his speech in the General Assembly hall in New York, even if other world leaders are staying away due to the coronavirus pandemic.

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows ended the debate once and for all, telling reporters en route to Wisconsin, where Trump was to hold a campaign rally, that the president would

not physically attend the General Assembly's 75th session, which will take place mainly by videoconference due to the health crisis.

The main part of this year's UNGA, when world leaders take turns to give speeches, runs through the week starting September 21 and ends on September 29.

In opening remarks Tuesday, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized this year's focus on the global response to the coronavirus pandemic plus "peace and security, disarmament, human rights, gender equality and sustainable development." - AFP

Japanese SC rules in favour of tattoo artist

JAPAN: Japan's Supreme Court has sided with a tattoo artist who was fined for practising without a medical licence, in a case that revived debate about the country's uneasy relationship with body ink.

Though tattoos have a long history in Japan and the nation has long boasted leading artists, body ink is still often associated with "anti-social" elements, particularly members of criminal groups known as the yakuza.

People with tattoos are often prevented from using public facilities like swimming pools or baths, and in 2015, Osaka tattoo-

ist Taiki Masuda was arrested for allegedly violating the Medical Practitioners' Act by tattooing people without a doctor's licence.

Masuda was fined 150,000 yen (\$1,400) by an Osaka district court, but the ruling was overturned on appeal in 2018.

Prosecutors decided to take it to the Supreme Court, which this week rejected their appeal, a court spokeswoman told AFP on Friday. The Supreme Court backed the earlier ruling that tattooing should not require a doctor's licence because it carries little risk of injury or health problems. - AFP

Oceanpick donates Seabass fingerlings to fishing communities

In an effort to bolster national fish production as well as to improve the livelihoods and food security initiatives of smallholder farmers in Sri Lanka, Oceanpick (Pvt) Ltd. -South Asia's spearheading oceanic farming operator-, recently distributed free fingerlings to small-scale fish farmers across the island.

The distribution was undertaken in the presence of officials from the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA), and served to attest to the sustainable aquaculture company's commitment to supporting local start-ups of artisanal Seabass farming operations.

A joint venture between Aberdeen Holding, Kames Fish Farming Ltd. of Scotland, and other investors-, Oceanpick was founded in 2011 with the aim to narrow the demand-supply gap of premium quality seafood without compromising on dwindling species numbers. Having started off as South Asia's first ever commercial-scale offshore oceanic farm for finfish, and currently still the only offshore aquaculture operation in Sri Lanka which is also BOI-approved.

Operating from its main Seabass and Barramundi hatchery

and farming facility in the untouched waters of Trincomalee, Oceanpick is positioned with a geographical advantage, nestled amongst a major aquaculture hub alongside India and Bangladesh. However, the sustainable marine fish farm has taken the lead in Seabass and Barramundi culture, having recently being awarded the Global Aquaculture Alliance's Best Aquaculture Practice (BAP) certification for Barramundi in South Asia; highlighting Sri Lanka on the map as having the first BAP-certified aquaculture facility in the region.

Seabass farming has proven to be an effective and sustainable economic activity; one that has the capacity to increase the income of fishing communities owing to its low environmental and operational costs.

At the Oceanpick facility, Sea Bass fingerlings are first allowed to hatch out and grow in the company's on-shore nursery located close to the sea sites, and are then transferred to sea cages anchored to the ocean floor, where strict biosecurity standards are maintained and the waters consistently monitored for temperature and salinity.

"Over the years our facility has



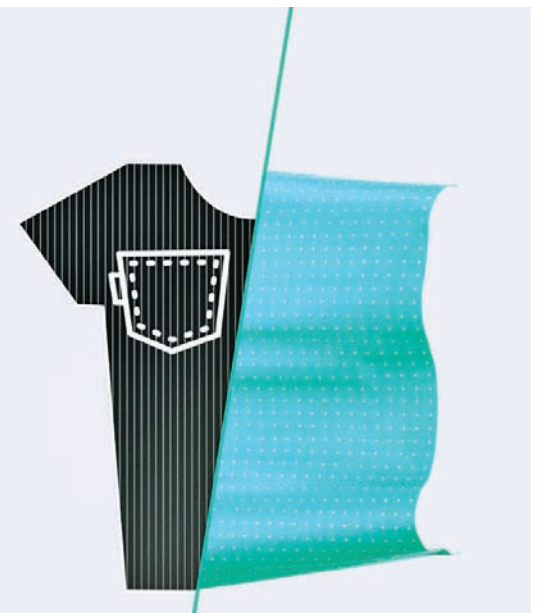
Fayaz Buhary, Manager Special Projects, Dan Richardson, Head of Operations, Aslam Pathiri, Manager, Hatchery & Nursery Operations present seabass fingerlings to farmers

played a significant role in responsible farming that produces all-natural, nutrient-rich, and superior quality seafood, underscoring the sustainability of our facility and overall operations," said Dan Richardson, Head of Operations at Oceanpick. "How-

ever, smallholder fish farmers are as crucial for the future growth of the fisheries sector. We felt the need to step in to strengthen connections by combining our resources, with the aim to both boost production as well as help restore livelihoods."



Oceanpick sea bass fingerlings ready to be distributed in support of small-scale fish farmers



'Scaling Innovations in Cellulosic Recycling project launched'

With the aim to investigate economically viable and scalable solutions for cellulosic chemical recycling to enable a closed-loop system converting textile waste - of cotton and cotton-blend materials, to produce new man-made cellulosic fibres, Fashion for Good the global initiative set to make all fashion good, launched the Full Circle Textiles Project: Scaling Innovations in Cellulosic Recycling, a first of its kind consortium project.

Focusing on cellulosic fibres, this Project aims to validate and eventually, scale promising technologies in chemical recycling from a select group of innovators as 73% of the clothing we produce is sent to landfill or is incinerated and of all new clothing made, less than 1% of the material used comes from recycled sources.

Leading global organisations Laudes Foundation, Birla Cellulose, Kering, PVH Corp. and Target join the Fashion for Good initiated project, to explore the disruptive solutions, with the goal of creating new fibres and garments from used clothing and ultimately drive industry-wide adoption.

"A bold approach is needed to identify and scale innovations that drive sustainable change in the fashion industry. The unique, first-of-its-kind structure of this committed, multi-stakeholder consortium, addresses some of the key barriers to scaling innovation, setting the precedent for all industry players with ambitions for disruptive innovation to follow." - Katrin Ley, Managing Director, Fashion for Good.

Over an 18-month period, project partners will collaborate with innovators, Evrnu, Infinited Fiber Company, Phoenix, Renewcell and Tyton Bio Sciences, to validate the potential of their technologies in this still nascent market. The recycled content produced by four of these innovators will be converted at Birla Cellulose's state of the art pilot plants to produce high-quality cellulosic fibres. From there, fibres will move through the project partners supply chains to be manufactured into garments.

Textile recycling is a key focus for Fashion for Good as a crucial lever in driving the fashion industry towards closed-loop production.

A systemic change towards circularity will ultimately reduce the environmental impact of textile waste and potentially eliminate our dependence on virgin materials entirely.

Furthermore, producing man-made cellulosic fibres through chemical recycling can help preserve ancient and endangered forests. Scalable solutions in high-quality textile recycling technologies are therefore urgently needed.

"Financing the Transformation in the Fashion Industry" details further actions required to scale sustainable solutions including a concerted, industry-wide effort to provide the incentives, financial means and focus to accelerate the transformation to sustainable and circular practices.

Thus, through this project and its consortium, Fashion for Good hopes to inspire other stakeholders to follow suit in supporting chemical recycling innovators to trial and ultimately secure off take, catalyzing the transformation to a truly circular economy.

New President of College of General Practitioners inducted

Induction of the 20th President of the College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka and Presidential address was held on recently at Earls Court, Cinnamon Lakeside amongst a large gathering of eminent medical professionals.

The newly elected President of Dr. D. K. D. Mathew stated that The College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka is a voluntary organization committed to enhance the medical practice of the General Practitioners of Sri Lanka. It is the apex, academic and professional body of General Practitioners in Sri Lanka. It has its origin in 1969 and was incorporated in 1974.

A General practitioner (GP) is the first point of care for anyone in the com-

munity having a physical or mental ailment. The profession of GP is not limited to any one medical speciality or organ of the body but covers a variety of medical problems requiring GP to solve clinical puzzles and make accurate and timely diagnosis of diseases and proper management taking in to consideration all aspects of their patients' life to provide the best possible care in the most cost-effective manner.

The newly elected President notes that the patient demand is continuously on the rise and will continue to rise, however the number of GP's is far from keeping pace. He states, the recent Covid-19 pandemic has thus far had a major impact in the manner in which GPs operate.



Dr. D. K. D. Mathew addressing the event

It has become evident that GP's must seek out such digital solutions and online tools that will enable the patient to receive advice, treatments, prescriptions and referrals. He proposes a more



New office bearers of College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka

effective, strong and expanding general practice is needed now more than ever before, in order to find better and smarter ways to help the growing elderly population remain healthy and independent, the consequence of which would oth-

erwise lead to hospitals being overwhelmed.

Dr. Mathew maintains that in the future, our health service will rely on General Practitioners with the capabilities and competence to deliver care closer to home and reduce the state's reli-

ance on hospital care. He further notes that the General Practitioners are the foundation on which our health services are built on and that recognition of General Practitioners will cherish our medical services, ignore us, and it will crumble.

Rotary Club of Wattala Installation ceremony concludes

The 34th Installation Ceremony of Rotary Club of Wattala was held recently at Clement's Restaurant & Banquet in Wattala and several corporate sector personalities were elected. The club is one of the leading Rotary Clubs in Rotary International District 3220 (Sri Lanka & Maldives). It was chartered in 1985.

The ceremony saw the installation of the new President Rtn. PHF. P. Sekar. Other office bearers installed are, Rtn. Dr. Dilhan S. Jayatileke (President Elect/Vice President/Editor), Rtn. PHF. Rohan Irugalbandara, Rtn. PHF. Pat Fernando, Rtn. PHF. Luckshman Gunawardena, Rtn. PHF. Lal Wijeratne, Rtn. PHF. Rohan

De Silva, Rtn. PHF. Claude Perera, Rtn. PHF. Sithambaram Rajalingam, Rtn. PHF. Dinesh Selliah and Rtn. PHF. Prabath Kumaresh.

The District Governor of Rotary International District 3220 (Sri Lanka & Maldives) Rtn. PHF. Dushan Soza graced the occasion as Chief Guest.



The members of Rotary Club of Wattala

Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo opens Central on Sunday



Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo will officially open Central on Sunday. (20). This vibrant new all day dining restaurant and café serves the finest international and local delights, whilst the décor, design and ambience of Central reflects Sri Lanka's famous scenic train journeys that are a key part of the country's history and culture. Central takes guests on a global culinary tour where the restaurant's esteemed chefs showcase their skills in beautifully presented show

kitchens, with cuisines that have been carefully prepared using a myriad of cooking techniques. The extensive buffet service-style at Central is reminiscent of train terminals with each featuring a different country's cuisine. At the Indian terminal, spices reign supreme, with tantalising tandoor dishes including chicken tikka with its delightfully smoky flavour and traditional breads that are paired with multi-regional curries. The delicious medley of Southeast

touch.

The team of chefs at the Japanese terminal pay homage to the art form of this cuisine, ensuring that the ingredients and flavours are perfectly prepared for the handcrafted sushi, sashimi, crispy tempura, and Yakitori, the quintessential Japanese soul food of grilled chicken with salty-sweet soy sauce. Guests can also indulge in fresh seafood on ice with shellfish, oysters and seafood salads.



