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DON'T BE MISLED BY FALSE PROPAGANDA SPREAD ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

The government urges the public not to be deceived by the false propaganda being spread on social media platforms that an island-wide curfew will be imposed across the country from today (06).

All genuine government public notifications will be disseminated only through President's Media Division and the Department of Government Information which in turn will be published by mainstream media.

HOTLINE FOR COVID-19 INQUIRIES

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Health Promotion Bureau has introduced a telephone hotline for all inquiries related to the COVID-19. The Hotline is 1999 and is operational round the clock (24 hours). Any information on COVID-19 could be obtained in all three languages. **TO PAGE 02**

EIGHTY-EIGHT CONTACTS OF DIVULAPITIYA COVID-19 PATIENT TEST POSITIVE

ALL MEASURES TO PREVENT FURTHER TRANSMISSION - HEALTH MINISTRY

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Eighty-eight contacts of the Divulapitiya COVID-19 patient have been tested positive for COVID-19 infection. Head of the National Operation Centre for the Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOPCO) Army Commander Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva confirmed.

The Government Information Department confirmed that all these 88 cases

are employees of a garment factory where the Divulapitiya COVID-19 patient was employed at. Health Ministry sources said that all possible measures are being taken to prevent further transmission and in the interest of preserving national security. The health authorities are aggressively engaged in contact tracing, PCR testing and facilitating any isolation, hospitalizations and quarantine measures to be taken.

A 39-year-old woman, employed at the Minuwangoda garment factory tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus on Sunday (4) and is currently receiving treatment at Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) in Angoda. PCR test results confirmed that her 16-year-old daughter had also contracted the virus and has been admitted to the IDH on Sunday (04) evening. **TO PAGE 02**



Public Health Inspectors in the Minuwangoda MOH Division yesterday started collecting samples from the factory employees after an employee was tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday. Pictures by Samantha Weerasinghe

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President instructs to increase PCR tests to contain spread of COVID-19

Close associates to be quarantined at closest hotels

Attention to gazette prevention laws

All factories are advised to carry out random checks

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa instructed the relevant parties to take immediate measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 following the identification of close associates of the affected and to increase the number of PCR tests.

Close associates of the infected have already been identified.

They have been subjected to self-quarantine at their homes. **TO PAGE 02**



20A to Constitution: SC concludes hearing

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Supreme Court yesterday concluded arguments put forward in support and against the proposed 20th Amendment to the Constitution. Accordingly, all parties relating to the petitions were directed to submit their written submissions today (6) by 3 pm. **TO PAGE 02**



Proposed 20A to Constitution aimed at replacing changes made to provisions relating to AG by 19A - PM

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Sunday stressed that the proposed 20th Amendment to the Constitution is aimed at replacing the changes made to the provisions relating to the Auditor

General by the 19th Amendment.

The Prime Minister while refuting the Opposition's allegations that the proposed Amendment is seeking to remove the Presidential Secretariat and

the Office of the Prime Minister from the purview of the Auditor General said these two institutes have been under the purview of the Auditor General from the very inception of the 1978 Constitution. **TO PAGE 02**

Sri Lanka receives Rs. 442 mn from 'MT New Diamond' owners

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Owners of the crude oil tanker 'MT New Diamond' vessel have paid Rs.442 million in compensation to Sri Lanka authorities.

Coordinating Officer to the Attorney

General State Counsel Nishara Jayaratne told the news media that this payment was in relation only to the cost incurred by government stakeholders in extinguishing the fire that broke out on the vessel. **TO PAGE 02**



'MT New Diamond'

Examinations Dept. favours holding Grade 5, A/L exams as scheduled

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

The Department of Examinations awaits the Government's decision to continue holding its national-level school examinations on originally set out dates in the background of the recent COVID-19 situation.

These examinations include Grade Five Scholarships Examination and the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examinations. The Ministry of Education had announced in July that the Grade Five Scholarships Examination will be held on October 11 of 2020, and the Advanced Level Examinations will commence from October 12 of 2020. **TO PAGE 02**



Former President Maithripala tells PCol probing attacks

'Pujith, Hemasiri should be held fully responsible for Easter Sunday attacks'

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Former IGP Pujith Jayasundara and former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando who failed to take preventive action against the bombings, former President Maithripala Sirisena said testifying before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**



Former President Maithripala Sirisena arriving at the Presidential Commission investigating the Easter Sunday attacks yesterday. Picture by Ruwan Silva

Nobel Prize for Medicine awarded for Hepatitis C discovery

Americans Harvey J. Alter and Charles M. Rice, and British scientist Michael Houghton were awarded the

Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology on Monday for the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus. **TO PAGE 02**

My speech was distorted and misinterpreted - Defence Secretary

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Defence Secretary Maj. Gen. Kamal Gunaratne said that the speech he had made during an opening ceremony of the Vavuniya Kachcheri Auditorium had been distorted and misinterpreted tarnishing his integrity and reputation.

