

PRESIDENT INAUGURATES "DISCUSSION WITH VILLAGERS" IN HALDUMMULLA

CONSIDER ALL VERBAL ORDERS AS CIRCULARS

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has directed the officials to treat all verbal orders issued for the common good of the people as Circulars to be implemented.

"Those who neglect this will face stern action," the President added.

President Rajapaksa made these directives at the "Discussion with Villagers" forum which commenced yesterday (September 25) at Velanwita village in Haldummulla, Badulla.

"I expect public officials to consciously comprehend the problems of the people and provide solutions. I will always stand by the officials who make the right and unwavering decisions on behalf of the people. State institutions take a long time to address people's issues. If a written

inquiry from one institution does not receive a reply from the other institution within 14 days, consider it as approved," the President ordered.

Haldummulla is considered as the most backward Divisional Secretariat Division in the Badulla District and Velanwita is considered as the most backward village in the Haldummulla Divisional Secretariat Division. Commencing the first discussion forum titled 'Janapathi Gama Samaga Pilisadara' at Kumarathenna Vidyalaya, 100 Acre Village, Welanwita, Haputale, the President listened to the grievances faced by the fellow citizens.

The villagers pointed out to the President that the people had abandoned their traditional villages due to the unavailability



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa listening to the problems faced by the people in Velanwita village in the Haldummulla DS division. Picture courtesy Presidential Media Division

'THOSE WHO NEGLECT DUTIES WILL BE PUNISHED'

'14-DAY RULE IS IN PLACE'

'IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS FOR ISSUES THE AREA'

Justice Ministry does not interfere in judicial cases - Minister

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI



Unlike during the previous regime, the current Justice Minister does not give phone calls to anyone and the Justice Ministry does not get involved in judicial cases, said Justice Minister Ali Sabry.

He said this in response to a question raised by MP Chaminda Wijesiri during the question round for Oral answers in Parliament yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**

PCol into Easter Sunday attacks

Shortcomings that existed during 'Yahapalana' Govt. affected national security - Ruwan

DILSHAN THARAKA



Former State Minister of Defence Ruwan Wijewardene testifying before the Presidential Commission of Investigation (PCol) into the Easter Sunday attacks for the first time said that there was no undermining of national security during the 'Yahapalana' Government but the shortcomings that existed affected national security. **TO PAGE 02**

Govt. considers aluminium imports as raw material to create jobs - Cabraal

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI



The Government is to consider whether aluminium could be imported as a raw material and add value here in the country creating employment opportunities while saving much foreign currency, said Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal yesterday. He made this observation in response to a suggestion made by Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna MP Mohamed Muzamil during the round of questions for oral answers. **TO PAGE 02**

Russian crew member tests negative for COVID-19

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

The Russian crew member who initially tested positive for COVID-19 in Matara, has tested negative in the final PCR test conducted on him at Hambantota hospital, hospital sources said.

The 57-year-old Russian airline crew member, who tested negative today, was found to have been diagnosed with the virus following the PCR test carried out for the second time.

He was among a group of 15 Russians who arrived at the Mattala Airport on September 13 and were **TO PAGE 05**

PM, Indian PM to hold virtual summit today

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi will hold a virtual summit today during which the two leaders would discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including defence and security issues, the Foreign Ministry here has announced.

The summit is being held on the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had a telephonic conversation with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Rajapaksa on August 6 this year, the ministry said.

"Looking forward to interacting with PM @narendramodi at the virtual summit scheduled for 26th September. We expect to review the multifaceted bilateral relationship between our nations, **TO PAGE 02**



SC suspends attorney from legal practice

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Supreme Court has ordered to suspend an attorney from engaging in legal practice for 7 years over his acts of deceit and malpractices.

The Supreme Court further ordered the respondent Attorney-at-Law Wasantha Wijewardena to pay a sum of Rs.300,000 to his client R.M. Karunaratne Banda who is the Complainant in this case. **TO PAGE 05**

JVP for abolishing Executive Presidency



JVP General Secretary Tilvyn Silva on Thursday said that 17 amendments brought to the existing Constitution were aimed at strengthening the Executive Presidency disregarding the basic principles of Constitutional Government - check and balances. He added that the JVP is in the forefront in abolishing the Executive Presidency. **TO PAGE 02**

SLMC must be an independent body again - GMOA Secretary

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) hopes that the Committee appointed by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi will be able to make the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) an independent body again, GMOA Secretary Dr. Senal Fernando said.

Addressing a press conference held at the GMOA Headquarters in Colombo yesterday morning, he said that if the Committee does the job assigned by Minister Wanniarachchi using the power given to her from the Medical Council Ordinance No.24 of 1924, the SLMC will be depoliticized and be able to function in an independent manner again. **TO PAGE 02**



Death threats on President, Defence Secretary and Prison officials

Podi Lasie further remanded



Arumahandi Janith Madusanka alias Podi Lesie being escorted to the Magistrate Court under tight security. Picture by Mahinda P.Liyanage - Galle Central Special Correspondent

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE, Galle Central Special Correspondent

Galle Chief Magistrate Harshana Kekulawela further remanded Arumahandi Janith Madusanka alias Podi Lesie, a notorious gangster who is cited as the second respondent of the lawsuit regarding the death threats on the President, Defence Secretary and several high ranking prison officials at the Boossa Prisons until October 9, when he was produced before him yesterday.

Deputy Solicitor General Dileepa Peiris submitted a summary of statements he recorded from the suspect on September 18 on the Magistrate's order which he had obtained on a special application made to the Magistrate's Court on a motion on September 17.

The Deputy Solicitor General told court that Podi Lesie denied the alleged charges of posing death threats on the President, Defence Secretary and some high ranking Prison officials. **TO PAGE 05**

Pinnawala elephant overcrowding

Meeting int'l elephant management guidelines stands challenging- PEO

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

Parliament discussed yesterday the overcrowding of elephants in the Pinnawala Elephant orphanage.

The Daily News contacted a number of staff who carry out and monitor elephant care activities in Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage (PEO) to ask what the problem was. **TO PAGE 05**

Veteran singer SP Balasubrahmanyam dies

Legendary singer SP Balasubrahmanyam, who had been undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Chennai after testing positive for COVID-19 during the first week of August, passed away yesterday after a long battle with the coronavirus.



On August 5, SPB, as he was fondly called, announced through a video recording, which he posted on his Face book page, that he had tested positive **TO PAGE 05**

CJ nominates five-judge-Bench to hear petitions against 20A

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya has nominated a fuller Bench comprising five judges of the Supreme Court to hear Special Determination petitions filed challenging the constitutionality of the proposed 20th amendment to the constitution.

Accordingly, these petitions will be heard before a five-judge-bench comprising Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, Justices Buwaneka Aluwihare, Justice Sisira de Abrew, Justice Priyanka Jayawardena and Justice Vijith Malalgoda on September 29.

Eighteen petitions have been filed so far against the twentieth amendment to the constitution. They are; Attorney-At-Law Indika Gallage, TNA leader R.

Sampanthan, Centre for Policy Alternative, SJB General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Anil Kariyawasam, Nagananda Kodituwakku, S.S.C. Elankovan, Sithara Shreen Abdul Saroor, Transparency International, former Central Province Governor Keerthi Tennakoon, Rasika Jayakody, Lihini Fernando, Young Lawyers Association, General Secretary at Ceylon Mercantile, Industrial and General Workers Union Sylvester Jayakody, Dr. Ajantha Perera, Ceylon Teachers Union, T.D.B. Wijegunawardena and G.K.R. Perera.

The petitioners are seeking a declaration that the bill in whole or in part thereby requires the approval by people at a referendum and requires a two-third majority in Parliament. **TO PAGE 02**

Sixteen acres of land allocated for elephant park

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said that 16 acres of land has been allocated for an elephant park so that elephants could roam free without being chained, and that construction was in its final stages. He said enclosures for elephants would also be constructed and renovated. "The Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage will never be closed and steps will be taken to develop it in a proper manner in the future while protecting the rights of the animals," Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said in Parliament yesterday (25). **TO PAGE 02**



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Spiritually rich, religious and moral generation needed - President

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa emphasized that it is necessary to raise a morally and ethically driven generation guided by their religion to coincide the physical development in the country.

The President highlighted that Sri Lanka is a country enriched with morals and virtues due to its high esteem held towards Buddhist teachings and the co-existence preached by the other religions practiced in Sri Lanka.

"We can lay a strong foundation for a moral, ethical and disciplined society through the betterment of Dhamma Schools and Pirivena education.

President Rajapaksa made these remarks during a discussion with the State Ministry of Dhamma Schools, Bhikkhu Education, Pirivenas and Buddhist Universities to review its future visions at the Presidential Secretariat on Thursday (September 24.)

"In order to restore peace and har-

mony in the minds of the people, and promote undistorted religious teachings without extremism, you directly have to intervene in order to facilitate and regulate all the registered Dhamma schools of all faiths in the country," the President highlighted.

President Rajapaksa advised the officials to inquire into the needs of the Dhamma school teachers and ascertain steps to further motivate them in their endeavours.

The possibility of considering the Dharmacharya certificate as an added qualification in admission to the universities and recruiting for employment were discussed in length. It was also discussed to reform Pirivena and Dhamma schools syllabuses and to allow any of the new graduate appointees to continue their teaching at Pirivenas if they already had been teaching there prior to the appointment.

In addition, the President also advised the officials to propose plans to improve Bhikkus' English language skills, Computer Literacy and technical know-how while resolving issues pertaining to the appointment of Pirivena teachers and their salaries and allowances immediately. It was also discussed to assign a Development Officer and minor staff members to provide job opportunities for graduates and families with low incomes.

The Maha Sanga representing Pirivena and Bhikkhu education, Minister of Education Prof. G.L. Pieris, State Minister Vijitha Berugoda, Head of the Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival Basil Rajapaksa, Secretary to the President P.B.Jayasundera and Secretaries and officials of the Cabinet Ministries and State Ministries were present at the discussion.

PM, Indian PM to... From page 01

ranging from politics, economics, defence, tourism, and other areas of mutual interest. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said in a twitter message.



The interaction is expected to focus on the full gamut of bilateral engagement inter-alia political, economic, finance, development, defence and security spheres, educational, tourism and cultural as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest," the Sri Lankan foreign ministry said in a statement. The Economic Times

Justice Ministry does... From page 01

Wijesiri asked for the names of the lawyers appearing in the case against the Kurunegala doctor involved in the alleged mass sterilization of women.



"Currently, there are 795,000 cases and the Justice Ministry does not have the ability to provide the names of lawyers who are appearing for these cases. If he requires these names, then he needs to pay and request for a certified copy. As for where he should get advice regarding these cases, that is something he must consult himself.

He should know that as the Justice Minister no responsibility is vested on me. He should also know that the Justice Minister does not give phone calls to anyone and neither have we established special courts for selected cases. As the Justice Ministry, we work within the perimeters of our subject assigned to us. We have no intention of getting involved in cases, we will not interfere in court cases and there is no possibility for us to get involved either. I also strongly believe that this is something that we should not do."

Shortcomings that existed... From page 01

He said that the loss of life could have been minimized, if the Security Council was convened after receiving the foreign intelligence reports about an imminent attack.



He further said that if the authorities called the National Security Council and informed the Archbishop and relevant parties regarding the information about an imminent attack, we could have minimized the loss of life.

However, only former President Maithripala Sirisena can convene the National Security Council. He had not appointed an acting minister when he went abroad. And also it was revealed at the National Security Council that there was no proper communication regarding the intelligence between the Chief of the State Intelligence and the Chief of the Terrorist investigation Department. Further, he acknowledged that former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe did not regularly attend the National Security Council.

He told the Commission that he believed that the estrangement between the Government and the former President after the Constitutional crisis may have been the reason for the Easter Sunday attacks.

Govt. considers aluminium... From page 01

The State Minister said that he would discuss with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on the matter and additionally to see if export of scrap aluminium prevented allowing the same to be used by local manufacturers.



It was revealed during the round of questions that a sum of Rs 95,723 million is spent on aluminium imports annually.

MP Muzzamil said that mostly aluminium is imported as a value added product and queried if the government could import it as raw material and add value in the country as it will create employment opportunities, boost industry and save the flow of money out of the country. He also said the country exports scrap aluminium and queried if the government could prevent it and make provisions for the local manufacturers to use them.

State Minister Cabraal said that both suggestions were good and said he would discuss the matter with the President and Prime Minister and see if the proposal could be realized.

Consider all verbal... From page 01



of basic practices such as roads, electricity and drinking water.

They cited the fact that Kumaratenna Vidyalaya, which can accommodate a significant number of students, is now having only 16 students as a good example of this situation.

The President has directed the relevant authorities to carpet the road from the village 100 Acres to Velanwita, to identify water sources in order to meet drinking water requirements and to provide electricity within three months.

President Rajapaksa paid attention to the difficulties faced by the people due to the communication difficulties and it was decided on the spot to provide communication facilities within several weeks.

Villagers who had left many years ago, but attended the discussion today said that the decisions taken by the President had given them the opportunity to live in their original villages again.

The President ordered the officials to take steps to construct a new building for the benefit of the students of the Kumaratenna Vidyalaya and further informed the officials to provide opportunity for the children living in the surrounding areas to return to school and receive an education.

The President also addressed a number of other issues of the people of the surrounding areas who came to the discussion forum.

President Rajapaksa has ordered the officials to provide solutions for the teacher shortages prevailed in Kirawanagama and Nikapotha Maha Vidyalayas and Koslanda National School, and to construct the playground of Hali Ela Maliththa Maha Vidyalaya. Apart from that, it was decided to appoint a Principal for Wellawaya Gampaha Maha Vidyalaya, to address the shortcomings of Soragune and Janananda Vidyalayas and to upgrade Haputale Tamil Maha Vidyalaya to a national school.

Following a differently-abled former war veteran's request President Rajapaksa ordered to carpet the Moraketiya road that extends to 7 villages in the vicinity.

President advised the speedy construction of the 35km stretch from Beragala-Wellawaya in the route between Colombo-Batticaloa road, the road up to Wellawaya in Kalipanawela Halkanna road, the 100-acre central road of the Kakkuturawa, the road connecting Dehlanda and Alutwela and other by-roads.

In addition, the President ordered the officials to compile a list of issues pertaining to the lands owned by the Land Reforms Commission and Wildlife and Forest Conservation Departments presented by the public and to provide ownership certificates and deeds to them.

A large number of farmers in the Badulla district are among those who receive the highest number of black pepper harvest in the island and own prosperous farms. Most of them are inclined to use organic fertilizer in their black pepper plantations. Steps were taken to address all the issues they have encountered in this aspect.

A lengthy discussion was conducted in relation to issues faced by the farmers engaged in Paddy, Cinnamon and Coffee cultivations and in addition the President ordered to correct the mistakes made during previous Forest Conservation surveys.

The President also addressed issues suffered by parents with children at the scene to the extent possible. Following the conclusion of the forum President visited a number of farmlands and residences inquiring into hardships they face.

Members of the Maha Sanga, Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva, State Minister Thenuka Vidanagamage, Members of the Parliament Sudarshana Denipitiya, Thissa Kuttiarachchi, Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, Governor A.J.M Muzammil, Principal Advisor to the President Lalith Weerasinghe, other political representatives of the region and officials of several institutes were present at the discussion.

CJ nominates ... From page 01

Two lawyers Jayantha Dehiattage and Migara Doss representing the Young Lawyers Association also filed a petition against the 20th amendment to the constitution. They stated that clause 27 of the proposed Amendment has introduced Article 122 whereby Cabinet of Ministers can introduce to Parliament Bills 'urgent in the national interest'.

"The nature of 'Urgent Bills' passed into laws thus far amply demonstrate that this provision has only been used to surpass citizen's rights to challenge legislation in the Supreme Court before it is enacted", they said. This petition had been filed through counsel Manjula Balasuriya.

"Sancharaka" newspaper launch at Lake House

Airport to open on health sector recommendations - State Minister D. V. Chanaka



The first copy of the newspaper being presented to State Minister D.V.Chanaka by ANCL Chairman W. Dayaratne PC, Editorial Director and senior journalist Dharma Sri Kariyawasam, Ministry Secretary S.Hettiarachchi, Director General of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority Dhammika Wijesinghe, Deputy General Manager (Corporate Planning and Financial Services) Sumith Kothalawala and Managing Editor - Government Relations Samantha Karunasekara were present. Pictures by Ranjith Asanka

MAHINDA ALUTHGEDARA and SHAVINI MADHARA

State Minister of Aviation and Export Development D. V. Chanaka stated that the government is ready to open the airport within 12 hours if recommended by the health sector in view of the prevailing situation in COVID-19.

He pointed out that at present all airports have been converted into corona-free airports, adding that the country's existing health facilities as well as the ability of the country to start with an affordable number of corona patients will determine the airport's readiness to open whenever health recommendations are received.

He was speaking at the launch of the official newspaper and online newspaper of the Ministry of Tourism "Sancharaka" at Lake House yesterday (25) morning.

The official newspaper and online newspaper of the Ministry of Tourism, jointly published by the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited, Ministry of Tourism and the Tourism Development Authority, were launched at this event.

Distributed free of charge with the Dinamina newspaper, this newspaper contains a wealth of information on the tourism industry in Sri Lanka and the challenges and opportunities available to it, and is equally useful to all Sri Lankans.

The State Minister further stressed that the Ministry of Tourism and Lake House have taken steps to make the public aware of the future of the tourism industry through this supplement at a time when airports around the world are facing the biggest challenge in the tourism industry.

"At present, boosting the tourism industry is a big challenge. Through this supplement, our hope is to develop the tourism industry locally and to promote it through Sri Lankans. The tourism sector has been one of the fastest growing sectors since the 2009 war victory. By 2012, according to the New York Times, Sri Lanka had become the best destination for tourists'. According to Lonely Planet Magazine, by 2014, Sri Lanka was selected as the best country to visit. The situation was



ANCL Editorial Director and Senior journalist Dharma Sri Kariyawasam presents a copy of the newspaper to Ministry Secretary S. Hettiarachchi.

similar in 2018 and 2019. Every year since 2009, the tourism industry had grown by 20%", he added.

"But unfortunately due to the Easter Sunday attack in 2019, the tourism industry suffered a severe setback with arrivals dropping by about 40%. However, the first thing that the new President did when he was elected was to take steps to abolish the 15 percent VAT on tourism. With the removal of taxes from the tourism industry, the industry that collapsed with the Easter attack began to recover. But a few months later, the world had to face the COVID-19 pandemic. Flights had to be restricted with that situation", State Minister D.V.Chanaka further highlighted.

As a Ministry, the airports have been converted into corona-free airports and the necessary facilities have been provided. Also, airports can be opened at any time within 12 hours after being notified by the health authorities. We hope to attract 7 million foreign tourists and generate \$ 10 billion in revenue in future. But with the current pandemic situation, things have become even more challenging. But, as a country, we must all work together to overcome challenges," the State Minister said.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chairman of Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited President's Counsel W. Dayaratne pointed out that today the tourism industry in our country has fallen to a low level.

"Steps have been taken to com-

memorate World Tourism Day tomorrow despite all obstacles faced by the tourism industry. And also, the steps have been taken to launch a tourism newspaper for this purpose. Our international airport, which was closed on March 15, 2020, is still closed. Curfew had to be imposed for 52 days for the first time in the history of Sri Lanka due to the COVID pandemic. This had an impact on the tourism industry. Also, due to the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks, the tourism industry suffered a severe setback," ANCL Chairman Dayaratne added.

"The President and the Prime Minister took steps to provide relief and credit facilities to those in the tourism industry. Under the National Policy Framework "Visions of Prosperity and Splendour" programme, Lake House has taken steps to make the tourism newspaper an online newspaper. Steps have also been taken to transform this tourism newspaper into a printed newspaper as well as an online newspaper.

Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd is a subsidiary for any government function. We extend our fullest support to the Government, including the President and the Prime Minister", the ANCL Chairman added.

Dinamina Chief Editor Gamini Jayalath also spoke at the event. State Minister of Aviation and Export Development D.V. Chanaka also launched the travel newspaper online.

SLMC must be an ... From page 01

Then it will be able to ensure the quality of medical service and the safety of patients.

According to Dr. Fernando, the henchmen of former Health Minister Dr. Rajitha Senarathne who are still in the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) should be removed as soon as possible in order to regain the past glory of the council. Elections should be held as soon as possible in order to fill the four vacancies that exist in the SLMC.

The former Health Minister appointed his personal staff members into the SLMC ignoring all relevant rules, regulations, traditions and everything in order to allow the students who do not have required minimum basic qualifications to become MBBS doctors through other channels, he said.



JVP for abolishing Executive ... From page 01

"The 19th Amendment was brought to curtail the excessive powers of the President until such time the Executive Presidency is abolished", he said. He said that Separation of power between the Executive, Judiciary and the Legislature and Check and balances are key principles of a democratic government to ensure that no branch would be too powerful.

"What the government is going to do through the 20th Amendment is to allow one branch to grab all powers ignoring the basic principle of democracy", Silva said. Speaking at a seminar on the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, Silva said that the Government is dancing to the tune of imperialists.



Sixteen acres of land... From page 01

He said this in response to a question raised by MP Heshu Vithanage, on what steps the government has taken to improve the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage which is an asset to Sri Lanka.

The Minister pointed out that some administrative problems have arisen due to the previous government sending in elephants that were captured due to political revenge and placing them in the Pinnawala Orphanage.

Ranatunge said that safari systems should be introduced in the same manner as the Ridiyagama safari system in Hambantota, which was very successful.

Therefore, he said that 16 acres of land would be prepared so that elephants could roam free, adding that we need to think in a novel way of protecting animals.

He said that in recent times there had been a decline in tourist numbers to Pinnawala, adding that many steps have already been taken to improve better facilities for tourists.

According to Minister Ranatunge, tourist hotels, observation decks etc are already being constructed and measures have also been taken to construct better toilet facilities, foot paths and other facilities. It is also planned to purchase a land belonging to the Urban Development Authority opposite the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage and construct a new car park with all facilities including banking facilities, restaurants and plans are also afoot to construct a new water supply system for this purpose as the existing water supply system is not sufficient during the dry season, the Minister of Tourism added.



SAARC Council of Ministers meeting

Dinesh calls for coordinated efforts to mitigate COVID-19 impact

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena led the Sri Lankan delegation to the informal meeting of the Council of Ministers of the eight-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on September 24, 2020.

The annual event, which traditionally takes place on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, was convened in virtual mode this year amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the informal meeting, Minister Gunawardena underlined the need for coordinated and collaborative action to mitigate the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the

United Nations forecasts South Asian economies to contract by 4.8% this year. He also pointed out the importance of reviewing South Asia's economic outlook, finding employment for impacted workforce, revitalizing businesses, while increasing production.

Minister Gunawardena conveyed that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's National Policy Framework "Visions of Prosperity and Splendour" envisages a non-aligned, neutral and friendly foreign policy with an enhanced focus on Asian neighbours to keep regional cooperation in the forefront.

"SAARC has the potential to become a catalyst in economic growth and prosperity. South Asia should expand cooperation in soft projects such as public health, poverty alleviation, agriculture, food security, environment, education and promotion of people to people contacts," he added.

The meeting was chaired by Nepal's Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, facilitated by the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu. The newly appointed Secretary General of SAARC Esala Weerakoon also addressed the informal meeting.

The Sri Lanka delegation comprised Foreign Secretary Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage and senior officials of the Ministry.



Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena speaking at the informal meeting of the Council of Ministers of the eight-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on Thursday.

St.Thomas' College, Matale OBA Get-together

The annual General Meeting and the Get-together of the Old Boys' Association (85th Group) of St. Thomas' College, Matale will be held on October 3, 2020 at 10 a.m. at the Spring View Hotel, Thotagamuwa, Matale.

The Old Boys' (85th Group) and their family members are welcome. Contact: Vajira Dambadeniya - 0752404690, Palitha Aluthdunna - 0718050156, Neranjan Ellepola 0772440111.

Three arrested over killing, selling of Leopard meat

ASELA KURULUWANSA and SHAVINI MADHARA

Three individuals including a female were arrested by the Ududumbara Police over the killing and sale of leopard meat yesterday (25).

Investigations revealed that the leopard was trapped in a snare which was set up by them to capture wild boar.

The arrested three suspects were identified as residents of Werapitiya and the Kalugamuwa areas.

OIC of Ududumbara Police Station IP M.D. Kangara stated that they seized the three wheeler used to transport the leopard meat.

Ududumbara Police are conducting further investigations.

Global Webinar to combat baseless propaganda of LTTE Agents

A group of Sri Lankan professionals have teamed-up for a two-hour Webinar tomorrow (September 27) at Sri Lanka time 7:30 in the evening which will go globally live for a presentation of cogent facts and data to combat the still-prevailing misinformation campaign undertaken by the former Tamil Tiger agents now operating within the Tamil Diaspora worldwide.

This virtual presentation in fact coincides with Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's reminder that when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly on September 23 that "In spite of its elimination from the Sri Lankan soil, the international network of this terrorist outfit remains, pushing its ruthless ideology and influencing certain Capitals to spread its baseless lies and propaganda".

Organised by a group of professionals in Ottawa, Canada led by Dr. Neville Hewage, a senior Policy Analyst of the Ontario Center for Policy Research, this professional move by those who are intimately aware of the global propaganda network and its strategy to tarnish the image of Sri Lanka as a genocidal state was undertaken to expose the elements within the Tamil Diaspora in Canada their misinformation and misrepresentation of facts contained in a Provincial Bill 104 they have presented to the Canadian legislature.

The concerted effort by the Sri Lankans living in Canada, the United States and Malaysia grouped together in this webinar to expose the fabrications of the elements of the Tamil Diaspora is to make the Canadian lawmakers and policymakers knowledgeable in keeping with President Rajapaksa's message to the UN General Assembly that "We are hopeful that no State will tolerate activities of this international network which continues to espouse and propagate violent ideology under different guises and manifestations".

The Canadian-US-Malaysian Sri Lankan professional group, in this two-hour presentation, will tell the Canadian authorities not to tolerate the activities of those who fabricate news to complicate the good relations that exist between the two countries.

In giving the socio-economic factors in Sri Lanka, exposing the unfounded discrimination that the elements of the Tamil Diaspora is propagating and fabrication of a genocide they disseminate to tarnish the global image of Sri Lanka, this group of professionals, during this webinar, will fulfill what President declared at the UN General Assembly that "The global community must stand in solidarity with Sri Lanka, notwithstanding narrow domestic political compulsions, to counter terrorism".

The Document presented to the Canadian Legislature as the Provincial Bill 104 by a group of pro-separatist activists within the Canadian Tamil Diaspora gives the background to the attempt to legitimize the claim that a Tamil Genocide happened in Sri Lanka, and attempt to create a Tamil Genocide Education Week, implicitly claiming a Tamil Homeland in Sri Lanka, and also making other serious allegations against Sri Lanka via municipal and provincial legislatures.

The group of Sri Lankan professionals in this two-hour webinar will address the diabolical falsehood the Bill 104 claiming that 146,679 were killed in the final days of the Eelam War between the government military forces and the Tamil Tiger fighting cadre, starved the Jaffna Peninsula during the war, Tamil children were forcibly taken away from their homes and that Sri Lanka committed genocide against the minority Tamils.

The webinar activated at 10:00 AM in Canada - Sri Lanka time 7:30 PM on September 27, the organisers want those interested in watching the 2-hour session to register at URL: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_A6-o7b8QJmKwg8ifEBuuvu OR contact <https://policy-research.ca/> to get access.

The organisers says: We now inhabit a world where malicious actors such as LTTE Tamil Terrorists and their proxy propagandists try to manipulate our per-

ception of reality to control our responses and attitudes. LTTE Tamil Terrorists use technologies such as 'computational propaganda,' 'sock-puppet networks,' 'troll armies.' They are capable of manipulating news, facts and also seamlessly manoeuvre audio and video; channel-4 documentaries are an example.

LTTE Tamil Terrorist propagandists are making a living from creating fraudulent content for viral distribution on social platforms since it drives their fundraising campaigns.

The two Keynote Speakers of the five-member panel are Dr. Chandre Dharmawardana from Canada and Daya Gamage from the United States.

Dr. Dharma-wardana who read his Ph.D at Cambridge (UK); President of Vidyodaya University; National Research Council of Canada; engaged in various social science and development studies, which became part of his continuing academic interests; From 1976-1978 he worked as a Research Fellow at The University of Paris-Sorbonne and Orsay. In 1979 he joined the National Research Council of Canada and retired in 2014 but continues to work as an Emeritus researcher. He was a visiting faculty member of the University of California, Santa Barbara, the USA in 1989. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Montreal, Canada.

Mr. Daya Gamage, B.A. had a 25-year career (1970 through 1995) at the United

States Department of State, foremost in his capacity as a Foreign Service National Political Specialist; worked at the U.S. diplomatic mission in Sri Lanka as an investigative analyst and political interpreter of the separatist Eelam war.

He assisted Washington understand the ever-changing socio-political climate of Sri Lanka. His deep knowledge of socio-economic-political trajectory in Sri Lanka gave him an up-close understanding of disparities in the Sri Lankan society as a whole, the misinterpretations and diabolical misinformation of 'ethnic issues', and most importantly the manner in which the 'Sri Lankan issues' were used by the LTTE propagandists within the Tamil Diaspora in Western nations during the Eelam War IV and thereafter to tarnish the image of Sri Lanka.

The supportive panelists are Dr. Isuri

Dharmaratne, serving in the forte of the Deputy Director at the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) associated with the assembly of all activities relating to the Peace process between the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission in 2007-2009, Hasaka Ratnamalala is a practicing Lawyer in Canada. A graduate from Sri Lanka Law College had his legal education in Faculty of Law at University of Manitoba.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from University Sri Jayawardenapura in Sri Lanka.

He is currently a columnist for Lake House Sunday edition *Silumina*. In 1993 he along with three other Journalists

managed to enter Jaffna peninsula at a time when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was controlling the Jaffna peninsula.

Dr. Neville Hewage is the chief organizer of the webinar to combat the fabrications of the agents of Tamil Tigers in the Tamil Diaspora. He is a senior policy analyst with Ontario Centre for Policy Research. He obtained Ph.D. from Laurentian University, Canada and an adjunct professor and Research fellow at the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Law at Laurentian University. He is a managing editor for OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development.

ADA KOTIPATHI - SATURDAY
 Draw No.: 1053 Colour: YELLOW
 Date: 26.09.2020
Today's Jackpot
Rs. 72,924,670/-
 Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.
 Development Lotteries Board
 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
 Tel: 2 333 546-47 Fax: 2 333 545 Website: www.dlb.lk
 Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

THURSDAY
 Date: 24.09.2020
 Draw No.: 3381
 Colour: RED
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,881,320/-
Winning Numbers
23 | 49 | 67 | 73
 English Letter **M**
Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes **2964**
Winning tickets are valid only for six months

THURSDAY
 Date: 24.09.2020
 Draw No.: 1051
 Colour: BLUE
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 5,331,200/-
Winning Numbers
18 | 25 | 68 | 74
 English Letter **W**
Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes **9747**
Winning number for Rs. 100/- cash prizes **345**
Winning tickets are valid only for six months

SUPER BALL
 Draw Number ▶ 1225 Colour ▶ Green
 Draw Date ▶ 24.09.2020 Date ▶ Thursday
Winning English Letter and Numbers
H 04 10 46 68
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,965,080/-
SUPER 500 SPECIAL NUMBER **7 4 5 7**
Winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

වැසනා වාසනාව
 Lagna Wasasna
 Date : 24-09-2020
 Draw Number : 2932 | Colour : Brown
Super Jackpot has been won
Rs. 3,493,790/-
Winning Numbers
07 | 09 | 27 | 52
 Pisces
Total value of prizes
Rs. 13,206,390/-
For Rs.500 prizes **5464**
For Rs.100 prizes **884**
Winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

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 To be held at:
Mihilaka Medura Hall
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 Commencing @ 1.00 p.m.
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 • Payment : Non - refundable initial deposit of 50% in Cash at the fall of the Hammer & Balance 50% & latest by 3:00 pm on **Tuesday 06th October 2020.**
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HEART OF GENEROSITY: FREE SURGERY OFFERS NEW LEASE OF LIFE

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE
Galle Central Special Correspondent

The Co-op Heart Center at the Galle Co-operative Hospital is the only private cardiothoracic centre in the Southern Province. This centre recently celebrated its third anniversary in an admirable way by carrying out a coronary bypass surgery on a well-deserved young mother of two entirely free of charge at their state-of-the-art heart care centre.