Executive Chef Patrick Buttgerit

Asian cuisine includes crunchy wok fried dishes and sizzling clay pot favourites, whilst an array of hand-made dim sum and make-your-own-soups cooked up into a hearty broth offer an oriental

Emirates offers year-long benefit to students, families

Emirates has introduced an exciting new deal that will help international students to see more of their family, and more of the world during the year.

Whether it is to travel between home and school, or to see more of the world with friends during school breaks throughout the year, student travellers can enjoy special discounts off Economy and Business class fares, additional baggage on top of Emirates' generous standard allowance, and a free date change of their booking up until 7 days before travel.

In addition, their family and companions can also enjoy this unique offer, as long as they are accompanied by the student on one of the trip sectors. Millions of students have chosen to further their education in institutions outside of their home country, and data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics shows that the figure is on a rising trend as young people become savvier about their travel and education



Emirates has introduced an exciting new deal that will help international students to see more of their family, and more of the world during the year.

options. Many international students also travel during the school year with their friends or to gain new experiences.

In line with Emirates' proposition as a global connector of people and places, the airline is launching this offer to encourage students to see more of the world and help them visit their families more often, with flexibility to amend their booking in case travel plans change.

Tickets must be booked by October 31, 2020, using the

promotional code STUDENT. All tickets have a maximum stay validity of 12 months.

Students can earn miles to redeem flights, upgrades and a range of exciting rewards when they sign up to the Emirates Skywards loyalty programme.

Health and safety: Emirates has implemented a comprehensive set of measures at every step of the customer journey to ensure the safety of its customers and employees on the ground and in the air, including

the distribution of complimentary hygiene kits containing masks, gloves, hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes to all customers.

Ensuring the safety of travellers, visitors, and the community, COVID-19 PCR tests are mandatory for all inbound and transit passengers arriving to Dubai (and the UAE), including UAE citizens, residents and tourists, irrespective of the country they are coming from.

Fierce fighting as Afghan peace talks continue



AFGHANISTAN: Fierce fighting between Afghan forces and the Taliban killed dozens in a restive eastern province, officials said as negotiators from both sides pushed ahead with peace talks in Qatar.

Overnight clashes erupted in three districts of Nangarhar province when Taliban fighters attacked several checkpoints of Afghan forces and pro-government militiamen, Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman for the Nangarhar governor told AFP.

He said at least 11 Afghan security personnel were killed in fighting in Hesarak, while eight pro-government militiamen were killed in Khogyani.

Khogyani said about 30 Taliban fighters died in the clashes – including some foreigners.

The hardline insurgent group has not commented on the fighting.

The latest violence comes as the Afghan government and Taliban are engaged in talks in Doha aimed at ending the long-running conflict.

Afghanistan's acting Defence Minister Asadullah Khalid blamed the Taliban for the fighting. - AFP



Afghan women hold banners and chant slogans in Jalalabad during a march to show their support for peace talks between Afghan government and the Taliban.

72nd Emmys to go virtual -- and live tomorrow

US: No red carpet, no star-studded audience and no "Game of Thrones" – this year's Emmys honouring the best in television promise to be radically different as producers scramble to create Hollywood's first major pandemic-era awards show.

The coronavirus has turned Tinseltown upside down, bringing productions to a halt even as stay-at-home orders around the world send binge-watching through the roof.

Now late night funnyman Jimmy Kimmel will host the 72nd Emmys live on Sunday from an empty theatre in Los Angeles – which remains under strict lockdown – with winners beaming in from the safety of their homes due to COVID-19.

Adding to the unpredictability on a night of firsts, 130-odd nominees who were sent cameras to hook up in their own living rooms have been encouraged to get creative with their speeches (and comfortable – A-listers are invited to trade gowns and tuxedos for pajamas).

"Ratings have been flagging for award shows for years... This is, if nothing else, an opportunity to mix things up, to do an award ceremony in a way unlike any other that's been done," said IndieWire TV awards editor Libby Hill.

"Even if Sunday night is a complete disaster, it's at least going to be an interesting disaster. And that's really all you ask for in 2020." Of the more than 100 acting nominations in the drama, comedy, limited series and television movie categories this year, more than a third of them went to black actors – a new record. - AFP



Late night funny man Jimmy Kimmel will host the 72nd Emmys live on Sunday from an empty theatre in Los Angeles.

Belarus opposition leader to meet EU ministers

BELGIUM: EU Foreign Ministers and the bloc's diplomatic chief will meet Belarus opposition leader Svetlana Tikhonovskaya in Brussels on Monday, a spokesman said, before they gather to discuss sanctions against Minsk.

Tikhonovskaya has claimed victory in an August 9 election against President Alexander Lukashenko, but she has been sheltering in Lithuania after fleeing as huge protests erupted against the veteran strongman.

The EU, which has said it does not recognise the official results which gave Lukashenko victory, is pre-



Belarus Opposition Leader Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, (C) with prominent female opposition figures Veronika Tsepalo (L) and Maria Kolesnikova at a recent rally in Minsk.

paring sanctions against those it blames for rigging the election and for violence in a regime crackdown on protesters.

"High Representative-Vice President Josep Borrell will be hosting an infor-

mal meeting with Ms Svetlana Tikhonovskaya and foreign ministers of the EU member states on Monday morning in Brussels," Borrell's spokesman Peter Stano told AFP on Thursday. - AFP

FBI worried about clashes before US vote

US: The FBI is increasingly worried about possible violent clashes between ideologically-motivated extremist groups before the November election, Director Chris Wray said Thursday.

Wray said the Federal Bureau of Investigation is keeping a close eye on groups who have faced off in protests in various cities such as Portland, Oregon, and Kenosha, Wisconsin.

In those places, anti-racism and anti-police groups have squared off with right-wing and white nationalist activists who are often armed.

Wray told a Congressional hearing that the FBI was deeply concerned about the growing tension on US streets, and groups that are "hijacking" protests to incite violence.

"Now you've got an additional level of combustible violence," he said, citing "violent extremist groups or individuals committing violence."

"Now you have both groups from the opposite sides adding to the combustibility and danger of the situation," Wray told the House Homeland Security Committee. - AFP



Curfews were imposed in major US cities recently as clashes and race riots over Police brutality escalated.



Call for Expression of Interest

Public Private Partnership Opportunity to Develop Indigenous Medical/ Wellness Tourism

Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute (GWAI) is the Indigenous Medical Institute, which will be upgraded to a National University and the Cabinet of Ministers approval is granted. It is now planning to expand its wings with Medical/Wellness Tourism with its future study programmes in line with the government policy to offer indigenous medical/wellness services to international tourist. Development of indigenous medical products for the export market, train future indigenous medical doctors and development wellness and spiritual education are the key aims of the upcoming university.

Working with the government aims, the GWAI intends to expand its future programmes with more practical exposure in an actual working environment. To create both study and working environment hand in hand, GWAI is inviting the private sector with necessary facilities for the investment in the form of Public Private Partnership (PPP). The partnership includes physical facilities for academic work and practical work exposure for 'Z' score university intake.

For this purpose the GWAI intends to call for Expression of Interest (EOI - Proposal) from the private sector those who serve to international tourist with indigenous/ Ayurveda/Wellness facilities with minimum level of the following fulfillment to consider for the Public Private Partnership;

- A Company/Organization serve for international tourist for indigenous medical/wellness services with an established international tourist market base
- Has past service record of minimum of 300-500 international tourists per year (2016-2018)
- Presently operating minimum 100 rooms or possess accommodation investment of Rs.300 Mn for indigenous medical/ wellness tourism.
- Currently possess Business Registration (BR), registration of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) & any other approval needed for Ayurveda/ Wellness facilities for tourists (copies of certificates attached)
- Agreed to enter into an agreement with GWAI for a minimum of 15-20 years or longer under PPP for the purpose from 2021 onwards

The proposal (EOI) may consist of company/group profiles, affiliations, and sister companies and other initiative related to indigenous medical/Ayurveda/ wellness tourism and its operations. Subsequent A, B, C, D sections list below shall be the second part of the proposal. Preferably in the same sequence for evaluation convenience. Any additional relevant and supportive information and suggestion can be added as attachments to the proposal. Also a signed cover note on a company letter addressed to Director/ GWAI, Yakkala with list of attachments to the EOI proposal.

A. Available/share/allocate floor space & facilities with the partnership (expected minimum requirements & possibilities)

- A1 - Admin (office) 200-350 sq feet or more
- A2 - Academic work (classes) 900-1100 sq feet or more
- A3 - Space for common facilities (library, study area, common wash rooms etc.)
- A4 - Student Accommodation minimum 60 pax (male & female) & their common needs
- A5 - Accommodation for academics
- A6 - Arrangement for the students to get industry exposure while learning (student No.)
- A7 - Possible Internship opportunities available (Maximum) for the final year students (student No.)
- A8 - Possibility to share communication infrastructure and movable assets such as furniture, car etc
- A9 - Possibility to share/hire any other facilities such as cleaning, disposal & security on needy basis

B. Investor's Present Capacity Assessment -Existing all facilities for indigenous medical/ Ayurveda hospitality & wellness tourism

- B1 - Number of guest rooms in operation for tourists & their locations (if in different locations)
- B2 - Types and number of treatment facilities offered to tourists (facility, capacity & location)
- B3 - Own Medicine Production/ Preparation & pharmaceuticals for in-house treatments
- B4 - Own Medicine Production/ Preparation & pharmaceuticals for sale & Export
- B5 - Total investment value of the company/group as at end 2018
- B6 - Average Occupancy levels maintained during (2016, 2017 & 2018) for accommodation & treatments specified in B2
- B7 - Number of Employees as at end 2018. i. Managerial, ii. Non-managerial iii. Contract iv. Trainees/intern

C. How facilities mentioned in A1-A7, can be expanded including intake of foreign students? (2023 onwards- Phase II)

- C1 - Same location (space & facilities)
- C2 - In an alternative location (space & facilities)

D. Special Considerations/Suggestions (if any) if your proposal is selected

- D1 - Conditions
- D2 - Terms
- D3 - Guidelines or Policies
- D4 - Any other facilities would like to link with the PPP which are relevant and useful
- D5 - Ideas/ suggestions about courses/ Programmes for external non graduates, postgraduates and industry practitioners

Note: Financial proposal shall be forwarded in a separate sealed envelope along with the (EOI) main proposal – (Partnership assets without charges and any fees/charges or cost share etc indicate separately)

The selection is on competitive basis as per the A, B, C & D section information, attractive concept & willingness to cooperate with future expiation. Financial proposal to be considered only for shortlisted proposals.

- Will assure that the information given kept confidential and use only for PPP selection process.
- GWAI/ Indigenous University will communicate only with the selected candidate.
- Common pre EOI briefing could be arranged in Yakkala (GWAI) on 1st October 2020 at 10.30am
- GWAI/University hold the rights of the final decision making on EOI selection & its conditions of the PPP

The proposals should be submitted on or before 2.30 p.m. on 9th October 2020 to be received by the Deputy Registrar, General Administration, GWAI, Kandy Road, Yakkala.

Late Submissions & incomplete proposals will be rejected. GWAI reserves the right to shortlist the proposals. For information please contact Mr. Shammika (Tel. 071 803 6122, email: dulaksha.shammika@gmail.com) (Between 8.30-4.00 on working days only).