Certain media reports had been published claiming that the Defence Secretary had praised former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen during this event. **TO PAGE 02**



SJB will vote against 20A - Vadivel Suresh

CHANDANA JAYAWEERA, Hatton Group Corr

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Badulla district Parliamentarian Vadivel Suresh yesterday said not a single Samagi Jana Balawegaya MP will join the Government in the future. **TO PAGE 02**



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Proposed 20A to ... From page 01

"The phrase "All departments of government" in Article 154(1) of the pre-19th Amendment Constitution brought the Presidential Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office under the purview of the Auditor General", a statement issued by the Prime Minister said.

He added that the Opposition has been unhesitatingly uttering every lie that comes to mind with regard to this matter because of the confidence that most people would not be familiar with those obscure provisions of the Constitution.

"All that the 20th Amendment seeks to do is to replace the changes made to the provisions relating to the Auditor General by the 19th Amendment with the provisions that existed before the 19th Amendment".

The full statement: The Opposition has been trying to propagate the idea that the Auditor General's powers would be reduced by the proposed 20th Amendment. It's seldom that the Constitutional provisions regarding the Auditor General come to the attention of the public. This has made it easier for the opposition to propagate various falsehoods in this connection.

One of the false claims being made is that the 19th Amendment set up an Audit Commission and that the 20th Amendment seeks to abolish it. What the 19th Amendment made provision for was not an Audit Commission but only an Audit Service Commission. The Audit Service Commission does not carry out any auditing functions. It handles matters like the appointment, promotion, transfer and disciplinary control of members of the State Audit Service. Usually such matters pertaining to government servants are dealt with by the Public Service Commission.

All that the creation of the Audit Service

Commission achieved was to set up yet another Commission to do the work that was being done by the Public Service Commission.

Another false claim being made by the opposition is that the 20th Amendment seeks to remove the Presidential Secretariat and the Office of the Prime Minister from the purview of the Auditor General. From the very inception of the 1978 Constitution, the Presidential Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office have been under the purview of the Auditor General. The phrase "all departments of government" in Article 154(1) of the pre-19th Amendment Constitution brought the Presidential Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office under the purview of the Auditor General. These institutions were always listed as government departments in the Government Financial Regulations. Quite apart from these two institutions, even the Office of Former Presidents is listed as a separate government department and all these institutions were always audited by the Auditor General.

The inclusion of the Presidential Secretariat and the Office of the Prime Minister by name in Article 154(1), by the 19th Amendment did not achieve anything new. Even though they may have not been specifically mentioned by name, from the very inception of the 1978 Constitution, the Presidential Secretariat and Prime Ministers Office had always been under the purview of the Auditor General. Even after the 20th Amendment reinstates the old article 154(1) which existed from the inception of the 1978 Constitution, in place of the so called 'changes' made by the 19th Amendment, the Presidential Secretariat and the Prime Minister's



Office will continue to remain within the purview of the Auditor General. Over the past decades, it's the Auditor General who audited the Presidential Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office and not some private audit firm.

Another falsehood that's being propagated is that state owned companies will be removed from the purview of the Auditor General by the 20th Amendment. The auditing of state corporations and state owned companies (i.e. companies in which the state owns more than 50% of the shares) comes under Article 154(2) of the Constitution. Under the provisions of Article 154(2), the minister in charge of the subject can assign the auditing of a state corporation or a state owned company to a qualified audit firm. However before doing so, he is mandatorily required to obtain the concurrence of the Finance Minister and also to consult the Auditor General. After the minister in charge of the subject assigns the auditing of a state corporation or a state owned company to an audit firm in this manner, the Auditor General can issue a written notice to that audit firm informing them that he proposes to utilize their services for the performance and discharge of the Auditor-General's duties in relation to that state corporation or state owned company, and thereupon that audit firm is mandatorily required to act under the direction and control of the Auditor-General.

The content of Article 154(2) which existed from the inception of the 1978 Constitution, was not changed by the 19th Amendment. The content of Article 154(2) will not change under the 20th Amendment either. Therefore it can be said that the con-

tent of Article 154(2) has remained the same from the inception of the 1978 Constitution and will continue to remain so in the future as well. Hence the claim that state owned companies are to be taken out of the purview of the Auditor General, is a complete falsehood.

It is also being claimed by opposition propagandists that the 19th Amendment had stipulated that the Auditor General should be a 'qualified auditor' and that when the 20th Amendment reinstates the old pre-19th Amendment Article 153(1) this qualification requirement will be dropped and hence, after the 20th Amendment is passed, even an unqualified person can be appointed as Auditor General. Constitutions are written on the assumption that those reading it will have basic common sense.

The Constitution does not state anywhere that the person appointed as Attorney General or as a Supreme Court judge has to be a qualified lawyer. But those appointed as Attorney General, Auditor General or a Supreme Court judge will always have the required educational and professional qualifications without which they cannot function in those positions.