Consultant Cardiologist Surgeon Namal Gamage who appreciated the suggestion of the Board of Directors of the Co-op Heart Center volunteered to carry out the surgery with no charges.

The Galle Co-op Heart Center was established on June 29, 2017 with an investment of Rs. 320 million by Cardiac Care Pvt. Ltd, a newly-formed firm by a group of energetic and passionate entrepreneurs which included young professionals at the Co-operative Hospital, Galle.

Dr. Ahmed Rifkan, the Chairman of the Co-op Heart Center Director Board, elaborating their strategy on cardiac care services, stated that they have a dedicated team of heart specialists and medical professionals led by senior Cardiologist Surgeon Namal Gamage.

"The centre solely depends on the medical expertise of Dr. Namal Gamage. We observed the numerous hardships that people of the Southern Province undergo when obtaining treatments for various heart ailments and cardiovascular diseases. We have a committed surgical team and our nursing team includes well-qualified professionals with years of experience. Many of them are from the Karapitiya Teaching Hospital. Our team caters to the needs of every patient, giving priority to their comfort," he stated.

"Our objective is to improve the healthcare system of the Southern Province, focusing on quality, affordability and accessibility. Before the commencement of our Heart Center, the people of the South had to go to heart centres in Colombo in case of any type of heart surgery. Now, they do not have to travel to Colombo for cardiac surgeries paying exorbitant charges. They can now have cardiac surgeries, at low cost and with less trouble in their own home town," Vascular Diseases (CVD) Dr. Rifkan said.

Speaking on their empathic mission, Co-op Heart Center Director Deepal Withanage said while they were looking for an eligible patient to execute their charitable undertaking



Fully recovered heart patient Chitra Irangani with her husband and son Samanera Bhikku



Board of Directors of the Co-op Heart Center with Consultant Surgeon Dr. Namal Gamage



The surgery in progress
(Pictures by Mahinda P. Liyanage- Galle Central Special Correspondent)

on account of the centre's third anniversary, they had learnt about a mother of two who undergoes severe hardships and urgently needed to undergo a heart operation through a post published on the social media.

"Chitra Irangani, 36, of Haththotamuna, Morathenna in the Laggala Divisional Secretariat area of the

Matale District was the patient we identified for the surgery and she very urgently needed to go through the operation. Our Board of Directors decided to undertake the surgery which cost over Rs. one million completely free of charge," he said.

"Subsequently, we informed our intention to Consultant Surgeon Dr.

Our objective is to improve the healthcare system of the Southern Province, focusing on quality, affordability and accessibility. Before the commencement of our Heart Center, the people of the South had to go to heart centres in Colombo in case of any type of heart surgery. Now, they do not have to travel to Colombo for cardiac surgeries paying exorbitant charges. They can now have cardiac surgeries, at low cost and with less trouble in their own home town

Gamage who became quite pleased with our move and agreed to perform the surgery with no charges," Withanage disclosed.

Accordingly, the Co-op Heart Center directors collected information of the mother from the Galle Karapitiya Teaching Hospital and informed their plan to her. Chitra Irangani's two sons

were ordained as Buddhist novice monks, but later the elder son had disrobed to help his father who worked hard as a hired worker for the survival of the family.

"We have no permanent source of income for the family. We earn a living as hired workers. As it was difficult to bring up our two children, we offered them to the *Sasana*. However, following the identification of my acute heart disease, my elder son disrobed and came home to save my life. Since then he also started to work with the father," Chitra described her plight.

As the illness deteriorated her health day by day, she had been transferred from hospital to hospital. Finally, at the Kandy Hospital, she had been identified as a patient with a severe heart failure which needed an urgent cardiac operation. Hospital authorities had told her that she had to be in the long waiting list of cardiac patients to undergo the operation and they were also told that if they could do the operation at a private hospital, they had to spend about Rs. one million.

"Finding Rs. one million was a difficult task for us which could not even imagine of. The Samanera monk of our family tried various ways to find the needed expenditure for the surgery. A person known to the monk had got the details about my predicament and published a Facebook post explaining our family's grave situation. Later, a monk in Kalutara directed us to Consultant Surgeon Dr. Namal Gamage in Galle.

He examined me and advised us that I should undergo a bypass heart surgery immediately. Nevertheless, I had to wait for about two years for the operation to be done at the Kara-

pitiya Hospital," the innocent mother said.

"During this period, a gentleman named Deepal phoned me; he asked me to come to the Galle Co-op Heart Center and meet him. There, I met Deepal mahattaya and Co-operative Hospital Chairman Charles Gamage who told me that they were ready to conduct my surgery completely free of charge.

They also promised me to provide medication needed before and after the operation. It was unbelievable for me to hear their compassionate benefaction. It was a precious support for our destitute family. My heart surgery was performed successfully at the Co-op Heart Center and now I am quite well. We are grateful and indebted to the directors of the Heart Center, Dr. Namal Gamage and his medical staff who treated us with much sympathy and care.

Consultant Surgeon Dr. Gamage, commenting on his mission, appreciated the Co-op Heart Center's way of celebrating their third anniversary in the trade.

"They selected the most-deserved patient for their task. She was the only person in our waiting list of long-suffering cardiac patients awaiting to undergo heart surgeries. About 50 percent of these innocent patients die before they obtain their turn. It is pathetic," Dr. Gamage revealed.

"The people who can afford the cost of surgery go to private sector hospitals. Before the commencement of the Galle Co-op Heart Center, people of the province had to go to Colombo for cardiac surgeries. However, now people of South can have this expensive operation at a low cost in Galle," he stated.

IN THE SUPREME COURT LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
JAYANTHA JAYASURIYA P.C. (C.J.)
B.P. ALUVIHARA (P.C.) (J)
S. THURAIRAJA P.C. J.

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

1. SC. Application FR 16/11
2. SC. HC.CA.LA 377/17 - HCCA 147/16
3. SC. (Spl.) LA 129/18 - CA 18/17
4. SC.HC.LA 92/19 - CHC No. 88/19
5. SC. Application FR 338/19
6. SC. (Spl.) LA 341/19 - CA 204/17
7. SC. (Spl.) LA 406/19 - CA 06/11
8. SC. Application FR 426/19
9. SC. HC.CA.LA 523/19 - HCCA 74/17
10. SC. HC.CA.LA 228/20 - HCCA 125/17

TO BE RESUMED

1. SC. Application FR 63/18
1. SC. Application FR 225/19
2. SC. Application FR 446/19
3. SC. Application FR 76/20

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

1. SC.HC.LA 93/17 - HC 24/11
2. SC.HC.CA.LA 219/17 - HCCA 31/12
3. SC.HC.CA.LA 428/18 - HCCA 39/17
4. SC.HC.LA 64/19 - CHC 84/18
5. SC.HC.CA.LA 120/19 - HCCA 64/14
6. SC. (Spl.) LA 427/19 - CA 151/13

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 170/11 - CA 543/95 (Top of the list)
- (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)
- FOR ARGUMENT**
1. SC. Application FR 209/18 (Top of the list)
2. SC. Appeal No. 118/10 - HC 26/07
3. SC. Appeal No. 31/15 - HCCA 242/12
- SISIRA J. DE ABREW J.
P. PADAN SURASENA J.

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

1. SC. Appeal No. 85/04 - CA 1682/02
2. SC.HC.CA.LA 234/18 - HCCA 02/18
3. SC. Application FR 388/19
4. SC. (Spl.) LA 181/20 - CA 244 - 246/15

FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED

1. SC. Application FR 84/18 (Top of the list)
2. SC. Application FR 35/20

(FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.) FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED

1. SC. Application FR 440/19
- FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**
1. SC.HC.LA 25/20 - CHC 88/19 (Top of the list)
2. SC.HC.CA.LA 21/18 - HCCA 18/09
3. SC. HC. LA No. 24/18 - HC (Civil) 49/11
4. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 216/19 - CA 213/14
5. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 323/19 - CA 69/16
6. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 390/19 - CA 111/12
7. SC.HC.CA.LA 13/20 - HCCA 166/17

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 94/18 - HCCA 26/15 (Top of the list)
- (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)
- TO BE MENTIONED**
1. SC.HC.CA.LA 192/14 - HCCA 162/09

FOR INQUIRY

1. SC. Rule No. 03/19

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 115/15 - HCCA 162/09
2. SC. Appeal No. 113/18 - HCCA 1609/15
3. SC. Appeal No. 87/19 - HCCA 07/16
- VIJITH K. MALALGODA P.C. J.
E.A.G.R. AMARASEKERA J.)
YASANTHA KODAGODA P.C. J.
- COURT NO. 404 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED**



1. SC. Appeal No. 38/17 - HCCA 103/07
2. SC. (Spl.) LA 447/18 - HC 21/16
3. SC. Application FR 212/20
- FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED**
1. SC. Application FR 357/19
2. SC. Application FR 21/20
3. SC. Application FR 185/20
- (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)
- FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**
1. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 248/19 - CA 1332/00
2. SC. (Spl.) LA No. 35/20 - CA 178/19
3. SC.HC.LA 62/20 - CHC 731/19
4. SC. HC. LA No. 63/20 - CHC 732/19

TO BE RESUMED

1. SC.HC.LA 36/17 WITH 37/17 - HC ARB No 203/12, 249/12

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Application FR 315/11 (Top of the list)
- (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)
- FOR ARGUMENT**
1. SC. Application FR 382/13 (Top of the list)
2. SC. Appeal No. 135/17 - HCCA 06/13 (Top of the list)
3. SC. Appeal No. 15/14 - CA 868/08
4. SC. Appeal No. 133/15 - HCCA 157/12
- IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**
- A.H.M.D NAWAZ (J)(P/CA)
SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J.
- COURT NO. 301**

AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED

1. 335/16 Writ of Cert
2. 02/20 COC
3. 01/19 EXT
- FOR SUPPORT**
1. 264/19 Writ of Cert
2. 422/19 Writ of Cert
3. 426/19 Writ of Cert
4. 08/20 Writ of Cert
5. 213/20 Writ of Cert
6. 236/20 Writ of Cert
7. 294/20 Writ of Cert
8. 303/20 Writ of Cert
- TO BE RESUMED**

1. 01/14 TAX WITH 175/13, 176/13

COURT NO. 301 OTHERS

- TO BE MENTIONED**
1. 321/99 (F) DC A,B
2. 657/99 (F) DC
3. 718/99 (F) DC
4. 768/99 (F) DC
5. 108/00 (F) DC
6. 187/00 (F) DC
7. 915/00 (F) DC
8. 503/07 Writ of Cert
9. 265/11 Writ of Cert
10. 235/14 Writ of Cert
11. 239/15 Writ of Cert
12. 240/15 Writ of Cert
13. 261/15 Writ of Cert
14. 226/18 Writ of Cert

AT 10.30 P.M. FOR ARGUMENT

1. 15/19 TAX
- K.K. WICKRAMASINGHE (J.)
DEVIKA ABNEYRATNE J.
- COURT NO. 107**
- AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED**
1. 03/16 PHC
2. 05/17 PHC
3. 05/17 PA
4. 02/20 BA
5. 03/20 BA
6. 165/13 HC
7. 177/15 HC (K.K. Wickramasinghe J.)
{ Sobitha Rajakaruna J.

8. 287/17 HC
9. 441/17 HC
10. 483/17 HC
11. 213-214/18 HC
12. 311/18 HC
13. 291/19 HC
14. 361/19 HC
15. 385/19 HC
16. 393 - 394/19 HC
17. 395/19 HC
18. 397/19 HC

FOR OBJECTION

1. 73/20 PA

NOTICE RETURNABLE

1. 77/20 PA

FOR INQUIRY

1. 21/19 BA

COURT NO. 204

AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED

1. 213/99 (F) DC
2. 150/13 PHC
3. 137/14 PHC
4. 42/15 PHC
5. 36/16 PHC
6. 27/17 PHC
7. 29/17 PHC
8. 57/17 PHC
9. 164/16 PA

NOTICE RETURNABLE

1. 128/10 PHC
2. 162/15 PHC

COURT NO. 204

AT 10.00 A.M. CONTD...

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 108/14 PHC
2. 232/15 PHC
3. 78/16 PHC
- ACHALA WENGAPPULI J.
K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J)
- COURT NO. (110)**
- AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED**
1. 11/19 PA WITH 103/19 HC (Achala Wengappuli J.)
(Devika Abeyratne J.)
2. 72/20 PA
3. 94/20 PA
4. 318/17 HC
5. 444/17 HC
6. 108 - 109/19 HC
7. 266/19 HC

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 140/10 HC
2. 136/14 HC
3. 120/16 HC

MAHINDA SAMAYAWARDHANA J.

ARJUNA OBEYSEKERE J.

COURT NO. (206)

AT 10.00 A.M. FOR JUDGEMENT

1. 395/17 Writ of Cert WITH WR 85/18 (Mahinda Samayawardhana J.)
2. 2196/02 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.)
3. 50/14 Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 272/17 Writ of Cert
2. 210/18 Writ of Cert
3. 238/18 Writ of Cert

MAHINDA SAMAYAWARDHANA J.

ARJUNA OBEYSEKERE J.

COURT NO. (206)

AT 02.00 P.M. FOR ARGUMENT

1. 190/18 Writ of Cert

CIVIL APPEAL WESTERN PROVINCE (COLOMBO)

LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

LAFFAR THAHIR (H.C.J.)

SAMPATH B. ABAYAKOON (H.C.J.)

(AT 10.00 A.M.) FOR ORDERS

- LA 159/18 HCCA/Colombo (Laffar Thahir (H.C.J.)

TO BE MENTIONED

- LA 67/20 HCCA/Colombo
- 115/18 (F) HCCA/Colombo
- LA 65/20 HCCA/Colombo
- LA 55/17 HCCA/Colombo
- LA 157/19 HCCA/Colombo
- LA 67/20 HCCA/Colombo
- LA 65/20 HCCA/Colombo
- LA 55/17 HCCA/Colombo
- LA 157/19 HCCA/Colombo
- LA 164/19 HCCA/Colombo
- 85/16 (F) HCCA/Colombo
- 06/19 RA HCCA/Colombo
- LA 31/19 HCCA/Colombo

Retired Colonel, former Minister of Defence sworn in as new President in Mali

CHANNA SANJEEWA

After a one month of long negotiations with stake holders of Junta, Political parties, Civil societies, Signatory armed groups, Traditional Leaders including religious and Diaspora managed to nominate the president for the eighteen-month transitional period. On 21 September, the former Minister of Defense, Mr. Ba N'Daou and the president of the National Committee for the Salvation of the People (CNSP), Colonel Assimi Goïta have been appointed as President and vice-president to lead the transition in Mali. The information was announced by the president of the CNSP, Colonel Assimi Goïta during a special flash broadcast at 2 p.m on the national television (ORTM).

According to the announcement, the president and vice-president of the transition were appointed by a committee of college made up of members of seven members of the CNSP, as well as two representatives of the M5-RFP, one from the civil society, one from the conseil national des jeunes (CNJ), one from Women organization, one from the people with disability, one from the union organization, one from the signatory armed groups, one from the traditional leaders and one from the diaspora. The swearing-in ceremony will take place on Friday, 25 September 2020. This contradictory decision was taken by the stakeholders of Mali notwithstanding the Heads of State and government of the ECOWAS had requested the appointment of civilian President and Prime Minister to lead the transition no later than 22 September.

Subsequently on 23 September, the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) mediator, former President of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan has arrived in Bamako for a two-day mission during which he met with the new leaders of the transition just after the two days of the designation of Mr. Bah N'Daw as president, and



French President Emmanuel Macron addressing UN General Assembly on September 22, 2020



Former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan



Ba N'Daou nominated as Mali's Interim President

that of Colonel Assimi Goïta as vice-president of the transition. The ECOWAS has not yet officially reacted to these nominations. However, according to a source within the organization, the ECOWAS wants to be reassured that it is indeed a civilian who will be appointed as Prime Minister.

Former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan arrived in Bamako on Wednesday (September 23) for a forty-eight-hour visit.

In the meanwhile commemoration of the 60 Independence Day of Mali celebrated on 22 September 2020. During the National ceremony, the president of the CNSP plus newly appointed vice president of Mali Colonel Assimi Goïta in his 12 minutes speech to the nation expressed that several essential reforms to the sectors such as institutional, security, educational, social and economic should be carried out for the better future for the Malians. Therefore, he pledges support from all Malians to work for the much-desired change. Further emphasized that Defence forces must be better equipped, free, and fair

election to be conducted without tampering, public roads must be passable, water and electricity must be available. Besides that, injustice must be overcome.

After all these social measures, the president of the CNSP invites the Malian people to make a profound break with their usual ways of acting. Because change involves a profound sacrifice on the part of all citizens. In concluding said that no one subject to impunity and humility and for a lasting peace assured that peace agreements and National Dialogue will be implemented. Finally, strongly stressed that Our only fight is to rebuild Mali.

Colonel Assimi Goïta – Head of CNSP and Vice President of Mali interim government Addressing the Nation during 60 Independence Day of Mali on 22 September 2020

Even though the transitional Government has been formulated, with regard to few prevailing issues Mutineers has been blamed by some International and National organizations. The human rights groups are operating in Mali blaming

handover. But it had also had to tread a careful path, condemning the coup while at the same time tempering its criticism of the military officers who removed 75-year-old Keita – a leader who appeared to be on a good footing with Paris but faced growing opposition at home due to the country's persistent economic malaise and spiraling security crisis.

Having been seen as supporters of Keita, their (France's) position is weakened in Mali, said Jean-Yves Haine, a professor at the Sorbonne Nouvelle university and ILERI school in Paris. But there was no immediate reaction by France to the announcement about the new government, which is to be inaugurated on 25 September 2020.

Following last month's coup, France, as well as the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali, have declared they will continue operations in the country during the transitional period. And while Mali's new kingmakers might still align with the French militarily, it remains to be seen whether Paris will still be able to influence political developments.

The junta is not aligned with the M5-RFP, the anti-IBK coalition which has in its midst some vocal anti-French figures referring to the opposition alliance that led weeks of relentless street protests calling for the resignation of the former president. The junta is made of pragmatic leaders, whose stance towards the French is open but might also depend on the ability of the M5-RFP to push its agenda.

If the things are happening in this manner, on 22 September, in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly, French President Emmanuel Macron said the Malian junta must put Mali on the irreversible path of returning to civilian power and quickly organizing elections has been indicating to a tremendous pressure and a mish-mash towards the new appointments of Mali.

Putin proposes election non-interference pact with US

RUSSIA: Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed Friday concluding a pact with Washington against interfering in one another's elections and internal affairs, just weeks before the US hosts a divisive presidential vote.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov read out Putin's statement in a video released by the ministry, while the Kremlin chief was visiting massive military drills involving China and Iran in southern Russia.

Western countries have for years accused Russia of using hackers and internet trolls to sway the outcome of elections, and US intelligence officials have said that Moscow is once again manipulating social media in favour of Donald Trump as it did in 2016.

Putin's proposal for a non-interference pact in cyberspace came amid Kremlin accusations that Western countries are mounting a "disinformation" campaign against Russia over the poisoning last month of opposition leader Alexei Navalny in Siberia.

In his statement, Putin called for the two countries to "exchange guarantees of non-interference in each others' domestic affairs including elections," and particularly noted the use of "information and communication technologies".

He also called for a global pact agreeing not to use such methods to deal "the first blow" in conflicts. "One of today's major strategic challenges is the risk of a large-scale confrontation in the digital field," the Russian leader said. "A special responsibility for its prevention lies on the key players in the field of ensuring international information security," he added. He also suggested that Moscow and Washington strike a deal to prevent cyberspace incidents, comparing that to a 1972 Soviet-American agreement to reduce the possibility of an incident at sea or in the air and an escalation in tensions.

He added that dialogue should be restored between Russian and US officials on key issues of international information security.

Professional dialogue should not become "hostage to our political disagreements," Putin said.

US President Donald Trump last week attacked his FBI director Christopher Wray for highlighting the threat posed by Russia in the upcoming November 3 election.

Trump, whose campaign had murky ties to Russian operatives offering assistance during his 2016 victory against Hillary Clinton, has repeatedly criticised his intelligence officials who consistently say that Moscow still poses the chief danger.

In addition to interfering in US politics, a hacking group believed linked to Russian intelligence services was accused by British officials of trying to steal information on coronavirus vaccines.

The British government this year also accused "Russian actors" of seeking to disrupt the 2019 general election by circulating leaked trade documents between London and Washington.

Lavrov said Friday that over the past few years Russia has been accused of undermining US elections and "the entire domestic political system." "As we've repeatedly said, there is no basis for such statements," he added. "We are in favour of professional and constructive discussion of all existing problems" through negotiations, Russia's top diplomat said.

The Kremlin has repeatedly brushed off all allegations of election meddling and interference and instead accused Western leaders of waging a disinformation war against Russia.

This week, its foreign ministry accused European countries of "unleashing a massive disinformation campaign" over the poisoning of Navalny, whose allies say he was targeted with Novichok in a state-sanctioned attack last month.

Labs in Germany, France and Sweden have said they confirmed that the 44-year-old anti-corruption campaigner was poisoned with the Soviet military-grade nerve agent. - AFP

SC suspends...From Page 01

The Supreme Court ordered the respondent attorney to deposit within one month from the date of the order, Rs. 300,000 to be paid to the complainant.

The Supreme Court three-judge-Bench comprising Justice Vijith K. Malalgoda, Justice Preethi Padman Surasena and Justice Thurairaja made this order.

The disciplinary committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka had concluded that the Respondent Attorney-at-Law, who has filed an application on behalf of the Complainant after receiving fees from him, has not given an acceptable explanation for his absence in the Supreme Court on 17-06-2009 and 20-07-2009, which were the dates the Court had fixed the said application for support. Further, the said disciplinary committee also had concluded that it was long after the Court had dismissed the said application that the respondent Attorney-at-Law had made the re-listing application.

Justice Surasena observed that this is not the kind of conduct expected from the practitioners in this noble profession. Rule 60 of the Supreme Court (Conduct of and Etiquette for Attorneys-at-Law) Rules 1988 published in the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 535/7 dated 07-12-1988 states as follows: "an Attorney-at-Law must not conduct himself in any manner which would be reasonably regarded as disgraceful or dishonourable by Attorneys-at-Law of good repute and competency or which would render him unfit to remain an Attorney-at-Law or which is inexcusable and such as to be regarded as deplorable by his fellows in profession." It is also relevant to note that while rule 61 states that an Attorney-at-Law shall not conduct himself in any manner unworthy of an Attorney-at-Law.

Dr. Avanthi Perera SSC with Sureka Ahamad SC appeared for Attorney General. Rohan Sahabandu PC appeared for the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. Respondent Wasantha Wijewardena appeared in person.

Podi Lasie further...From Page 01



when he was interrogated over the charges against him and only expressed some embarrassment he had to undergo in the prison.

Dharmakeerthige Tharaka Perera Wijesekera alias Kosgoda Tharaka, named as the first accused in the case is a 33-year-old married man with a child. He said the second suspect Podi Lessie is a 31-year-old married man and a father of one. Kosgoda Tharaka is under detention orders under the custody of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Deputy Solicitor General further submitted to the magistrate.

DSG Dileepa Peiris also stated that Kosgoda Tharaka in his statement had claimed that a Prison Commissioner had visited the notorious drug trafficker Makandure Madush when he was in Dubai and the former had been facilitated by Madush there and pleaded the Magistrate to permit him to obtain statements from the respective prison officer and Makandure Madush regarding the said allegations.

Subsequently, the Magistrate questioned the suspect whether he had the assistance of an attorney but in response the suspect appealed to make a statement.

The second suspect in open court said that he did not make any death threats to any one as charged but raised the issue of facilities at the prison.

The Magistrate replied that the same matter was already included in his statement and advised that the suspects cannot stay without bail for long.

Commenting on the issue of the long stay at prison, the Deputy Solicitor General pointed out that it was their strategy to remain in prison and to get their supporters remanded for minor offences in order to help their gang leader in jail.

DSG Peiris continuing his submissions further stated that a large haul of weapons believed to belong to the first suspect Kosgoda Tharaka were recovered from the Homagama area.

Responding to a declaration made by the Balapitiya Magistrate on the day prior to the hearing of the case, the Deputy Solicitor General reiterated that he demanded that Police provide security to the public who came to the courts but not for the suspects. He also said that the Attorney General's Department would make arrangements to serve indictments against the suspects in the High Court.

Podi Lesie was brought to courts under security provided by the Police and the Police Special Task Force.

Deputy Solicitor General Dileepa Peiris assisted by ASP Meril Ranjan Lamahewa, CI Jayasekara and SI Polwatta of the CID made submissions on behalf of the Attorney General's Department.

Veteran singer SP...From Page 01

for COVID-19, and had gotten admitted in a hospital. He had then remarked that he was getting admitted mostly "to take rest".

While his health had deteriorated during the second week in hospital, he was gradually making progress, with his son, SP Charan diligently updating on his health status. In fact, Charan's last update, on September 22, said he was making steady progress even though he was on Ecmo/ventilator, and was eager to leave the hospital.

Unfortunately, the acclaimed singer's health deteriorated in the last 24 hours and he passed away a few minutes ago, today.

SPB, who made his singing debut in 1966 with the Telugu film Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna, was the most prolific singer the country has ever seen.

Though he recorded his first Tamil song for MS Viswanathan for the unreleased film Hotel Ramba, his Tamil breakthrough came in 1969, in the form of Aayiram Nilave Vaa, composed by KV Mahadevan for MGR's Adimai Penn. Iyarkai Ennum Ilayakanni from Shanti Nilayam (which he had recorded even before Adimai Penn) released in the same year, and there was no looking back for the young singer. He soon became the sought-after singer across industries. His association with MSV and maestro Ilaiyaraaja cemented his status as a legend even in the 1980s. In 1981, he recorded 21 songs on a single day, a record that hasn't been broken yet (and might not be ever), which is a testament to his prolific singing career.

He also was an admired character actor, earning praise for his effortless performances in films like Manathil Uruthi Vendum, Thiruda Thiruda, Kadhalan, Minsara Kanavu, and Moone Moonu Varthai. He also played the leads in films like Keladi Kanmani and Sigaram. He was also a voice actor, dubbing for superstars like Kamal Haasan, Rajinikanth and Mohanlal in Telugu, and for Anil Kapoor and Balakrishna in Tamil.

The veteran singer has recorded over 40,000 songs in 16 Indian languages and holds the Guinness World Record for recording the highest number of songs by a singer. He has won the National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer six times, the Filmfare Award seven times for his work across many industries, the Tamil Nadu State Film Awards four times, the Government of Andhra Pradesh's Nandi Awards 25 times, and the Karnataka State Film Awards three times. He was also a recipient of the Padma Bhushan (2011) and Padmashri (2001) from the Government of India. - Times of India



Meeting int'l elephant...From Page 01

They told the Daily News that apart from having to take care of an additional 17 elephants in a number of Court cases, the main issue they face with elephants living in the facility is the lack of resources to maintain the international guidelines for elephant management and care.

The latter is the real deal, as pointed out by them. "The former," they said, "that is elephants being referred to the Pinnawala orphanage for care because their keepers' lack of ownership licenses as such, has been a common problem."

Most of these elephants involving Court cases were brought to the orphanage in 2014 and 2015.

As pointed out by Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage's Assistant Director Mihiran Medawala, the facility's revenues went on a nosedive during the year due to COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Elephant Orphanage's revenue has decreased by between 70 to 80 percent," he said adding, "The number of foreigners visiting the facility has dropped significantly. A foreign national pays Rs 3,000 to purchase a ticket to visit the elephant orphanage."

"We currently look after 82 elephants. We have to meet their needs in keeping with those international standards set out in the Elephant Husbandry Manual," he said. "Veterinary doctors recommend what should be their food, the quantity and the weight of their food, nutrition among other things, We have to provide for them," he said.

Asked if they have any difficulties in providing necessary supplies, Medawala said, "At a time, we had about 92 elephants, but we took care of them. Here we have to meet their requirements in keeping with the international standards, which I must say is challenging."

"Each of these mammals eats 600 pounds of food in a day, which must include fruits. A contractor is providing the food items. We are doing our best to look after the elephants," he said.

Russian crew member...From Page 01

undergoing quarantine at a hotel in Polhena, Matara. However, the PCR tests confirmed that the 14 others had not contracted the virus.

Obituaries

RANASINGHE - LESLIE - Formerly of JEDB-Fertilizers. Beloved husband of Kanthi, loving father of Senani, father-in-law of Nimani, and grandfather of Dinan, brother of late Felix, late Jerry, late George and Sicilia and Monica. Remains lie at **669/7, Kohalwila Road, Dalugama, Kelaniya**. Burial at the cemetery of St. Francis S'ales Church, Dalugama on 26th Saturday at 3.00 p.m. 058593

RANAWEERA - W.K.G. (MANIKE). Beloved wife of late Dr. Kalyanaratne Peiris of Panadura, loving mother of Anoja (USA), Koshala (Hayleys), Rajeev (Australia), mother-in-law of Lakal Nanayakkara (USA), Nadini (NTB), Modisha (Australia), loving grandmother of Kavishka, Chamalka, Thiuni, Pamod & Heshan. Cremation at Borella cemetery at 3.00 p.m. Cortege leaves residence **12, Temple Road, Nawala** on 26th September at 2.30 p.m. 058092

WEERASINGHE - T. P. (Teddy) - Former Architect of Town and Country Planning Dept, former Chairman of Design Team Three Architectural Company. Beloved husband of Swanthi Weerasinghe, brother of Mrs. J.P.W. Kariyawasam and brother-in-law of D.D. Kariyawasam, loving uncle of Chaminda (Group Managing Director, Software Group of Companies) and Namal (Chartered Architect). Remains lie at "Restpect" Jayaratne Funeral Parlour at **483, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 8**. Cremation on Saturday 26th September 2020 at 4.30 p.m. at Borella General Cemetery. 299, Thimbirigasyaya Road, Colombo 5. 0777 758 123. 058521



120/15, Wijerama Mawatha,
Colombo 7.

THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA (IESL)

(Established 1906, Incorporated by Act. No.17 of 1968)

Induction & Graduation Ceremony - 2020

26th September 2020 at BMICH

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF GUEST



It's a privilege to address you as the Chief Guest of the Annual Induction and Graduation Ceremony of the Institution of Engineers of Sri Lanka. Today some of you will become Chartered Engineers in your respective fields, which is a highly respected professional status.

Engineers are the driving force of a developing country. Sri Lanka produces far fewer Engineers annually, per million population compared to other countries in the region such as Thailand and Burma. The current number of 310 graduates per year is a small fraction of the numbers produced in more developed countries in the region such as Japan and South Korea. I have always been a believer of the need to increase of the number of Engineers, to drive the economy. During my tenure as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, I started the 7th Engineering Faculty in Sri Lanka, keeping in line with that vision. That Faculty will produce its first batch of Engineering graduates in less than a year's time.

The Country has faced the Covid-19 global pandemic successfully and is planning to capitalize on the re energizing of the economy after the shutdown. Inventions, Innovations and value addition are some of the key aspects of this plan, the government is focusing on. Engineers can contribute significantly in these fields and drive the economy to meet the expectations of the country. Various creative and low-cost solutions developed by our Engineers and the youth of the country, during the Covid-19 pandemic is a testament to this.

Engineering is a profession with almost 100% employability in the country. Although this is the case, Engineers at present are expected to transform themselves into Job creators, through entrepreneurship. This change in mentality will drastically improve the Engineering industry in the country and minimize brain drain of the youth.

The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka, been the apex body of the Engineering Profession, has been a key partner in the transformation. The Engineering Council, Sri Lanka Act, No. 04 of 2017, paves the path to standardize the profession, and therefore improve the quality of engineering education and engineering profession as a whole in the country.

I wish you all Success in your future professional endeavors in their chosen career paths.

Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge

The Chairman
University Grants Commission

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA

It is with great pleasure and honour I write this message as the President of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka for the Induction and Graduation Ceremony 2020. Among many other events organized by the IESL, Induction and Graduation Ceremony heads up as the crowning jewel of Chartered Engineers.

As the chairman of the Professional Standards Management Committee (PSMC) of the IESL in the session 2018/2019, for the previous year, I am well aware of all the difficulties hardships you had to go through to stand here in this ground today as Chartered Engineers, a distinguished position that is recognized all over the country. I am confident that you have acquired all the necessary skills and competencies to be entitled to sit among the prestige group of Chartered Engineers in the country.