Competent Authority
Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute
Yakkala

September 19, 2020

U.S. AG receives flak after 'slavery' comparison

US: US Attorney General Bill Barr faced criticism Thursday after saying coronavirus lockdown measures were the "greatest intrusion" on American civil liberties "other than slavery."

Barr, one of President Donald Trump's staunchest allies, made the comment Wednesday as he hit out at tough lockdown measures instituted in some states, many led by Democratic governors.

"You know, putting a national lockdown, stay-at-home orders, is

like house arrest," Barr said during an appearance at Hillsdale College in Michigan, according to clips posted online.

"Other than slavery, which was a different kind of restraint, this is the greatest intrusion on civil liberties in American history."

Veteran House lawmaker James Clyburn, who is black, lashed out, calling Barr's comment "the most ridiculous, tone deaf, God-awful thing" he'd ever heard.

"It is incredible the chief law

enforcement officer in this country would equate human bondage to expert advice to save lives," Clyburn told CNN.

"Slavery was not about saving lives, it was about devaluing lives."

The Democratic Party called it one of several "outrageous remarks" made by Barr.

The United States has the highest death toll of any nation in the world from the coronavirus pandemic, at nearly 200,000.

Trump, who is seeking reelec-



US Attorney General Bill Barr

tion on November 3 against Democratic challenger Joe Biden, has voiced skepticism about the usefulness of lockdowns in combatting the virus, arguing they have taken an economic toll that is too great.

Many states, notably in the South, lifted their stay-at-home measures in the spring, before being forced to reimpose them in some form due to a resurgence of virus cases.

- AFP

Santa's homeland yearns for tourists

FINLAND: Between November and March, Finland's far north usually throngs with international holidaymakers who come to experience a snowy wonderland of reindeer rides, ice castles and the "real" Santa's grotto.

But despite record visitor numbers in recent years, the coronavirus shutdown will leave many of Finnish Lapland's tourism businesses facing ruin this winter.

Many fear that government moves to ease travel restrictions in the Nordic country will not go far enough to offset the damage.

Tour operator Sini Jin said her firm faces hard times if business doesn't pick up.

Jin has run Nordic Unique Travels for five years, offering Northern Lights safaris and expeditions into the Arctic wilderness to thousands of travellers from Europe and Asia every season.

"Now we've had one or two bookings a week, and mostly we're just doing refunds," Jin told AFP from Rovaniemi, an Arctic Circle town that markets itself as "the official hometown of Santa Claus".

Her firm will only employ "two or three" seasonal staff this year instead of the normal 80. Jin's company received emergency financial aid after the government put aside over a billion euros (\$1.2 bn) to help businesses.

A loan has now come through that will see her firm through December, but the future is still precarious.

"Everything we've worked for will be gone so quickly if we don't get help."



Rovaniemi's Santa-themed attractions are bereft of bookings this year.

Her predicament is shared by tourist companies across Finland's vast Lapland region, where the sector supports 10,000 jobs and generates one billion euros of annual revenue.

A tourist board survey found that without international visitors this winter, around 60 percent of tourism companies expect to lose at least half their turnover and three-quarters would have to lay off staff. "We're not hopeful of getting any significant bookings," Kaj Erkkila, managing director of Husky Park, told AFP.

The 10-person family firm has been a popular dog sledding destination for "many decades" and keeps 109 Siberian huskies.

"If this winter's revenue stays low, we might not be able to operate in 2021-22 either, as maintaining the dogs is very expensive," Erkkila said.

Tourist board head Nina Forsell said the situation is make-or-break for many firms. "If companies go down this winter it will take a long time for them to rise up again," she told AFP.

- AFP

LONDON remembers JIMMY HENDRIX 50 years on

UK: Jimi Hendrix made his name in London, exploding onto the 1960s music scene with his mesmeric guitar playing, before his untimely death 50 years ago at the age of 27.

His flat at 23 Brook Street, in the Mayfair area of central London, is now a

museum - and besides his musical legacy is one of the few tangible reminders of his life in the city.

The legendary guitarist, famous for tracks including "Hey Joe", "Purple Haze" and his cover of Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower", lived at the address between 1968 and 1969.

He considered it his first "real home", explained Hendrix specialist Christian Lloyd, from Canada's Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

Even now, it's considered the Seattle-born singer-songwriter's only recognised residence.

More than two centuries earlier, another musical genius lived at number 25: Handel.

But at the time, a plaque commemorating the German Baroque-era composer was located between the two buildings, prompting Hendrix to believe he was living at the same

house. At one point, Hendrix even thought he saw Handel's ghost in a mirror, said Lloyd.

Hendrix lived at the flat with his then-girlfriend Kathy Etchingham, who described the difficulties in finding a place for the star.

"I'd been to an estate agent or two and tried to get a flat in other blocks in Mayfair but as soon as they heard it was for Jimi Hendrix, it was a NO," she told Channel 4 in 2016.

"They didn't want somebody like him in their blocks of flats."

Etchingham transformed the small flat, ripping out the grey carpeting, and furnishing it from the John Lewis department store on nearby Oxford Street.

She was called in again when it became a museum four years ago to recreate it as it was at the time, complete with rolled up Persian rugs that the musician collected.

One room bathed in red, orange and pink has a full ashtray and empty teacups, as well as a Monopoly set.

There are also two telephones his management had installed due to Hendrix's habit of giving out his number to anyone who asked for it.

A penny coin is taped to a record player to stop records jumping at high volume.

Brook Street became a haven for Hendrix and a perfect place to hone his craft - loudly, at all hours and undisturbed by neighbours - as it was surrounded only by shops and offices.

"This place was a real refuge for Hendrix. You can imagine by 1968 he was incredibly famous," said Sean Doherty, who manages the museum.

"He was kind of the poster boy of swinging London and psychedelic music at the time. It was a place away from the craziness of the music scene in London.

"He could be at home, relax and write music."

Like the Rolling Stones and The Beatles, Hendrix is synonymous with 1960s London and now considered one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. He moved to the British capital in September 1966 at the age of 23 as a complete unknown and after an unhappy childhood and a spell in the army.

On the plane from the United States, he vowed to make a name for himself and changed his name from Jimmy James to Jimi Hendrix.

"It's a sign that he's going to recreate himself in London because, of course, no-one knows who he is in London. He can be who he wants to be," said Lloyd.

Advances in studio technology of the kind only available in London at the time helped him to achieve his aim of playing futuristic guitar, combining blues, rock and jazz.

Doherty describes the flat that Hendrix lived in as "Bohemian chic".

When the musician broke up with Etchingham and went to record in the United States, he instructed his manager to sell or get rid of his possessions, he added.

A year later, on September 18, 1970, Hendrix was found dead at a west London hotel, after taking a cocktail of drink and drugs.

Half a century later, his music lives on, and Brook Street retains the aura of one of the key figures of the time. - AFP



Guitar icon Jimi Hendrix

Advances in studio technology of the kind only available in London at the time helped him to achieve his aim of playing futuristic guitar, combining blues, rock and jazz.

Arnold Schwarzenegger says COVID-19 pandemic 'opportunity' for climate

AUSTRIA: Former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday said the coronavirus crisis was a "tremendous opportunity" to rebuild devastated economies with clean energy.

Speaking virtually at a climate summit that his non-profit organisation holds annually in Austria, the Hollywood star said the pandemic, which has killed almost a million people and caused massive economic downturns worldwide, was "a window of opportunity to act right now".

"Forward-looking decisions are needed right now, right now as trillions of dollars and trillions of euros are being poured into rebuilding economies and infrastructure in the wake of the coronavirus," he said on screen, speaking from a podium surrounded by plants.

"These funds are so massive they are capable of remaking societies. We have a tremendous opportunity here."

Schwarzenegger said money should be invested into building "a clean energy economy", providing "sustainable jobs" and upgrading buildings to make them more energy efficient.

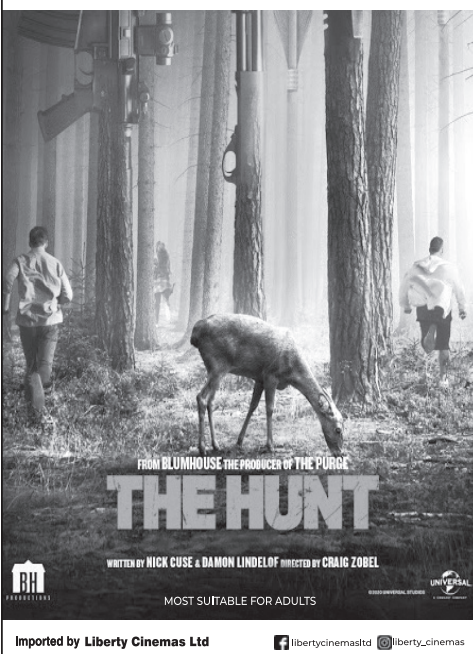
Schwarzenegger had intended to travel to his birth country Austria for the summit but cancelled his trip following the advice of doctors - cheering on participants instead from an office with a poster of himself in younger days as a bodybuilder in the background. Among other speakers at the Austrian World Summit, which was launched

four years ago, were Austrian, Slovakian and Croatian leaders, as well as European Commission vice president Frans Timmermans and other international public figures. EU chief Ursula von der Leyen vowed Wednes-

day in her first annual State of the European Union address that Europe would lead the global search for a coronavirus vaccine while rebuilding its shattered economy with a green recovery plan. -AFP

"Forward-looking decisions are needed right now, right now as trillions of dollars and trillions of euros are being poured into rebuilding economies and infrastructure in the wake of the coronavirus"

FROM 25TH



Imported by Liberty Cinemas Ltd



Arnold "Terminator" Schwarzenegger enlisted the help of his menagerie to advise millions of followers on coronavirus best practice.

Michael Jayasekera ruggerite par excellence

ALTHAF NAWAZ

It is very rare to see a person who excels in his career as a sportsman and as an academic who is highly recognized in the community. Michael Jayasekera is one of them who became the cynosure of all eyes by engaging himself in both sports and education, which made him a prominent figure in the country.

Popularly known as 'Mikey' in sporting circles, Michael started his school career with St. Peters College, Colombo from junior school and went on to complete his Ordinary level examination there. He then moved to St. Thomas College, Mount Lavinia for his further studies as most of his family members passed out as Thomians. Michael's first love in sports was cricket and gradually moved in to take part in Rugby, Athletics and Basketball at St. Peters, where he won college colours for participating in these games.

He hails from a sports loving family as his elder brother Ralston Jayasekera was actively involved in Rugby and Athletics in school while his two sisters also excelled in sports at St. Lawrence's Convent in Wellawatte.

His father Earle Jayasekera was a great cricket enthusiast and Michaels cousins Mohan and Ajith who played cricket for S Thomas were instrumental in motivating him to take up sports especially cricket. He embarked on his cricketering career way back in 1968 representing the college under-12 team.

From there he matured as a talented cricketer and established himself as a regular member of the college cricket team. He played in the first XI cricket and First XV rugby teams as well as representing Basketball at the age of fifteen years.

Archibald Perera in Rugby, Mike Channugam in cricket remained as coaches at college and these two have played a key role in moulding him as a talented player in the respective sports.

In 1974 he crossed over to St. Thomas College to continue his higher studies. He was compelled to leave out Basketball while remaining in the other sports due to the clash with the Cricket season. He was fortunate to play along with some great players in that era like Saliya Ahangama, Ishak Sahabdeen, the late Guy de Alwis, and Ajith Ganeshan who were members of the school senior team.