While appreciating your achievement on this day you should also consider the responsibility falls on your shoulders as Chartered Engineers to enrich the lives of people and to work for the betterment of the country. Code of ethics which you are bound to, is there to guide you and to ensure that your work resembles professionalism and the reputation of the institution is intact. As professional engineers, we must always value ethics.

Further, you should acknowledge that this is not only an achievement by yourself but also an achievement by all those who were around you: especially your family and good friends. You must appreciate their sacrifices, commitment, determination and provision on your path to becoming a Chartered Engineer as much as yours.

As the premium body for professional engineers, the duty of upholding the standards of professional engineering in Sri Lanka falls on IESL. It is the responsibility of the IESL to groom individuals with intelligence, knowledge and ethical values to meet the engineering need of the country.

On this important day of your life I wish all the best for the inductees, graduates of IESL examinations, award Awardees winners and JIY winners for all the success in your future undertakings. My sincere congratulations.

Eng. (Prof.) S B S Abayakoon

President – 2019/2020
The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA



Induction and Graduation Ceremony is one of the most important calendar events of the IESL. Engineers who have completed the requirements for becoming a Chartered Engineer will be inducted on this special day. Also, the individuals who have passed the IESL examinations are receiving their graduate certificates marking an important milestone in their lives.

As the Chairman of the Professional Standards Management Committee of the IESL, it is my pleasure to welcome you all as Chartered Engineers. Those who have undergone the process will bear with me that, being a Chartered Engineer is not an easy task. It needs a lot of commitment, hard work and dedication. Also, the sacrifices made by the loved ones (family and friends) should not be forgotten.

As you may already know that with the establishment of the Engineering Council, Sri Lanka, which is the law of the country, states that if you are to practice engineering in the capacity of a Chartered Engineer it is mandatory to have the IESL Charter certification. All the inductees gathered here are entitled to these privileges and I hope that you convey this message to your fellow engineers and encourage them to follow your footsteps.

With the title Chartered Engineer, you commence a new chapter in your professional career. Being a Chartered Engineer is not only for the benefit of you but also for the greater good of the community and the country as well. Engineers shall always consider the sustainable management of the resources and to apply their knowledge and wisdom to solve problems. While you are practicing in the field you may have to face various challenging situations. Decisions taken by you in such situations will echo the level of professionalism you have achieved.

Today not only the inductees but also the graduates from IESL examinations, winners of JIY competition and IESL award receivers have taken an initial step in their long journey ahead. I wish all the best for all of them in their future endeavors.

Eng. K.P.I.U. Dharmapala

President-Elect, Chairman of the Professional Standards Management Committee (2019/2020)
The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (2019/2020) – IESL

It is with great pleasure I send this message as the Chairman of the Education Standing Committee for the session 2019/20 in the occasion of the Induction and Graduation Ceremony of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka.

To all the young engineers who are inducting to the status of corporate member of the Institution, I welcome you all to sit among the prestigious Chartered Engineers of the institution. After undergoing a rigorous process of training and Professional Review, the status you have achieved today is no a smaller step. I wish you the very best in your future.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere congratulations to all the graduates of IESL examinations. What you have achieved today opens doors for new worlds and hope you will find the success you seek through engaging with activities of the institution.

Also, I acknowledge and appreciate all the hard work done by IESL competition winners and other awardees. IESL has been organizing Junior Inventor Competition for many years now. Previously those who have awarded on this ceremony represented Sri Lanka in adjoining completions held worldwide. I wish you all the best as you are the future of our country.

Educational committee of the IESL provides you with the opportunity to continuously improve your knowledge and understanding of the engineering world and thereby sharpening your professionalism. As the apex body of professional engineers, it is the duty of the IESL to safeguard the engineering profession in the country and to enhance the value of it. As the engineers both graduated and inducted today, you all should consider the contribution you can render for the development of the country and work to achieve that goal to your best.

Finally, I am obliged for the guidance of the President, the Council, PSMC Committee, Education Committee and the IESL Secretariat for their efforts in making the dreams come true of those who wish to enter the engineering profession in the country.

Congratulations and best wishes.

Eng. (Dr.) Kamal Laksiri

Vice President, Chairman-Education Committee (2019/2020)
The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka



PROGRAMME

- 1300 Registration
- 1430 Awardees & Graduates take their seats
- 1445 Invitees & Guests take their seats
- 1450 President, Past Presidents and Members of the Council
Assemble in the lobby – (Main Hall) BMICH
- 1500 Arrival of the Chief Guest
- 1505 The President's procession comprising Chief Guest, Past Presidents and Members
of the Council enter the Main Hall, BMICH
- 1515 Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp
- 1525 National Anthem followed by IESL song
- 1530 Welcome address by Eng. K P I U Dharmapala President Elect. IESL
- 1540 Address by Eng. (Prof) S.B.S.Abayakoon President – IESL
- 1550 Address by the Chief Guest – Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge
The Chairman – University Grants Commission
- 1600 Presentation of Certificates to IESL Engineering Graduates
- 1615 Affirmation of the Code of Ethics by those to be Inducted as Chartered Engineers.
- 1620 Presentation of Certificates to those who are Inducted as Chartered Engineers.
- 1750 Presentation of Special Awards - 2019/2020
- 1800 Awarding of Scholarships to the JIY winners-2019
- 1810 Presentation of mementoes to the Chief Guest
- 1815 Vote of Thanks by Eng. (Dr.) Kamal Laksiri
Vice President and Chairman Education Committee- IESL
- 1825 Closing of the proceedings and the departure of the President's procession
- 1830 Refreshments

OUR VISION

Be amongst the leading professional institutions in engineering and technology in the world.

OUR MISSION

To be the apex national body of engineers in Sri Lanka, which ensures internationally recognized and locally relevant standards in the professional practice and education in engineering, while actively supporting national development and diligently serving its members and the society at large.



120/15, Wijerama Mawatha,
Colombo 7.

THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA (IESL)

(Established 1906, Incorporated by Act. No.17 of 1968)

Induction & Graduation Ceremony - 2020

26th September 2020 at BMICH

RECIPIENTS OF CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES (CHARTERED ENGINEERS)

Aug/September 2019, Feb/March 2020

| No. | Name | Membership Number | No. | Name | Membership Number | No. | Name | Membership Number |
|-----|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 01 | Eng. M I S Ameer | M-8140 | 107 | Eng. U I Gamage | M-8247 | 213 | Eng. A R M D N B Ranasinghe | M-8370 |
| 02 | Eng. Aruna Salwatura | M-8141 | 108 | Eng. S N Jayasinghe | M-8248 | 214 | Eng. P Ravikumar | M-8371 |
| 03 | Eng. S A C R De Silva | M-8142 | 109 | Eng. M Chanaka | M-8249 | 215 | Eng.(Ms.) N K Wickramaratna | M-8372 |
| 04 | Eng. L M Harsha De Silva | M-8144 | 110 | Eng. S L Weragoda | M-8250 | 216 | Eng.(Ms.) A M M P K Abesingha | M-8373 |
| 05 | Eng. S G Jayasinghe | M-8145 | 111 | Eng. D M U J Dassanayake | M-8251 | 217 | Eng. K G S Heshan | M-8374 |
| 06 | Eng. N Lohis | M-8146 | 112 | Eng. J S U Jayalath | M-8252 | 218 | Eng. A A C Mendis | M-8375 |
| 07 | Eng. P Achchuthan | M-8147 | 113 | Eng. O G P R P R Hungampola | M-8253 | 219 | Eng. K P M Krishan | M-8376 |
| 08 | Eng. W S R Perera | M-8148 | 114 | Eng. L H L Lilantha | M-8254 | 220 | Eng.(Ms.) H M Thalagala | M-8377 |
| 09 | Eng. R P Tharanga | M-8149 | 115 | Eng. A P A Perera | M-8255 | 221 | Eng. A G S Saranga | M-8378 |
| 10 | Eng. I M S P Sumanadasa | M-8150 | 116 | Eng.(Ms.) D Cowzini | M-8256 | 222 | Eng. M D Sahardeen | M-8379 |
| 11 | Eng. L D W Vithanage | M-8151 | 117 | Eng. P G C Diliruwan | M-8257 | 223 | Eng. H T T Viraj | M-8380 |
| 12 | Eng. M Rutarshan | M-8152 | 118 | Eng. H B M K Dematagolla | M-8258 | 224 | Eng.(Ms.) H D S Lakmali | M-8381 |
| 13 | Eng. H P S Srilal | M-8153 | 119 | Eng. M S Hewa Bettage | M-8259 | 225 | Eng.(Dr.) T S A Gunawardena | M-8382 |
| 14 | Eng. S K D M Silva | M-8154 | 120 | Eng. L L R R Loku Liyanage | M-8260 | 226 | Eng. J G D S De Silva | M-8383 |
| 15 | Eng. C K S Handagala | M-8155 | 121 | Eng. M A T Damayanthi | M-8261 | 227 | Eng. C K S Perera | M-8384 |
| 16 | Eng. I L Mohamed Sabri | M-8156 | 122 | Eng. U Vyavanathan | M-8262 | 228 | Eng. S K L B Prasad | M-8385 |
| 17 | Eng.(Ms.) M P D K Peiris | M-8157 | 123 | Eng. H K M Gunasekara | M-8263 | 229 | Eng. M U M D B Mannauthum | M-8386 |
| 18 | Eng. T D Lokuliyana | M-8158 | 124 | Eng. R H L Ranasinghe | M-8264 | 230 | Eng. B Subankan | M-8387 |
| 19 | Eng. M S Jayalath | M-8159 | 125 | Eng. W G S Kokila | M-8265 | 231 | Eng. M D R K Karunaratne | M-8388 |
| 20 | Eng. D M B T B Dissanayake | M-8160 | 126 | Eng. H A D D S Priyadarshana | M-8266 | 232 | Eng.(Ms.) D A M R Weerasekara | M-8389 |
| 21 | Eng. M M Minas | M-8161 | 127 | Eng. J M R D Jayasuriya | M-8267 | 233 | Eng. R S Ranjitha | M-8390 |
| 22 | Eng. I V Y R Wijesena | M-8162 | 128 | Eng.(Ms.) U N K Samarasinghe | M-8268 | 234 | Eng. H P C S Manchanayake | M-8391 |
| 23 | Eng.(Ms.) M M D D Kumari | M-8163 | 129 | Eng. W A V L N Prasad | M-8269 | 235 | Eng. M P M Fernando | M-8392 |
| 24 | Eng. S S K Gamage | M-8164 | 130 | Eng. P M K P Gunawardhana | M-8270 | 236 | Eng. I G C Harshana | M-8393 |
| 25 | Eng. L G A Liyanage | M-8165 | 131 | Eng. O.U.A. Pathirathna | M-8271 | 237 | Eng. V G R G Jayawardane | M-8394 |
| 26 | Eng. A M K R Suraweera | M-8166 | 132 | Eng. A R S Edirisinghe | M-8272 | 238 | Eng. G V D Kumara | M-8395 |
| 27 | Eng. M D M I N Dissanayaka | M-8167 | 133 | Eng. D Kodithuwakku | M-8273 | 239 | Eng. W P Kosala | M-8396 |
| 28 | Eng. D B S De Silva | M-8168 | 134 | Eng. K M J Amarawansa | M-8274 | 240 | Eng. H L R Gunawardana | M-8397 |
| 29 | Eng. H M J S Bandara | M-8169 | 135 | Eng.(Ms.) A S Mathangaweera | M-8275 | 241 | Eng. V C Chandradasa | M-8398 |
| 30 | Eng. I Wanigasinghe | M-8170 | 136 | Eng.(Mrs.)H M N S Kumari | M-8276 | 242 | Eng. V P R Ariyadasa | M-8399 |
| 31 | Eng. W M K S Maduragoda | M-8171 | 137 | Eng.(Mrs.)M A P Perera | M-8277 | 243 | Eng. W A R P Perera | M-8400 |
| 32 | Eng. T M S S Siripala | M-8172 | 138 | Eng.(Ms.) W S C Wickramaarachchi | M-8278 | 244 | Eng.(Ms.) V Nilojan | M-8401 |
| 33 | Eng. T M S H Weerawardhana | M-8173 | 139 | Eng.(Mrs.)S Vinothini | M-8279 | 245 | Eng. K A B S Abeyrathne | M-8402 |
| 34 | Eng. A Rajeskanna | M-8174 | 140 | Eng. V G N Chaminda | M-8280 | 246 | Eng. G Kishokumar | M-8403 |
| 35 | Eng. J H V G T N S Jayawardana | M-8175 | 141 | Eng. A T L P Samarasinghe | M-8281 | 247 | Eng.(Ms.) S Rishanthi | M-8404 |
| 36 | Eng. A N Jayamal | M-8176 | 142 | Eng.(Ms.) K K T Upekshika | M-8282 | 248 | Eng. T R Ismail | M-8405 |
| 37 | Eng. R M P A Thilakarathne | M-8177 | 143 | Eng. R J R Senadheera | M-8283 | 249 | Eng. M Sathan | M-8406 |
| 38 | Eng. E G C B Kumara | M-8178 | 144 | Eng. S T D Thiwanaka | M-8284 | 250 | Eng. W M G B Wickramasinghe | M-8407 |
| 39 | Eng.(Ms.) R.M.N.S. Chamilani | M-8179 | 145 | Eng.(Ms.) W M R C A Wijekoon | M-8285 | 251 | Eng. C M Jayasinghe | M-8408 |
| 40 | Eng. N L A Pushpakumara | M-8180 | 146 | Eng. S K Alahakoon | M-8286 | 252 | Eng. W D M D R K Gunarathna | M-8409 |
| 41 | Eng.(Ms.) K D Nishanthi | M-8181 | 147 | Eng. M R Wijetunga | M-8287 | 253 | Eng. A Sivatheepan | M-8410 |
| 42 | Eng. K S A U Pushpakumara | M-8182 | 148 | Eng. K D M A D Samaradiwakara | M-8288 | 254 | Eng. P M R N Ekanayake | M-8411 |
| 43 | Eng.(Ms.) M.I.D. Muthukumarana | M-8183 | 149 | Eng. S A I J Rodrigo | M-8289 | 255 | Eng. G Amila Nirmana Perera | M-8412 |
| 44 | Eng. S V R Deshpriya | M-8184 | 150 | Eng. K L D D R K Liyanage | M-8290 | 256 | Eng. T Kopiram | M-8413 |
| 45 | Eng. W M T Weerakoon | M-8185 | 151 | Eng. A K Vithanachchi | M-8291 | 257 | Eng. M G S P Kumara | M-8414 |
| 46 | Eng.(Ms.) T N Molagoda | M-8186 | 152 | Eng. W A M L Wasala | M-8296 | 258 | Eng. K M M Hikam | M-8415 |
| 47 | Eng. T P G U Alwis | M-8187 | 153 | Eng. K H N A Jayasekara | M-8297 | 259 | Eng. H M K S Marambade | M-8416 |
| 48 | Eng. K M K G Karunaratna | M-8188 | 154 | Eng. P S Panditharathna | M-8309 | 260 | Eng.(Ms.) S S P Sandamini | M-8417 |
| 49 | Eng. K Kunanesan | M-8189 | 155 | Eng.(Mrs.)K P A Nishadi | M-8310 | 261 | Eng.(Ms.) H D N B Premachandra | M-8418 |
| 50 | Eng. G L Manorathna | M-8190 | 156 | Eng. D M D S Senevirathne | M-8311 | 262 | Eng. S Manthirvidana | M-8419 |
| 51 | Eng. J M C K B Jayasinghe | M-8191 | 157 | Eng. A K H S Abeyasinghe | M-8312 | 263 | Eng.(Ms.) K A D M Apekshini | M-8420 |
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Looking ahead

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's instructions to the University authorities to take up for discussion the draft proposal of the National Education Policy and implement the suggestions contained in it is a clear indication that the country's education system is to undergo a sea change tailored to cater to the modern demands and challenges. At a meeting to discuss the future plans of the State Ministry of Educational Reforms, Open Universities and Distance Learning at the Presidential Secretariat on Thursday the President observed that the failure to change the present Education system to suit the country, for long years, had caused problems in meeting the demands of the job market of the present day. The President stressed on the need for producing citizens who would be useful to the world and contribute to the country's economic development and progress. He said Universities should not be institutions that merely handed out degrees but enable such degree holders to be productive citizens. He urged on the authorities to present a whole new curricula that would give priority to practical needs.

Earlier too President Rajapaksa issued a directive to the country's University hierarchy to design curricula in line with the local and international job market demands. One recalls President Rajapaksa on one of his campaign stops in a village being told by a young girl that even though she was a graduate, her application of a job had not elicited a response. Giving her a patient hearing the President wanted to know in which subjects had she graduated. When told it was in Political Science the President was prompt in telling her that she would have stood a better chance if her subjects were allied to the technical field.

This just about sums up the predicament of our graduates whom, we keep on producing in armies but are not employable and misfits in terms of the job market which calls for an urgent reappraisal of the whole education set up in its present form.

Year in and year out our universities keep churning out small armies of graduates who have little prospect of securing employment to match their formal education. This is because their training and knowledge does not precisely match present-day job market needs.

Paradoxically, some of our graduates' organisations are the first to oppose the private universities that cater to the demands of the modern day job market and, to agitate for their closure. President Rajapaksa has ushered in a refreshing emphasis on technocracy in every sphere of his administration and is a keen promoter of advanced technology for the advancement of the country's economy. He is unlikely to favour any curbs on the burgeoning private higher education sector that is, currently, thriving on the growing demand for technology-savvy personnel.

The President had been re-iterating that present University curricula should be re-oriented to match modern day job demands. He had pointed out that despite years of persistent labour demand in the fields of Medicine, Engineering, Nursing and Information Technology, the University system has so far failed to meet this demand in any significant manner.

It was absolutely necessary, he said, to consider this aspect when formulating policies connected to tertiary education in the future. He suggested the addition of Information Technology as a subject for Arts degrees. The Arts stream in our Universities not only continues to produce unemployable graduates but also is a fertile breeding ground for unrest in the universities.

A study carried out sometime ago revealed that many students in the arts faculties came from more disadvantaged social backgrounds with a chip on their shoulders and, were often the main force behind the brutalized 'ragging' culture in our Universities. Hence, the change suggested by the President to the curriculum of the Arts stream, would, hopefully, divert the energies of this segment of students to productive pursuits that would benefit them in the long run.

This is not the first time that the curricula of our universities have come under the microscope. The advent of the liberalized market economy, the surge of development activity and, expansion of the national economy have all brought in their wake a whole new set of opportunities in the employment market with the accent on technology, new skill levels and, whole new sectors of economic life.

This has necessitated a change in both the public and private education sectors.

While the private sector has seized the opportunity offered by the expanded job market to throw up a gamut of new study courses, our State sector's higher and vocational education system continues to flounder, stuck in somewhat moribund, rigid, curricula which continue to produce cohorts of unemployable graduates.

For far too long the system has been producing graduates who are out of their depth when it comes to applying their book learning to the jobs on offer in the modern day. The products of the Universities all these years have been burning the midnight oil cramming on meaningless notes only to regurgitate them at the exams. This learning by rote must be brought to an end at least where the next generation of university entrants are concerned.

What UN needs is a cease-fire inside its own Security Council



US President Donald Trump (on screen), addresses the General Assembly's seventy-fifth session on September 22. But Trump was missing in action (MIA) during the 75th commemorative meeting on September 21.



President Xi Jinping (on screen) of the People's Republic of China addresses the general debate of the General Assembly's seventy-fifth session.

THALIF DEEN

With more than 20,000 civilians killed last year in conflicts in 10 countries — including Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen— UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reiterated his call for a "global cease-fire": a proposal which failed to generate a positive response since he first announced it last March.

But with the UN's most powerful body remaining deadlocked—and facing a bloodless confrontation between two major powers—the United Nations now seems to be in need of a "political cease-fire" at its very doorstep: inside its own 15-member Security Council (UNSC).

On the opening day of the annual high-level debate in the General Assembly September 22, the US and China, two veto-armed members, battled it out with accusations and counter-accusations.

The public confrontation between the two countries is likely to bring the UNSC to a standstill — perhaps with a worse-case scenario of the US and China vetoing each other's resolutions—proving the Security Council has outlived its usefulness.

Dr. Richard J. Ponzio, Director, Just Security 2020 and Senior Fellow at the Washington-based Stimson Center, told IPS that beginning in March, the U.S. blocked passage of a UNSC resolution (until July) endorsing Secretary-General Guterres' call for a global cease-fire, to ensure that during the pandemic, life-saving assistance can reach the most vulnerable.

Similar to its rationale then, he said, President Trump's main emphasis in his annual General Assembly address was to pin the blame on China for the spread of the coronavirus.

TRUMP'S REMARKS

In both tone and substance, Dr. Ponzio pointed out, President Trump's UNGA speech contrasted with his contemporaries, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and French President Emmanuel Macron.

"Whereas President Trump elected in his brief remarks to mainly attack China for spreading COVID-19 and other transgressions, the other world leaders spoke at length about the need for global cooperation and a rules-based international order to better cope with global threats and challenges," he noted.

Trump intensified his long running battle with China, including an acrimonious bilateral trade war, when he launched a blistering attack on Beijing, during his address to the General Assembly.

While singing the praises of his own achievements, he blamed Beijing for COVID-19: "We must hold accountable the nation which unleashed this plague onto the world: China".

Trump also accused China of "controlling" the World Health Organization (WHO) and dumping millions and millions of tons of plastic and trash into the oceans, overfishing other countries' waters, destroying vast swaths of coral reef, and emitting more toxic mercury into the atmosphere than any country anywhere in the world.

One news site ran a fitting headline which read: "Trump at the UN: America is good, China is bad".

Taking a passing shot at Trump's unilateralism, Chinese President Xi Jinping told the Assembly "humanity will win this battle" against the virus, and "any attempt of politicizing the issue, or stigmatization, must be rejected".

COVID-19 reminds us that economic globalization is an indisputable reality and a historical trend, he said.

"Burying one's head in the sand like an ostrich, in the face of economic globalization, or trying to fight it with Don Quixote's lance, goes against the trend of history," he noted.

China has "no intention to fight either a Cold War or a hot one with any

country" "Let this be clear: The world will never return to isolation, and no one can sever the ties between countries," Xi said, pointing out that China will not "engage in zero sum game."

In his 75th anniversary speech, Xi was equally hard-hitting: "No country has the right to dominate global affairs, control the destiny of others, or keep advantages in development all to itself. Even less should one be allowed to do whatever it likes and be the hegemon, bully or boss of the world. Unilateralism is a dead end."

Meanwhile, as the UN commemorates its 75th anniversary, one of the most widespread criticisms against the world body is focused largely on the Security Council where member states have failed, over the last 25 years, in their longstanding efforts to reform and expand it.

Perhaps the harshest criticism is its inability—and its monumental failure—to resolve long-outstanding military conflicts and political problems: including finding a homeland for the Palestinians.

Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics at the University of San Francisco, who has written extensively on the politics of the Security Council, told IPS it is noteworthy that the majority of vetoes in the Security Council in recent decades have been in regard to resolutions addressing violations of international humanitarian law.

"Both the United States and Russia have repeatedly abused their veto power to protect allied governments from accountability. This does even include the dozens of other initiatives that were tabled or otherwise prevented from coming up to a vote".

Virtually all of these resolutions were under Chapter VI of the UN

The public confrontation between the two countries is likely to bring the UNSC to a standstill — perhaps with a worse-case scenario of the US and China vetoing each other's resolutions—proving the Security Council has outlived its usefulness. On the opening day of the annual high-level debate in the General Assembly September 22, the US and China, two veto-armed members, battled it out with accusations and counter-accusations.

Charter, so these were simply about recognizing and deploring such violations and did include military intervention, sanctions, or anything else, but they were still blocked from being passed, in most cases by a single negative vote, he pointed out.

Both Moscow and Washington have essentially sent a message that their allies, such as Syria and Israel respectively, can act with impunity."

"In 2002, I wrote this article (link below) in response to the Bush administration's effort to justify its planned invasion of Iraq by emphasizing the importance of enforcing UN Security Council resolutions".

https://fpif.org/untied_nations_security_council_resolutions_currently_being_violated_by_countries_other_than_iraq/

However, in addition to the dozen or so resolutions they alleged were being violated by Iraq, a conservative estimate reveals that there are an additional 88 Security Council resolutions about countries other than Iraq that were also then being violated, said Zunes.

"This raised serious questions regarding the Bush administration's insistence that it is motivated by a duty to preserve the credibility of the United Nations, particularly since the vast majority of the governments violating these resolutions were close allies of the United States, which blocked the Security Council from enforcing them".

The total now is closer to 100, said Zunes.

Dr. Courtney B. Smith, Acting Dean, School of Diplomacy at the Seton Hall University in New Jersey, told IPS the UNSC balance sheet at 75 is decidedly mixed.

COUNCIL ISSUES

On high-profile issues and structural reform, the Council repeatedly falls short of hopes and expectations due to the continued willingness of members states, in particular the permanent five (the US, UK, France, China and Russia), to view the Council through the lens of nationalism and patriotism, extolling the virtues of putting their domestic interests and audiences first.

"This is most vividly demonstrated in the recent posturing of the US and China across a number of Council issues", said Dr. Smith who has interviewed over one hundred UN delegates and staff members for his research on the organisation and its members.

He said an alternate "silver lining" view of the Council is rooted in the sometimes-significant innovations in how the Council conducts its work.

An expanding agenda in the post-Cold War period has been joined by informal procedural innovations designed to make the Council more

transparent to non-members without compromising efficiency and effectiveness, he noted.

"These developments are certainly helpful because they provide the Council with the opportunity to gather more diverse information from a wider range of viewpoints, which in turn can result in better decisions."

However, these changes do not necessarily make it any easier to make these decisions, and therein lies the cloud hovering over the Council's political dynamics, said Dr. Smith author of Politics and Process at the United Nations: The Global Dance, published by Lynne Rienner in 2006.

Assessing these efforts, he argued, reveals "a tale of two Councils," one that is developing new working methods to facilitate shared interests and another that is clouded by great power disagreement.

While an anniversary celebration might present an occasion to push beyond these contradictions, the current reality is that the two Councils remain firmly intertwined and that future performance will remain uneven, he added.

"The ultimate result will be a Council that tries desperately to remain relevant while all too often showing its age, which will cause moments of both hope and despair for all of us who yearn for a more robust and effective Council in the years to come," declared Dr. Smith.

Dr. Ponzio said expanding the composition of the Security Council to align with present-day political realities and to modify the use of the Permanent-Five's (P-5) veto authority in cases involving mass atrocity prevention is long-overdue.

It is a shame, therefore, that the new UN75 Declaration's only contribution on the matter is to simply "commit to instill new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council ..." he said. Perhaps the last real (albeit unsuccessful) attempt at serious Security Council reconfiguration was in 2005 (UN60).

If the global political conditions remain inadequate today for meaningful change, a transitional compromise may merit consideration.

For example, by amending Article 23 of the Charter, he said, major non-permanent members could be allowed to seek election for consecutive terms on the Council (thereby able to pursue a kind of de facto permanent status).

Moreover, the P-5 could be made more accountable by having to publicly defend their no votes on resolutions pertaining to the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect principle.

- IPS



United Nations Headquarters in New York.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The true value proposition of education is employment.

- Andrew Ng

'JUSTICE' ISSUE SHAKES U.S. PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

With less than 40 days to the US Presidential Election in November, the recent death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has shaken up US politics. President Trump is expected to announce his nominee for the Supreme Court vacancy today. He and the Republican Party are trying to move the political debate away from the Covid-19 pandemic crisis, to the issue of the next Supreme Court judge.

The move by President Trump is to widen the Supreme Court's conservative majority, before the presidential poll on November 3, which will decide whether Trump remains in the White House for another four years.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden has appealed to Senate Republicans to honour the dying wish of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and not vote on a nominee to fill the vacancy before the November presidential election.

Senate Republicans hold a 53-seat majority in the 100 House.

The Supreme Court will decide the future of the Affordable Care Act a week after the presidential election in a case backed by a group of Republican-led states. With Ginsburg now gone, the high court has shifted toward the body's conservatives who now have a 5-3 majority. Even if Chief Justice John Roberts sides with the court's liberals, a 4-4 ruling would leave a lower court decision in place, which effectively invalidated Obamacare.

The Supreme Court nomination has brought Trump and the Republicans to a new fight against the Democrats, and their candidate for the US presidency, Joe Biden who is leading in the opinion polls throughout the country, and in the key states that make up the Electoral College that will decide on the next president.

The spread of Covid-19 in the US, with more than 6,933,000 now infected, and 203,880 deceased, has so far been the key issue in the Presidential Poll with Trump's policies on the pandemic causing its spread and moving against him in the polls so far. The pandemic has led to large scale unemployment and the breakdown of the economy in many US states, affecting the politics of Donald Trump. There are also the issues of the Black Lives Matter, relating to the rights of the Black and other minority communities in the US, with widespread protests in the country calling for recognition of the rights of the minorities.

Although the national opinion polls are a good guide as to how popular a candidate is across the country as a whole, they may not predict the final result. In the 2016 presidential poll, Hillary Clinton led in the polls and won nearly three million more votes than Donald Trump, but she still lost, because the US uses an electoral college system to select the winning candidate, so winning the most votes doesn't always win you the election.

Joe Biden has been ahead of Donald Trump in most national polls since the start of the year. He has been around 50% in recent months and has had a 10-point lead on occasions. The Republicans hope the issue of the new Supreme Court judge, a woman with strong conservative positions, to be nominated by Trump would turn the tide in his favour.

Thailand protests

Protests and demonstrations in Thailand have taken an unprecedented turn with a call for the reform of the monarchy. The young woman who delivered the protest manifesto, has said their intention "is not to destroy the monarchy but to modernise it, to adapt it to our society".

The protesters also installed a plaque declaring Thailand "belongs to the people", in a bold show of opposition to the monarchy. It was laid near Bangkok's Grand Palace in the latest challenge to Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn. The plaque, dated September 20, 2020, proclaims in Thai: "The people have expressed the intention that this country belongs to the people, and not the king."

Student-led protests calling for reform of the country's monarchy and political system have been going on since July, and keep increasing. Last Saturday saw one of the biggest protests in years, with thousands defying authorities to demand change. The calls for royal reform at these protests are particularly sensitive in Thailand, with criticism of the monarchy punishable by long prison sentences.

Protesters are also demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who took power in a 2014 coup and won disputed elections last year.

Organisers said the plaque was a replacement for another marking the end of absolute monarchy in the 1930s, which went missing in 2017. Cheers erupted as activists installed the new plaque, with protesters chanting: "Down with feudalism, long live the people."

The protests, initially organised by The Future Forward Party (FFP) proved particularly popular with young, first-time voters and garnered the third-largest share of parliamentary seats in the March 2019 election, which was won by the incumbent military leadership.

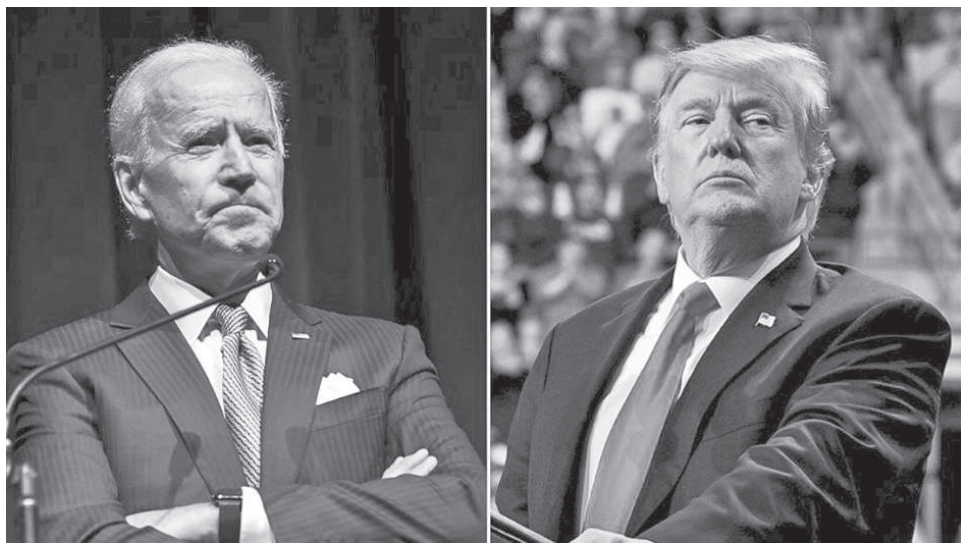
Thailand's 19 constitutions of modern times has stated, at the top, that: "The King shall be enthroned in a position of revered worship" and that "no person shall expose the King to any sort of accusation or action".

These provisions are backed by article 112



Anti-Government protesters take part in a pro-democracy rally outside Thailand's Parliament in Bangkok on Thursday, as activists gathered to demand a new Constitution. - AFP

Student-led protests calling for reform of the Thailand's monarchy and political system have been going on since July, and keep increasing. Last Saturday saw one of the biggest protests in years, with thousands defying authorities to demand change. The calls for royal reform at these protests are particularly sensitive in Thailand, with criticism of the monarchy punishable by long prison sentences.



US President Donald Trump and Democratic Party candidate Joe Biden

of the criminal code, known as the lese-majeste law, which subjects anyone criticising the royal family to secret trials and long prison sentences.

US - Iran

The US has announced many new sanctions on Iran over its nuclear weapons programme, claiming it is enforcing a UN arms embargo – and demanded that the European Union follows suit.

The Trump administration on Monday named 27 individuals and entities, including officials at the Iranian ministry of defence, nuclear scientists, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and anyone found trading in conventional weapons with Iran.

Announcing the sanctions, the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, said the UK, France and Germany would be required not just to comply with the sanctions, but to enforce them.

But the UN has asserted that the decision is not up to Washington, and the European powers have warned that the US does not have the legal power to do so.

The State Department declared: "The UN arms embargo on Iran is now re-imposed indefinitely, and we will ensure that it remains in place until Iran changes its behaviour. The new executive order gives us the tools to hold accountable actors who seek to evade the embargo".

The US claimed the president's executive order came with the authority of the UN since the US, an original signatory to the Iran nuclear deal in 2015, had declared Iran in breach of the deal. This entitled the US to order UN sanctions to be reimposed.

Both UN Secretary General, António Guterres, and the vast majority of the 15-strong UN Security Council have insisted the US does not have the legal power to take the steps under the banner of the UN. France, Germany and the UK said in a joint statement that the US move was incapable of having legal effect.

The UN is due to lift its embargo on sales of conventional weapons to Iran in the middle of October, but Washington claimed its actions ensure the embargo cannot be lifted.

UK delays disputed bill

The UK Government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson has decided to delay the final stages of controversial legislation to remove parts of Boris Johnson's withdrawal agreement, a violation of an international agreement, until just days before a potential no-deal Brexit.

This is seen as an attempt to assuage European concerns, with indications that the internal markets bill may not be debated in the House of Lords

until after a make-or-break summit with EU leaders in mid-October. The House of Lords is expected to bring major changes to the PM Johnson's internal markets bill, which would give ministers the powers to unilaterally disregard parts of the withdrawal agreement on Northern Ireland that stipulate that the province must follow European customs and subsidy rules after Brexit.

Meanwhile, Brussels has renewed its threat of legal action against the UK over London's plans to override parts of the Brexit deal on Northern Ireland while vowing to continue contacts in the hope of resolving the dispute. Maros Sefcovic, the EU commissioner in charge of the implementation of last year's Brexit agreement, told reporters that Brussels was "studying all legal options on the table" if the UK failed to back down. Brussels has set a deadline of the end of this month for the UK to scrap provisions in its internal market bill that would empower ministers to ride roughshod over delicate compromises aimed at preventing a hard border on the island of Ireland.

"The bill as it currently stands violates the letter and the spirit of the withdrawal agreement," Mr. Sefcovic said, confirming that concessions Mr. Johnson made to his own backbenchers over giving parliament a "lock" on any future action had not addressed Brussels' concerns.

Mr. Sefcovic and his UK counterpart, Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove, announced on Tuesday that the joint EU-UK committee charged with implementing last year's deal would meet on September 28 in Brussels. The committee's tasks include operationalising the delicate compromise in the treaty that allows EU trade rules to continue to apply in Northern Ireland while keeping the region formally inside the UK's customs territory.



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

Mr. Sefcovic was speaking after a meeting of EU ministers in Brussels where France urged the European Commission to explore all avenues for countering the UK move, including

going to the European Court of Justice. The EU-UK Brexit treaty empowers Brussels to launch "infringement proceedings" against London for such violations, and also foresees arbitration in the event of disputes.

Belarus

The inauguration of the embattled Belarusian autocrat, Alexander Lukashenko, for another term as president has taken place in Minsk in a secretive ceremony, not announced in advance. Opposition leaders and European politicians immediately denounced the move as illegitimate.

"The day in which the president takes office, the day of the inauguration, is the day of our joint victory – a convincing and momentous victory," Lukashenko told those gathered on Wednesday, in video footage published by his press service. Army generals, MPs and others were invited to the ceremony.

Lukashenko, whose claim to have won elections on August 9 with 80% of the vote sparked massive and ongoing protests in the country, appears to have held the ceremony without publicity to avoid it becoming a magnet for protesters.

A broad coalition has mobilised in opposition to Lukashenko, with daily protests and huge gatherings on Sundays, but he still retains the support of the police and army, as well as backing from the Kremlin.

Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, who officially received just 10% of the vote in the election, and was forced to flee the country after being threatened, released a video appeal saying the inauguration meant Lukashenko's term was now officially over.

Although Lukashenko has promised constitutional reform, a process backed by Russia, the opposition believes this is mere window dressing, and Lukashenko has made it absolutely clear he does not plan to step down.

The EU has refused to recognise the elections as legitimate, and neighbouring Lithuania said on Wednesday it no longer considered Lukashenko the president.



Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko

Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus for 26 years, says the protesters are being backed by foreign powers. Earlier this month he secured a \$1.5bn lifeline from Moscow. The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, has congratulated Lukashenko on winning the election and recently received him at his residence in Sochi.

The EU has refused to recognise the elections as legitimate, and neighbouring Lithuania said on Wednesday it no longer considered Lukashenko the president. However, European foreign ministers failed to break the deadlock over sanctions on Belarus, after Cyprus blocked the plan citing the lack of EU action against Turkey.

Nearly one month after the EU took a political decision to sanction Belarusian officials accused of falsifying the August 9 Presidential poll and orchestrating a brutal crackdown on peaceful protesters, the bloc failed to agree to the legal text.

The Cypriot government refused to sign, unless the EU moves to impose sanctions on Turkey over its drilling in the contested waters of the eastern Mediterranean.

Lebanon

Lebanon's President Michel Aoun has said the country is "going to hell" if a new government isn't formed by last Monday, and called

for abolishing the sectarian distribution for ministries.

This follows French efforts to encourage the forming of a new Cabinet, that will move away from the sectarian political divisions in government. President Aoun said that as the positions have grown harder, there appears to be no solution on the horizon soon.

Over the past year, Lebanon has been rocked by unprecedented protests calling for an overhaul of the political system, a deepening economic crisis, a surging coronavirus outbreak and a massive explosion that devastated the capital, Beirut.

Following the resignation of the government in the wake of the August 4 explosion, France has been pushing for the quick formation of a new Cabinet and has offered to help provide Lebanon with vital aid if its politicians make good on long-overdue reforms. The Cabinet formation process has hit a logjam over the demand of Lebanon's two dominant Shia parties - the Iran-backed Hezbollah and its ally the Amal Movement - to name Shia ministers in the Cabinet, including the finance minister.

The delay comes as public anger continues to brew over the explosion at Beirut's port, which killed at least 200 people.

The French proposals set out milestones for a new government, ranging from resuming stalled talks with the International Monetary Fund to fixing the hugely broken electricity system.

Italy - Parliament reduced

Italians have voted in a referendum to cut the size of the country's parliament by more than a third. Almost 70% of people voted in favour of the change.

The number of MPs in the lower house will be reduced from 634 to 400. The senate will also be downsized.

The referendum was pushed by the Five Star Movement, part of the governing coalition, which argued that the move would reduce costs. It was held alongside several key regional elections, where the results were seen as a setback for far-right League leader Matteo Salvini and a boost for the centre left Democratic Party, which is part of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's coalition government with the populist Five Star movement.

Following the referendum the total number of MPs and senators will be cut from 945 to 600. The change that had already been pushed through parliament, needed to be backed by a referendum because it amends the Italian constitution. The changes will have to be made before the 2023 election.

Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, a senior Five Star figure, described the result as "historic". "We can go back to having a normal parliament, with fewer privileges and 345 fewer seats," he said.

Opposition League leader Matteo Salvini had been seeking big gains in the elections. But a right-wing coalition, led by Mr. Salvini, who previously served as Italy's interior minister, only managed to win the eastern region of Marche. It maintained control of two other regions.

The M5S, which has the most members of any party in the lower house after a 2018 election, says such a move would save 500 million euros (\$580 million) during the five-year legislative period. It considers reducing the size of the parliament as part of its quest to end perks and privileges for politicians.

Covid-19 - deadly spread

The rising spread of the Covid-19 pandemic has raised major issues relating to the health condition and the global economic system, with the US passing its 200,000 the deceased and over 6 million infected, and India following with more than 5,600,000 infected and 90,000 plus deceased. Brazil remains third globally with 4,600, 000 infected and 138,000 persons deceased.

The situation in Europe continues to be of concern, with Spain, France and the UK noting a market increase in infections, and the governments imposing new restrictions of the gathering and movement of people, enforcing the wearing of masks, and reducing the number of persons who could meet.

The UK government has been warned that unless it takes early action to curb the spread of the pandemic, the current rate of infection would lead to 50,000 persons infected per week by mid-October. PM Johnson has said this is "a perilous turning point" when announcing new restrictions, which could last up to six months, and also warning of a possible total lock down.

Shop staff will have to wear face masks and weddings will be limited to a maximum of 15 people. The hospitality business is severely restricted with bars and restaurants required to close by 10 p.m. Employees are encouraged to work from home, wherever possible. Fines for breaking the rules will increase to 200 pounds for a first offence.

Like England, Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, also announced a 22:00 curfew for hospitality businesses. The same measure is also set to come into force in Wales. Scotland has also banned the visiting of other households, which is also likely to be imposed by England and Wales.

Coronavirus positive cases in India continue to rise on a daily basis despite implementation of social distancing measures and extension of nationwide lockdown. As per the recent health ministry data, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi continue to remain the worst-affected states by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Health Ministry have maintained that the community transmission of Covid-19 is not happening at the moment.

AITC MP Ponnambalam's statement sub judice - Speaker

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena yesterday reiterated that the statement by Ahila Ilankai Tamil Congress (AITC) MP G. K. Ponnambalam under Standing Order 27(2) was not allowed on Thursday (24) as it was sub judice.

He reiterated the matter in response to Samagi Jana Bal-

awegaya Parliamentarian Nalin Bandara Jayamaha's query if MP Ponnambalam was not allowed to make his statement as it was sub judice or as he was not considered as a Party Leader in Parliament as he was not listed by the Opposition Leader.

The Speaker said that Pon-

nambalam was permitted to submit the statement to the Chair as he was considered a Party Leader. Speaker added however he was not allowed to make his statement in the House as the chair deemed it to be sub judice.

The Speaker also pointed out that a decision by the Court of Law had been deliv-

ered even on Thursday itself the day on which Ponnambalam wanted to make the statement. However, Ponnambalam was not present in the House yesterday as he had attended to Court to appear for another case relating the same matter he was to make the statement under Standing Order 27(2).



Sandasen Marasinghe, Camelia Nathaniel and Amali Mallawarachchi

Feasibility study conducted on 'Wee Oya Reservoir' - Chamal

Minister of Reservoirs and Irrigation Development Chamal Rajapaksa said in Parliament yesterday (25) that a feasibility study is being carried out on the 'Wee Oya Reservoir' in the Yatiyantota Divisional Secretariat Division in the Kegalle District which is to be implemented as a multi-purpose project.

He said this in response to a question raised by MP Sujith Perera during the question round for oral answers.

The Minister said that the reservoir is designed as a multi-purpose project and will focus on flood control in the lower river basin, generating drinking water for the people in Gampaha and Colombo, as well as hydropower generation.

Meanwhile, MP Kabir Hashim said that the previous government had stopped the project due to the damage



caused to the people in Kegalle, Colombo and other areas.

In response, Minister Chamal Rajapaksa said that the number of families displaced due to this project is still being surveyed and the number of families displaced cannot be stated until the survey has been completed.

He said the people of Kegalle would be notified regarding this project and assured that the project would be carried out without any injustice to the people. He said that the due compensation would be paid out to the people, while the project would be done according to the satisfaction of the people with minimum inconvenience to them.

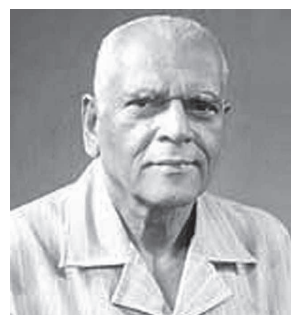
"The assistance of the political representatives in the area would also be sought with regard to this project," the minister added.

House pays tribute to former Speaker K.B.Ratnayake

The condolence motion on R.M. Kalubanda Ratnayake, former Member of Parliament and Speaker representing the Panduwasnuwara District was taken up for debate in Parliament yesterday (25). Many Ministers and Parliamentarians expressed their condolences and shared their memories of former MP K.B. Ratnayake.

Moving the Condolences motion, the Leader of the House, Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said that Ratnayake entered politics on behalf of the people of Panduwasnuwara and became a Goviraja in 1968 due to his passion for agriculture.

"In 1977, the first



Vapmagul ceremony was held at Divulwewa under Ratnayake's patronage," Minister Gunawardena said.

The Leader of the House said that a number of programmes to uplift agriculture, such as the rehabilitation of a large number of tank sluices and the removal of weeds from tanks by

machinery, were initiated by him.

The Leader of the House pointed out that Ratnayake had taken steps to preserve the ancient ruins of the ancient Paduwasnuwara Kingdom for future generations.

Former Member of Parliament R.M. Kalubanda Ratnayake served as a Member of Parliament for 11 years, Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella said while participating in the debate.

Kiriella said that Ratnayake had done a great service to religious and agricultural activities such as the commencement of the Dalada Perahera in Panduwasnuwara and had taken steps to

open a large number of schools and dispensaries in the area.

The late K.B.Ratnayake, who represented Parliament for more than a decade, worked to address the problems in the area, MP Anura Priyadarshana Yapa said while participating in the condolence debate.

MP Anura Yapa also said as a Member of Parliament representing a district agriculturally dependent Rathnayake was fully committed to uplifting the living condition of his people. During the era Rathnayake was doing politics, the development projects he initiated were gigantic.

Chief Government Whip

Johnston Fernando extending his condolences said that Kalubanda Ratnayake was a man of rural people.

"Ratnayake had to face many difficulties in politics for the same reason," Fernando pointed out. There were many injustices he had to go through in his political life, he added. Ratnayake was a true portrayal of the "Maha Kalu Sinhaya" and he did not bow down to any political leaders but for his own people, Fernando added. "He took decisions independently. He was not afraid of anybody. His contribution to develop Panduwasnuwara is immeasurable," Fernando also said.

New Permanent Representative to UN, Seven envoys appointed

Appointment of eight new diplomats including Sri Lanka's new Permanent Representative to the UN and envoys to US, China, India and Japan was approved by the Committee on High Post at its meeting held at Parliamentary complex under the Chairmanship of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena.

The nominations for the appointment had been referred to the Committee on High Posts for its approval.

The approved nominations are : (1).C.A. Chandraprema - Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

(2).S. Amarasekara - High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to South Africa (3).Admiral (Retd.) K.K.V.P. Harischandra de Silva - Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Afghanistan

(4).Vishramal Sanjiv Gunasekara - Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Japan

(5).Milinda Moragoda - High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India

(6).Ravinatha Aryasinha - Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United States of America

(7).Professor Kshaniika Hirimburegama - Ambassador of Sri Lanka to France

(8).Dr. Palitha Kohona - Ambassador of Sri Lanka to People's Republic of China

Labour Minister thanks Japan for continued assistance

Labour Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva, yesterday expressed Sri Lanka's sincere appreciation for the continued assistance and support extended by Japan for the country's socio-economic development by being a steadfast supporter and contributor in Sri Lanka's journey to achieve sustainable development and growth.

Minister De Silva made these remarks when he met the Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka Akira Sugiyama, at Labor Ministry premises yesterday.

The Minister said that the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) provides training on the Japanese language, lifestyle as well as physical fitness for Sri Lankans who wish to go to Japan for the employment and upon completion of the course, an examination is conducted and the successful passing of this examination is mandatory.

Since there are a number of Sri Lankans who have been selected by Japanese Companies after completion of the examination and train-

ing are waiting to go to Japan, the Minister requests the Ambassador to take measures to reopen visa application centres for Japanese visas in Sri Lanka allowing them to go to Japan for employment.

Japanese Ambassador Akira Sugiyama agreed to take suitable steps in this regard after presenting related information to Japan including on the Japanese job training opportunities for Sri Lankans and the successful control of COVID-19 by the Sri Lankan government.

PCoI probing political victimization

Mahara Prison Superintendent ordered to testify

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) probing allegations of political victimization yesterday ordered to Mahara Prison Superintendent Chandana Weerasinghe to testify before the Commission on October 9 as to how four Army Intelligence Officers including Colonel Seevali Bulathwatte were imprisoned for five days in 2017 without a legal document or a court order.

The Commission further ordered the Mahara Prison Superintendent to give evidence as to on whose orders the imprisonment took place and to submit to the Commission the original copies of the documents belonging to the Mahara Prison pertaining to the incident.

The Commission's Chairman, Justice Upali Abeyratne made the order after hearing evidence in the complaint filed by Army Intelligence officers Colonel Seevali Bulathwatte, Lasantha Wimalaweera, Nishantha Jayathilake and Nishantha Kumara that their imprisonment from April 12 to April 17, 2017 was an act of political revenge. Four Army Intelligence Officers, including Colonel Seevali Bulathwatte have filed complaints with the Commission alleging political revenge by filing cases on false evidence.

On a previous occasion, Colonel Bulathwatte testified before the Commission that he was imprisoned for five days after being granted bail by the Court on April 12, 2017.

Former IGP Pujith Jayasundara testifies before PCoI

DILSHAN THARAKA

Former IGP Pujith Jayasundara told before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) probing the Easter Sunday attacks on Thursday (24) that an Intelligence Officer had met Abdul Latheef Mohamed Jameel, who blew himself up at a hotel in Dehiwala after failing to hit his intended target.

Testifying before the PCoI, he said that "find out if the bomber exploded by accident. A number of investigations are being carried out in this regard. There are a number of issues that are not covered in this attack. If those officials are brought before this Commission, a number of undisclosed facts will be revealed. MP Hizbullah received a large amount of foreign currency. It was the money released after one call. Also find out how Eastern University was approved."

After that, Pujith Jayasundara asked the Commission to look into the appointment of the Governor of the Eastern Province. He said that all these matters were questionable.

Case proceedings against Prof. Ananda Samarasekara terminated

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Colombo High Court Judge Manjula Tillekaratne yesterday ordered to terminate case proceedings against former Colombo Chief Judicial Medical Officer Prof.

Ananda Samarasekara over his alleged role in the cover up of evidence when conducting the first post mortem on murdered Havelocks Sports Club captain Wasim Thajudeen's body.

The Defence Counsel informed the court that his client Prof. Ananda Samarasekara had passed away a few months ago. Accordingly, a copy of the death certificate was submitted to court by the Defence Counsel.

Former Rugby player Thajudeen was killed, apparently, in a road accident in Colombo in May 2012.

The indictments had been filed against the former Chief JMO under Section 198 of the Penal Code for allegedly causing disappearance of evidence or giving false information in connection with the death of Wasim Thajudeen.

Navy, STF apprehend suspect with shotgun

The Navy and Police STF managed to apprehend a suspect for illegal possession of a shotgun, its ammunition and several other illegal items, during a special search operation conducted at 4th Mile Post, on Puttalam main road on 23rd September 2020.

The Northwestern Naval Command in coordination with the Puttalam Police STF had carried out this special search in which a 12 bore shotgun, three ammunition, 133 empty ammunition, 370g of lead balls, 01 sword and 01 dirk had been found from a suspicious location at 4th Mile Post. Apart from that, a suspect on the location was too held during this operation.

The 48-year-old suspect has been identified as a resident of Puttalam. Meanwhile, the apprehended person along with the seized shotgun and rest of the illegal items were handed over to Puttalam Police for further investigation.

Buwelikada building collapse

Owner added extra storey with compliance certificate from Kandy MC -CP Governor

ASELA KURULUWANSA

The owner of the building that collapsed in Buwelikada killing three persons including an infant, has added another storey to the building after obtaining a compliance certificate from the Kandy Municipal Council in 2016, said Central Province Governor Lalith U.Gamage.

He said the basic plan for a two storey building was forwarded to the Kandy Municipal Council in 2006 and the Council has approved the plan on condition that the building should be constructed 8 meters away from the road.

"The owner has apparently constructed this building ignoring the condition laid by the Municipal Council," he said.

The Governor said that the owner has sought approval for two floors of the building in 2010 and 2014 respectively and these plans have received Council's approval.

"All institutions that gave approval for the construction of this building seem to be responsible for the collapse of this building," he said.

He said investigation is going on to ascertain whether the foundation was laid only for a two storey building. "Investigations are going on to ascertain whether the foundation of the building was laid to comply with the four storey building or not," he said



A group of priests who were ordained in 2001, celebrated their 19th year of priesthood with a Thanksgiving Holy Mass offered at St. Sebastian's Shrine, Kandana recently. Rev.Frs. Saman, Sujeewa, Lawrence, Quintus, Sisira, Suran, Sheron, Sanjeewa, Christo and Fr.Chaminda joined offering to the Thanksgiving Holy Mass with Rev.Fr. Nishantha officiating as the chief celebrant. Pictures show the group of priests entering the Alter to offer Holy Mass. - Wiruma

Govt. ready to uplift transport sector

- Minister Dilum Amunugama

IRANGIKA RANGE

Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Carriages and Automotive Industries State Minister Dilum Amunugama said recently that the Government will give priority to the provision of all facilities to local companies related to the transport sector which generate employment opportunities and bring huge foreign exchange to the country.

The Minister made these remarks during an inspection tour at the Autogroup International (Pvt) Ltd in Kaduwela recently. The company is engaged in conversion and re-manufacturing of high-value American vehicles from left to right-hand drive. Autogroup International is a fully-Australian-owned BOI approved company specialized in automobile conversion with offices in Dallas, USA and Melbourne, Australia. At present, the company exports left to right-hand drive converted vehicles to countries such as India, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, South Africa and Malaysia while 90 percent of the company's output goes to Australia.

"A skilled workforce and a highly qualified engineering team of the company are engaged in converting vehicles imported from the USA which involves a lot of planning, Research and Development, new manufacturing processes such as 3D printing and new ideas. The expertise of local engineers is highly commendable and if our country has such a talented workforce, even we can manufacture new vehicles locally," the Minister said.

"Therefore, we must provide more facilities to encourage such companies in order to bring more foreign exchange and generate employment opportunities," he added.



Minister Amunugama during the inspection tour at the Autogroup International (Pvt) Ltd in Kaduwela.

20 years' RI for child abuse

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE

Galle Central Special Correspondent

Galle High Court Judge W.P.S. Nissanka imposed a term of 20-year Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) together with a fine of Rs. 25,000 and a compensation of Rs. 500,000 to be

paid to the victim upon an accused who was found guilty of criminal charges of abusing an eight-year-old girl. Provided the offender fails to pay the fine, he was subjected to further 12-month term and in case of inability to pay the compensation,

another 24-month imprisonment. The offender Udagailage Sarath Kumara (40) is a father of two.

He had been indicted at the Galle High Court for abusing a minor schoolgirl on April 8, 2006 in Gimmalagaha in the Thelikada Police divi-

sion in Baddegama. In the prosecution, it was revealed that the offender is a relative of the victim and had caused the crime when he had gone for sand mining near the girl's house. At the time of the crime, he was 26 years old.



The participants. (Picture by Sulochana Gamage)

Art exhibition at the Russian Centre begins

The annual exhibition of paintings by students of the Art School of the RCSC in Colombo, held under the motto "Victory and Peace" and dedicated to the main anniversary date of the year - the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War was opened on September 21 by Chief Guest Army Commander Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva, his spouse Sujeeva Nelson, and Secretary to the Ministry of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Prof. Kapila Gunawardena.

The exhibition, which became the first significant event organized at the Russian Centre in Colombo after a long period of restrictions on public events imposed by local authorities to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus infection, was also attended by Russian Ambassador to Sri Lanka Yury Materiy and the military attache of the Russian Embassy Colonel Denis Shkoda.

Addressing the audience, Head of the Rosstrudnichestvo representative office in Sri Lanka, Anastasia Khokhlova, emphasized the relevance of the

exhibition's theme. "The 75th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War and World War II is the main anniversary date of the year for many millions of people around the world. It is undoubtedly a common task to prevent falsification of historical facts to ensure the continuity of truthful information on key events in world history, and to pass on to future generations the basic values that have become possible in a multipolar world," she said.

The exposition includes more than 120 works by students of the Art School of the Russian Centre in Colombo aged 5 to 15 years, created during the year and united by the theme "Victory and Peace" under the guidance of talented artist and experienced teacher Arjuna Jayasinha and his assistants Maheshi Fernando and Natalie Hettiarachchi.

The opening ceremony was followed by the distribution of certificates of participation to young artists. The exhibition will be on display at the Russian Centre in Colombo until the end of September.

Illegally-harvested sea cucumber seized

The Sri Lanka Coast Guard seized about 4,540kg of illegally-harvested sea cucumber, during a special search operation conducted at the Kudawella Fishery Harbour in Matara on September 24.

The stock of sea cucumber had been recovered by officials of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard after inspecting a suspicious fishing vessel at the Kudawella Fishery Harbour. Moreover, seven suspects in connection to this incident

were also held with the suspicious vessel and several other fishing gears.

The accused who are aged from 31 to 55 are residents of Matara, Kottogoda and Thalathuoya areas. Following the health guidelines issued for the prevention of COVID-19 outbreak, the apprehended persons together with the haul of sea cucumber, fishing vessel and fishing gear were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Kudawella.



The waterlogged main road which connects the Matara - Akuressa Road and the Matara - Hakmana Road causes much inconvenience to thousands of students from Rahula College, Sujatha Vidyalaya and Matara Central College who pass this road daily. (Picture by Vajira Pujitha Gunawardena - Theljiawila Group Corr.)

New playground for HQ Battalion of SLNG at Heraliyawala

The Headquarter (HQ) Battalion of the Sri Lanka National Guard (SLNG) at Heraliyawala, near the SLNG Regimental Headquarters at Wehera, Kurunegala, extended a warm welcome to the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva when he arrived at the HQ Battalion premises to open its new playground on September 18. At first, Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva called at the SLNG Regimental Headquarters at Wehera, Kurunegala where he was received by Major General Rasika Fernando, Colonel of the Regiment, SLNG and Deputy Chief of Staff.



The plaque being unveiled by the Army Commander

The ceremony began with the presentation of military honours to the visiting Army Chief in a formal Guard Turn-

out at the entrance before he was ushered to review the Guard of Honour salute, presented by HQ Battalion troops.

The opening of the new playground took place after the plaque was unveiled by the Chief Guest. He was then invited to plant a sapling as a symbol of his visit to the camp.

During his speech, Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva underlined the importance of the Army's contribution to the task of nation-building as skilled professionals. "Today, we opened a huge playground at the Sri Lanka National Guard Regimental Headquarters Battalion, Heraliyawala. We established this playground to enhance the sports skills of the Officers and Other Ranks of the SLNG.

As we know, Kurunegala has few grounds and we will develop this ground too," the Army Chief said.

"These facilities will not be only for the Army, but also for school athletes in the surrounding schools," he added. "The President instructed us to help develop sporting talents of islandwide schools utilizing expertise in tri-services and improving infrastructure and a discussion with regard to this has already been done with the Sports Minister. Accordingly, tri-service sports instructors, camps, playgrounds and other facilities could be made available to school athletes as well."

Human-elephant conflict on rise in A'pura

13 human, 26 jumbo deaths in 8 months

NIMAL WIJESINGHE

Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

It is reported that the human-elephant conflict in Anuradhapura is on the rise again rapidly. Referring to the issue, Anuradhapura Government Agent R.M. Wanninayaka told the *Daily News* that during the last eight months, 13 persons died and the death toll of wild elephants in the district stands at 26 due to the human-elephant conflict.

According to Wanninayaka, in 2019, 59 wild jumbos were killed while 19 humans lost their lives as a result of the growing human-elephant conflict. The Government Agent said at present a World Bank-funded conflict-prevention project is in progress in

the district. He said in addition to the 450km-long electric fence, new 350km-long electric protective fencing is being constructed in some areas where the issue is intense. He pointed out that from 2010, 113 persons and 327 wild elephants had died in the Anuradhapura District.

At present, the invasion of elephants is reported from all 22 Divisional Secretariat (DS) areas in the district.

The most-affected areas are Horowpethana, Kekirawa, Kahatagasdigiliya, Thalawa, Nochchiyagama, and Palugasewwa DS Divisions. Of the 13 deaths that were reported in the last eight months, three were reported from the Horowpethana division.

Lankan diplomats call on Suez Canal Authority, Egypt

On the initiative taken by the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Egypt Damayanthie Rajapakse, First Secretary (Commercial) Shivanthi Abeyrathne and Trade Assistant of the Embassy Ahmed Selim visited Suez Canal Authority in Ismailia, Egypt on September 23 to discuss Sri Lanka's technological capacity in boat and ship building and dry-dock services, its potential for nautical tourism and to explore avenues to market these products to the Suez Canal Authority in Egypt, a media release issued by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Cairo said.

The Embassy officials met with the team of Suez Canal Authority headed by Director of Procurement Department Salah Eldin Gouda Abomosallam.

During the discussions, Shivanthi Abeyrathne highlighted the fast expanding technological advancements made by Sri Lanka in this sector

and that its strategic location, highly trainable workforce, low labour cost, and the availability of one of the best natural harbours in the Asian region had paved way for the success that Sri Lanka has achieved in the Boat and Ship building industry.

In a presentation made by the First Secretary (Commercial), it was explained that Sri Lanka's major ship building products include, Multipurpose Platform Supply Vessels, Anchor Handling and Supply Vessels, Crew Boats, Passenger Vessels, Harbour Berthing/ Towing Tugs, Naval/ Coast Guard Vessels, Landing Crafts, Fire Fighting Vessels and Fishing Vessels to name a few. Special emphasis was made on the KDDI Cable Laying Vessel built by Colombo Dockyard PLC, to showcase shipbuilding excellence achieved by Sri Lanka.

Following the presentation made by the offi-

cial of the Mission, the team of the Suez Canal Authority expressed their keen interest in purchasing Tug Boats, Pilot Boats and Dredgers from Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the officials of the Mission agreed to pursue the matter with the stakeholders in Sri Lanka exploring all avenues to establish links between the Suez Canal Authority and the Sri Lankan counterparts on supplying the required vessels manufactured in Sri Lanka.

During the deliberations the historical background of Sri Lanka supporting Egypt, on Suez crisis in 1956 at the UN General Assembly, and subsequently Sri Lanka being appointed as a member of the Suez Advisory Board was touched upon, bringing to light the significant landmarks in the history, that has strengthened Diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Egypt.



Donations being distributed.

KOICA's support to restore livelihoods of estate communities

In an effort to improve the estate communities' livelihoods, The Lamp Lanka funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) recently launched a COVID-19 response project under the theme "strengthening COVID-19 response capacity of most vulnerable population (urban, ethnic minority) in Sri Lanka" in consultation with the local government, a media release issued by the KOICA said.

The KOICA in partnership with Korean NGO 'The Lamp Lanka' assisted estate communities in the Central Province to strengthen their COVID-19 response capacity by providing essential food items and hygiene products.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 followed by the islandwide curfew, vulnerability of the estate communities even more increased, and there have been urgent needs for food and hygiene products.

Through this project, 600 households are provided with essential food kits which consist of rice, curry powder, sugar, flour, tea, and powdered milk, COVID-19 prevention guidebooks, face masks, and soaps. The project also provides 69 hand-washing facilities and 201 sets of hygiene items to schools in the estate communities with efforts to improve awareness of hygiene practices in order to enhance COVID-19 response capacity of the marginalized communities. The fund amounts to about Rs. 42 million.

On September 22, at Galamudunakani Tamil School, a donation event of

the project was held in the presence of the members of the KOICA, The Lamp Lanka, the Education Department, school principals, PHI staff and community members.

At the event, Country Director of KOICA Sri Lanka Office, Kang Youn Hwa, said "The KOICA hopes this will support the vulnerable in society to overcome the challenges posed by COVID-19 and will continue to work with the government and partners to fight against COVID-19."