While being there he established a 110-metre hurdles record at the all island schools championship in the under-19 age category. Due to his prolific form in cricket in 1976 he was selected to represent the Sri Lanka school team to tour Pakistan, which got interrupted, after their Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was killed resulting in the tour being cancelled. The administrators opted to take them to Jaffna to take on the combined club team which they won, where he went on to score a match winning 96, which earned him



Michael Jayasekera

the best batsman award. Former National cricketer Ranjan Madugalle was also a member of that team. Going down memory lane he recalled his swashbuckling innings which guided Thomians to victory against Wesley at home, by scoring 100 runs in 10 overs, which he rates as one of the unforgettable achievements in the school arena.

In rugby he was associated with some top class players like Stefan D' Silva, P.L. Munasinghe who were coached by late legendary Quentin Israel. After school he qualified as a Marine engineer which held him back from continuing his cricket career.

His club rugby career started in 1976 as a school boy when he joined Havelock Sports Club to play under Thajone Savanghan. He occupied the fly half

position in the first few games under the watchful eyes of Dr. Larry Foenander and Gamiini Fernando as his coaches. Till 1981, he played as a regular member of the Park Club team with Angelo Wickremaratne, Anton Benedict, Hisham Abdeen, Frank Hubert, Jeffery Yu and late Jeffrey De Jong, Sandy Hamid, Hanzil Samad, Lanil Tennakoon, Ronald Rodrigo, Gavin Stevens, Jeyer Rodrigues. In 1978 he was a member of the triple crown winning team under Anton Benedict for the first time in their club history.

After he joined Havelock in 1977, he was called for national duty and made his debut against the visiting German Sports Club in a fifteen a side match. In 1978 played at the Hong Kong sevens and the Rugby Asiad under Mohan Balasuriya's captaincy. When he was touring Hong Kong the Hong Kong Rugby picked a combined international side to play a friendly fifteen a side match against their National team. Michael was selected first and later Lanil Tennakoon came into the team after a Fijian player pulled out. He also took part in the 1979 Hong Kong sevens and in 1980 he was compelled to quit the squad due to his job commitments.

As a player at Park Club, in 1981 there were two sevens tournaments held in January followed by the other in November. They registered two teams in both tournaments. The January sevens team was captained by Angelo Wick-

remaratne while Michael was given the nod to lead the Park Club A team in the second sevens tournament in November. The Havelock A and B sides met in the finals in the November tournament, which was a rare occasion in history probably, which will be first and the last. Havelock's B was captained by Marco de Silva.

He would like to extend his sincere gratitude to Gamiini Fernando who was his coach in 1977/78/79 instrumental in moulding him and moved him from fly half to play in as a centre three quarter, whom he rates as an innovative coach.

In that era the National team was represented by two centres, Omar Sheriff and Hafi Abdeen, who were regular Havelock centres. Gamiini opted to move Omar Sheriff to wing and Hafi Abdeen to Fly half bringing in Michael and P. L. Munasinghe as centres. Three of his cousins Ronald Rodrigo, Roger Rodrigo and Leonard de Zilva donned the national jersey.

Due to his job commitments he decided to play for his club when time permitted. In 1987 Havelock won the sevens tournament and was picked for the National sevens team.

Unfortunately, he pulled his hamstring and was unable to take part in that tournament which was called the World International Sevens in Sydney, Australia led by Hisahm Abdeen.

Michael hung up his boots in 1987 after engaging as a player for eleven years.

In 1996 he came back to the country for good and started his career with John Keells on an invitation extended by Jagath Fernando, another sports loving person. In 1996 he was appointed as a national selector under late Lionel Almeida. While being there he was elected as the President of his own club Havelock from 1999 to 2001. Since then he has served as a National selector on and off and was appointed as the vice-president of Sri Lanka Rugby to Priyantha Ekanayake. He was recalled to serve once again as national selector from 2011 to 2018 later turned out to occupy the Chairman Selectors post from 2016 to 2017. During his chairmanship as selector in 2016 the Asian sevens was won by Lankan juniors which was a unique achievement. The National Men's team became the runner-up at the Asian sevens while the under-19 fifteen team became the runner up at Asiad.

Jason Jayasekera, his elder son, out of his four children played for Thomians. He joined the Junior national team in 1999 to tour Argentina to play in Junior Asiad fifteen a side championship, where they qualified for the Junior World Cup. Jason lives in Australia along with his other children.

At present he is the General Manager of Colombo City Centre located in the heart of the city of Colombo.

Irushka Thimira Gaminda a cricketing star in the making

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Third year first eleven player, right hand opening batsman, left arm leg spinner and safe fielder Irushka Thimira Gaminda brought honour to his Alma Mater Devapathiraja National School, Ratgama.

Irushka commenced his schooling at Siri Sumana Primary School, Ratgama and there is no sports activities but Thimira played soft ball cricket with his neighbouring friends. When he was in Grade Five his school arranged a Big Match with Jayanthi Primary School and he was selected at

the eleventh hour but he could not play in that match. He was admitted to Grade Six of Devapathiraja Vidyalaya and the Principal and Master in Charge of cricket were M. L. P. Alwis and Mr. Nishantha. No sooner he came under his present coach Ranjan de Silva and got selected for the under 13 team. He performed well for under 13 team and in his second year he took a hat trick versus Mahinda College, Galle and in the same year in 2017 he was promoted to the first eleven team and he was the "Baby of the Team" for two successive years.

As an under 15 player in

2018 he claimed 36 wickets and in his second year too he captured 36 wickets and scored 320 runs. He went on to captain the under 15 Galle District team in Prima Cup and in the Provincial Tournaments too. As an under 15 player in his first year in the first eleven he bagged 19 wickets and in the following year he claimed 40 wickets with two five wicket hauls and in 2019/20 he captured 56 wickets with two ten wicket hauls and 5 five wicket hauls. Also as an opener he collected 180 runs.

As an under 19 player at the age of 15 years so far in three

seasons he has claimed 115 wickets and he has three more years to represent his Alma Mater.

He played in two Big matches against their arch rivals Madampagama Vidyalaya and they play their one day match against Gintota Vidyalaya and played in that match too. For his success he is receiving all the support from his new Principal Sam de Silva and Master in Charge of Cricket Mr. Kum-bulathara.

With these performances under his belt he was selected for the under 19 Development Squad and out of 80 players through out the Island he was



Irushka Thimira Gaminda

selected for the 30 member pool for a team which is preparing for the next under 19 world cup.



Devapathiraja National School Ratgama First Eleven Cricket Pool 2019/20 Squatting in Front L/R - Irushka Thimira, Tharindu Rukshan, Pathum Shavinda, Darsaka, Chaminda Sandaruwan, Matheesha Saranga, Hiran, Kavishka, Dinitha Prabanka, Sandaru Theekshana Back Row Standing L/R - Ranjan de Silva (Coach), Jeevaka Shasheen, Pathum Madushanka (Vice Captain), Pawan Sandesh, Kalpa Chethiya, Thisara Dilshan (Captain), Sasanka Nirmal, Ravindu, Sudeera Weeraratne, Shehan Sasuranga (Picture by Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

Praba fine women's cricketer

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

Kandy Sports Special Correspondent

Praba Udawatte, former Sri Lanka all-rounder in the National Cricket Team was very unfortunate when she broke her ankle when she was fielding at University Grounds, Peradeniya in a tournament match against Colts Cricket Club in the year 2006.

She got treatment for her ankle and at the same time she did a lot of Physical training and became fit and her leg became normal again. After this she was selected for the final squad of 18 players for the World Cup held in Australia but at the last moment she was left out of the World Cup tour squad under Sashikala Siriwardena in the year 2009.

Praba Udawatte started her cricket career from Malwate Cricket Club under the coaching of Samantha Dikkumbura and joined the Kandy Ladies team under the guidance of Bernard Perera, Harold Ranasinghe and Chaminda Perera.

Later she joined Marians Cricket Club and she won the



Praba Udawatte

Sri Lanka Cap in the year 2004 and she was selected for the World Cup held in Pretoria, South Africa. Her last series was representing Sri Lanka at the Asia Cup held in India.

Praba's batting performance is: played 13 ODIs scored 104 runs with a highest score of 30, and held four catches. The Bowling performance is: played 13 ODIs claiming 10 wickets from 510 balls giving away 272 runs.

She was a Level one Cricket Coach since 2010 and she will commence her coaching once the Covid - 19 epidemic is over and she is willing to Coach any School as soon as the country becomes normal.

Maithri heads Old Wesleyites Sports Club

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Maithri Vithanage was re-elected President of the Old Wesleyites Sports Club (OWSC) for the calendar year 2020/21, while Shaheem Mahir was elected Secretary at the 29th Annual General Meeting held at the OWSC club house on Saturday.

Old Wesleyites SC Office Bearers 2020/21

President: Maithri Vithanage

Vice Presidents: Senaka Amaraturanga, Dharshana Liyanage, Divakar Ratnadurai, Laksanda Gunawardena, Mithral Perera, Mohamed Nizam, Peter Peiris, Nawaal Qasim, Oscar Dissanayake, Dilshan Hossan

Secretary: Shaheem Mahir

Treasurer: Mahesh Wijenayake

Asst Secretary: Shehan Dilruk Weerasureya

Co Asst Treasurer: Ruckshan Fernando, Inoka Perera

Ampara District cricket tournament

Text and Picture by: ADDALACHENAI Central Correspondent

With Major games that were put on hold halfway due to Covid 19 pandemic, the Ampara District Secretariat Sports Unit has made arrangements to re-start the major games of the Ampara District Sports Festival - 2020 said Ampara District Secretariat Sports Officer M.I.M. Ameer Ali.

Major games which is part of the Ampara District Sports Festival was



Ameer Ali

in progress when the Covid 19 began. The Ampara District Secretariat Sports Officer M.I.M. Ameer Ali has released the calendar of event that read as follows. **Cricket.**

September 19 and 20 at Palamunai Public Play Ground in Addalachenai DS division. Netball, elle and volley ball. **September 26 and 27** at Ampara Public Play ground. **Football.**

October 03 and 04 at Santhankey United Public Play Ground, Kalmunai. Table tennis, badminton, chess, carrom, rugby, basket ball, beach volleyball, kabaddi and karate (mens' and womens' divisions) are completed he further said.

Sportsman J. R. Jayewardene remembered by Kandy's sports lovers



HAFIZ MARIKAR

Former President J.R. Jayewardene was remembered by Kandy's sports loving fraternity on his 114th birth anniversary on September 17. He died 24 years ago on November 1, 1996.

JR received his primary education at Bishop's College, Colombo and later attended Royal College, Colombo for his secondary education excelling in studies, sports and extra curricular activities. He was the first secretary of the Royal College Social Services League in 1921 and he became the head prefect in 1925 and also represented the school in football and boxing in addition to rug-

ger and cricket. He was also a member of the cadet corps.

JR as he was popularly known took both victory and defeat as a schoolboy in the same spirit. At Royal College he played cricket, debuting in the Royal-Thomian "Battle of the Blues" series in 1925. In that encounter although JR was dismissed for a duck he held the catch that brought victory to Royal. Some of his team mates at cricket were L. D. S. (Chippie) Gunasekera, H. E. Wijetunga, Douglas. Lieversz, D. C. L. Perera, H. C. Dharmaratne, Henry Meedeniya, R. L. and W. Goonewardene and W. Ludovici. He also played cricket for Law College and for SSC. He captained the rugby team in 1924 in the annual Royal-Trinity encounter (which

later became known as the Bradly Shield). That year although Royal had a good side they lost to Trinity led by P.A. Bultjens - by 3-37 at Bogambara. (the 37 points came off 2 goals and 9 tries) to 3 points one try scored by Douglas Lieversz the first try by a Royalist against Trinity. JR was a fine line-out jumper and played in the company of V.C. Bartholomuesz, W.L. Siebel, R.F.C. Schrader, E. D. de Silva, E.F. Don, C.D.R. Bastian, K.S. Surendranath, V.E. Jayasundara, C.G.A. Perera, P.C.W. Peiris, Neil Joseph, Douglas. Lieversz F.S. de Silva and L.D.S. Gunasekera.