Manager of The Lamp Lanka, John Seo appreciated the KOICA as well as the Sri Lankan government for their support and hoped that those who are struggling with COVID-19 could overcome the challenges they face at the moment. Sathyanthra, the Director of the Education Department also expressed her gratitude on behalf of the community members.

The KOICA is the Korean government agency for grant aids under the mission of "Leave no one behind with People-centered Peace and Prosperity." The KOICA Sri Lanka Office has been implementing a variety of development projects and fellowship programs since 1991 and is currently supporting various grant projects including COVID-19 response projects to fight against COVID-19 in Sri Lanka in conjunction with the Sri Lankan Government, Korean NGOs, and International organizations. The KOICA Sri Lanka Office is particularly keen to put more efforts to support the most vulnerable in society to overcome the current crisis.



DAILY NEWS REPORT GAINS WIDE ATTENTION

ORGANIC REVIVAL USHERS IN AGRI REVOLUTION

CHITHRARATHNE KALUARACHCHI
Hidogama Group Corr.

A recent article in the *Daily News* on organic farming in a remote village in Anuradhapura caught the attention of Land Minister S.M. Chandrasena who visited the village to see for himself the progress made by the women farmers.

The women in Padaviya Sudarshana village are very talented and courageous. These women are engaged in various tasks from the time they wake up in the morning. They take their children to school on motorcycles. Then they work in organic gardens. They also work in their home gardens with the children. These women also prepare lunch and then go to school to bring back their children. They are

the ones who go to all social service meetings in the village. Meanwhile, crops such as cowpeas, green peas, and peanuts are also grown these days. Aren't the women of this beautiful village really heroic?

While preparing non-toxic organic fertilizers, a company called I.R.S.D Organic Garden Private Limited has been established by these women, with the aim of bringing a successful income to the village.

These heroic women request a yoghurt and milk-based dairy factory in their village; assistance to 15 families for biogas production and greenhouses for 20 families due to the acute water crisis prevails in their village. And they also request solar power for their houses. Fifty non-toxic organic home gardens have been completed under the theme 'Successful Vision - A

Healthy Future' under the guidance of a journalist attached to the Lake House.

Now, the harvest from the first stage is being received. At the request of Nimal Padmasiri, Executive Director, Rural Social Development Institute, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provides plants for their home gardens. Organic pesticides and organic fertilizers are made in every home.

Minister S.M. Chandrasena inquired into the matter and said the land will be surveyed immediately to issue deeds to the lands owned by 50 families. The Minister also said they would provide assistance for the construction of 15 new toilets and two new houses for two Samurdhi recipient families.

The Gramaniladari of Padaviya Sudarshana village said, "Lands in this village need to be surveyed in

order to arrange land deeds. It would be valuable if residents are given land deeds as soon as possible. Also, there are 30 families without toilets in this Grama Niladhari division. People with kidney ailments are found in almost every household in the village. We appreciate this effort to grow vegetables using non-toxic organic fertilizers. There are many people who have no shelter but are interested in constructing their own houses. These people can be supported by providing home loans or assistance. If a dairy factory could be built, there would be plenty of opportunities."

The Minister commended the *Daily News* for highlighting the efforts of these courageous and innovative women. North Central Provincial Rural Development Director Gayan Indika Wanninayake was also present.



(Pictures by Chithrarathne Kaluarachchi - Hidogama Group)

Minister S.M. Chandrasena during the inspection tour at Padaviya Sudarshana village

Europe's COVID-19 situation worsening, warns EU

SWEDEN: The European Union (EU) raised the alarm on COVID-19 coronavirus saying the epidemic is worse now than at the March peak in several member countries, as governments in Europe and beyond reimpose drastic restrictions.

EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides warned that in "some member states, the situation is now even worse than during the peak in March."

"This is a real cause for concern," she said, urging new measures to head off a second wave of the virus, which has killed nearly a million people worldwide since the outbreak emerged in China late last year.

The death rate has not returned to the levels seen earlier this year, but cases of new infections are soaring once again in many areas of the bloc.

In a statement, the EU's Stockholm-based disease control agency pointed to Spain, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Malta as countries of particularly "high concern."

The seven have "an increased proportion of hospitalised and severe cases" among older people and "increasing or high death notification rates are already

observed... or may be observed soon," said the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC).

Other countries such as France and Britain have observed rising infection rates primarily among younger people, who are less at risk of developing severe symptoms.

But these too are on a worrying path as older people are increasingly infected, the ECDC said.

Israel and France were among the latest nations to tighten infection control measures, shuttering restaurants, workplaces or gyms as businesses already hammered by lockdowns at the start of the year struggle to stay afloat.

France's Health Minister on Wednesday announced drastic restrictions in some particularly hard-hit areas of the country.

In the southern city of Marseille, bars, restaurants and gyms will close while bars in Paris and 10 other cities will close at 10:00 pm. Gyms will also be shuttered in the capital.

Israel, which has the world's highest coronavirus infection rate as a proportion of its population, has gone even further.

Last week, it imposed a second nationwide lockdown that included school closures and



European Commissioner for Health Stella Kyriakides adjusts her face mask as she attends a news conference on the updated risk assessment for the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in Brussels. - AFP

restrictions on work and leisure.

But realising that wasn't enough, with some hospitals reaching capacity, it decided to tighten its measures still further.

The new rules will close the vast majority of workplaces, shutter markets and further limit prayers and demonstrations.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo

said she had lodged a formal protest over her city's new restrictions, particularly the closure of gyms.

"How will the fact that we can no longer exercise help us, while sport is an important part of keeping us healthy with strong immune systems?", she said.

Health experts also warned that governments risked losing the trust of the population.

Restrictions after Covid-19 rebound in Europe

In selected countries

BRITAIN

Pubs and restaurants must close at 10 pm in England, only table service authorised during opening hours



SPAIN

Travelling out of home suburb banned for nearly a million residents of the Madrid region

PORTUGAL

Gatherings limited to 10 people



FRANCE

Bars and restaurants closed at Aix-Marseille and in Guadeloupe
Gatherings of more than 10 people banned in several large cities

GERMANY

Gatherings limited to two families or 5 unrelated people in Munich, where mask wearing is compulsory in part of the city centre

CZECH REPUBLIC

Bars and clubs closed between midnight and 6 am

HUNGARY

Borders closed since September 1

ITALY

Mask wearing compulsory 24 hours per day in Genoa

More than 390,000 new cases Sept 17-23

Sources: governments, AFP count, AFP photos

Hagai Levine, an epidemiologist who is part of Israel's anti-coronavirus taskforce, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rush to ease the first lockdown caused the current crisis.

In Russia, a vaccine has already been approved even though full clinical trials have

yet to be completed, raising concerns about its safety.

Russian cosmonauts set to blast off for the International Space Station (ISS) said it was too early to get the vaccine touted by President Vladimir Putin.

"I'd personally say that I would not get vaccinated

because I treat very carefully on this issue," said Sergei Ryzhikov, the leader of the next expedition to the ISS in October.

But on a rare positive note, Olympic boss Thomas Bach said the Tokyo Games could take place next year even without a vaccine. -AFP

HOW COVID-19 SPREAD ACROSS THE WORLD



WORLD NEWS

FRANCE: January 11, the first coronavirus death was officially recorded in China. Eight months after the identification of the disease that appeared in Wuhan in December 2019, the world is on the brink of recording one million deaths.

1,000 deaths in the first month

The Sars-CoV-2 virus which causes the illness known as Covid-19 first spread rapidly in China, particularly in the province of Wuhan. In the space of one month, the country recorded one thousand deaths. That initial toll was worse than the total number of deaths caused by earlier acute respiratory syndrome SARS, which circulated in Asia in 2002-2003 and led to 774 fatalities.

Countries and territories outside continental China were relatively untouched at that point but the virus was already starting to circulate there.

The Philippines registered its first case on February 2 and Hong Kong two days later, followed by Japan and France on February 13 and 14.

'Black April' for Europe and US

In February cases soared. By March 11, when the WHO declared the new coronavirus a "pandemic", 4,500 deaths had been recorded worldwide, across 30 countries and territories.

Two-thirds were still in China but Italy (800 deaths) and Iran (300 deaths) saw cases escalate, with deaths soon following.

The number of people dying every day in Europe and the United States rose swiftly until mid-April, reaching peaks in the second week of more than 4,000 and 2,700 average daily deaths respectively.

Today the United States remains the hardest-hit country for deaths, with over 200,000 recorded.

On a global scale, the deadliest week was April 13 to 19 when more than 7,460 coronavirus deaths were officially reported every day. By then the total number of deaths worldwide had risen to nearly 170,000, or double the level reported on March 31.

Since the start of June, the average

number of deaths per day has hovered around 5,000.

Latin America, the new epicentre

In June, the epicentre of the pandemic shifted to Latin America and the Caribbean. From July 15 to August 15, recorded deaths in the region did not drop below an average of 2,500 per day.

Only then did they start to fall gradually, reaching an average 1,900 deaths per day last week.

Brazil became the country with the most deaths in total after the United States (more than 138,000). Taking into account the size of their populations, Peru (958 deaths per one million inhabitants), Bolivia (659), Brazil (650), Chile (644) and Ecuador (630), are among the 10 worst-affected countries worldwide, alongside European countries like Belgium (859) and Spain (661).

A second wave?

In Asia, where the toll was lower than 100 deaths per day up until mid-April, fatalities have been steadily increasing. The continent has exceeded 1,000 deaths per day almost continually since July 20 and is today approaching 1,500 (1,407 on average over the last seven days).

India has been the worst hit, recording a total of 90,000 deaths (more than 1,100 per day last week).

Cases are also rising again in Europe, reinforcing concerns about a possible second wave. New cases on the continent are around 20 percent higher this week than last and deaths are up 28 percent at 614.

Fatalities are also increasing again in the Middle East (around 330 last week, up 18 percent on the week before).

Africa and Oceania spared

According to official statistics, Africa has been less affected than other continents: deaths have been falling since August (fewer than 200 per day in mid-September, after a peak of around 400 in early August).

In Oceania, meanwhile, the average daily number of deaths has never exceeded two dozen. -AFP

COVID-19 and other deadly EPIDEMICS

FRANCE: The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, soon to pass the milestone of one million deaths, has a higher toll compared with other modern viruses although its ravages to date are far less than the Spanish flu a century ago.

As the pandemic continues, the death toll from an AFP tally is only provisional, but it provides a reference point for comparing the new coronavirus with that of other viruses, past and present.

21ST CENTURY VIRUSES

SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19 infection, has been the deadliest of the 21st century viruses.

In 2009, the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, caused a global pandemic and left an official death toll of 18,500.

This was later revised upwards by the medical journal The Lancet, to between 151,700 and 575,400 dead.

In 2002-2003, the SARS virus (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) that emerged from China was the first coronavirus to spark global fears, but killed just 774 people in the final toll.

FLU EPIDEMICS

The COVID-19 toll is often compared to that of deadly seasonal

flu, though the latter rarely makes the headlines.

Globally, seasonal flu accounts for up to 650,000 deaths, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

In the 20th century, two major non-seasonal flu pandemics - Asian flu in 1957-1958 and Hong Kong flu in 1968-1970 - each killed around one million people, according to tolls carried out afterwards.

Both pandemics occurred in different circumstances to Covid-19, before globalisation intensified and accelerated economic exchange and travel - and with it the rapid spread of deadly viruses.

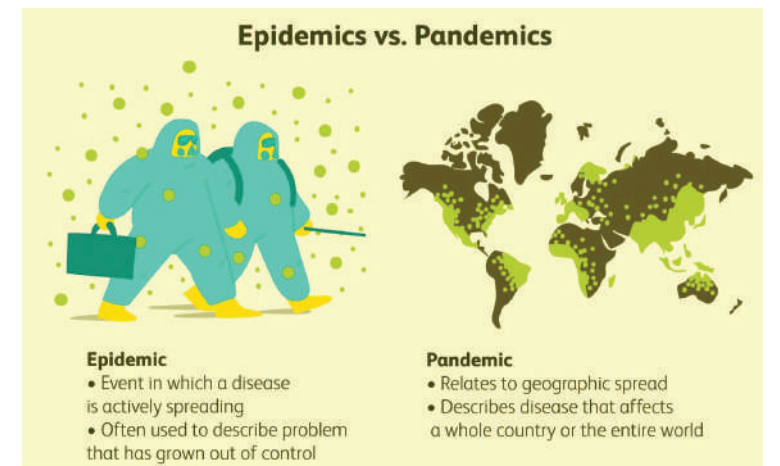
The greatest catastrophe of modern pandemics to date, the flu pandemic of 1918-1919 also known as Spanish flu, wiped out some 50 million people according to research published in the 2000s.

TROPICAL VIRUSES

The death toll from the new coronavirus is already far higher than that of the haemorrhagic fever Ebola, which was first identified in 1976 and in its latest 2018-2020 outbreak killed nearly 2,300 people.

In four decades, periodic Ebola outbreaks have killed some 15,000 people, all in Africa.

Ebola has a far higher fatality



rate than COVID-19: around 50 percent of people who are infected die from it, and this has risen to 90 percent in some of the epidemics.

But Ebola is less contagious than other viral diseases, namely because it is not airborne but transmitted through direct and close contact.

Dengue fever, which can also be deadly, has a lower toll. This flu-like illness spread by the bite of an infected mosquito has been on the rise for two decades but causes just a few thousand deaths per year.

OTHER VIRAL EPIDEMICS

AIDS is by far the most deadly modern epidemic: almost 33 mil-

lion people around the world have died of the disease which affects the immune system.

First detected in 1981, no effective vaccine has been found.

But retroviral drugs, when taken regularly, efficiently stop the illness in its tracks and heavily reduce the risk of contamination.

This treatment has helped bring down the death toll from its peak in 2004 of 1.7 million deaths to 690,000 in 2009, according to UNAIDS.

The hepatitis B and C viruses also have a high death toll, killing some 1.3 million people every year, most often in poor countries. Main data source: World Health Organization (WHO). -AFP

Queen Elizabeth II's finances take pandemic hit

UK: Britain's Royal Household on Friday defended taxpayer-funded trips, including a golfing jaunt by the beleaguered Prince Andrew, as it warned of a financial hit stemming from the coronavirus pandemic.

Unveiling the annual financial report of Queen Elizabeth II's household, officials also said Prince Harry and his wife Meghan were now paying commercial rent on their UK residence at Windsor Castle, after quitting the royal frontline.

The Sovereign Grant, which pays for the monarch's official duties and upkeep of royal palaces, came to 82.4 million (\$105 million, 90.1 million euros) in the financial year ending in March 2020, a slight rise from the year before.

In March, the UK went into lockdown against the coronavirus pandemic and royal finances have been dented by the loss of sizeable income generated from public visits to the palaces.

Losses to the Royal Household's core budget will come to 15 million over the next three years, according to Michael Stevens, who as Keeper of the Privy Purse is the queen's treasurer.

A separate budget for long-term repairs designed to avert a "catastrophic failure" to the fabric of Buckingham Palace, the queen's main residence in London, will suffer a shortfall of 20 million.



Queen Elizabeth II

By law, the Sovereign Grant cannot go down year-on-year, and the monarchy has become increasingly cost-conscious given wider public scrutiny of its affairs.

But Stevens said British taxpayers would not be asked to cough up for the additional shortfalls, at a time when millions are suffering a drop in income or outright loss of their jobs.

"In responding to both these financial challenges we have no intention of asking for extra funding and will look to manage the impact through our own efforts and efficiencies," he told reporters.

The Royal Household has already instituted a freeze on pay and new hiring, and is "actively looking at

cutting non-essential expenditure", a senior royal source added.

The annual report itemised the costs of royal trips over the past financial year, including 15,848 incurred for a charter flight to take Prince Andrew to a golf club in Northern Ireland in July 2019.

Another charter flight was deemed necessary for Princess Anne to attend a rugby match between Italy and Scotland in Rome in February, at a cost of 16,440.

While the queen's only daughter is a widely popular and industrious member of the family, her second son Andrew's reputation has been shredded by his association with the late Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted paedophile.

Both royals were serving in an official capacity as patrons of relevant organisations, and there were no commercial flights available to accommodate their schedules, the royal source said.

Officials were also grilled about a claim by Prince Harry's spokesman this month that the queen's grandson has paid back 2.4 million of taxpayers' money used to renovate Frogmore Cottage, his home in the grounds of Windsor Castle.

The Duke of Sussex and his former actress wife retired from royal duties earlier this year in a quest for "financial independence", and reportedly paid back the refurbishment costs out of a multi-million-dollar deal with the TV giant Netflix.

The Sussexes' disaffection with media scrutiny came to a head on a 10-day tour of southern Africa in September 2019 - a trip that cost the taxpayer 245,643.

The royal source said the couple, who have moved to the United States, intended to keep Frogmore Cottage as their UK residence, and were paying a higher commercial rent to reflect the value added by the renovation.

The cottage, a 19th-century building on the sprawling Windsor Castle estate, west of London, was transformed from five separate homes into a single property. -AFP

David Attenborough joins Instagram, breaks record for fastest to reach a million followers

UK: British television naturalist David Attenborough joined Instagram on Thursday at the age of 94, quickly racking up more than one million followers in his first few hours.

The veteran broadcaster, who has enjoyed a stellar 60-year career chronicling the natural world for audiences, used his inaugural post on the photo- and video-sharing platform to warn "saving our planet is now a communications challenge".

"I am making this move and exploring this new way of communication to me because, as we all know, the world is in trouble," he said in a one-minute 12-second video message that attracted nearly 20,000 comments within six hours.

"Continents are on fire. Glaciers are melting. Coral reefs are dying. Fish are disappearing from our oceans. The list goes on and on," he added.

Attenborough joined the US social media site, which is owned

by Facebook, ahead of the release of his latest film, "A Life On Our Planet", on Netflix from October 4.

The Instagram account will be managed by the documentary's makers and host further video messages from Attenborough in the coming weeks, they said in a message posted on the site.

"Join me, or as we used to say in those early days of radio, stay tuned," he added as he concluded his first and so far only post.

Earlier this month, he gave his starkest warning yet on the need for humanity to safeguard species from mass extinction for the sake of humankind's own survival in a one-hour film, "Extinction: The Facts".

It aired on the BBC in Britain in the same week as international experts warned in a report that global animal, bird and fish populations have plummeted by more than two-thirds in less than 50 years due to humans' rampant over-consumption. - AFP



British television naturalist Sir David Attenborough

Legendary UK newspaper editor Harold Evans dies



Sir Harold Evans

UK: Campaigners, journalists and politicians paid tribute to the crusading British newspaper Editor Harold Evans, after his death in New York aged 92.

Former Sunday Times Editor Evans is best remembered for his hard-hitting expose of the birth defects caused by the drug thalidomide in what remains a high watermark for the profession.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, himself a former journalist and columnist, called him "a true pioneer of investigative journalism", as others praised his fearless approach.

The head of the Society of Editors, Ian Murray, called him a "giant" and "a true champion of a free press and holding the powerful to account".

Andrew Neil, one of his successors at the Sunday Times, said Evans was "the greatest editor of his generation".

At the time of his death on Tuesday from congestive heart failure, the charismatic Evans was editor-at-large for the international news agency Reuters.

Evans' second wife, the publisher Tina Brown, confirmed his death on her Twitter account and called him "the love of my life".

"He was peaceful at home with his family. My soulmate for 39 years. Thank you for all the beautiful tributes to the most magical of men," she said.

Evans took on the makers of thalidomide and exposed the lack of proper testing procedures, campaigning to force the company to increase compensation for those affected.

Glen Harrison, the deputy chairman of the campaign group Thalidomide UK, called him "an outstanding human being for our cause... We wouldn't know where we would be without him."

Fellow campaigner Guy Tweedy called him an "icon". "What he did for thalidomide survivors and their families in the UK was enormous. He trod where no one else did."

"If it wasn't for him fighting against the Establishment, and having the courage to expose this horrendous scandal, we would never have got any justice at all."

Evans himself was modest about the achievement, recalling in an interview with the Independent in 2014: "All I tried to do - all I hoped to do - was to shed a little light."

"And if that light grew weeds, we'd have to try and pull them up."

Under Evans' tenure from 1967 to 1981, the Sunday Times revealed that British intelligence agent Kim Philby was a double agent working for the Soviet Union.

He also published the diaries of a former government minister, Richard Crossman, despite risking prosecution under the Official Secrets Act.

Despite his later public profile, Evans had humble roots, growing up in a working-class family near Manchester, northwest England, as the son of a railwayman.

He began his career on local newspapers, notably the regional publication the Manchester Evening News, going on to win his first editor's post at the Northern Echo at the age of 32.

Even half a century after he left, his legacy was still felt, said one of his successors at the northeast England daily, Peter Barron.

"He understood the importance of getting out and listening to people," he said.

Evans called journalism his "basic passion" and summed up his own philosophy to the profession by saying "attempting to get at truth means rejecting stereotypes and cliches". - AFP

Hebrew University receives Holy Land postcard trove



ISRAEL: A collection of 130,000 postcards depicting current-day Israel and the Palestinian territories since the 19th century has been gifted to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the institute said.

David Pearlman, an 82-year-old retired accountant, began collecting English comic cards as a boy before turning his attention to postcards.

"When I began to see some different cards around the world, I could see that there was a big subject... so I gradually moved over to looking only for cards that featured Palestine," he told AFP by phone from his London home.

The collection's first picture postcard dates to 1892.

In the years prior to the invention of the telephone, postcards were first and foremost a means of communication, before becoming a way to promote businesses or ideas.

"Most countries were allowing postcards to be sent through the post, half the price of a letter," Pearlman said.

"In the 1890s, as the hotel trade began to grow in Palestine, a number of organisations were beginning to produce cards that por-

trayed or featured their hotel or business establishment."

Pearlman's collection provides a window into the major events transpiring in the small patch of land under Ottoman, British and finally Israeli rule.

It includes cards from World War I British soldiers and postcards featuring drawings by early 20th century Israeli artists.

Others were manufactured in Britain with Holy Land imagery, to be used by Christian or Jewish organisations seeking to promote their causes, he said.

The postcards - categorised in shoeboxes in Pearlman's garage and accumulating to the point where he had to park his car on the street - were given to the Hebrew University's Folklore Research Center in November.

Centre director Dani Schrire said the collection could afford a glimpse into the psyche of the land and its people.

"We are in a very good position now to begin research from different disciplines and understanding the imagination of the Holy Land," he said.

There are no immediate plans to put the collection on public display. Pearlman, who admitted to not



Sachar Knaani, a researcher at the Hebrew University, holds laminated postcards from the "Postcards of Palestine" collection at the university in Jerusalem on Thursday. - AFP

having sent a postcard in many years, said that in the early 20th century, they "were like the mobile phone".

They also provide an imprint of a time and place. "Someone called postcards time capsules," Pearlman said. "They capture a

moment in time, and many of these moments have now passed, and therefore they have captured a little piece of history." - AFP

Bottled water billionaire becomes China's richest man



Nongfu Spring founder Zhong Shanshan (L) and Alibaba founder Jack Ma

CHINA: A businessman who spun his wealth from bottled water and vaccines has usurped tech tycoon Jack Ma as China's richest man, the Bloomberg Billionaires Index showed Thursday.

Nongfu Spring founder Zhong Shanshan's net worth has hit \$58.7 billion after a massive listing by the bottled water company in Hong Kong earlier this month.

This makes him \$2 billion richer than previous number one, Alibaba founder Jack Ma, the wealth index said.

Zhong's Nongfu Spring, which claims to be number one in China's massive bottled water market, is ubiquitous across a country where most people shun tap water for health reasons.

The company raised nearly \$1.1 billion in its initial public offering. Zhong is also the chairman of Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Co. Ltd., a vaccine manufacturer that listed on the mainland in April.

It is developing a Covid-19 vaccine nasal spray in conjunction with a prominent university.

Zhong, a 66-year-old former reporter from Zhejiang who state media say was also once a construction worker, is often referred to by Chinese media as a "lone wolf" for his rare public appearances and reluctance to be interviewed.

He founded Nongfu in 1996, just as China's bottled water market began to take off. - AFP

Fatah, Hamas reach deal on Palestinian elections

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas and their rivals Fatah in the occupied West Bank agreed Thursday to hold the first Palestinian elections since 2006, united by their opposition to Arab-Israeli normalisation deals.

Polls will be scheduled within six months under a deal reached between Fatah leader Mahmud Abbas and Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh, officials from both sides told AFP.

"We have agreed to first hold legislative elections, then presidential elections of the Palestinian Authority, and finally the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)," said Jibril Rajub, a senior Fatah official.

The last Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006 saw Hamas win an unexpected landslide and the following year the Islamists seized control of the Gaza Strip in a near-civil war between the two factions. Saleh al-Aroui, a top Hamas official, said the deal was reached during meetings held in Turkey.

"This time we reached a real consensus," he said, speaking to AFP by phone from Istanbul.

"Divisions have damaged our national cause and we are working to end that," he added.

The intra-Palestinian reconciliation attempts took on greater urgency after the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain normalised relations with Israel, becoming only the third and fourth Arab nations to do so.

Egypt and Jordan respectively signed peace deals with the Jewish state in 1979 and 1994.



The last time Palestinians went to the polls in a nationwide election was in 2006 when Islamist group Hamas won a landslide majority in parliament. - AFP

Senior Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi welcomed the announcement to convene new elections, saying it was a "long overdue" move to "revitalise and unify" Palestinian ranks.

"The promising developments emerging from talks between Fatah and Hamas are welcome news for the Palestinian people," Ashrawi said in a statement.

"Ending the ongoing rift in the political system is a pressing priority that is long overdue."

Ashrawi called on Palestinian factions "to include women and youth in advanced positions in their electoral tickets".

She also urged the international

community to "ensure that Israel does not hamper or obstruct" the vote.

The 2006 Palestinian polls resulted in a brief unity government, but it soon collapsed and in 2007 bloody clashes erupted in the Gaza Strip between the two principal Palestinian factions.

Hamas has since ruled Gaza, while Fatah has run the Palestinian Authority based in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Numerous attempts at reconciliation, including a prisoner exchange agreement in 2012 and a short-lived coalition government two years later, have failed to close the rift.

Including PLO elections in the

agreement paves the way for Hamas to join the organisation, which unites various Palestinian factions including Fatah.

The PLO signed the 1993 Oslo peace accords with Israel, which have long since floundered.

Fatah has not said whether Abbas will seek re-election in the proposed polls.

The 84-year-old has been in office since the 2005 Presidential election, when he won 62 percent of the vote.

According to a rare poll by the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Research carried out earlier this year, Hamas's Haniyeh would beat Abbas in a Presidential election. - AFP

CHINA tells US at UNGA: 'Enough is enough'



Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Zhang Jun

UN: China on Thursday lashed out at the United States at a high-level UN meeting over its criticism on the coronavirus, with its envoy declaring, "Enough is enough!" Two days after President Donald Trump used his annual address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to attack China's record, the US Ambassador to the United Nations also took an outraged tone - after which her Chinese counterpart showed palpable anger.

"I must say, enough is enough! You have created enough troubles for the world already," Chinese envoy Zhang Jun told a Security Council meeting on global governance attended through videoconference by several Heads of State.

"The US has nearly seven million confirmed cases and over 200,000

deaths by now. With the most advanced medical technologies and system in the world, why has the US turned out to have the most confirmed cases and fatalities?" he asked in English.

"If someone should be held accountable, it should be a few US politicians themselves." Using a phrase often told by US leaders to China, Zhang said, "The US should understand that a major power should behave like a major power." The United States "is completely isolated," he said in remarks enthusiastically backed by his Russian counterpart.

His remarks came after the US Ambassador Kelly Craft, opened with angry words that took diplomats off-guard.

"You know, shame on each of you. I

am astonished and I am disgusted by the content of today's discussion," Craft said. "I am actually really quite ashamed of this Council - members of the Council who took this opportunity to focus on political grudges rather than the critical issue at hand. My goodness." Diplomats said they were puzzled at the tone of Craft, who had left by the time the Chinese ambassador spoke.

Craft was "very aggressive" after a session that had been "more or less full of consensus," one diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

With world leaders asked to send speeches in advance for a virtual General Assembly, Chinese President Xi Jinping could not reply Tuesday to Trump and delivered a mild-mannered speech in which he unveiled more ambitious targets on climate change.

But the spokesman for the General Assembly, Brenden Varma, said China had requested to speak next Tuesday, the day set up for any nation to reply to statements.

Trump in his speech had demanded action against China for spreading the "plague" of Covid-19 to the world.

China suppressed news of the respiratory disease when it first emerged last year in Wuhan and initial advice played down the risks of transmission.

China's communist leaders have more recently tried to transform the narrative into one of the country's success in stopping the virus.

Trump's response to the pandemic - which he has provocatively called the "China virus" - has emerged as a major political issue as he seeks a new term in the November 3 election. - AFP

Trump rebuffed over election comments

US: Top Republicans and Democrats pushed back hard Thursday against President Donald Trump's suggestion he might not accept defeat in the November election, with some comparing him to corrupt dictators.

A day after the US leader refused to clearly guarantee a peaceful transfer of power, Republican Senate Speaker Mitch McConnell felt it necessary to assure American voters that the winner of the November 3 election would take office as planned in January. The head of the FBI, meanwhile, implicitly rejected Trump's suggestion that massive fraud was in the works with the surge in mailed-in ballots.

Trump sparked outrage on Wednesday with his comment that he might not honor the results of the election or treat mail-in ballots as legitimate.

Asked at a White House press conference whether he is committed to the peaceful handover of power if he is defeated, Trump replied: "Well, we're going to have to see what happens."

"You know that I've been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster," he said.

The remarks were seen as a stunning suggestion that Trump is not committed to the most basic tenet of democratic rule in the United States, respect for the ballot box.

McConnell, a crucial ally of Trump, felt it necessary to clarify the situation, without directly referencing Trump's remarks.

"The winner of the November 3rd election will be inaugurated on January 20th," McConnell tweeted Thursday.

"There will be an orderly transition just as there has been every four years since 1792."



'The Great American Comeback Rally' held in support of US President Donald Trump at Cecil Airport in Jacksonville, Florida. The President's plane Air Force One is seen in the background. - AFP

Other top politicians reacted more brusquely.

"Fundamental to democracy is the peaceful transition of power; without that, there is Belarus," Republican Senator Mitt Romney tweeted.

Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic House Speaker, said it was necessary to remind Trump, "You are not in North Korea, you are not in Turkey, you are not in Russia, Mr. President."

"You are in the United States of America. It is a democracy. Why don't you just try for a moment to honour your oath of office to the constitution of the United States."

Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state who Trump defeated in the 2016 presidential race, called his comments "pathetic."

"But because he is the president, we should take his threat seriously," she said. Trump's comments echoed

unfounded allegations he has made repeatedly that the vote count could be rigged by Democrats taking advantage of a surge in voting by mail due to the Covid-19 pandemic. "What's going to happen on November 3rd?" he asked last week, saying "millions" of ballots will not have been counted the day after the election.

"It's a disaster. Everyone knows it," he said, adding: "Where are these ballots going? Who's sending them? Who's signing them?"

On Wednesday, he asserted that the mailed-in votes will all be suspiciously for his democratic rival Joe Biden, and should not be counted.

"The ballots are out of control," he said.

"Get rid of the ballots and you will have a very peaceful - there won't be a transfer, frankly. There will be a continuation," he said.

His comments highlight real concerns that there will not be a clear winner on the day after the election, as millions of mailed-in ballots continue to arrive at local election offices and will take time to tabulate.

The FBI and US intelligence have warned that instigators, domestic and foreign, could take advantage of that period to spread fake news about fraud and political manipulation, stirring up public anger and doubts about the electoral process.

However on Thursday FBI Director Chris Wray told a Senate hearing that they had not seen any coordinated effort to manipulate the election results.

"We have not seen, historically, any kind of coordinated national voter fraud effort in a major election, whether it's by mail or otherwise," Wray said. - AFP

Poland unveils 'superhuman' John Paul II sculpture

POLAND: An unusual sculpture depicting Saint John Paul II holding up a meteorite was unveiled in Warsaw on Thursday - an artistic response to a controversial statue showing the rock striking down the late Pope.

Jerzy Kalina's installation outside the National Museum, titled "Poisoned Source", shows the Polish Pope holding the meteorite high over a pool of red water representing blood.

"In Kalina's view, John Paul II is not a powerless old man crushed by a meteorite, but a titan of superhuman strength," the museum said in a statement on its website.

The installation has already prompted online derision and criticism from art commentators who said it simply reflects the ultra-Catholic outlook of Poland's populist government.