In football, JR was the team's vice captain and played as centre half, and was famous for long range kicks. He was also a fine pugilist and boxed for Royal

along with his friend Dr. Colvin R de Silva. For a short time he played tennis and till his demise was the president of SSC from 1980. Trinitians were led by P.A. Bultjens and had D. W. Perera, C.D. Bultjens, M. Than On, C. Bandaranaike, E. Aluwihare, N. Nagendran, C. Kishan Koli, F. Murray, G. Taylor, G. Bandaranaike, N.H. Perera, Yan Lin and L. Lindsay.

JR gave cricket a prominent place and went on to become the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka. When Sri Lanka gained Test status in 1981, he was the head of the country. He was present at Sri Lanka's first test victory against India in 1985 and also when we won the Asia cup.

It was during his leader-

ship that the work at Asgiriya Stadium was done. He was the chief guest at the ceremonial opening of the stadium and when the Sugathadasa Indoor and Outdoor Stadiums were renovated and, R. Premadasa Stadium was built by late President R. Premadasa. When the indoor nets was opened in 1983 JR bowled his "leg spin" and "googlies" to mark the occasion.

As a keen ruggerite and cricketer he often visited Kandy to play against Trinity College from 1914 to 1925. In 1997 October 26 the JR Jayewardene memorial trophy was donated for the cricket game between the two top cricket playing clubs SSC and NCC.

Although JR is no more his memory will remain forever in the minds of all those who knew him.

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Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer 2020

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Divisions for Boy : Division I Division II Division III

All Island Girl :

(Each coupon must contain only one vote)

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

CONDITIONS:

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Each coupon must contain only one vote for one player and for one contest.

In all matters connected with the contest, the decision of the Sports Editor, SUNDAY OBSERVER is final.

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National Chess Championships second half commences today

RANINDU and NETHMI lead after first half



Nethmi Fernando leads in the women's section.

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA
The promising school chess players Ranindu Liyanage of Ananda College, Colombo and

Nethmi Fernando of Girls High School, Kandy have taken the lead at the end of the first half of the National Chess Championships held at the Sri Lanka Chess Federation Headquarters, Colombo.

The second half of the tournament will commence today (19) and continue on the 20th and 21st of September followed by the Awards Ceremony. The Men's section ended the week with the three top-seeded players finishing on the top of the table but as history suggests the second half of the tournament always springs a few surprises. The tournament

started off with the top two seeded players Susal de Silva of Nalanda College Colombo and Ranindu Dilshan Liyanage facing off against the two veteran Sri Lankan players I.M. Romesh Weerawardena of Fischer CC and FM Anuruddha Chintaka of Kandy YMCA where the two youngsters came on top creating major upsets by scoring wins to kick start their battle for the title.

Ranindu then stormed into the lead after the 5th round victory over Maheesha Dabarera of Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala while Susal and FM Minul Doluweera of Royal College, Colombo suffered defeats on the way. At the end of the first week, Ranindu leads the pack with 6 points with Minul with 5 points and Susal with 4.5 points trailing him. There were a few interesting mid-table performances as well, notably from the new attacking player from Jaffna S. Sivathanujan of Grand Prix Chess Club who went on to upset a few experienced players by scoring wins. He is presently tied at 6th place with Maheesha Dabarera, Theekshana Denuwan of Ananda College, and Rasika Samaranyake of the University of Peradeniya while the veterans Anuruddha Chintaka and Romesh Weerawardena are lying in 4th and 5th places respectively.

Meanwhile in the women's section, Nethmi Fernando of Girls High School, Kandy stormed to a massive lead by the end of the week where she has already played against the next two players chasing the title as well as the reigning National Champion. It was simply a dominant performance where only

Ehsha Pallie (Visakha Vidyalaya) could hold her to a draw in the opening week. Ashvini Pavalachandran of Wycherley International who is leading the chase is 1.5 points behind Nethmi while two Visakians Ehsha Pallie and WFM Nevanjee Hewawasam are lying two points behind.

The defending Champion Sayuni Gihansa Jayaweera of Dharmasoka College Ambalangoda had a slow start to the tournament and sits in the bottom half of the table while experienced former National Women's Champion, W.I.M. Sachini Ranasinghe of NF3 CC also disappointed and had a slow start to the tournament but later caught up the pace and is poised at equal 5th place and may yet have a crack at the title if she has a strong second half. The rest of the pack is placed joint 5th with Hashara Abeyasinghe of NSBM, Tharushi Sandeepani of Devi Balika Vidyalaya and Tharushi Niklesha of Visakha Vidyalaya all having 4 points each. These tournaments are being played according to a round-robin system with 14 players battling out in the Men's and Women's category to be crowned as National Chess Champions. Amidst the prevailing situation, the Chess Federation has successfully been able to conduct the top-most tournament in the Sri Lankan Chess Calendar, abiding by all health and safety regulations.

Chess Federation of Sri Lanka will offer a record cash prize of 320,000 rupees with other attractive prizes for the event and National Champion will receive a 100,000 cash award.

Men's rankings after round seven

1. Ranindu Dilshan Liyanage (6 pts), 2. Minul Sanjula Doluweera (5pts), 3. Susal de Silva (4.5pts), 4. Anuruddha Chintaka (4pts), 5. Romesh Weerawardena (4pts), 6. G.W.D.M.Dabarera (3.5pts), 7. S. Sivathanujan (3.5pts), 8. K.P.R.N Samaranyake (3.5pts), 9. Denuwan Theekshana (3.5pts), 10. Randil Lakshita (3pts), 11. Dhanushka Bandara (2.5pts), 12. A.A.C.B Amarasinghe (2pts), 13. D.M.G.S Dassanayake (2pts), 14. C.C Weerasinghe (2pts);

Women's rankings after round seven

1. Nethmi Fernando (6.5pts), 2. Ashvini Pavalachandran (5pts), 3. Ehsha Pallie (4.5pts), 4. Nevanjee Hewawasam (4.5pts), 5. Sachini Ranasinghe (4pts), 6. Hashara Abeyasinghe (4pts), 7. Tharushi Sandeepani (4pts), 8. Tharushi Niklesha (4pts), 9. W.M.M.N Wijesinghe (3pts), 10. Vihansa Tharuli (2.5pts), 11. Gihansa Sayuni Jayaweera (2.5pts), 12. Lasandi Menethma (2pts), 13. M.M.W.H Mapa (2pts), 14. C.T Koswatta (0.5pts);



Ranindu Liyanage leads in the men's section.

SLC Major Youth Tournament

Baduraliya CC, Chilaw Marians CC, Kalutara TC and CCC leading the points table

Baduraliya CC, Chilaw Marians CC, Kalutara TC, and CCC are leading the points table after day one of the Under-23 Major Youth Cricket Tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

Army SC, Police SC, Baduraliya CC, Chilaw Marians CC, Negombo CC, Colts CC, Kalutara TC, SSC, Tamil Union C, and AC and CCC recorded wins on day one.

At PanagodaBaduraliya, CC beat BRC by 4 wickets at BRC, Army SC beat Nugegoda S and WC by 60 runs while Police SC beat

Navy SC by 1 run at Welisara in group A. Chilaw Marians CC beat Panadura SC by 7 wickets at MCG Katunayake and Negombo CC beat Air Force SC by 68 runs at Air Force grounds, Katunayake in group B. CCC beat Bloomfield C and AC by 8 wickets at CCC, SSC beat Kurunegala YCC by 7 wickets at SSC and Tamil Union C and AC beat Galle CC by 4 wickets at P. Sara Oval in group D.

23 matches will be played on Saturday (19) and Sunday (20).

Points Table							
*Group A	*M	W	L	T	NR	Points	NRR
Baduraliya CC	1	1	0	0	0	5	1.226
Army SC	1	1	0	0	0	4	1.200
Police SC	1	1	0	0	0	4	0.020
Sebastianites CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Navy SC	1	0	1	0	0	0	-0.020
Nugegoda S and WC	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1.200
BRC	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1.226
*Group B							
	M	W	L	T	NR	Points	NRR
Chilaw Marians CC	1	1	0	0	0	5	2.662
Negombo CC	1	1	0	0	0	4	1.360
Lankan CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ragama CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air Force SC	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1.360
Panadura SC	1	0	1	0	0	0	-2.662
*Group C							
	*M	W	L	T	NR	Points	NRR
Kalutara TC	1	1	0	0	0	5	2.058
Colts CC	1	1	0	0	0	5	1.219
Ports Authority CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moors SC	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1.219
Saracens SC	1	0	1	0	0	0	-2.058
*Group D							
	*M	W	L	T	NR	Points	NRR
CCC	1	1	0	0	0	5	5.503
Tamil Union C & AC	1	1	0	0	0	5	2.874
SSC	1	1	0	0	0	5	1.234
Kandy Custom CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kurunegala YCC	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1.234
Galle CC	1	0	1	0	0	0	-2.874
Bloomfield C & AC	1	0	1	0	0	0	-5.503

Fixtures

On 19th September

Sebastianite CC vs Army SC at De Soysa Stadium, Moratuwa, Nugegoda S and WC vs Navy SC at Maggona, Police SC vs BRC at Police Park Negombo, CC vs Chilaw Marians CC at MCG Katunayake, Panadura SC vs Ragama CC at Panadura, Ports Authority SC vs Colts CC at Colts, Moors SC vs Saracens CC at Moors, NCC vs Kalutara, TC at NCC, Kandy Custom CC vs SSC at SSC, Tamil Union C and AC vs Kurunegala YCC at P. Sara Oval, Bloomfield C and AC vs Galle CC at Bloomfield.

On 20th September

Army SC vs Police SC at Panagoda, Baduraliya CC vs Navy SC at Welisara, Sebastianite CC vs BRC at BRC, Lankan CC vs Chilaw Marians CC at MCG Katunayake, Ragama CC vs Air Force SC at Katunayake, Panadura SC vs Negombo CC at Panadura, Kalutara TC vs Colts CC at Colts, Saracens CC vs NCC at NCC Moors SC vs Ports Authority SC at Moors, Galle CC vs SSC at SSC, CCC vs Tamil Union C & AC at P. Sara Oval, Kandy Custom CC vs Bloomfield C & AC at Bloomfield (TK)

England hope bubble cricket can be blueprint for world game



James Anderson

Britain struggled to bring down soaring Covid-19 numbers.

As it is, the English game has already lost more than 100 million (\$129 million), a figure that could rise to 200 million if the pandemic interrupts next season.

But those numbers would have been even higher had not all 18 men's internationals, across all three formats, taken place.

Against the backdrop of concerns over the widening gap between cricket's wealthiest nations - India, England and Australia - and the rest, the season was also a timely reminder of the global game's need for interdependence.

The West Indies, one of the poorer Test nations, have also sent over a women's team for a Twenty20 series that will be England's only taste of international cricket this season.

"It's been successful here and if we can do it, so can other countries," said England men's coach Chris Silverwood. "Getting cricket on everywhere around the world is what we all want." He added: "There's quite a bit up in the air but we're hopeful after Christmas the Test tours (Sri Lanka and India) will go ahead.

There had been fears the entire campaign could be wiped out as "South Africa we're looking at

before Christmas for a white-ball tour and then we're looking at a red-ball camp in the UAE as well to prepare the guys." Fortunately for English officials the lone breach of lockdown regulations, when England fast bowler Jofra Archer made an unauthorised trip home, did not scupper their careful planning.

And the lack of spectators at Southampton and Manchester, the two bio-secure venues used for the 18 fixtures, did not have the damaging effect on performance some feared.

England's Stuart Broad became just the seventh cricketer to take 500 Test wickets during the West Indies series, which the home side won 2-1, before new-ball partner James Anderson joined an even more exclusive club by taking his 600th wicket on the last day of the series against Pakistan.

England all-rounder Ben Stokes produced heroics with the bat during the second Test against the West Indies, with scores of 176 and 78 not out, while Zak Crawley hit a superb 267, his maiden Test century, against Pakistan.

Yet the visitors shone too. West Indies won the first Test and Pakistan, following a fine 156 from Shan Masood, were poised to fol-



Stuart Broad

low them when they reduced England to 117-5 chasing a target of 277.

But a stand of 139 between Jos Buttler and Chris Woakes turned the tide in England's favour and ultimately proved the difference as England won the series 1-0.

Ireland, well beaten in the first two one-day internationals, upset England in the third with Andrew Balbirnie and Paul Stirling both hitting hundreds as they chased down 329.

AFF

US Open champion Osaka withdraws from French Open with injury

LOS ANGELES, FRIDAY: Naomi Osaka, who captured her third Grand Slam title at the US Open on September 12, pulled out of the upcoming French Open with a hamstring injury on Thursday.

"Unfortunately I won't be able to play the French Open this year," Osaka said in posts on Instagram and Twitter.

"My hamstring is still sore so I won't have enough time to prepare for the clay - these two tournaments came too close to each other for me this year."

The French Open is due to start on September 27 at

Roland Garros, rescheduled from earlier in the year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

On Sunday, Osaka rallied from a set down to beat Victoria Azarenka 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the US Open women's final, adding a third major trophy after her victories at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open triumphs.

The 22-year-old was the first woman to win the US Open singles final from a set down since 1994, and the victory moved her to third in the WTA rankings.

She also became the first Asian player to win three

Grand Slams, overtaking China's Li Na on two.

Osaka had gone into the US Open at Flushing Meadows with fitness concerns.

She pulled out of the WTA final of the Western & Southern Open -- also held this year at Flushing Meadows -- with a left hamstring injury just two days before the start of the Grand Slam in New York.

She said she pulled the muscle in her semi-final victory.

Osaka played her US Open matches with her left thigh heavily strapped, but showed no sign the injury hindered her. AFP



Naomi Osaka



Fashion design students of the secondary school Shtjefen Gjecovi are at work to produce face masks for the students in need across Kosovo, in Pristina. - AFP



Shoppers, some wearing a face mask or covering, walk past an electronic billboard displaying a UK Government advert advising the public to take precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, in Newcastle city centre, north-east England. - AFP



A woman walks past a closed shop in the neighbourhood of Vallecas in Madrid, Spain. The local government of Madrid, the region of Spain hit hardest by the pandemic, backtracked on its plans to introduce targeted lockdowns in areas with high numbers of coronavirus cases. - AFP

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



South Korean health officials from Bupyeong-gu Office wearing protective gear, spray disinfectants at a shopping district in Incheon. - AFP



A woman wearing a face mask to protect against the coronavirus disease speaks on her mobile phone walking along a street in central Moscow on Friday. - AFP



People commute in the early morning in Beijing yesterday. Chinese retail sales rose in August for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic struck, data showed, as officials try to kickstart the crucial domestic consumer sector to fuel recovery in the world's number-two economy. - AFP



A worker pushes a bin at Melbourne's Flinders Street station. - Australia's unemployment rate on September 17 fell slightly to 6.8 percent in August, spurring hopes that the worst of a coronavirus-fuelled recession may have passed. - AFP



A worker wearing a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) suit sanitises buses in Kathmandu, Nepal. - AFP



An ultra Orthodox Jew participates next to his child in the Slichot (forgiveness) prayer, the last prayer on the eve of Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New year, at the Western Wall in the old city of Jerusalem on Thursday. - AFP



Members of the Palestinian Security Forces wearing face masks take part in a training session in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah on Thursday. - AFP



WEALTHTRUST SECURITIES LIMITED
 Central Bank appointed Primary Dealer in Government Securities
 Audited Financial Statements for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2020

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH

	2020 Rs.	2019 Rs.
Interest Income	1,070,364,042	1,010,620,542
Interest Expenses	(668,466,982)	(648,672,542)
Net Interest Income	401,897,060	361,948,000
Net gains/(losses) from financial assets recognised through profit or loss/ held for trading - measured at fair value	354,840,678	432,735,460
Brokerage Income on Dex Trading	558,154	886,935
Direct Expenses	(11,570,437)	(10,337,021)
Income From Trading Activities	745,725,455	785,233,374
Other Income/ (Expenses)	(1,112,775)	64,587
Marketing Expenses	(8,566,490)	(2,635,637)
Administrative and General Expenses	(274,942,951)	(276,537,233)
Profit from Operating Activities	461,103,239	506,125,091
Finance Expenses	(6,980,602)	(6,921,029)
Profit Before Taxation	454,122,637	499,204,062
Income Tax Expense	(126,967,811)	(138,341,896)
Net Profit for the Year	327,154,826	360,862,166
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	327,154,826	360,862,166
Earnings Per Ordinary Share	9.93	10.95

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

	Stated Capital Rs.	Retained Earnings Rs.	Special Risk Reserve Rs.	General Reserve Rs.	Total Equity Rs.
Balance as at 31 st March 2018	329,572,770	866,581,122	365,919,038	693,635,225	2,255,708,155
Net Profit for the Year	-	360,862,166	-	-	360,862,166
Transferred to Special Risk Reserve during the Year	-	(36,086,217)	36,086,217	-	-
Transferred to General Reserve during the Year	-	(17,327,583)	-	17,327,583	-
Balance as at 31 st March 2019	329,572,770	1,174,029,488	402,005,255	710,962,808	2,616,570,321
Interim Dividend for the year 2018/ 2019	-	(65,914,554)	-	-	(65,914,554)
Final Dividend for the year 2018/ 2019	-	(32,957,277)	-	-	(32,957,277)
Net Profit for the Year	-	327,154,826	-	-	327,154,826
Transferred to Special Risk Reserve during the Year	-	(32,715,483)	32,715,483	-	-
Transferred to General Reserve during the Year	-	(11,527,284)	-	11,527,284	-
Balance as at 31 st March 2020	329,572,770	1,358,069,716	434,720,738	722,490,092	2,844,853,316

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST MARCH

	2020 Rs.	2019 Rs.
ASSETS		
Balance with Central Bank of Sri Lanka	771,183	660,352
Cash at Banks & in Hand	6,777,832	1,877,825
Securities purchased under Resale Agreements	1,449,162,524	2,245,715,735
Financial assets recognised through profit or loss/ held for trading - measured at fair value	12,253,580,416	11,231,936,387
Property, Plant & Equipment	22,823,297	3,818,085
Intangible Assets	120,897	263,959
Right-of-use assets	14,406,988	-
Deferred Tax Assets	968,558	1,330,253
Other Assets	39,011,861	13,823,838
Total Assets	13,787,623,556	13,499,426,434
LIABILITIES		
Bank Overdraft	-	180,504,484
Securities sold under Repurchase Agreements	10,644,510,968	10,338,984,186
Current Tax Liabilities	75,913,076	139,672,149
Post Employment Benefit Obligations	5,936,493	5,097,408
Lease Liabilities	14,406,988	-
Other Liabilities	202,002,715	218,597,886
Total Liabilities	10,942,770,240	10,882,856,113
EQUITY		
Stated Capital	329,572,770	329,572,770
Special Risk Reserve	434,720,738	402,005,255
General Reserve	722,490,092	710,962,808
Retained Earnings	1,358,069,716	1,174,029,488
Shareholders' Funds	2,844,853,316	2,616,570,321
Total Liabilities & Equity	13,787,623,556	13,499,426,434
Net Assets per Ordinary Share	86.32	79.39

Figures in brackets indicate deductions.
 As per direction Ref 08/24/002/005/01 issued by Superintendent of Public Debt Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka requesting licensed Primary Dealers to publish Audited Financial Statements annually.
The above figures have been audited and are final.
 I certify that these Financial Statements have been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007.
 Sgd.
D A Athukoralage
 Assistant General Manager
 Finance & Planning / Business Processing
 The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these Financial Statements.
 Approved and signed for and on behalf of the Board.
 Sgd.
Mr. W S Weerasooria
 Chairman
 Colombo, Sri Lanka
 25th June 2020
 Sgd.
D H B Ranawana
 Managing Director



ජාතික ලොතරිසි මණ්ඩලය
ජනප්‍රිය බොක්කුරු සභා
National Lotteries Board
 Ministry of Finance

National Lotteries Board

Procurement for Printing, Supply and Delivery of Computerized Draw Lottery Tickets (Govisetha, Supiri Vasana, Vasana Sampatha, Jathika Sampatha, Mega Power, Dhana Nidhanaya, Sevana (passive), Neeroga and Darudiri Sampatha) to the National Lotteries Board for a Period of One (01) Year

The pre-bid meeting that was scheduled to be held at 1.30 p.m. on 21.09.2020 with regard to the said procurement will not be held as scheduled owing to unavoidable circumstances and the pre-bid meeting will be held at 1.30 p.m. on 22.09.2020 at the Head Office of the National Lotteries Board.

We regret the inconvenience caused to you regarding this change of date.

Chairman
Ministry Procurement Committee
National Lotteries Board
No. 32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01.
Tel. No. 0114607019



SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

AUCTION NOTICE

SALE OF UNCLEARED CARGO

DATE OF AUCTION: 29.09.2020
Auction No.: LD/S/A/2020-01 (SP)

Sealed quotations are invited for the purchase and removal of the following cargo in the Warehouses & Yards at the Port of Colombo.

Auction No. LD/S/A/2020-01 (SP)

Motor Vehicles	Chemicals
Motor Spare Parts	Bus Ticket Machine
Ceramic Floor Tiles	Electrical Accessories
Carpet	Food Items
Plain Aluminium Foil	Ceramic Sanitaryware
Nivoplan	Electrical Bicycles
Mapewall Ready-mix	Used Cleared glass Bottles
Marble Blocks	Motor Bicycle
Household Items - Equipment	Other Merchandise, etc.

Auction 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 21.09.2020 to 14.30 hours on 25.09.2020 on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 250/- (plus VAT).

Visit: www.slpa.lk for more details.

Chief Manager (Logistics)
 19.09.2020

Sri Lanka Ports Authority,
Logistics Division,
No. 11, Olcott Mawatha,
Colombo 01.

For classified advertisements and for replies

received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please Contact → **MANAGER FRONT OFFICE** → Hotline: 1949



CALLING 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' (EOI) FOR

'SRI LANKA CRICKET PACE ACE 2020 BROADCAST MEDIA (TV/RADIO) SPONSOR'

SRI LANKA CRICKET (SLC), an International Brand with Global Recognition is planning to conduct a District wise, Island wide talent search to find fast bowlers through the proposed Pace Ace program. This event is expected to have a significant contribution towards the talent identification process of Sri Lanka Cricket.