One image shared on social media transforms the statue into a depiction of a plane passenger trying to put a suitcase into an overhead compartment, while another showed people fleeing the advance of a giant version of the statue.

Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan drew controversy in Poland for his wax statue shown at the 1999 Venice Biennale depicting pope John Paul II - then living - being crushed by a meteor.

When the sculpture, titled "La Nona Ora", was exhibited at the Zacheta National Gallery of Art in Warsaw in 2000, two lawmakers tried to remove the rock and stand the statue upright, according to media reports.

The head of the museum was forced to resign. - AFP



An installation by Polish sculptor Jerzy Kalina entitled "Poisoned Source" and depicting late Pope John Paul II holding a meteorite over his head stands in a pool of reddish water representing blood, outside the National Museum in Warsaw on Thursday where the statue was inaugurated. - AFP

Kalina's statue is intended to mark the 100th anniversary of John Paul II's birth.

"The artist himself perceives the pope as a man who played a decisive role in the recent history of Poland and Europe and set in motion a process of historical, social and spiritual transformation," the museum said.

While he is still widely revered in Poland also for his role in helping to inspire the anti-communist movement, the pope's handling of sexual abuse scandals in the Catholic Church has increasingly come under scrutiny. - AFP

24.09.2020 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 742,390
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 29,749,620.00
Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 26

Vasana Sampatha
Official Results
 Draw No. 1616
 Date 2020.09.24

English Letter: **L**
 Winning Nos.: **01 08 10 11**

| Prize | Prize Structure | Prize Money | No. of Winners |
|-------|---|-------------|----------------|
| 01 | If only Four Numbers are correct | 1,000,000/- | 0 |
| 02 | If Three Numbers and English Letter are correct | 100,000/- | 02 |
| 03 | If only Three Numbers are correct | 2,000/- | 76 |
| 04 | If Two Numbers and English Letter are correct | 500/- | 176 |
| 05 | If only Two Numbers are correct | 100/- | 3,941 |
| 06 | If one Number and English Letter are correct | 60/- | 2,306 |
| 07 | If only One Number are correct | 20/- | 59,557 |
| 08 | If only English Letter is correct | 20/- | 9,745 |

Total prize money won in this Draw Rs. 2,358,500.00

Next Super Prize Rs. 24,003,492.90

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA
 DRAW NUMBER: 2020/09
 DRAW DATE: 020

Letter: **L** Winning Number: **09 16 30 4**

| COMBINATION | PRIZE | NO. OF WINNERS |
|---|----------------------|----------------|
| If all 4 numbers are correct | Rs. 1,000,000/- Each | 01 |
| If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct | Rs. 50,000/- Each | 02 |
| If any 3 numbers are correct | Rs. 1,000/- Each | 114 |
| If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct | Rs. 500/- Each | 157 |
| If any 2 numbers are correct | Rs. 100/- Each | 343 |
| If English Letter and 1 number is correct | Rs. 40/- Each | 6,735 |
| If 1 numbers is correct | Rs. 20/- Each | 142,138 |
| If only Super number is correct | Rs. 20/- Each | 25,995 |

SPECIAL DRAW

| | | | |
|-------|---------|--------------|-----|
| Prize | 8 3 0 0 | Rs. 1,000.00 | 0 |
| Prize | 3 0 0 0 | Rs. 500.00 | 2 |
| Prize | 0 0 0 0 | Rs. 50.00 | 2,4 |

Total prize money won in this draw Rs. 3,559,450/-
Super Prize for the next Draw Rs. 6,691,821.60

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA
 DRAW NUMBER: 4255 OFFICIAL RESULTS
 DATE: 24-09-2020

English Letter: **L** Winning Numbers: **4 9 3 3 2 6**

| Prize Structure | Prize Money Rs. | No. of winners |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1st Prize | 4 9 3 3 2 6 Rs. 2,000,000/- | 01 |
| 2nd Prize | 9 3 3 2 6 Rs. 100,000/- | 12 |
| 3rd Prize | 3 3 2 6 Rs. 10,000/- | 114 |
| 4th Prize | 3 2 6 Rs. 1,000/- | 1,127 |
| 5th Prize | 2 6 Rs. 100/- | 11,354 |
| 6th Prize | 6 Rs. 20/- | 112,535 |

Prize structure - from left to right

| Prize | Prize Money Rs. | No. of winners |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 7th Prize | 4 9 3 3 2 Rs. 10,000/- | 12 |
| 8th Prize | 4 9 3 3 Rs. 1,000/- | 109 |
| 9th Prize | 4 9 3 Rs. 100/- | 1,137 |
| 10th Prize | 4 9 Rs. 50/- | 11,183 |
| 11th Prize | L Rs. 20/- | 45,217 |

Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs. 10,659,290.00

The Super Prize of next draw Rs. 13,168,180.00

Mega Power
 DRAW NUMBER: 622 OFFICIAL RESULTS
 DATE 24.09.2020

English Letter: **M** Super Number: **26** Winning Numbers: **27 31 50 71**

| Prize Structure | Prize Money Rs. | No. of winners | |
|-----------------|--|----------------|---------|
| 1st Prize | If all 4 Numbers are correct | 1,000,000.00 | - |
| 2nd Prize | If only 3 Numbers with English Letter is correct | 100,000.00 | 06 |
| 3rd Prize | If all 3 Numbers are correct | 1,000.00 | 157 |
| 4th Prize | If only 2 Numbers with English Letter is correct | 500.00 | 343 |
| 5th Prize | Only 2 Numbers are correct | 100.00 | 6,641 |
| 6th Prize | If only 1 Number with English Letter is correct | 40.00 | 6,735 |
| 7th Prize | Only 1 Number are correct | 20.00 | 142,138 |
| 8th Prize | Only English Letter are correct | 20.00 | 25,995 |

Biggest Prize Rs. 50,260,830.00

Next Mega Super Prize Rs. 50,260,830.00

Next Power Super Prize Rs. 11,530,992.40 **Next Grand Super Prize Rs. 16,992,391.20**

Total Prizes Won In This Draw Rs. 5,384,660.00

Govisetha
 DRAW NUMBER: 2550 DRAW DATE: 24.09.2020

English Letter: **K** Winning Numbers: **22 25 51 62**

| Prize | Prize Structure | Prize Money Rs. | No. of winners |
|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 PRIZE | IF ALL 4 NUMBERS CORRECT | Rs. 1,000,000.00 | 01 |
| 2 PRIZE | IF LETTER & ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT | Rs. 100,000.00 | 06 |
| 3 PRIZE | IF ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT | Rs. 2,000.00 | 179 |
| 4 PRIZE | IF LETTER & ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT | Rs. 1,000.00 | 400 |
| 5 PRIZE | IF ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT | Rs. 100.00 | 10545 |
| 6 PRIZE | IF LETTER & ANY NUMBER CORRECT | Rs. 40.00 | 6937 |
| 7 PRIZE | IF ANY NUMBER CORRECT | Rs. 20.00 | 173229 |
| 8 PRIZE | IF ONLY THE LETTER IS CORRECT | Rs. 20.00 | 31658 |

TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW 222,955

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW Rs. 7,787,720.00

SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW Rs. 64,246,572.40

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

Kim Jong Un apologises over 'defector' shooting: Seoul

SOUTH KOREA: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un apologised Friday over the killing of a South Korean at sea, calling it an "unexpected and disgraceful event", Seoul's presidential office said.

The fisheries official was shot dead on Tuesday by North Korean soldiers, and Seoul says his body was set on fire while still in the water, apparently as a precaution against coronavirus infection.

It was the first killing of a South Korean citizen by North Korean forces for a decade, and provoked outrage in the South.

Kim apologised "for disappointing President Moon and South Koreans" rather than helping them in the face of the "malicious coronavirus", said Suh Hoon, the South's National Security Adviser.

Apologies from the North - let

alone attributed to Kim personally - are extremely rare, and the message comes with inter-Korean ties in the deep freeze amid a stand-off in nuclear negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington.

Suh was reading out a letter from the department of the North's ruling party responsible for relations with the South.

In it, Pyongyang acknowledged firing around 10 shots at the man, who had "illegally entered our waters" and refused to properly identify himself.

Border guards fired him in accordance with standing instructions, it said.

His body was no longer visible after the shooting and troops set his flotation device - which was covered in blood - on fire in accordance with national emergency prevention regu-

lations. Seoul military officials say the man was interrogated while in the water over several hours and expressed a desire to defect, but was killed after an "order from superior authority".

The man - who was wearing a lifejacket - disappeared from a patrol vessel near the western border island of Yeonpyeong on Monday, and North Korean forces located him in their waters more than 24 hours later.

South Korean media reports said he was in his forties with two children, but had recently divorced and had financial problems.

Pyongyang has closed its borders and declared an emergency to try to protect itself against the virus, which has swept the world since first emerging in neighbouring China.

- AFP



People watch a television news broadcast showing file footage of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at a railway station in Seoul on Friday. Kim apologised over the killing of a South Korean at sea. - AFP

Russia's military exercises unite weary West

RUSSIA: Russia is staging a series of military exercises with China and other allies amid growing alarm over fresh tensions with the West.

The largest of these games, Caucasus-2020, kicked off in southern Russia this week and include land and naval exercises involving a total of 80,000 people including more than 12,000 troops.

China, Iran and Myanmar are taking part along with several ex-Soviet countries including Belarus.

"These exercises are the main annual test of the Russian armed forces' readiness to engage in a large-scale conflict," Vasily Kashin, a Moscow-based military analyst, told AFP.

The drills that last until Saturday and feature naval deployments on the Black Sea and the Caspian have been organised "for the top echelons of the military leadership", he said.

According to the defence ministry, up to 250 tanks and around 450 infantry combat vehicles and armoured personnel carriers are taking part in the drills along with artillery systems and rocket launchers.

The Russian forces will test the TOS-2 heavy flamethrower systems first paraded through Moscow's Red Square during Victory Day celebrations in June.

President Vladimir Putin has made reviving the army one of the top priorities of his 20-year rule.



Russia launched the Kavkaz (or Caucasus) 2020 military drills with neighbouring countries in its Southern Military District and in the Black and Caspian Seas.

After years of post-Soviet neglect, the armed forces received new aircraft, tanks and missiles, opened new bases in the Arctic and resumed Cold War-style strategic bomber patrols.

Moscow has staged more frequent large-scale military exercises in the Caucasus, the Baltic and the Arctic in recent years.

In 2018, Russia held what it has called its largest ever military drills, with 300,000 Russian troops joining Chinese soldiers in a show of force condemned by NATO.

Russia's drills this autumn are also viewed as a show of sup-

port for Belarusian strongman Alexander Lukashenko who has faced unprecedented protests against his disputed re-election last month and was sworn in during a secret ceremony Wednesday.

Running parallel to the Caucasus-2020 games, the joint Russian-Belarusian drills dubbed Slavic Brotherhood began in mid-September and involve more than 900 troops.

The drills were launched near Belarus's southwestern city of Brest on the Polish border, and as part of the games, two Russian supersonic heavy strategic Tu-160 bombers flew

over Belarus's border with the EU on Tuesday.

Lukashenko has accused Poland and the Baltic states of coordinating with the opposition and has claimed Western countries see Belarus as a "springboard" to attack Russia.

"Putin and me are of the same opinion: we are being hunted here so that they can go for Russia afterwards," Lukashenko said in August.

Next month Belarus will also host drills by the six member states of a Russia-led security bloc, the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

- AFP



Protesters defy curfew in Breonna Taylor protest

US: More than 1,000 people defied a second night of curfew in the US city of Louisville to protest over the lack of criminal charges in the police killing of Breonna Taylor, with some seeking refuge in a church.

Two officers were shot during clashes in Louisville a day earlier, after authorities announced a grand jury had decided not to charge anyone in connection with the death of Taylor - a 26-year-old black woman shot dead in her apartment by police earlier this year.

"Until we afford Black people the basic rights promised by our founders - life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness - and end the rampage of the devil of racism, we will know no peace," her family's lawyer Ben Crump said in an opinion piece in The Washington Post. Over a thousand people protested Thursday evening in the city center, much of which was closed to traffic, with several shops boarded up in anticipation of more violence.

"No way we can be peaceful any longer," said Michael Pyles, a 29-year-old black man who said he has been protesting for 120 days, and had a 9mm handgun on his hip.

"We're out here to protect our people and the people who support us," he said. "We are under attack." Grace Penix, 19, who is also African American, said she can't help but place herself in Taylor's shoes.



Sydney Brown looks out into the crowd as she joins demonstrators to protest the killing of Breonna Taylor, on the steps of the Louisville Metro Hall in Louisville, Kentucky on Thursday. - AFP

"I often be passing by my front door and thinking, dang, the police could be coming at my door and shoot me and kill me just like they did with Breonna.

"It could be me, my friend, cousin, aunt, mom," she said.

With a 9:00 pm to 6:30 am curfew in place through the weekend, about a hundred protesters in violation of the rule Thursday sought refuge at the First Unitarian Church late Thursday.

Heavily armed police surrounded the building, and helicopters whirled overhead, but the demonstrators were allowed to leave around 11 pm.

Authorities arrested at least 24 people on charges including unlawful assembly, failure to disperse and riot in the first degree, police said, though the city appeared to

avoid the violence of the previous evening.

Taylor's death has become a rallying cry for the Black Lives Matter movement and the grand jury decision sent fresh demands for racial justice billowing across the country.

Two police officers were shot and wounded Wednesday as thousands flooded the streets of Louisville to protest the grand jury's decision.

Both are expected to recover. Louisville police chief Robert Schroeder said a suspect, Laryzo Johnson, had been arrested and charged with two counts of assault and 14 counts of "wanton endangerment."

Schroeder said there had been a total of 127 arrests overnight Wednesday across the city, Kentucky's largest with a population of 600,000, and at least 16 instances of looting. - AFP

Virus-weary S.Africans take on Jerusalema dance craze

SOUTH AFRICA: Construction workers, rangers, fuel attendants, judges and even South Africa's rugby team on Thursday hit the web, dancing to the 2019 pop song Jerusalema which has lifted global spirits during the pandemic.

President Cyril Ramaphosa this month invited all South Africans to take on the "Jerusalema dance challenge" as part of Heritage Day - a public holiday celebrating culture and diversity.

The gospel-influenced song, recorded by South African producer Master KG with Zulu lyrics by Nomcebo, started as a local hit during last December's festive season. It made waves globally in February when an Angolan dance studio posted a video of performers dancing to the song over lunch, plates of food in hand.

Another video from Portugal then snowballed into the now international #JerusalemaDanceChallenge, with people across the globe sharing clips of the choreography in various settings.

Health workers on the front-line of coronavirus outbreaks also joined the frenzy, bringing messages of hope to a world darkened by the pandemic.

"In the midst of a crisis we found space to be loving, to



Dancing to Jerusalema in Johannesburg. The song has sparked a global dance frenzy around the world.

be compassionate, to enjoy ourselves and to encourage and comfort each other" said South Africa's Health Minister Zweli Mkhize on Thursday. "That's what this song means to us."

In their own version on the dance, Mkhize and his team strut to Jerusalema in a Johannesburg botanical garden holding signs saying "We made it" and "Sanitise".

South Africa was particularly hard-hit by the virus, accounting for around half of continent's recorded cases.

Over 665,000 infections and 16,000 deaths have been confirmed since March, although the spread has stalled significantly in recent weeks.

Despite the bite of lock-

down measures, workers from all industries heeded Ramaphosa's call to celebrate.

Staff at a safari lodge danced around a pool, beauticians in face masks skipped in their salons and young truck drivers grooved impressively between vehicles.

University students, embassies, babies and dogs also took part. Many of the videos were reposted by the presidency's Twitter account.

"We are the nation that is taking the world by storm with the #JerusalemaChallenge," Ramaphosa said in his Heritage Day speech.

"Young and old in France, the UK, Jamaica, Angola and even Palestinian East Jerusalem itself are getting in on the craze." - AFP

Rio Carnival, latest casualty of COVID-19

BRAZIL: Rio de Janeiro's world-famous carnival parades became the latest casualty of the coronavirus pandemic Thursday as officials announced they were indefinitely postponing the February 2021 edition, with Brazil still reeling from COVID-19.

Rio's carnival, the world's biggest, is an epidemiologist's nightmare in a pandemic: an extended festival of tightly packed crowds dancing through the streets and flocking to the city's iconic "Sambadrome" for massive parades featuring scantily clad dancers, small armies of drummers and all-night partying at close quarters.

The event draws millions of tourists from around Brazil and the world to the beachside city each year.

Rio's elite samba schools, which typically spend the entire year preparing their elaborate parades, had said in July it would be difficult to organize the event for February 2021 if there were still no certainty of a vaccine for the new coronavirus by late September.

Meeting again to assess the situation, "we came to the conclusion that the event had to be postponed," said Jorge Castanheira, the president of the group that organizes the annual parades, the Independent League of Samba Schools of Rio de Janeiro (LIESA).

"We just can't do it in February. The samba schools won't have the time or financial and organizational resources to be ready," he told journalists after a plenary meeting by the group's directors.

"It's not a cancellation, it's a postponement. We are looking for an alternative solution, something we can do when it's safe to contribute to the city.... But we aren't certain enough to set a date."

It is the first time in more than a century that carnival has been postponed in Rio.



A scene from the world famous Rio Carnival.

The last time was in 1912, after the death of long-time foreign minister Jose Maria da Silva Paranhos Junior.

The late foreign minister is reported to have once said: "Only two things exist in Brazil which are really organized: disorder and carnival." The year he died, carnival was officially pushed back by two months, though in the event Rio residents reportedly took advantage of the occasion to party in both February and April that year.

In reality, "carnival" comprises numerous events, from the elite samba school parade contest organized by LIESA to less-formal "blocos," or street parties.

LIESA's announcement applies only to the samba school competition. City authorities

have not yet announced whether "blocos" and other events will be allowed.

Speculation had been mounting that authorities would have to cancel or postpone carnival in 2021, given that Brazil is the country with the second-highest death toll in the pandemic, after the United States, and is still struggling to bring the virus under control.

Brazil has registered 4.7 million infections and nearly 140,000 deaths from Covid-19.

And while the spread of the virus has slowed somewhat since its July peak, the numbers are still alarmingly high in Brazil, with an average of nearly 30,000 new cases and 735 new deaths per day over the past two weeks, according to health ministry figures.

- AFP



Indonesian police use a water cannon to spray disinfectant amid the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, along a street beside the Baiturrahman grand mosque in Banda Aceh. - AFP



Teddy bears are seen dressed as protesters in order to comply with COVID-19 coronavirus rules against large public gatherings, during a protest by street vendors against a crackdown on unlicensed stalls, outside a district council office in Seoul on Friday. - AFP



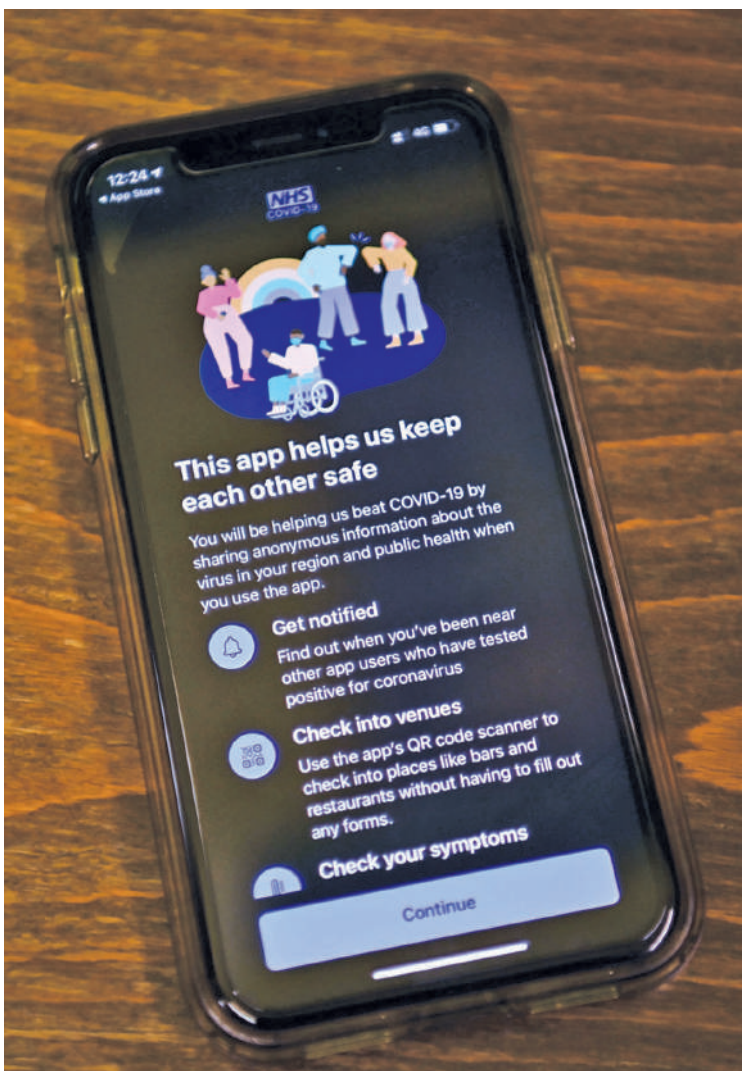
A worker sanitises a bus as city bus services resumed partially after the government eased restrictions imposed as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus in Hyderabad, India on Friday. - AFP



Masked-clad pedestrians walk past the 'Hitromemut' sculpture by Israeli artist Menashe Kadishman which is now depicting people wearing masks to promote the basic preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus, at Habima Square in the Israeli coastal city of Tel Aviv. - AFP



A woman wearing a face mask as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus sorts light figures of a game for passersby along a promenade next to the Yangtze River in Wuhan, in China's central Hubei Province. - AFP



The newly launched contact tracing app, which uses Bluetooth technology to alert users if they spend 15 minutes or more within two metres (six feet) of another user who subsequently tests positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus is pictured on a smartphone in London. The British government launched the smartphone app to help track the coronavirus in England and Wales. - AFP

FACING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Around the World



A woman wearing a face mask to protect against the coronavirus pandemic poses with a bear sculpture in downtown Moscow. - AFP



Nuns wearing a face mask walk across a street in Rome near the Vatican on Friday to participate in a religious ceremony. - AFP



People wearing face masks walk by a 6 metre high statue depicting a "Superhealthworker" installed in Madrid, Spain to pay tribute to the heroes who fight against coronavirus. - AFP



A Palestinian boy walks past street art showing a COVID-19 coronavirus, in Gaza city. - AFP



A health worker takes a throat swab during a COVID-19 Coronavirus screening in Mumbai. - AFP

View of a guitar belonging to the Paulo Roberto, a COVID-19 victim at his house in Belo Horizonte, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. - AFP

Sen-Sal opens in Pitakotte



The Chairman of Sen-Sal Roshan Hettiarachchi seen declare open the outlet by opening the door while behind him his wife and Director Sen-Sal, Hashini Hettiarachchi entering the outlet.

Pictures by Hubert Parera

Sen-Sal added its latest outlet 'Sen-Sal Pitakotte' to their family at Bangalawa Junction, Pitakotte and it will be open for the customers from 6 a.m. till 11 p.m. daily. Sen-Sal have a selection of most popular favourites from the bread range to savouries, cakes and gateau under one roof.

Sen-Sal also caters to Chinese to Indian and Sri Lankan Menus and offers daily BBQ. This outlet has a large parking and seating capacity for indoor and outdoor dining, and an atmosphere for family and friends.

Wickramarachchi Hearing Care to diversify to medical tourism

Set to market hearing care implants globally

ANANDA KANNAGARA

Opening up new vistas in the Sri Lankan Tourism sector Wickramarachchi Hearing Care will be introducing Sri Lanka, as the best destination for hearing care implants in Asia.

Founder and Managing Director, Wickramarachchi Opticians and Hearing Care Mihira Wickramarachchi said that they had planned to launch this initiative in March but was forced to postpone due to the corona pandemic. "Any person from eight month to 88 years can get his or her hearing restored even if the person loss his hearing due to an accident. This is done through advanced surgical implant."

Hearing loss is certainly a common issue in present world. It can be effectively managed with the introduction of hearing devices equipped with latest technologies to improve hearing whilst enhancing quality of life.

He said that the first step towards this the 'preliminary testing' which is done by audiology technicians of Wickramarachchi Opticians and Hearing Care through tier branches all over Sri Lanka. "Then we move the cus-



tomer to surgery to implant the hearing aids and this is done in hospitals in Colombo including Lady Ridgeway, Kandy, Galle, Kurunegala and Jaffna using the cochlear implant processors supplied by Wickramarachchi Opticians and Hearing Care. These Cochlear Australia prod-

ucts, N7 and Nucleus 7 are guaranteed to last a lifetime.

"The Nucleus 7 Sound Processor is a remarkable technological step forward, being the world's first and only Made for iPhone cochlear implant sound processor. This product offer greater accessibility, connectivity and wireless solutions along with Nucleus Smart App for Android Users."

He said that they have successfully done several Hearing Care implants successfully and fully



Founder and Managing Director, Wickramarachchi Opticians and Hearing Care Mihira Wickramarachchi with Cochlear Brand Ambassador Brett Lee.

restored the hearing of even an 88 year old customer and on a military

person who lost his hearing for 15 years due to a bullet going through his ear.

"One of the two Cochlear products marketed by us have a mini ear phone that is inserted from outside the ear while the other has a mini processor which is pasted on the hair near the ear."

He said that Sri Lankan surgery

is ranked very high in the world and due to its success rate of these implants too are almost 100% successful.

"Few years ago people went overseas to get this surgery but today we have brought the right technology to Sri Lanka. The unique feature is that this Sri Lankan hearing care implants process is at least 50% less than anywhere in the world. "This is why I saw an opening to market this to the world as a Medical tourism product."

HEINEKEN Lanka recruits Sri Lankan graduates again

HEINEKEN's 'Asia Pacific Graduate Program' is the world acclaimed beverage company's innovative talent program that engages and inspires potential recruits across the Asia Pacific region. Launched in 2017, this unique initiative demonstrates the diversified opportunities available to candidates regionally across the business. HEINEKEN seeks to employ professionals with a thirst for knowledge and a spirit for adventure.

For the 3rd consecutive year since its launch, HEINEKEN Lanka, has successfully recruited Sri Lankan graduates into the "Asia Pacific Graduate Program". A 2-year training platform, the program consists of four assignments, each of which are six months in duration. The assignments allocated to graduates comprise of cross-functional exposure, including two international assignments within the Asia Pacific region. Providing candidates first-hand experience to HEINEKEN's best practices to expand their knowledge and skillset.

The multi-cultural exposure intrinsic to the international assignments also helps in assessing graduate levels of agility, making the program the only one of its kind in Sri Lanka. This year, the Asia Pacific Graduate Program garnered over 10,000 applications regionally with approximately 800 applications from Sri Lanka. Graduates from the top 300 universities in the world as per latest university rankings are eligible to apply. After a series of interviews and assessments including a regional assessment center held in Singapore, two candidates from Sri Lanka were on-boarded for the 2020 cohort.

Commenting on the company's graduate program, Dusty Alahakoon, Managing Director of HEINEKEN Lanka Limited said, "This program is one of our many unique initiatives to infuse Sri Lankan talent into the regional talent pool. We are committed to providing global



standard training and development opportunities for our employees, equipping them with the necessary skillset and multi-level exposure to broaden capabilities necessary in an ever-evolving business context. We are confident that this will create a new breed of professionals for Sri Lanka, ready to take on strategic positions to face the international arena and propel growth for the country"

Despite the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, HEINEKEN is committed to ensure graduates receive the same level of exposure from the program with international assignments scheduled post travel and safety clearance globally.

Over the past 3 years, HEINEKEN Lanka has recruited 10 graduates through this program. Upon successful completion, the Asia Pacific Graduates take on managerial roles within HEINEKEN and are groomed for Management Team positions. The next round of recruitments will take place in 2021 for placements in 2022.

Gestetner launches 'Barco ClickShare'

Gestetner of Ceylon PLC, Sri Lanka's pioneer in Office Automation solutions launched the world's leading state of the art, easy to use professional Boardroom/meeting room visualization and collaboration solution "Barco ClickShare" in Sri Lanka.

Barco ClickShare technology has been optimized and fine-tuned to enhance collaboration by helping boardroom/meeting participants to work together, share insights and wow audiences with the ease of just clicking a button.

The solution caters to the visualization and collaboration requirements of 3 primary markets ranging from meeting and control rooms, to corporate spaces in the Enterprise sector, radiology to operating rooms in the Healthcare sector, and movie theatres, live events and attractions in the Entertainment sector.

"As the Authorized National Distributor for



From Left to Right: Eshan Fernando, Business Manager-Gestetner of Ceylon, Fawaz Fuji, Product Manager-Gestetner of Ceylon, Irshard Zahir, Head of IT-ITX360, Harshana Silva, Manager - Corporate Technology Solutions-ITX-360

Barco ClickShare Solutions in Sri Lanka, we are delighted to bring the benefits of this automation solution to help Sri Lanka's Boardrooms and meeting rooms increase their efficiency by making meaningful connections, enhancing collaboration and sharing insights. We believe that the solutions will help our partners add more value to their customer's offerings. Barco is a technology leader with more than 400 patents which goes

to emphasize the extent of research and development incorporated to the product line" said Fawaz Fuji-Product Manager, Barco, Gestetner Ceylon PLC. The Barco ClickShare solution will be implemented by Gestetner's

Authorized Reseller and Main Systems Integrator ITX-360 (Pvt) Ltd, one of Sri Lanka's respected companies in the technology and software space.

According to Faiz Rehman, National Business Head - SAARC, Collaboration, Barco "Partnering with Gestetner will enable Barco to extend our portfolio and offer the range of UC&C (Video Conferencing and Collaboration) Solutions across the region. We look forward to a successful partnership. With conferencing solutions being a major focus during the new normal, Barco aims to be a key player in the UC&C space with ClickShare Conference."

The Barco ClickShare solution is a one-click solution for PC and MAC that will solve some very recognizable issues, commonly experienced in meeting rooms by millions of people worldwide.

Piston torque host Exclusive Performance Car Meet

Piston torque Car Meet 2020 was held recently at the Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo.

Piston torque is an exclusive website and blog for turning the spotlight on the Sri Lankan car culture and the passions of petrol heads in Sri Lanka, was launched in 2011.

The exclusive invite-only event featured 45+ performance cars from the early '70s, '90s and the late 2000's from the likes of classic Mini Coopers, Civic Type R's, Subaru STI's, Lancer Evolutions, Nissan Silvia and Nissan Fairlady



to name a few. Ardent car enthusiasts who attended the event say that the meet up was a much-needed escape to help petrol heads network and to regain their focus and passion for cars after the pandemic took a toll on everyone financially

and mentally. The event enabled passionate petrol heads and like-minded ones to meet, mingle and network.

Attended by over 100 invitees, all the car owners were featured through a line-up of photography, vid-

eography and enjoyed a range of snacks and coffee hosted by the Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo, amidst electric music which set the ambience of the event.

Ramien Hodgson, Founder of Pistontorque said "A car is like a blank canvas to

the car owner. We have the opportunity to make it the way we like, enhancing its aesthetic appearance tastefully, whilst paying attention to improving its functionality. A car is not just a car to the owner, it's a story waiting to be told, be it a happy one or a sad. Just like photography and travelling, ours is an expensive hobby and a source of escape from challenges, fears and anxieties we face in life. Working on the car helps us to step back from problems to re-energise and to refocus with a clear perspective."

Daestar.Ik opens in Wellawatte

Daestar.Ik, a new outlet marketing all branded mobile phones, home appliances and light fittings was opened recently in Galle Road in Wellawatte, opposite former Roxy Cinema.

Daestar.Ik, Managing Director, M. S. H. Mohamed said that they have been studying the weaknesses of other retailers in the mobile marketing field and launched Daestar.Ik outlet to provide a more customer friendly and a better experience for the customer.

Mohamed added that several customers are not happy with the service quality of repairs and would soon launch their own mobile repairing unit and special emphasis would be on Apple iPhone repairs segment.



The team at Daestar.Ik

Nokia, phone partner of Bond film, 'No Time To Die'

British actress, Lashana Lynch, star of the 25th Bond movie No Time To Die, has been captured by social media "phone-ographer" Ben Maclean as part of HMD Global, the home of Nokia phones, largest ever global marketing campaign. Ben has over half a million followers on social media and is known for his creative photography and tricks.