We wish to invite renowned organizations which are interested to be appointed as the 'Sri Lanka Cricket Pace Ace 2020 - Broadcast Media (TV/Radio) Sponsor' for the said event. The successful bidder/ sponsor will gain Island wide brand recognition, exposure and affiliation with SLC.

Interested firms are invited to submit their letters of Expression of Interest [EOI] together with a brief introduction and summary of credentials of the organization via e-mail to SLC on sponsorship@srilankacricket.lk to reach on or before 1.00 p.m. on on 24th Sep 2020. If further information is required in relation to this EOI, please contact Manager Sales - SLC via 0764-127253.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) detailing SLC's Requirements, benefits offered and guidelines in relation to the captioned Tender process will be notified to the parties who submit Letters of EOI.

N.B.

• Companies related to Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated) will not be eligible to participate in this EOI Process.

• Nothing in this invitation is to be construed as creating any binding contract and or give rise to any right (express or implied), between SLC and any applicant, until SLC and the applicant enter into a final, binding contract.

SLC reserves the right to cancel, amend or vary this invitation for EOI at any time at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Chief Executive Officer
Sri Lanka Cricket



CALLING 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' (EOI) FOR

'SRI LANKA CRICKET PACE ACE 2020 - SOLE SPONSOR'

SRI LANKA CRICKET (SLC), an International Brand with Global Recognition is planning to conduct a District wise, Island wide talent search to find fast bowlers through the proposed Pace Ace program. This event is expected to have a significant contribution towards the talent identification process of Sri Lanka Cricket.

We wish to invite renowned organizations which are interested to be appointed as the 'Sri Lanka Cricket Pace Ace 2020 - Sole Sponsor' for the said event. The successful bidder/ sponsor will gain Island wide brand recognition, exposure and commercial opportunities.

Interested firms are invited to submit their letters of Expression of Interest [EOI] together with a brief introduction and summary of credentials of the organization via e-mail to SLC on sponsorship@srilankacricket.lk to reach on or before 1.00 p.m. on on 24th Sep 2020. If further information is required in relation to this EOI, please contact Manager Sales - SLC via 0764-127253.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) detailing SLC's Requirements, benefits offered and guidelines in relation to the captioned Tender process will be notified to the parties who submit Letters of EOI.

N.B.

• Companies related to Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated) will not be eligible to participate in this EOI Process.

• Nothing in this invitation is to be construed as creating any binding contract and or give rise to any right (express or implied), between SLC and any applicant, until SLC and the applicant enter into a final, binding contract.

SLC reserves the right to cancel, amend or vary this invitation for EOI at any time at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Chief Executive Officer
Sri Lanka Cricket

Daily News

Classifieds

Employment

Real Estate

309
Positions Vacant
Accounts/Finance

641
House & Property
COLOMBO
District
To let or lease

A trading company requires an experienced male Accounts Clerk between 40 to 50 years of age who can finalise accounts and should also be computer literate. Should be able to speak English and Sinhala fairly well. No personal callers. Send your CVs to the CEO, Ansons Traders 545-D-1/3, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10. 054981

House for rent two bedroom Dehiwala. Contact : 0779424997. No brokers. 054810

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given of the Incorporation of **NEWKOROM INTERNATIONAL (PRIVATE) LIMITED** bearing Registration No. PV00226383 and having its registered office at No. 69, Old Negombo Road Kanuwana, Ja-Ela on the 26th August 2020 under Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.
Director

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given of the Incorporation of **ULYFE LANKA (PRIVATE) LIMITED** bearing Registration No. PV00226711 and having its registered office at: No. 69, Old Negombo Road Kanuwana, Ja-Ela on the 01st September 2020 under Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.
Director

NOTICE
Notice under Section 9 (1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.
Name:
Drezsi (Pvt) Ltd
Registration No:
PV 00227079
Registration Date:
8th September 2020
Registration Address:
No. 163/B/1,
Bandaranayaka
Mawatha, Asgiriya,
Gampaha.
Director

NOTICE
Notice in terms of Sec. 09 of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.
Name of the Company:
AGRO NEST (PRIVATE) LIMITED
Registered Office:
106/18, Queensland Crescent, Waidya Road, Dehiwala.
Registered No.:
PV 00227407
Incorporation Date:
15.09.2020
- SECRETARY

NOTICE
Notice of incorporation of a company under companies Act, No. 07 of 2007.
Name of the Company:
PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELORS' ASSOCIATION (GUARANTEE) LIMITED.
Date of incorporation:
03.01.2020
Registered No. PV00219075
Registered Address:
No. 176/A/1, Wijaya Mawatha, Pore, Athurugiriya.
Company Secretary

PUBLIC AUCTION GOLD ARTICLES

Gold articles mortgaged at **Sinhaputhra Finance PLC** Kandy, Katugasthota, Kundasale, Kurunegala and Dehiwala branches for which the agreed time period was over by **31.05.2020** will be sold by public auction at **Sinhaputhra Finance PLC Head Office, No. 11, Hill Street, Kandy on Saturday 26th of September 2020 at 9.30 a.m.**

Sinhaputhra Finance PLC, Kandy

The company reserves the right to cancel amalgamate or postpone this Auction without any prior notice.

Revocation of Power of Attorney

I, MALNAIDELAGE SILWESTRINE PRIYALAL FERNANDO (Holder of National Identity Card No. 612970211 X AND Passport No. N 7603103) of No. 687, Rice Mill Road, Katunayake do hereby give notice to the general public of Sri Lanka that the Power of Attorney granted to FRANCISCA FELICIA WEERASINGHE No. 687, Rice Mill Road, Katunayake (Holder of NIC No. 627421281v) by Power of Attorney KWT/CONS/2007/POA/98 dated 2007/09/04 and attested at the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kuwait and registered at Registrar General Department Volume 687 Folio 103 Day Book No. 9747 is hereby cancelled and revoked with immediate effect. I will not be responsible for any act or deed done by the said FRANCISCA FELICIA WEERASINGHE in her capacity as my Attorney. Date: 2020/09/17

Best way to fulfil your Future Dreams

Marriage Proposals

in the

Sunday Observer

Employment Opportunities



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

STATE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY EDUCATION, SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE & EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO ENHANCE THE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF ECD SERVICES IN SRI LANKA (USD 50Mn)

ASSISTED BY THE WORLD BANK

Vacancy

The World Bank funded Early Childhood Development Project established under the former Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, invites applications from individuals for the following positions

1. INTERNAL AUDITOR (PS 4)

- A successfully completed bachelor degree in relevant field recognized by the University Grants Commission

or

Qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field,

or

An associate membership/similar qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field

With at least 7 years post qualification experience in the relevant field.

- An officer of the Government Accountancy Service Class III/II with at least 7 years experience in Class III/II post.

Experience in Internal Auditing in foreign funded projects is preferable.

Age Limit : Should be below 65 at the date of closing applications.

Salaries and other conditions will be as per Management Services Circular No. 01/2019.

EPF and ETF contribution by Employer is 12% and 3% and the contribution for EPF by the employee is 8%.

Eligible candidates are requested to apply through registered post with Curriculum Vitae including certified copies of educational and professional qualifications (if applicable) which should reach the **Secretary, State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure, and Education Services, 5th Floor, Sethsiripaya stage 2, Battaramulla on or before 29th September 2020. (please mark the post applied on top of left-hand corner of the envelope).**

Employees of Statutory and Government organizations are requested to submit their applications through their Heads of organizations.

Selected candidates will be requested to be present for an interview with the originals of all relevant certificates.

Secretary

State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education Services

BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

BALANCE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SERVICE BUILDINGS BELONGING TO BOI LOCATED IN BIYAGAMA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE (BEPZ)

CONTRACT NO. BOI/BEPZ/ES/2020/01/05.019

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Balance Improvements to the Service Buildings Belonging to BOI located in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ).**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements:

Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Registration

Specialty : Building Constructions

Grade : C 7 or above

- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include: Experience as a Main Contractor for at least one contract of a similar nature equivalent to the proposed work over the period of last 5 years.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Office of Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana, on Tele: 0112-465214, 0112-465222 and 0112-465206-9 or Fax 0112-465222 and inspect bidding documents from the same address between 09.00 hrs. and 16.00 hrs. during normal working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone from **21st September 2020 until 12th October 2020 between 09.00 hrs. and 15.00 hrs.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,000.00 + VAT in cash to the Shroff at the Finance Department of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, at Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana.
- Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate to reach the Chairman, Procurement Committee, C/o Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana at or before **14.00 hrs. on 13th October 2020.** Please mark clearly on the envelope containing the bid "Balance Improvements to the Service Buildings belong to BOI located in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ) and Contract No. BOI/BEPZ/ES/2020/01/05.019." Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- All bids shall be valid upto **28 December 2020.**
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rupees **Ninety Thousand (Rs. 90,000/=)**. Bid Security shall be valid upto **25 January 2021.**
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **10.00 hrs on 28 September 2020** at the office of Director (Zone) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana,

**CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**



UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA, SRI LANKA VACANCIES

Applications are invited by me up to 12th October, 2020 from suitably qualified persons for the following posts.

01. UNIVERSITY MEDICAL OFFICER

The University is looking for a highly motivated individual who has the following qualifications.

Qualifications:

Medical Degree of a recognized University with at least 3 years' experience as Medical Practitioner. Training in counseling will be an added qualification.

NOTE : One year period of service as Intern Medical Officer will be considered for the required period of experience.

Granting of study leave to the selected candidates to obtain postgraduate qualifications or experience according to the requirements of the University may be considered, subject to exigencies of service.

Salary Scale: U-MO1(II) -Rs.55,350-10 x 1,335; 1 x 1,630-70,330/- p.m.

Selection : By Structured Interview

02. AUDIT ASSISTANT, GRADE II

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

AND

- Should have passed in all subjects at G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the Common General Paper) at one sitting (Passing in 3 subjects under the old syllabus at one sitting would be sufficient for this purpose.)

AND

3. Post Specific qualifications:

- Preliminary Level/ Licentiate I/ Foundation Level/ CAB I/ Executive Level of Institute of Chartered Accountants in Sri Lanka or equivalent.

or

- Foundation Level of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

or

- Higher National Diploma in Accountancy (HNDA) of Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE).

or

- Membership of Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) of Association of Accounting Technicians of Sri Lanka.

AND

- Minimum of two (02) years experience in Auditing in State or Recognized Private Organization.

Preference will be given to those who possess an acceptable qualification in computer applications of not less than six (06) months duration obtained from a recognized institute.

Salary Scale : U-MN2 (II) - Rs.37,275-18x495-46,185 p.m.

Selection : By Interview

Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years

03. TECHNICAL OFFICER (ICT), GRADE III

Qualifications:

- Should have passed 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 those who have work experience in ICT.

Salary Scale : U-MT1 (IIIA) - Rs.31,625-7x300;10x355-37,275 p.m.

Selection : By Written and/or practical test and an interview

Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years

04. NURSING OFFICER, GRADE II

Qualifications:

- GCE (Ordinary Level) Examination in Six subjects at not more than two sittings with credit passes in three subjects.

AND

- Certificate of competence as a Nurse recognized by the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

Salary Scale : U-MT1 (IIIA) -Rs.31,625-7x300;10x355-37,275 p.m.

Selection : By Interview

Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 40 years.

05. PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, GRADE III

Qualifications:

Should have passed the Public Health Inspectors examination conducted by the Department of Health.

Salary Scale : U-MT1 (IIIA) -Rs.31,625 - 7x300; 10x355 -37,275 p.m.

Selection : By Interview

Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years.

06. INSTRUMENT CARETAKER CUM REPAIRER, GRADE III (DANCING INSTRUMENTS)

Qualifications:

- Should have sat for the G.C.E (A/L) Examination
- Should have at least two (02) years' experience and ability in repairing and fixing Musical Instruments or Dancing Instruments or Arts & Sculpture Instruments in a Higher Educational Institute or reputed institute.
- Experience in maintenance of issue registers and storage of instruments.

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka
- Should be of good character & sound physical health.

Salary Scale : U-MN1 (IIIA) - Rs.30,725-17x300-35,825p.m.

Selection : By Practical test and interview

Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years

07. CARPENTER, GRADE II

Qualifications:

- Pass in the 8th standard.
- 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.

Salary Scale : U-PL 3(III) -Rs.29,915-16x270-34,235 p.m.

Selection : By Trade Test and Interview

Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 40 years.

Note: Age limit is not applicable to applicants in the Government departments / State Corporations and statutory bodies.

STATUTORY BENEFITS

- Allowances approved by the University Grants Commission.
- Membership in Universities Provident Fund and Pension Scheme in the University Scheme.
- Gratuity payment.
- Employment Trust Fund.
- Free Medical Care.

Applications should be on specified forms issued by the University. Application form and particulars for the above posts can be downloaded only from the University website **www.jfn.ac.lk** Applicants should deposit Rs.100 (for each post) at any branch of the People's Bank in favour of "University of Jaffna "Account No. "162-1-001-6-0000880". Applications must accompany a bank deposit slip and copies of relevant documents.

The envelope containing the duly filled application form must bear Title of the Post on its top left hand corner and either hand delivered or sent under registered post to reach the Office of the **Deputy Registrar/Non-Academic Establishments** of this University on or before **12.10.2020.**

Application forms and other details will also be available on the University website: **www.jfn.ac.lk.**

Applicants from Government Departments, State Corporations and Statutory Bodies should apply through their Heads of respective Institutions. Advance copies of applications may be sent in the first instance. However, no such applicant will be considered for appointment if the application routed through the Head of Department is not received.

Incomplete and illegible applications and applications that are received after the closing date will be rejected without intimation.

REGISTRAR
17.09.2020

**Notice on Acquisition of Land by the Government
The Act on Acquisition of Land (Chapter 460)
Notice under 7th Section**

Divisional Secretary Ref. No. Hangu/Div.Sec/3/2/1/119
Ministry of Lands Ref. No: 4-3/7/2019/HW/194

The land described in the following schedule is intended to be acquired by the Government for the construction of Bridge No. 40/2 in Rikillagaskada - Ragala (B-413) road, Thennakumbura. For more information, refer to the Part III of Gazette 2193/15 of the Republic of Sri Lanka dated 16.09.2020

SCHEDULE

Location	Name of Land	Map & Lot No.
Village named Padiyapelella in No. 510 Udadadiyapelella Grama Niladhari Division of Udagampaha Korale which belongs to Hanguranketha Divisional Secretary's Division in the District of Nuwara Eliya.	Ambalame Kumbura Ambalama Mumbura	Lot No. 01 to 10 of Preliminary Plan No. P.P. Nu 3423 certified by the Surveyor General dated 26.08.2020 in Extent of 0.1604 Hectare.

I.M. Senanayake
Divisional Secretary, Hanguranketha

At Divisional Secretariat, Hanguranketha
17.09.2020

**BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**SUPPLYING AND LAYING OF
INTERNAL WATER DISTRIBUTION NETWORK**

**AT
BINGIRIYA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE**

CONTRACT NO.: BOI/TS/BgEPZ/2020/08/02.002

- The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for supplying and laying of internal water distribution network at Bingiriya Export Processing Zone.
The Contract period is **75 Days**.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements.
Required Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Registration.
a. Speciality : Water Supply & Sewerage
b. Grade : C5 or above
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
Experience as a main Contractor for at least one work of similar nature and complexity equivalent to the proposed work over the period of last 5 years.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Director (Technical Services), Technical Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 5, World Trade Centre, West Tower, Echelon Square, Colombo 01 on Tel. No. 0112432549 or Fax. 0112441826 and inspect the bidding documents at the given address from **0900 hrs and 1500 hrs** on working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Director (Technical Services), Technical Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 5, World Trade Centre, West Tower, Echelon Square, Colombo 1 from **17.09.2020** until **07.10.2020** between **0900 hrs and 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 5,000.00 + VAT**. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Sealed Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to reach The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, C/o Director (Technical Services), Technical Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 5, World Trade Centre, West Tower, Echelon Square, Colombo 1, on or before **1400 hrs on 08.10.2020**. 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 91 Days (**07.01.2021**).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs. 350,000.00 unconditional on demand guarantee obtained from a Commercial Bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka which shall be valid upto 120 days (05.02.2021) from the date of closing bids, complying with the specimen format enclosed.
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1000 hrs on 24.09.2020** at the Zone office of Bingiriya Export Processing Zone, Germanwatta, Wathuwatta, Dummalasuriya. Interested bidders may participate at the pre bid meeting.

Chairman,
BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

**MINISTRY OF
URBAN DEVELOPMENT &
HOUSING
URBAN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Bids are invited by the Urban Development Authority to lease the Food Court premises and Kiosk built in Sellakatharagama, for 05 years on monthly rent basis.

Further details and tender applications can be obtained during the period of issuing applications, from **21.09.2020** to **02.10.2020** from the Real State Management & Development Division on the 08th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla or from the sub office of Urban Development Authority, Katharagama.

Tel. Nos. Head Office **011-3611950, 011-2875916-20** Extension - 5603 or Katharagama Sub Office **047-2235343**.

Chairman,
Revenue Tender Board (Minor),
6th Floor, Sethsiripaya,
1st Stage, Battaramulla.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TRUSTEE
Invitation for Quotations
for the Sale of Rubber Trees in
Suduwelipotha Estate**

Sealed quotations will be received for the uprooting and removal of 1661 Nos. marked Rubber Trees in the Suduwelipotha Estate situated at Ellakanda, Baddegama belonging to the Department of Public Trustee.

Relevant trees can be inspected from **21.09.2020** up to **12.10.2020** on government working days, between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. at the land and relevant tender forms can be purchased on payment of a refundable deposit of Rs. 5,000.00 and a non-refundable fee of Rs. 500.00, made to the Cashier of the Head Office of the Department of Public Trustee.

Acceptance of bids will be closed at **2.00 p.m.** on **13.10.2020**. Bids received late will be rejected.

Completed sealed bids could either be sent by registered post to the undermentioned address or placed in the tender box of the Department of Public Trustee, to be received at or before **2.00 p.m.** on **13.10.2020**. The cover containing the bid should be marked "**Tender for sale of Rubber Trees in Suduwelipotha Estate**" at the left-side top corner. The Procurement Committee retains the right to the final decision with regard to the granting of this tender.

Chairman, Procurement Committee,
Department of Public Trustee,
No. 02, Bullers Lane, 0112-554976 (Estates Section)
Colombo 07. 0112-581690

**Invitation for Bids
STATE PRINTING
CORPORATION**

Chairman, Procurement Committee, State Printing Corporation invites sealed bids from the eligible and qualified bidders who work as Suppliers, Importers or Manufacturers through their Accredited Local Agents for the supply of White Printing Paper as given below.

Tender Ref. No.	Item	Quantity	Bid Bond
SPC/SU/2020/II/35	White Printing Paper (750mm / 80gsm)	220 MT	Rs. 150,000.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding.
- Bidders should comply with the following eligibility criteria to qualify for award.
 - Manufacturer's authorization / Power of Attorney confirming the status of the agency
 - Local agent having minimum 03 years experience to handle similar materials in Sri Lanka
 - Valid Business Registration
- A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to Supplies Manager, State Printing Corporation, Panaluwa, Padukka on any working day from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from 19.09.2020 until 02.10.2020 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs 5,000/-. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Sealed bids shall be deposited in the Tender Box available at the office of the **Supplies Manager, State Printing Corporation, Panaluwa, Padukka** or sent by registered post to Chairman, State Printing Corporation, Panaluwa Padukka at the above address to reach him at or before 11.00 a.m. on **05.10.2020**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after closing. Bidders or their representatives may attend the bid opening.
- Bids shall be valid up to 120 calendar days from the date of closing of bids.
- Bids shall be accompanied by the Bid Security obtained from a commercial bank using the form for Bid Security (unconditional guarantee) included in Page 33, standard form (BID) or bank draft or an official cheque issued by a commercial bank acceptable to the purchaser or paid in cash.

Further details could be obtained from the Supplies Manager on

Chairman,
Procurement Committee
STATE PRINTING CORPORATION
Panaluwa - Padukka.

19.09.2020



**Invitation for Bids
Kandy Municipal Council**

Sealed bids are invited until 08.10.2020 for the supply of a 200 KVA capacity Generator for the Kandy Municipal Council premises. Qualified bidders should submit the receipt obtained upon payment in cash or the Money Order along with the letter of request for documents and a copy of the Registration Certificate either under the Business Registration Ordinance or the Companies Act to obtain bid documents.

	Item	Bid Ref. No.
01	Generator with 200 KVA Capacity (At present a 30 KVA Generator is installed near the Main Board in the Kandy Municipal Council premises and as the total capacity of this generator is inadequate during the times the Municipal Council premises is full of activities procurement for the supply of a 300 KVA capacity Generator, installation in the same place or in an adjoining area and for the dismantling and removal of the present generator is invited.)	FD/S/PC/06/GEN/PA02

No.	Bid Reference No.	FD/S/PC/06/GEN/PA02
01	Amount of the Bid Document	Rs. 1080/= (All Taxes Included) ❖ Bid documents may be obtained upon payment to the Shroff of the Kandy Municipal Council or ❖ If paid by a Money Order it should be in favour of "Municipal Commissioner, Kandy" only up to 07.10.2020.
02	Date of Commencement of Issuing Bid Documents	Between 9.00 a.m. and 2.45 p.m. on working days from 21.09.2020.
03	Last Date and Time of Issuing Bid Documents	Up to 2.45 p.m. on 07.10.2020
04	Last Date and Time for accepting Bids	At or before 10.00 a.m. on 08.10.2020
05	Bid Security	A bid security in favour of "Municipal Commissioner, Kandy" to the value of Rs. 100,000.00 obtained from a state or commercial bank recognized by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka should be submitted with the perfected bid and the bid security should be valid for six (06) months.
06	Date, Time and Place of Opening of Bids	At 10.00 a.m. on 08.10.2020 at the Kandy Municipal Council Hall. Bidder or his authorized representative may be present at the time of opening of bids.
07	Place where the bid documents are issued	Municipal Supplies Division, Municipal Council, Kandy
08	Place where perfected bids are received	Either should be sent by registered post or hand delivered to receive at or before 10.00 a.m. on 08.10.2020 or deposited in the Bid Box kept in the care of Chief Municipal Accountant.

Kandy Municipal Council reserves the right to take the final decision regarding the quotations.

Bid documents may be inspected free of charge and further details may be obtained from the Chief Accountant (Supplies) on Tel. No. 071-8014804 and from the Municipal Engineer on Tel. No. 0710250065.

Chandana Tennekoon
Municipal Commissioner
Municipal Council, Kandy

16.09.2020

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