The shoot, which took place at the iconic Pinewood Studios, sees Lashana as new 00 agent Nomi in a Bond-inspired scene, featuring a series of epic effects including smoke and a 30 foot rig suspending Ben in the air to capture the ultimate shot. Her Nokia 8.3 5G is positioned

by her side as 'The Only Gadget You Ever Need'.

The images follow the news, in March, that HMD Global is the official phone partner for the 25th James Bond film, No Time To Die. The film features a range of devices including the Nokia 8.3 5G, a truly global, future-proof 5G smartphone that comes with comes with a powerful PureView quad camera with ZEISS optics and the iconic Nokia 3310 fans know and love.

The partnership allows HMD Global to demonstrate its status as a global provider of Android smartphones, showcasing its commitment to security, speed and innovation,

meeting the demands of the world's toughest customers.

Lashana Lynch, who plays 00 agent Nomi in No Time To Die, said: "It's amazing what smartphones can do nowadays. I'm excited to be unveiling this new smartphone to celebrate the release of No Time To Die in November, and the Nokia 8.3 5G is proof that Bond gadgets are always ahead of the game."

Florian Seiche, CEO of HMD Global which produces Nokia phones, said: "Few cultural properties place technology at the heart of their appeal quite like No Time To Die. The film's commitment to



innovation, paired with the amazing technology built into each Nokia smartphone, making our devices the only gadget that anyone - even a 00 agent - will ever need, makes this partnership a real force to be reckoned with."

**Repeat
Your
Ad
For
Better
Offers**

Date : 24-09-2020
Draw Number : 369 | Colour : Blue

**Super Jackpot
Rs. 11,963,056/-**

English Letter: **(H)** Winning Numbers: **03 21 61** Fate Number: **(1)**


Total Value of Prizes: **Rs. 3,267,400/-**

Next Super Jackpot: **Rs. 12,126,868/-**

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha,
Union Place, Colombo 2.
Tel: 0112 333 54647 | Hotline: 0114 824 824
Result Hotline: 0112 333 775
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825
www.dlb.lk

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMED RISVI MOHAMED RIMSAN (holder of National Identity Card bearing No.83121217V) of Mount Lavinia in Divisional Secretary's Division of Ratmalana do hereby wish to inform the state and the general public of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka that I have converted into Christian and changed my name as JOSUVA from this day onwards and from now on I will use my new name in all documents.
JOSUVA

CORRECTION

University of Sri Jayawardanepura
Provision of Garden Maintenance Service
Contract No. USJP/EIS/LS/2020/2021
The advertisement published on 21st September 2020. Pre-Bid Meeting should be corrected as on 05th October 2020 at 01.30 p.m. instead of 29th September 2020 at 10.30 a.m.
Any inconvenience caused, regretted.

REVOCAION OF SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY
I, Mohamed Iyoob Nusrath of No. 25/13, Marikkar Street, Periyakudieruppu, Kalpitiya do hereby revoke the Special Power of Attorney bearing No. 653 dated on 19.02.2018 attested by Maduka Wickramarachchi, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, New York granted by me in favour of Mohamed Iyoob Nuskhan and Mohamed Iyoob Nusmi Mohamed of No. 25/13, Marikkar Street, Periyakudieruppu, Kalpitiya and the said Power of Attorney is hereby cancelled and revoked.
Mohamed Iyoob Nusrath

NOTICE
September 14, 2020
Mr. Varinder Singh son of Mr. Bajinder Singh, resident of Ward no 7, New master colony, Tehsil kharar, Kurial, SAS nagar, Punjab 140103 and Ms. Nirushi Shanika Jorshan, Sri Lankan national, daughter of Mr. Emanuel Jude Jorshan, resident of No 188 outer circular road, Puttalam, Sri Lanka, both presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (civ2.kuwait@mea.gov.in) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22531325).
(Varinder Bhaurai)
Second Secretary (Cons) and Marriage Officer,
Embassy of India, Kuwait,
Email: civ2.kuwait@mea.gov.in

Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI)
Procurement Notice
Invitation for Bids for the below mentioned Procurement has been published in the official website of BOI (www.investsrilanka.com)

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, CONFIGURING, COMMISSIONING AND MAINTENANCE OF HARDWARE FIREWALL OF BOI AT WEST TOWER, WORLD TRADE CENTRE, COLOMBO 01.

Contract No : BOI/S&S/Q/073/2020

The bidding document pertaining to this procurement has been prepared in English Language and interested Bidders may act according to the advertisement published on the official website of BOI (www.investsrilanka.com)

Bidders may obtain further information from the Deputy Director (Stores & Supplies) on 0112427170 / 0112434325

**Chairman
Board of Investment of Sri Lanka**


INVITATION FOR MANUFACTURE OF TEXTILES WITH SALUSALA

The last date for the submission of applications in the advertisement "Invitation for Manufacture of Textiles with Salusala" published in Daily News Newspaper on the 19th of September 2020 by Lanka Salusala is twenty-one (21) days from **19th September to 10th October 2020**. Please send your applications to the following address before 4:30 p.m. on the above mentioned dates.

**Chairman,
Salusala, No. 93, Jawatte Road,
Colombo 05.**

For more information please contact **0112586732**

TEAM NATION 
(REUBLISHING)
CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)
SRI LANKA CRICKET TERRESTRIAL RIGHTS - TV | RADIO BROADCASTING
(OCTOBER 2020 – MARCH 2023)

Television Broadcast Rights **Radio Broadcast Rights**

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), being the Governing Body of Cricket in Sri Lanka hereby invites and seeks "Expressions of Interest" from reputed Local Broadcasters who are interested in acquiring Terrestrial TV | Radio Broadcasting Rights of Sri Lanka Cricket for the scheduled Future Tour Programme (Inbound Tours) of the International Cricket Council (ICC) for the period spanning from October 2020 to March 2023.

Details of the Rights:
A document detailing the Rights for which SLC will be floating an Invitation to Tender indicating SLC's Requirements and Guidelines in relation to the submission of Bids will be notified to the firms / organizations that show interest.

EOI Submission Procedure:
Interested firms/organizations are called upon to submit their letters of Expression of Interest [EOI] specifying the right of which your firm/organization intend to apply, together with a summary of credentials, and Corporate profile of the firm/Organization via e-mail to SLC on sponsorship@srilankacricket.lk , to reach on or before 1:00 p.m. [Sri Lankan Time] on 02nd October 2020.

SLC reserves the right to cancel, amend or vary this EOI at any time at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - SRI LANKA CRICKET

STATE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
(MINISTRY OF RURAL HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION, BUILDING MATERIALS AND INDUSTRIES)

TENDER FOR THE RUNNING OF THE CANTEEN OF HEAD OFFICE SITUATED AT RATMALANA

The Chairman, Corporation purchasing Committee invites quotations for the running of the aforesaid canteen for a period of one year.

Relevant tender forms could be obtained from the Chief of Supplies Division of the Corporation up to **12.00 noon on 07.10.2020** on submission of the receipt obtained from the cashier for the payment of a sum of **Rs. 500.00 + VAT** during office hours. Perfected tenders forms, marked "**Tender for the running of canteen**" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope should either be sent to reach the "Chairman, Corporation Purchasing Committee, State Development and Construction Corporation, No. 7, Borupana Road, Ratmalana or deposited in the tender box kept at the office of the Head of Supplies Division **before 2.00 p.m. on 08.10.2020**.

Further details could be obtained from the Head of the Supplies Division
**Telephone No: 2607560/2607566
Fax No: 2638013**

**Chairman,
Corporation Purchasing Committee,
State Development & Construction Corporation,
No. 07, Borupana Road,
Ratmalana.**

"Pioneers in the Field of Infrastructure Facilities"

REGIONAL DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, MANNAR

INVITATION FOR BIDS

PROCUREMENT OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & FURNITURE

- The Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee (RPC) on behalf of the Regional Directorate of Health Services now invites bidders for supply of Medical Equipment.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To qualify for award of the Contract, bidders shall meet the minimum qualifying criteria if given in Section 2 - Bidding Data.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Regional Directorate of Health Services, Mannar. (023-2223114) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours.
- Bid documents will be issued from **28.09.2020** till **19.10.2020** between **9.00 hrs** and **15.00 hrs** on working days, upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Rs. 1,500/-** for each document submission of approved copy of Business Registration request made on their letter head and "Application to get Bid documents" available in this Department. The mode of payment will be by cash.
- Bids (Original & Duplicate) shall be deposited in the tender box available at Accountant room or sent by registered post to the **Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Regional Director of Health Service, Thalvupadu Road, Mannar** on or before **10.00 a.m. on 20.10.2020**. Bid number must be written on the left-hand upper corner of envelope. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be accompanied by a bid security as per the information given in the table.

| Bid No. | Description of Work | Qty | Non-refundable Fee | Bid Bond |
|---|---|-----|--------------------|-----------|
| Medical Equipment Fund - PSDG 2020 | | | | |
| RDHS/MN/PSDG/ME/2020/77 | Neonatal Ventilator | 1 | 1,500.00 | 40,000.00 |
| Furniture Fund - PSSP 2020 | | | | |
| RDHS/MN/PSSP/FUR/2020/78 | Multimedia Projector with Screen & Laser Pointer Presenter | 1 | 1,500.00 | 11,400.00 |
| | Auto tracking camera for video conferencing & ADSL connection | 1 | | |
| | 15 Unit CCTV & 20 Channel DVR Capability of with 30 days backup HDD | 1 | | |
| | Provision of Computer set | 2 | | |
| | Writing Table | 6 | | |
| | Cushion armless chair | 6 | | |
| | Induction cooker | 4 | | |
| | Electrical kettle | 4 | | |
| Single bed - Teak | 4 | | | |

Dr. (Mr.) D. Venoden
Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Regional Director of Health Services,
Mannar

To avoid inconvenience, send your Marriage Proposals through e-mail... classified@lakehouse.lk

SUNDAY OBSERVER Marriage Proposals
for 15 Words - **Rs. 560/-**
For each additional word Rs. 23/- will be charged.

For confirmation & more details - Anusha - 077 7 278 948 | Piyumi - 011 2 429 383 | Ramani - 011 2 429 347

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROJECT (LDSP) PROJECT ID P-163305

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a Loan from the World Bank towards the cost of Local Development Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Loan to payments under the following contracts.
- The Chairman, Provincial Project Procurement Committee on behalf of **Department of Local Government, North Central Province** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the projects mentioned in the table below. The construction period is **120 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 **CIDA registration mentioned in table below**.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include the Bidding Document.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the relevant Local Authorities listed in the table below, and inspect the bidding documents at the relevant office of Local Authorities, from **09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.** on weekdays.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **the Chairman of the relevant Local Authority listed in the table below**, from **24.09.2020 until 07.10.2020 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee mentioned in the table. The method of payment will be **in cash**.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address at **Deputy Project Director/Commissioner, Department of Local Government, Provincial Council Building Complex, Harishchandra Mawatha, Anuradhapura** at or before **10.00 hrs. on 08.10.2020**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened at **10.00 hrs. on 08.10.2020** at the same office in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **77 Days**.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security. Bid Security amounts for relevant projects are mentioned in the table below. Bid Security shall be valid up to **21.01.2021**.

**The Chairman,
Provincial Project Procurement Committee,
Local Development Support Project (LDSP),
Department of Local Government,
Provincial Council Building Complex (Ground Floor),
Harishchandra Mawatha,
Anuradhapura.**

| No. | Local authority | Contact Details | Project Name | Estimated Cost & Construction Period | CIDA Grade and Specialty | Bid Security Amount & Valid Date (upto) | Non-Refundable Fee |
|-----|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| 01. | Padaviya PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Padaviya. T.P. Number :- 025-2253275 Fax :- 025-2253275 Email :- sand4padaviyaps@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of Walekade road (near the Boc) | 5.00 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 48,500.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 02. | Kebithigollewa PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Kebithigollewa. T.P. Number :- 025-2298675 Fax :- 025-2298675 Email :- kbgps465@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of Siyabalagaswewa - Thammennawa Road | 4.60 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 46,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 03. | Palagala PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Palagala. T.P. Number :- 025-5673808 Fax :- 025-2051765 Email:palagalapradeshiyasabha@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of Kahalla Ederagala Road | 5.50 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 56,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 04. | Thirappane PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Thirappane. T.P. Number :- 025-4928174 Fax :- 025-2054847 Email:thirappaneps@gmail.com | Metalling and tarring of Periyakulama - Manakkulama Main Road | 5.10 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 52,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 05. | Kekirawa PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Kekirawa. T.P. Number :- 025-2264275 Fax :- 025-2264275 Email :- kekirawasabha@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of Kumbukwewa - Mahawewa Road | 8.60 Mn 120 Days | C5 or above Highway Construction | 86,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 06. | Kahatagasdigiliya PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Kahatagasdigiliya. T.P. Number :- 025-2247475 Fax :- 025-2247475 Email:pradeshiyasabhakgd@gmail.com | Metalling and tarring of Kohombagaskada to Bambarahela Road | 7.60 Mn 120 Days | C5 or above Highway Construction | 76,500.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 07. | Horowpathana PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Horowpathana. T.P. Number :- 025-2278442 Fax :- 025-2278442 Email :- hpshorowpothana@gmail.com | Asphalt laying of Ralapanawa Main Road | 8.00 Mn 120 Days | C5 or above Highway Construction | 80,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 08. | Mihinthale PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Mihinthale. T.P. Number :- 025-2266560 Fax :- 025-2266560 Email :- mihinthalesabawa@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of Mihinthale Weekly fair Road | 5.60 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 56,500.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 09. | Ipalogama PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Ipalogama. T.P. Number :- 025-2264276 Fax :- 025-2055015 Email :- ipalogamaps1987@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of Co-Operative Road | 5.10 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 51,500.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 10. | Nuwaragam Palatha East PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Nuwaragampalatha East. T.P. Number :- 025-2235581 Fax :- 025-2235581 Email :- nanupaprasa@gmail.com | Asphalt laying of Thariyankulama Main Road | 5.70 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 57,500.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 11. | Galnewa PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Galnewa. T.P. Number :- 025-2269575 Fax :- 025-2269127 Email :- galnewaps@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of Kalankuttiya Diulsewana to Meegalawa Road (from primary school to H.M Tikiribandas House) | 7.50 Mn 120 Days | C5 or above Highway Construction | 75,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 12. | Nuwaragampalatha central PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Nuwaragampalatha Central. T.P. Number :- 025-3855372 Fax :- 025-2053056 Email :- manupasabhawa@gmail.com | Asphalt laying Track 03 junction to Buruthagas junction Road | 7.30 Mn 120 Days | C5 or above Highway Construction | 73,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 13. | Nochchiyagama PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Nochchiyagama. T.P. Number :- 025-2257875 Fax :- 025-2257875 Email :- nochchiyagamapsn@gmail.com | Metalling and tarring of Ambagahawewa - kudawewa kukulkatuwa Road (start near Ambagahawewa temple) | 6.30 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 63,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 14. | Rajanganaya PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Rajanganaya. T.P. Number :- 025-2276376 Fax :- 025-2275625 Email:rajanganayap.sabawa@yahoo.com | Interlock block paving of Thumbulegama - Akkara 50 Road (with 03 culverts) | 4.80 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 48,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 15. | Medawachchiya PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Medawachchiya. T.P. Number :- 025-2245675 Fax :- 025-2245675 Email :- prasa.madawachchiya@gmail.com | Metalling and tarring of Rambakulama junction to Nagadaranewewa Road | 6.30 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 70,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 16. | Galenbindunuwewa PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Galenbindunuwewa T.P. Number :- 025-2258232 Fax :- 025-2258232 Email :- localauthoritygbw@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of MOH office to school junction road | 5.40 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 54,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 17. | Anuradhapura Municipal Council | Address :- Municipal Council, Anuradhapura. T.P. Number :- 025-2222275 Fax :- 025-2222484 Email :- mca.planning@gmail.com | Upgrading "Sunatha" Pilgrims Rest | 4.70 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Building Construction | 47,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 18. | Dimbulagala PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Dimbulagala T.P. Number :- 027-2057512, Fax :- 027-2051002 Email :- psdimbulagala@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of Ajith joshop's house to Sriyani mendis's house road | 8.60 Mn 120 Days | C5 or above Highway Construction | 86,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 19. | Elehera PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Elehera. T.P. Number :- 066-2256675, Fax :- 066-2256675 Email :- psdimbulagala@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of Siyabalawa school to Abangaga road | 5.90 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 59,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 20. | Hingurakgoda PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Hingurakgoda. T.P. Number :- 027-2246275 Fax :- 027-2246782 Email :- hingurakgodaps@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of DS office road (from Nawarathne house to DS office with drainage) | 5.70 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 57,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 21. | Lankapura PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Lankapura T.P. Number :- 027-2242324 Fax :- 027-2242324 Email :- ncp.lps.lankapura2324@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of RB-17 Canal road | 4.90 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 49,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 22. | Medirigiriya PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Medirigiriya T.P. Number :- 027-2248242 Fax :- 027-2248242 Email :- ncpmgsps@gmail.com | Asphalt laying of Diulankadawala School Road | 8.10 Mn 120 Days | C5 or above Highway Construction | 79,500.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 23. | Polonnaruwa Municipal Council | Address :- Municipal Council, Polonnaruwa T.P. Number :- 027-2555575 Fax :- 027-2057051 Email :- mcpolonnaruwa@gmail.com | Construction of concrete road from No.17/3 house to No. 26 House at 4 th canal | 0.80 Mn 120 Days | C8 or above Highway Construction | 82,000.00 21.01.2021 | 1,000.00 |
| 24. | Polonnaruwa Municipal Council | Address :- Municipal Council, Polonnaruwa T.P. Number :- 027-2555575 Fax :- 027-2057051 Email :- mcpolonnaruwa@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of Swarnajayanthi Mawatha (Sethmidevala Road) | 1.40 Mn 120 Days | C8 or above Highway Construction | 14,000.00 21.01.2021 | 1,000.00 |
| 25. | Polonnaruwa Municipal Council | Address :- Municipal Council, Polonnaruwa T.P. Number :- 027-2555575 Fax :- 027-2057051 Email :- mcpolonnaruwa@gmail.com | Interlock block paving of Jayamawatha road at 178 Nissankamalla pedesa | 1.10 Mn 120 Days | C8 or above Highway Construction | 12,000.00 21.01.2021 | 1,000.00 |
| 26. | Polonnaruwa PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Polonnaruwa T.P. Number :- 027-2555575 Fax :- 027-2555576 Email :- thaprasa@yahoo.com | Interlock block laying Wawethanna Entrance road Track 09 Junction | 5.50 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 55,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 27. | Welikanda PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Welikanda T.P. Number :- 027-5675448 Fax :- 027-2259095 Email :- welikandaps@gmail.com | Interlock block Laying of Kandakaduwa village road to Galkanda Village (from Galkanda junction to bashalt) | 7.00 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 70,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 28. | Thalawa PS | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Thalawa T.P. Number :- 025-2276344 Fax :- 025-2276344 Email :- prasab546thalawa@gmail.com | Asphalt Laying of Thabuththegama Railway Station Road with Drainage | 9.30 Mn 120 Days | C5 or above Highway Construction | 93,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |
| 29. | Rambewa | Address :- Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Rambewa T.P. Number :- 025-2264376 Fax :- 025-2266606 Email :- rambewaps2015@gmail.com | Asphalt Laying of Gonewa Junction to Pandukabayapura Temple | 5.60 Mn 120 Days | C6 or above Highway Construction | 56,000.00 21.01.2021 | 3,500.00 |

SMB LEASING PLC

AUCTION SALES OF UNREDEEMED PAWNED ARTICLES

Notice is hereby given that if the articles pawned on or before 31/01/2020 with the Colombo, Negombo and Deniyaya Branches are not redeemed prior to the dates of Auction mentioned below, such articles will be sold by public auction at the below mentioned Branches commencing from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Date of Auction: 02-10-2020

Venue of Auction: No. 11A, Main Street, Deniyaya.

Date of Auction: 05-10-2020

**Venues of Auction : No. 15,15B, Station Road, Negombo.
No. 301A, Galle Road, Colombo 03.**

Telephone No: 0114222888 / 0768281339

SMB Leasing PLC reserves the right to cancel, postpone and/ or amalgamate the auction or change the venue for these auctions without any further notice.



SMB LEASING PLC
The Manager

No - 282/1, CBS Building, Colombo - 03.



South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: LCL-018-2020

Tender for Renovation and Refurbishment to the Contractor Canteen

South Asia Gateway Terminals (Private) Limited (SAGT), a container terminal operator operating within the Port of Colombo invites sealed bids from prospective bidders for the Renovation and Refurbishment to the SAGT Contractor Canteen.

- A pre-bid meeting will be held at 11.30 am on 06th October 2020 at South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd (Third Floor), Port of Colombo, Colombo 01. As port entry permit is required to enter port premises, please contact T.P. 077-2457262 or 071-6011868 to arrange port entry passes on or before 05th October 2020.
- Sealed offers can be sent by email to: quotations@sagt.com.lk or by physically handing over to SAGT security counter at the Mackinnons building, No. 11, York Street, Colombo 01 on or before 3.00 pm on 19th October 2020.
- Tender scope and BOQ are available on the SAGT website (www.sagt.com.lk) under E-Services.
- State the tender number on all related documents such as quotations, invoice etc...

South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd
PO Box 141, Port of Colombo, Colombo 01

T.P. 011-2457273/292

Email: quotations@sagt.com.lk

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR RESPIRATORY DISEASES - WELISARA

Bids will be received by the Regional Tender Committee of the National Hospital for Respiratory Diseases, Welisara, from qualified Bidders, to obtain the undermentioned Supplies.

| No. | Supply | Refundable Deposit - Rs. - | Eligibility | Tender No. |
|-----|---|----------------------------|----------------|------------|
| 01 | Replacing of the Wire Supplying Electricity to the ICU, Theatre and the Wards, from the Generator | 17,200.00 | EM5 | WL/12/2020 |
| 02 | Repairs to the Electricity System in the Theatre, ICU and the Laboratory Sections | 29,000.00 | EM 4 or Higher | WL/07/2020 |

- Relevant Bid Documents can be obtained from 28.09.2020 up to 12.10.2020, on weekly working days between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2500.00, made to the Shroff's Section of the Hospital.
- Completed sealed Bid documents in two copies, marked the Tender Document Number and as the original copy, could either be sent by Registered Post to the National Hospital for Respiratory Diseases or personally delivered to the Office of the Director, to be received at or before 10.00 a.m. on 13.10.2020. Bids received will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 13.10.2020 and Bidder or one of his authorized Representatives can be present at the opening. Bids received late will be rejected. It is further notified that the right to the final decision relevant to the bid retains with the Procurement Committee of the National Hospital for Respiratory Diseases.

Chairman
Regional Procurement Committee,
National Hospital for Respiratory Diseases,
Welisara.

Tel. No. 0112958271 (112)
Fax No. 0112958272

District Secretariat - Polonnaruwa

Invitation for Bids

Bids are invited from contractors registered with CIDA Institute for the project mentioned in the schedule below implemented by District Secretary, Polonnaruwa.

- Relevant Bid documents will be issued by the District Secretary, Chairman, Procurement Committee during working days of the week from 28.09.2020 to 12.10.2020 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.
- Applicants registered for the relevant grade is qualified to obtain Bid documents. Bid documents could be obtained on submission of the receipt obtained for the payment of the refundable and non-refundable procurement fees by cash to the shroff of the District Secretariat, Polonnaruwa or bank guarantee for the refundable procurement deposit issued by a reputed bank.
- Duly perfected Bids should either be sent by registered post to reach the District Secretary, District Secretariat, Polonnaruwa or deposited in the Bid Box kept at the Chief Accountant's Office of the District Secretariat before 2.30 p.m. on 13.10.2020. Completed Bids in duplicate inserted in two covers separately as original and duplicate should be enclosed in one sealed envelope and the name of the relevant work should be marked in the top left-hand corner of all covers.
- Bids will be received up to 2.30 p.m. on 13.10.2020 and opened immediately thereafter.
- Bidders or their authorized representatives are permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.
- Bids incomplete and received late will be rejected.
- Details of constructions could be had from District Engineer of District Secretariat, Polonnaruwa. (TP: 027-222269).
- The final decision over Bids is reserved with the Procurement Committee.
- Details of projects completed during past 5 years should be submitted along with the Bids.
- Minimum current assets or credit facilities of a reputed Bank should be Rs. 2.5 million.
- A copy of VAT Certificate registered for the existing year should be attached.
- The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject the whole Bid or a part thereof.
- The 5% preference will be considered for contractors within the province in valuation process.

SCHEDULE

| No. | Name of Construction Work | Estimated Amount (W/O/ VAT) Rs. | Required CIDA Registration | Bid Form Fees (Non-Refundable) Rs. | Refundable Tender Deposit |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 | Construction of new quarters of Assistant Director (Planning), Divisional Secretary's Office Medirigiriya | 7,851,596.08 | C7 & C6 (Buiilding) | 3,000.00 | 95,000.00 |

W.A. Dharmasiri,
Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
District Secretary/Government Agent,
District Secretariat, Polonnaruwa.

MINISTRY OF WILDLIFE & FOREST CONSERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Supply and Delivery of Thunder Flashes & Serpent Flashes - 2021

- The Chairman Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Department of Wildlife Conservation now invites sealed bids from having minimum 02 years experience in the industry of manufacturing and supplying Thunder Flashes and or Serpent Flashes used for driving away elephants in areas where human elephant conflict is prevailed.
- Supplier/Suppliers should supply and delivery following quantities of Thunder Flashes and or Serpent Flashes, conforming to technical specifications stipulated in bid document within the year - 2021.

| Type of Flash | Bid Number | Quantity to be supplied within 2021 | Quantity to be supplied per month (Approx.) | Bid Security (Rs.) | Non-refundable Deposit (Rs.) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Thunder Flashes (Big) | WL/02/21/Thunder Flashes(Big)/2021 | 235,000 | 19,580 | 451,200.00 | 8,000.00 |
| Thunder Flashes (Small) | WL/02/21/THUNDER FLASHES(Small)/2021 | 770,000 | 64,160 | 1,235,580.00 | 17,000.00 |
| Serpent Flashes | WL/02/21/SERPENT FLASHES/2021 | 291,250 | 24,270 | 677,000.00 | 11,000.00 |

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding method.
- Interested eligible bidders may inspect the Bidding Documents and samples of the Thunder Flashes and Serpent Flashes to be supplied at the Department of Wildlife Conservation on working days from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. up to 16.10.2020 and obtain further information from Deputy Director (Finance), Phone Number: 011-2871537.
- A complete set of Bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application on a printed letter head of relevant business concerned and original Business Registration Certificate and original licence for manufacturing firework with photocopies. (Original documents will be returned after examination) an upon payment of non-refundable fee mentioned in above table to the Shroff of Department of Wild Life Conservation from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. up to 16.10.2020.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of above mentioned amount in a form of bank guarantee from a commercial bank in attach included in bid documents or refundable cash deposited to the Shroff Department of Wildlife Conservation.
- Bid shall be valid up to 19.01.2021 (90 days at the date of bid closing).
- Complete bids in duplicate in separate envelopes marked "Original" and "Copy" sealed should be enclosed in one envelope and bid number should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the bids must be delivered to the address below or deposited in the tender box kept at the finance division in the Department of Wildlife Conservation on or before at 2.30 p.m. on 19.10.2020 with the samples. Late bids, without samples and bid security will be rejected.
- Bids will be opened soon after the closing in the presence of the bidder or his authorized (in written) representative.

Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Department of Wildlife Conservation,
No. 811/A,
Jayanthipura Road,
Battaramulla.



REGIONAL DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAFFNA

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Procurement of Medical Equipment

- The Regional Procurement Committee invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Supplies, Goods as specified in the following Table.
 - Medical Equipment
 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 need the following requirements
 - Bidders shall have valid business registration
 - Business registration for supply of respective Works, Supplies and Service
 - Regional preference and CIDA grade preference will be applied as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 4/2016(ii)
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Regional Director of Health Services, Jaffna (021 2222278/4557. ext 20), during office hours and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address on any working days from 9.00am to 3.00pm except 12.30 to 13.30 hours.
- A complete set of English Bid documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of "Application for Bid Documents" available in this office and upon payment of a **non refundable fee** as specified in the table by cash on working days from 28.09.2020 to 12.10.2020 from 09.00 Hours to 15.00 Hours.
- Bids must be delivered on or before 10.00 Hours of 13.10.2020 to the address given below or deposited in the tender box available at the Room of **Additional Regional Director of Finance (TPM)**. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of the bids in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.
- Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the last date fixed for receiving of Bids or any extended period and Bid Security valid for 118 days from the bid opening.
- Pre bid meeting will be held on 07.10.2020 at 10.00am in RDHS Office Jaffna as follows:
 - Table I - 10.00am
- Procurement Committee has the right to make final decision in regard either to accept or reject Bids

Table I - Medical Equipment

| Reference No. | Item | Qty | Non refundable Fees (Rs.) | Bid Security (Rs.) |
|-------------------------|--|----------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| NP/RDHS/PSSP/ME/2020/08 | 5 Part Haematology Analyzer with Auto loader | 01 | 1000.00 | 70,000.00 |
| NP/RDHS/PSSP/ME/2020/09 | Ambu Bag | 03 | 1000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| | Water Distiller | 02 | | 6,000.00 |
| | Examination Bed | 01 | | 1,200.00 |
| | Laryngoscope | 01 | | 4,000.00 |
| | Autoclave | 01 | | 5,000.00 |
| | CTG Machine | 02 | | 3,000.00 |
| | Emergency Trolley | 01 | | 1,500.00 |
| ECG Recorder | 01 | 2,000.00 | | |

Chairperson
Regional Procurement Committee
RDHS Office, Jaffna.

For classified advertisements and for replies
received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please Contact

MANAGER FRONT OFFICE

Hotline: 1949



Employment Opportunities



Construction Guarantee Fund EMPLOYMENT

The Construction Guarantee Fund (CGF) is a Trust/Fund with main objective of providing Bonds & Guarantees to Construction Contractors. The Fund seeks the services of Dynamic, Self-oriented, persons who could assist the team to achieve the objectives of the organization.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (COO)

The ideal candidate should;

- thorough in interpretation of Conditions of Contracts.
- be able to evaluate contractor capacity, capability, performance & RISK factors when providing financial facilities.
- have fair knowledge in Litigation & Alternate Dispute Resolution.
- demonstrate experience of ethical leadership.
- be able to make business projections to the future.

SENIOR MANAGER (RISK MANAGEMENT) SM (RM)

Matured in the areas of;

- understanding the Local Construction Industry, its trend and project financing.
- evaluate of projects and the contractor profile for financial facilities.
- remedies to minimize RISK in Construction.
- alternate Dispute Resolution.
- managing construction.

Qualification and Experience for COO and SM (RM)

- Bachelor's Degree in Engineering or / and Chartered Quantity Surveyor or / Bachelor of Business Administration with excellent computer literacy.
- Ten to Fifteen or more years of experience with proven track record of managing a complex enterprise, human resources, finances and operations.
- Experience in Managing Construction
- Understanding the knowledge in IT Hardware / Software / Programming will be an added qualification.
- Understanding verbal and written skills in English & Sinhala. Tamil will be added.

ASSISTANT MONITORING OFFICERS (CIVIL ENGINEERING)

Qualification and Experience

- NCT, HNDE or similar
- Evaluating projects and progress
- Interpretation of Contract documents
- Minimum 02 years field experience

Candidates with knowledge is preferable

- Condition of Contracts, Cash flow & BOQ
- e-reporting of physical/financial status of projects
- Managing construction
- Identify issues for delays and remedial measures
- Report writing & computer literacy
- Tamil language will be an added qualification

Requirements;

Able to use a motorcycle and work long hours with extensive travel to Provinces Central, Eastern & Western.

SECRETARY

- Proficiency in reading, writing in all 03 Languages
- Computer literacy and ability to take dictation
- Report writing & Presentation skills
- Translating to other Languages.
- Ability to work with minimum assistance.

Knowledge in Civil Engineering practises will be an added advantage.

A negotiable remuneration package in par with industry norms awaits to the right candidate. The persons who could measure up to the above, send your CV together with 02 non-related referees and your terms to reach the undersigned under registered cover before 20th October 2020.

Manager (Administration),
Construction Guarantee Fund (CGF)
Level 1, 'Savsiripaya', 123, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07

Paper Notice

FOREIGN LIQUOR TAVERN RENT RESALE AMBAGAMUWA KORALE 2021

The tender for the above rent sales will be accepted till 10.11.2020. Further details should be obtained from the Divisional Secretary Ambagamuwa Korale. The notice will be published in the government gazette.

Sithara Ruwini Gamage
Divisional Secretary,
Ambagamuwa Korale
Ginigathhena.

Divisional Secretariat,
Ambagamuwa Korale
Ginigathhena.

21st September 2020



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 following amendments have been made in the bid documents issued with effect from 10.09.2020 in relation to the above procurement.

1. The public contract registration certificate should be obtained according to the "Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987" for the particular bid.
2. As mentioned in the newspaper advertisement published on 10.09.2020, the scheduled date of bid opening which is on 30.09.2020 at 2.30 p.m has been postponed to 07.10.2020 at 2.30 p.m. The bid documents can be obtained until 06.10.2020 at 2.30 p.m only.

Chairman
Ministry Procurement Committee
National Lotteries Board
No. 32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige
Mawatha, Colombo 01
Tel. No. 0114607019

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Billing Officer. Age - 30 years (first preference to female). Qualification - AAT, CIMA, ACCA part or fully qualified. Experience - 3 years. Contact: 0777715441 057470

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AHEAD Operations Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL) Invitation for Bids (IFB)

SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CRYOGEN-FREE MEASUREMENT SYSTEM (CFMS)

Procurement No: EUSL/OTS/AHEAD/R3/NCB/DOR/20/03

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the OTS AHEAD Operations, Eastern University, Sri Lanka now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply, Delivery, Installation, Maintenance and Commissioning of Cryogen-Free Measurement System (CFMS)**.

1. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Method (NCB) for following item:

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Maintenance and Commissioning of Cryogen-Free Measurement System (CFMS)

2. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Deputy Director - Procurement, OTS AHEAD Operations of EUSL & inspect the bidding documents up to 21.10.2020 from 09.00 hours to 15.00 hours on working days at OTS AHEAD Operations, EUSL, Vantharumoolai, Chenkalady. Tel. 065 2059393.

3. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

4. A completed set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application by Bidder himself or by bidders' representatives to the address : Deputy Director - Procurement, OTS AHEAD Operations, Eastern University, Sri Lanka and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 5,000/= (Five Thousand only) per procurement document, from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm up to 21.10.2020. The mode of payment shall be either in cash or bank draft in favor of "AHEAD Project, Eastern University, Sri Lanka". Bidders can also download the bidding documents from the University Website <http://www.esn.ac.lk>.

Those who are obtaining bidding documents from the University Website should submit the completed documents along with a Bank Draft drawn in favor of the "AHEAD Project, Eastern University, Sri Lanka" for Rs. 5,000/- (Five Thousand only) as non-refundable fee or the payments could be made at any branch of the Bank of Ceylon to the credit of Account No. 82845710 Eastern University, Sri Lanka and the deposit slip should be attached with the original Bidding documents.

5. Bids in two copies indicating as Original and Duplicate, must be delivered to the address given below at or before 14.00 hours on 22.10.2020. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened at 14.00 hours on the same day at the Boardroom of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security. Value of the Bid Security is mentioned in the below table.

| Lot No. | Type of Items | Bid Security | Valid up to |
|---------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Cryogen-Free Measurement System (CFMS). | 1% of the quoted price of the bidders | 22.02.2021 |

7. The title of the bid should be clearly mentioned on the top left corner of the bid submission envelope as specified below.

Procurement No. **EUSL/OTS/AHEAD/R3/NCB/DOR/20/03**

8. Pre bid meeting with bidders who collect the bidding documents will be held on 15.10.2020 at 2:30 PM in the OTS/AHEAD Office, EUSL.

**Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
Eastern University, Sri Lanka
Vantharumoolai
Chenkalady**

26/09/2020

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

PROVINCIAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

Sealed Bids are invited by the Chairman, Procurement Committee of Provincial Road Development Authority to Supply and Lay Asphalt on below mentioned roads, from eligible Contractors

The Schedule

| S No. | Name of the Road | Divisional Secretariat | Work Description (Approximately) | | Non Refundable Document Fee (Rs.) | Bid Bond (Rs.) | |
|-------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | | Supply & Laying of Asphalt (M.T.) | Tack Coat (Sq.M.) | | Value (Rs.) | Valid Period |
| 01 | Damminna - Arunapura Road (K.M. 01 + 800-2 + 430) | Dimbulgala | 764 | 6930 | 3500.00 | 92,000/= | 29.01.2021 |
| 02 | Kahatagollawa - Galkadawala - Wahalkada - D2 Road (K.M. 12 + 000 - 12 + 890) | Kebithigollawa | 736.48 | 5923 | 3500.00 | 92,000/= | 29.01.2021 |
| 03 | Ilupukulama - Karambawa Road (K.M. 1 + 140 - 1 + 415) | Nuwaragam Palatha Central | 152 | 1237 | 1500.00 | 19,000/= | 15.01.2021 |
| 04 | Pahala Halmillawa - Matikawa Road (K.M. 2 + 170) - 2 + 660) | Nochchiyagama | 234 | 1908 | 1500.00 | 28,000/= | 15.01.2021 |
| 05 | Parasangawewa - Katukeliyawa Road (K.M. 28 + 000 - 32 + 000) | Nuwaragam Palatha Central | 157 | 1286 | 1500.00 | 20,000/= | 15.01.2021 |

2. Bidding will be conducted according to the National Competitive Bidding procedure.
3. Bidding documents for this purpose can be obtained from the Head Office of Provincial Road Development Authority at H.B. Semasinghe Mawatha, Anuradhapura from **25.09.2020 to 15.10.2020** during office hours for this Procurement.
4. For this Procurement a Bid Security which is valid from the date of bid opening until the date mentioned in the table or the NC 100 receipt which is received from the Accounts Division of Provincial Road Development Authority by submitting the deposit slip of the Bid Security amount, deposited to the Account No. 0001472049 of BOC in favour of the General Manager, should be submitted.
5. Applications completed with quotations, including certified copies of all relevant certificates, should be sent under Registered Cover, marked as **"Bids for Supply and Laying of Asphalt"** on the top-left corner of the envelope or can be deposited in the Tender Box kept at the below address, before **11.00 a.m. on 16.10.2020**.
6. Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **07.10.2020 at 11.00 a.m.** at the Head Office of Provincial Road Development Authority in H.B. Semasinghe Mawatha.
7. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of Bids, and the Bidder or one of his representatives can be present at the occasion.
8. Further details regarding this can be obtained by contacting below mentioned number.
9. The final decision regarding this Bid Invitation and awarding is reserved by the Procurement Committee.
10. Bids should be valid until **18.12.2020**.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Provincial Road Development Authority (N.C.P.)
H.B. Semasinghe Mawatha,
Anuradhapura.
025-2222505 / 025-7390780**

BE BETTER INFORMED!

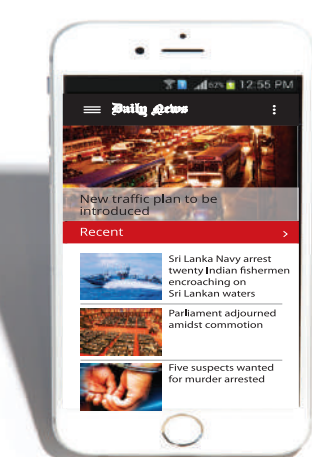


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Rugby star Saman brought honour and fame to Sri Lanka

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Royal College, Colombo has produced many academics and top class sportsmen in the 1980s. Thejana Saman Jayasinghe is one of them who excelled at school, Club and at International level bringing fame and honour to the country.

Popularly known as 'Saman' in sporting circles is in his sixties and is a member of a family of seven children with five boys and a girl. From his small days he had a close bond with sports and after joining Royal College he got pumped up watching the seniors engage in sports.

When he was 14 years old he opted to play cricket which apparently became his stepping stone in sports, also turned out to be his first love. He then continued playing cricket in the under-14 and 16 teams at college. During this time, he was extended an invitation by

Ajith Pasqual, a senior student and his house captain at the time, to participate in an inter-house rugby tournament. After playing in these matches monitoring his skills, Ajith Pasqual encouraged him to join under-17 rugby practices in 1972, where he first stepped into the field of rugby.

He then became a regular member in the rugby team as he went on to play in that invincible under-17 side in 1973. While playing there he was called to join the college first XV team in his pet position of number eight from 1974 and went on to play in 1975 and 1976 seasons, under the captaincies of Brumoon Akbar, Ifthikar Hassen, and Manik Weerakumar respectively. In 1976, he had his best season as a player where his invincible team broke all previous records held against Trinity College, Kandy in their traditional 'Bradby Shield' game (36-0 and

25-6) as well as the records against Wesley 54-3 Vidyarthi 100-6 and Isipathana 40-3.

While being a school boy he represented the CH and FC under-23 team, where they won the inter-club Sevens championship in 1975. Soon after leaving school, he continued to don the CH and FC jersey from 1976 to 1988, a marathon eleven-year period while leading them in 1980. Same year they won inter-club Sevens championship and emerged the runners-up to Police in the Clifford Cup League tournament.

While playing for his club he was called for National duty in 1978 and went on to be a regular member until 1984, which he rates as the 'Golden days of his rugby career' including leading the Sri Lanka XV in 1982 at the Singapore Rugby Asiad. Irwin Howie was his captain of the National team when he made his

debut in 1978. Due to indefatigable efforts maintaining his physique he was able to scrum down for his country at Hong Kong Sevens for five consecutive years starting from 1980 to 1984. He also led the Colombo Clubs and Low Country Rugby team to win the 'Capper Cup' in 1982.

According to him the highlight and unforgettable moment of his rugby career was when he represented the Sri Lanka team as a player to annex the 'Bowl Championship' at the Hong Kong Sevens in 1984, under the captaincy of Hisham Abdeen. Even though it's not spoken about, this is the only trophy Sri Lanka was able to win at an international competition. In 1982, he led the Sri Lanka Sevens team and in the next year he was entrusted to play a dual role as the coach cum player for CH and FC in the Singapore Sevens, where they were the runners-

up in the tournament, defeating the Royal New Zealand Armed Forces. He took part in three Rugby Asiad in 1978 (Malaysia) 1980 (Taiwan) and leading the side in 1982 (Singapore). Due to his contribution to the game he was awarded the Honorary Membership of the SLRFU in 2014.

He was very much privileged representing Sri Lanka with some great players such as Lanil Tennekoon, C.P. Abeygunawardene, Hisham Abdeen, Angelo Wickremaratne, Tikiri Marambe, Nalin De Silva, Bharatha Hegoda, H.K. Sisira, Rohan Gunaratne, and the coaches who contributed immensely to his success were Summa Navaratnam, Y.C. Chang, Jeff Ratnam, Rodney Patternot, and Tony Amit. Even though he has not mentioned each individual by name, he would like to acknowledge all his coaches, captains, and teammates of Royal



Saman Jayasinghe captained Sri Lanka at both Hong Kong Sevens and Singapore Rugby Asiad in the same year (1982)

College, CH and FC, and Sri Lanka.

Apart from rugby skills he became the first ever National Squash Novices Champion in 1981. He is proud of his son Gayal who also followed in his footsteps, representing college from 2013 to 2015. It is quite significant that both were members of the Royal College first XV teams which broke the 'Bradby Shield' records by his son in 2015 (23-22) and (49-0) while he did so in 1976.

Gayal is now a student at Monash University in Australia. He represented the University's Rugby team where he won the best player's award in 2018, while getting an opportunity to coach the team in 2019 for a short period.

He later turned out to be a planter looking after his estate while his wife Sunethra was a pillar of strength during his ups and downs. Harini, his elder daughter has just completed her Master's Degree and is back in the country.

Madushani outstanding women's cricketer and volleyball player

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

The right hand middle order batswoman, left arm spinner and Volleyball player, member of the District Team Kalutara and member of the A. N. A. Cricket Academy and Bandaragama District Player Meepage Nimasha Madushani has brought honour to her Alma Mater Pothupitiya Maha Vidyalaya, Wadduwa.

Her first school was Sri Sumangala Primary School, Kalutara and from there she shifted to Pothupitiya Maha Vidyalaya for the Grade 6 and she had her entire education at

Pothupitiya Maha Vidyalaya. From her younger days her interest was cricket. But there was no cricket at her school and they had only Volleyball.

She represented the volleyball teams of her school in the under 12, 14, 16 and 19 age groups and also she captained all these age groups in the school Inter House Competitions, from time to time her school became champions in Divisional, Zonal and District Levels. Whilst at school their Teacher In Charge of Volleyball was Mrs. Amasha.

In the mean time she met the girls cricket coach of Tissa

Central, Kalutara Nirosha Sanjeevani and she requested her to take up to cricket and she joined Palink Sports Club and they lost to Army and Air Force in the finals in two successive years in hard ball cricket tournaments organized by Sri Lanka Womens Cricket Association and later she joined Ladies Cricket Club and her coach was Palitha Gunasekera.

During this period she was selected for the Combined Provincial Team and took part in the 43rd National Youth Six-A-Side Ladies Cricket Tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Women's Cricket Association

and their team carried away the Runners Up Trophy.

From there she joined the A. N. A. Cricket Academy and was coached by Nirosha Sanjeevani and there along with other male and female players she got all the facilities from its President and owner Sandun Buddhika.

She played in the District and Provincial Teams and her coaches were Carman Mapatuna Ajith and Jeewantha and with these performances she was selected for the 15 member development squad under Mr. Rohitha and unfortunately due to Covid 19 the practices came to a halt but her sole intention is to represent her country.



Nimasha Madushani



The Combined Provincial Ladies Team emerged as the All Island Six-A-Side Runners Up in the 43rd National Youth Festival All Island Cricket Tournament and they posed for a picture just after the finals at Welagedara Stadium, Kurunegala. Squatting L/R - Harshani Fernando, Kanchanamala, Rasika Rasangani Standing L/R - Shanika Dimuthu, Chanika Lakshani, Nimasha Madushani, Nirosha Sanjeevani (Coach) (Picture by Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

Akkaraipattu DS division beach volleyball champions

(Text and Pictures by: MOHAMED RIZAN, Addalaichenai Central Correspondent)

Akkaraipattu DS division won the Ampara district inter divisional beach volleyball tournament beating Sainthamaruthu DS division in the final at the Karathivu Beach recently.

This tournament was organized by the Ampara District National Youth Services Council (NYSC), while 10 Divisional Secretariat divisions partici-

pated. The Akkaraipattu DS division and Sainthamaruthu DS division qualified for the final.

The champions team have been selected for the upcoming Easter Province Inter District beach volleyball championship-2020 said Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretariat Youth Services Officer Zameelul Ilahi.

Ampara District Youth Services Officer A.Mubarak Ali, Youth Services Officers and youths were in attendance.



The Akkaraipattu DS division which won the Ampara district inter divisional beach volleyball tournament

E. W. Balasuriya sports promoter par excellence



HAFIZ MARIKAR

Kandy remembers one of its most versatile sportsmen, sports benefactor, philanthropist and above all a gentleman, of the highest calibre E.W. Balasuriya. Many seem to have forgotten the past glorious moments of Kandy rugby. But there are still who remember his great service. His invaluable services for sports in Kandy is remembered by all, even at times when changes are inevitable, with sports taking a different turn with professionalism playing a vital role in sports. He was one of the great sports promoters and a philanthropist. He was known as 'Bala' for some and some called him EW. He was a great lover of sports and gave his best. Many are the instances in his illustrious career and public life where he displayed his integrity and honesty which was a shining example of a clean life. As a donor he was unique and, unlike most others, he was freely available to all sportsmen at any time.

The city of Kandy, has a long history of sport. It is home to a number all sports and EW was the most decorated promoter of all time. His outstanding sports promoting helped many sportsmen to earn a name in rugby.

He had his early education at Dharmaraja College and later he shifted to Ananda College, where he excelled at cricket as a top class opening batsman. During his playing days, he was rated as one of the steady opening batsmen and was a fine stroke-maker and excellent close-in fielder. After his schooling,

he came to Kandy, and played cricket for Kandy United Cricket Club and Central Province. He was a key figure in Kandy and whole of Sri Lanka. Some knew only one facet of his life - as a keen sports promoter and donor helping lesser known sportsmen to hit the top. Only those who moved closely with this great sports promoter knew about his social activities in which he was deeply involved. There was hardly any sporting event in Kandy where he was not involved in. His pet sports were Rugby and Cricket.

The encouragement he gave to players and clubs by way of financial assistance, advice and guidance is well known to many. As a donor, he was unique and unlike most others, he was freely available to all sportsmen at any time. He was one-time Secretary of the Central Province Cricket Association and later he hit the top spot when he organized the first Official Test match in Kandy at the Asgiriya Stadium and this writer too was in the organising committee.

Bala had the gift of making people feel exalted and raised their spirit by a few words of comfort or expression of support. 'Don't worry, you do whatever you like, I will give the backing, I am there with you, were his favourite words. He was the founder of the Kandy Lake Club in 1962 and later Kandy Rugby Football Club (KR & FC), which clubs produced top ruggerites, cricketers, and 'Iron' Sportsmen. Through this club he gave his best for sports in Kandy, he helped several lesser-known sportsmen by inviting them to come and play for his club and also found them jobs.

The first sport he introduced was cricket, and had some top players of that era, like Bertie Gomez, Neville Herathge, D.D. de Alwis,

M.E. Marikar, Z.M. Zarook, P. Peries to name a few. Most of them got the break to play for Central Province and Up-Country with visiting teams. Rugby was introduced to the club, in 1963 and they started playing in the Ceylon Rugby Football Union "B" division tournament. Some who backed him to start rugger were Col. Stanley Ratwatte, Noel Paranagama, Dr. C.D.L. Fernando, Sidney Ratwatte, all are not among the living. In coaching it was Sydney Ratwatte and Maurice Perera who started coaching first, and Niyas Majeed was the first Captain. 'EW', turned the team to a champion outfit in 1966, under Farook Dole, the original captain of the year was T.B. Wijesinghe, half way through he crossed over to CR & FC. The team was formed with products from St. Anthony, Trinity, St Sylvesters, Vidyarthi and St Pauls. Except for the Trinities, rest of them had never played rugby at that time.

That year, they beat all the teams in the "B" division, but failed to beat NCC it was a draw. In the following year, Kandy Lake Club entered the "A" Division and played along with clubs like Kandy SC, CR & FC, CH & FC, Havelock SC, Uva Gymkhana Club, Dimbula C & AC, Dickoya MCC and Sri Lanka Army. In the very first year in the "A" division in 1967, they opened the season with the game against defending champions Havelock SC, this match was played at Havelock Park and the game ended in a 3-all draw, next was against the star studded CH & FC, the side was packed with Englishmen. This game, too, ended in a 3-all draw at Maitland Crescent.

Then in the third game, beat Sri Lanka Army at Galle Face. Then in the return clash against Champion

Havelock SC played at Nittawela. Kandy Lake Club were able to beat them. Some of the players who were in the first "A" division team of 'EW' were Farook Dole, Gavin Stevens, Maurice Silva, Mahesh Sabaratnam, Hector Galuge, Carl Fernando, George Jayasena, Maurice Windus, George Thambiraja, A. Etipola, Didacus de Almeida. This club, after entering the "A" division, went places in rugby Sad to say however, they got the knock-out blow from the authorities of that era, for playing professional players. With that blow from the controlling body, 'EW' formed the Kandy RFC (KRFC), and played up to 1973.

In 1973, on a suggestion made by one time Ceylon Rugby Football Union president, Dr. K.B. Sangakkara. E.W. Balasuriya honoured the request and amalgamated with Kandy Sports Club (KSC) in 1974 the year Royalist Jeremy Pereira led the side.

In the following year 1975, Iswan Omar became the first from 'EW's club to lead Kandy Sports Club and that is the year 'EW' became the President of the Nittawela Club and took the club up to the Clifford Cup Semi-finals, but had no luck and lost to Sri Lanka Air Force during extra-time. Then again in 1986, 'EW' became the President of Kandy Sports Club and Ashan Ratwatte was the Captain and this writer was the Manager cum rugby convener. The club came to the R. Premadasa Trophy semi-finals.

Kandy Youth Sports Club who are having their AGM today, will organize a cricket tournament in memory of E.W. Balasuriya who was a great benefactor of Kandy sports and whose contributions should be weighed in gold.

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My Cola boost for Sri Lanka Cricket

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) tied another not, with another sponsorship, this time getting Cristal and Life, two brands coming under My Cola Beverages Private Limited on board as their "Official Bottled Drinking Water Partner," at a ceremony held at Shangri La Hotel last Friday.

After signing the same sponsors as their official carbonated beverage partner earlier this year, SLC managed to negotiate to acquire the two leading mineral water products in the country namely 'Cristal and Life' as their official bottled water partner for the next three years. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was held last Friday at Shangri La Hotel, Colombo.

A product which is in existence in the market for almost two decades, a fully funded Sri Lankan company managed to get the sponsorship after a formal bidding process conducted by the SLC, where



Mohan de Silva, Secretary, SLC (Third from right) accepts the cheque from Mahinda Perera, Managing Director, My Cola Beverages (Pvt.) Ltd. after signing the agreement as the official drinking water partner of SLC at a ceremony held last Friday at Shangri La Hotel. Others in the picture from left to right-Dananjaya Siriwardena, Brand Ambassador, My Cola Beverages (Pvt.) Ltd., Sharm Fernando, Executive Director/CEO, My Cola Beverages (Pvt.) Ltd., Dimuth Karunaratne, Test and ODI captain of Sri Lanka, Ashley de Silva, CEO, SLC.

their deal found quite attractive in the process. My Cola is the fourth in the market as the Carbonated Beverage producer and expects to boom their business with this tie up with the SLC.

Mohan de Silva, Secretary of SLC speaking at the event said

that "It is indeed a privilege and pleasure in consolidating this existing partnership with My Cola. We would like to work together in a close relationship where both parties are benefited. We are happy that a Sri Lanka firm has come forward to get on

board at these difficult times when some other companies are finding it tough going. I thank Mahinda and his esteemed company for coming forward to sponsor SLC and having confidence in us." Under this agreement with

SLC, My Cola Beverages will have the exclusive bottled drinking water availability rights within each stadium and match locations during the term, which shall include the right to engage in the sale and distribution of bottled water to the general public.

In return, the company will provide bottled water to players, officials, guests and VIPs at hospitality enclosures, accredited journalists, media persons and TV crew during all international matches. This is also apart from making a significant investment towards the promotion of the game of cricket in Sri Lanka.

"As a Sri Lankan Company, it is a great honour and a privilege to be the "Official Bottled Drinking Water Partner of Sri Lanka Cricket" in addition to being the "Official Carbonated Beverages Partner of Sri Lanka Cricket", said Sharm Fernando, Executive Director and CEO of My Cola Beverages Private Limited.



KL Rahul - unbeaten 132 off just 69 deliveries

Rahul hits highest-ever score by an Indian in IPL history on sombre day

DUBAI: Captain KL Rahul on Thursday recorded the highest-ever score by an Indian batsman in IPL history as he took Kings XI Punjab to a comfortable victory over Virat Kohli-led Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Rahul, in his second outing as skipper, was dropped twice by Kohli before going on to smash an unbeaten 132 off just 69 deliveries - the first century of the 2020 season - to help Punjab post a massive 206 for three and a 97-run win. India captain Kohli had a night to forget when he dropped Rahul on 83 and again on 89 one over later in the match in Dubai.

Rahul also recorded the highest score ever by a captain in the IPL, and broke Sachin Tendulkar's record to become the fastest Indian to 2,000 IPL runs, achieving the feat in 60 innings compared to the legendary player's 63 innings.

"It was good to be in the middle and see the team through whatever we'd planned before the game," Rahul said.

"I think it's as complete a team performance as it can get, really happy," Kohli acknowledged that he did not have the "best day of the office".

"Maybe if we restricted them to under 180, we wouldn't have been under pressure... from ball one to chase close to 210," he said.

"So we know exactly where we went wrong and it's time to put my hand up and say a couple of important chances went down."

The game took on a sombre note after the sudden death of Australian batsman and cricket commentator Dean Jones, who had been covering the Indian Premier League from Mumbai, from a heart attack.

Players from both teams wore black armbands to honour Jones and in a pre-match show, fellow commentator and Australian Brett Lee praised the 59-year-old as an "absolute legend".

The much-delayed IPL, which was originally scheduled to start in March, moved out of India due to the coronavirus pandemic and is being played behind closed doors. AFP

Nadal eyes Federer record, 15 years after first Roland Garros title

PARIS: The undisputed king of clay, Rafael Nadal is one title away from matching Roger Federer's all-time Grand Slam record, but 15 years on from the Spaniard's first French Open triumph he appears more vulnerable than ever at his beloved Roland Garros.

Nadal owns an astounding 93-2 record in Paris dating back to his debut in 2005, when, still a teenager, he became the first player to win the French Open on his first attempt since Mats Wilander in 1982.

Fast-forward to the present day, and his 19 Grand Slam crowns - a record 12 of which have come at Roland Garros - coupled with Federer's absence after knee surgery leave him on the brink of history at a venue where he has won each of the past three years.

Yet a multitude of factors, mostly beyond his control, have conspired against Nadal and offered hope to his chief rivals - namely Novak Djokovic and recent US Open winner Dominic Thiem.

Boris Becker, a former coach of world number one Djokovic, suggested the rescheduled tournament - pushed back from its traditional spring billing due to the coronavirus pandemic - will be tougher than usual for Nadal.

The heavier conditions could suit hardcourt players more and negate some of Nadal's lethal topspin, possibly aiding Thiem who

has finished runner-up in Paris twice in succession.

"This year is going to be particularly hard for Rafael Nadal. He's my number one favourite but the difference between him and the other players is less big this year than usual," said Becker, a six-time Grand Slam champion.

"He's not in his regular rhythm. He needs match practice. Normally, he was coming to Roland Garros having often played four big clay tournaments, which he had generally won." Nadal will head into the French Open without a clay title under his belt for the first time, having lost in straight sets to Diego Schwartzman in the quarter-finals at Rome - his first tournament in six months.

"It's not a moment for excuses. I've spent a long time without competing. I played two good matches," Nadal, who skipped the US Open citing Covid-19 concerns, said following the defeat.

"It's a completely special and unpredictable year," he added. "I did my job here. I did a couple things well and other things bad. At least I played three matches."

Despite the sense this is the most understrength version of Nadal at the French Open in recent times, Djokovic remains adamant the 34-year-old is again the favourite to lift the Coupe des Mousquetaires.

"The record that he has there, the history of his results, you just can't put anybody in front of him," said Djokovic, himself vying to add to his lone 2016 triumph at Roland Garros.

"But, you know, definitely Diego showed that Nadal is beatable on clay," added the Serb.

"The conditions that they played on, obviously heavy clay, not much bounce, humid, night sessions, we are going to have that as well in Paris. I'm pretty sure that he does not prefer that to a high bounce. I know he likes the high bounce.

"He likes the hot and warm and fast conditions, where he can use his spin a lot. Even though he's the favourite, I think there are players that can win against him there." Another championship run for Nadal, not accounting for potential walkovers, would take him to a century of wins at the French Open. Only Federer, Serena Williams, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert have hit triple digits in wins at a single major in the Open era.

Schwartzman agreed that Nadal was still the favourite.

"Rafa is the king. It's his house. He went to Roland Garros many years playing good, sometimes not playing his best and he won."

"I think Rafa is always there, the guy who is going to win. AFP



Manchester City's English midfielder Phil Foden (2nd L) runs through the Bournemouth midfield during the English League Cup third round football match between Manchester City and Bournemouth at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester.

Man City, Liverpool reach League Cup fourth round

LONDON: Holders Manchester City needed a Phil Foden goal 15 minutes from time to see off Bournemouth 2-1 and reach the fourth round of the League Cup, while Liverpool ran riot in a 7-2 win at Lincoln on Thursday.

City have won the competition for the past three years, but Pep Guardiola admitted he had been forced to name a youthful side to prioritise their Premier League campaign due to a shortened pre-season and a series of positive coronavirus tests.

Liam Delap, son of former Stoke midfielder Rory Delap, took just 18 minutes to score on his City debut with a fine finish into the top corner from Foden's pass.

However, the lead lasted just four minutes as Bournemouth's Sam Sturridge spun inside the City box before firing into the far corner. Guardiola introduced the artillery he had on the bench after half-time in Kevin de Bruyne and Raheem Sterling, but it was another first-team regular in Foden who made the breakthrough after Riyad Mahrez's shot came back off the post. City will travel to Burnley in the last 16.

Liverpool will face Arsenal twice at Anfield in three days next week after Jurgen Klopp's much-

changed side hit Lincoln for seven with Takumi Minamoto and Curtis Jones both scoring twice.

Xherdan Shaqiri opened the floodgates with a brilliant free-kick that clipped the underside of the bar. Minamoto curled home to double the Premier League champions' lead before Curtis Jones struck twice in four minutes to make it 4-0 before half-time. A minute into the second-half, Minamoto had his second, but League One Lincoln responded to get two goals to remember the night by.

Tayo Edun finished off a great team move and Lewis Montsma headed home a corner. But Liverpool continued to find the net at the other end as Marko Grujic briefly made it 6-1 before Divock Origi rounded off the scoring. Bertrand Traore marked his Aston Villa debut with a stunning side-foot volley to score his side's second goal in a comfortable 3-0 win at Bristol City. Anwar El Ghazi opened the scoring 11 minutes in before Traore showed why Villa spent 17 million (\$21 million) to sign him from Lyon last week with a cute finish from a narrow angle.

Another Villa new boy Ollie Watkins then grabbed his first goal for the club 17 minutes from time as Dean Smith's men set up a last 16 clash with Stoke. AFP

Tennis Nationals in December

The Sri Lanka Tennis (SLT) is one of the first sports associations to kick start their sporting events after the covid-19 pandemic since last March, under strict compliance of the health ministry regulations.

After successful completion of the first major tournament the Clay Court tournament last month where Yasitha de Silva and Anika Seneviratne claimed the Men's and Women's singles titles respectively. The rest of the SLT tournament calendar will follow with the Category two tournament to be played in Batticaloa Tennis Club on October 11 while the Category one tournament in Colombo on October 16 at SLT courts.

The all-important Nationals Tournament is scheduled to be held in December where the dates are yet to be finalized.

The SLT is also conducting tennis introductory sessions to adults in Batticaloa and Trincomalee in developing the game in the outstation to attract and encourage more adult participation. (AN)

Aussie cricket mourns 'original maverick' Dean Jones

SYDNEY: Australian cricket was reeling Friday at the shock death of batting great Dean Jones, with national coach Justin Langer leading tributes to a player he called "the stuff of legend".

Langer revealed he was on the cusp of recruiting Jones into his coaching set-up for next year's World Cup when the 59-year-old died of a heart attack in Mumbai, where he had been commenting on the Indian Premier League.

"I was talking about getting Deano in to help us with World Cup stuff as a mentor and coach, sadly that's not going to happen," Langer told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"(But) the legacy he leaves to Australian cricket and Aus-

tralian cricketers won't be lost on us." Jones' dashing stroke-play inspired generations of batsmen, including current power-hitter Glenn Maxwell.

"Incredibly shocked by the news that Dean Jones has passed away.

Had a poster of the great man in my room as a kid," Maxwell tweeted. Jones played 52 Tests from 1984-1992, amassing 3,631 runs at an average of 46.55, while his 164 one-day internationals yielded 6,068 runs and an average of 44.61.

Known universally as "Deano", Jones was remembered as a fierce competitor whose knockabout demeanour concealed a keen cricketing mind bursting with innovative ideas. AFP

National Surfing C'ships begins today at Arugambay

BERNARD PERERA

The National Surfing Championship will be held at the Arugambay beach on Saturday and Sunday.

The Championship is organised by Surfing Federation Sri Lanka with the co-operation from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Lanka Sports Reizen headed by Thilak Weerasinghe who pioneered the water sports. Mobitel, the Official Telecommunications is the official partner for the event.

This year's Championships will be conducted on a low key due to COVID-19 lockdown.

Nearly 30 foreign competitors will compete in the open event along with top sixteen surfers from the National Championship. A total of 50 locals are due to take part in the National Championship.

The preliminary round of the National Championship will be conducted on September 26 (Saturday) and the final scheduled for Sunday. In addition to these two events there will be a special event for juniors. This has been organised to give an opportunity for young surfers to gain



Action from last year's Championship.

experience and also to encourage them to be engaged with the sport in the future.

Sixteen local surfers are expected to compete in the open event along with foreign participants who will face stiff competition from them, but the local competitors will have to make good use of this

opportunity take the maximum experience.

"It will be of vital importance for them to gain the most needed fighting spirit to enter international arena and to bring glory to the country through the sport, said Thilak Weerasinghe".