All that the 20th Amendment seeks to do is to replace the changes made to the provisions relating to the Auditor General by the 19th Amendment with the provisions that existed before the 19th Amendment. The opposition has been unhesitatingly

uttering every lie that comes to mind with regard to this matter because of the confidence that most people would not be familiar with these obscure provisions of the Constitution. It's our duty to understand the facts of the matter and to defeat the unprincipled attempt being made by the opposition to mislead the people.



Divulapitiya town and the adjacent roads were deserted as the Police cordon came into force from Sunday to stem the COVID-19 community spread in the area. Picture by M.P.Kumara, Kotadeniyawa Group Corr.

Divulapitiya suspected COVID-19 cases sent to Habaraduwa centre

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,
Galle Central Special
Correspondent

Forty eight associates of the COVID-19 infected garment factory employees in Divulapitiya have been referred to Habaraduwa Quarantine Centre in Galle for respective Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests, Karapitiya Teaching Hospital laboratory for tests," the MOH further said.

"The PCR tests were to be carried out yesterday. Among the persons sent for PCR tests were several close associates of the corresponding garment factory and several staff members of the hospital at which the COVID patient was treated.

The blood samples will be sent to the Karapitiya Teaching Hospital laboratory for tests," the MOH further said.

My speech was distorted ... From page 01

However, convening a media briefing at the Defence Ministry yesterday (05), the Defence Secretary said that certain parts of his speech had been selected and coined making it look as if he was praising Bathiudeen. "I was invited to make a speech and during my speech I did not praise Bathiudeen but I did praise the services rendered by Mrs. P.S.M. Charles (Current Northern Governor) while she was the Vavuniya AG. The only statement I made about Bathiudeen was that he was the Resettlement Minister at the time. Other than that I never said a word about him. But, I did men-

tion that Mrs. Charles had been a great source of strength to me during difficult times on behalf of the state mechanism. However, what this certain media institution has done is coin two parts of my speech, omitting parts of my speech and making it sound as if I was praising the former minister."

The Defence Secretary played the recorded speech made by him during the event and it was clear that he had only mentioned the former minister with respect to the fact that he was the former Resettlement Minister. He said that it is understandable that media institutions are not in a

position to air entire speeches made by state officials, but added that the presenter in her introduction had stated that he (the Defence Secretary) had praised the former minister (Bathiudeen) prior to airing the edited clip. Hence, he said this was a deliberate attempt to tarnish his name and cause him and the government embarrassment.

Gunaratne added that during his entire military career he had served the country with commit-

ment and as the Defence Secretary now, his only goal is to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him in ensuring that the people of this country could live without fear and in safety. "I have taken on that responsibility very willingly and having faced many challenges during my military service, I will not be deterred by any threat and will certainly commit myself to serve this country."

However, the Defence Secretary said that he intends to seek legal advice regarding this distortion of

his speech, with the intention of delivering a wrong message to the public and tarnishing his reputation. "If the media behaves in a decent manner, then what they should do is take the essence of a speech and air it. It is a very low down act to select a single sentence from my speech and portray it in a very misleading manner," he said.

The Defence Secretary also said that underworld gangster Angoda Lokka has been confirmed dead in India. He said the government has put in place a mechanism to bring back all criminals who have been hiding in foreign countries.

20A to Constitution: ... From page 01

The Supreme Court's determination over the proposed constitutional amendment bill is to be communicated to the Speaker later.

The Supreme Court five-judge-Bench comprised Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, Justices Buwaneka Aluwihare, Sisir de Abrew, Priyantha Jayawardena and Vijith K. Malalgoda.

In his submissions, Attorney General Dappula de Livera informed the Supreme Court that all the clauses of the bill are consistent with the constitution. The Attorney General argued that there is no necessity to approve any provision in the bill by people at a referendum.

Thirty nine petitioners including SJB General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara, MP Mayantha Disسانayake, TNA leader R. Sampanthan, SJB Youth Organization Propaganda Secretary Rasika Jayakody had filed Special Determination petitions challenging the constitutionality of

the 20th Amendment to the Constitution.

Twenty intervenient petitioners including Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister Gamini Lokuge, Attorney Sagara Kariyawasam, Ven. Omare Kassapa Thera, W.A.D. Weeratileke, D.M. Dayaratne and P.G.B. Abeyratne sought court's permission to intervene into these Special Determination petitions.

President's Counsel K. Kanagiswaran, M.A. Sumanthiran PC, Geoffrey Alagaratnam PC, Counsel Suren Fernando, Viran Corea, Chrismal Warnasuriya, Dharshana Weraduwage, Shiral Lakshilaka appearing for the petitioners.

President's Counsel Sanjeeva Jayawardena, Shavindra Fernando PC, Kushan de Alwis, Gamini Marapana PC, Navin Marapana PC, Senior Counsel Rajpal Abeynayake and Kaushalya Nawaratne appeared for the intervenient petitioners.

Hotline for... From page 01

Speaking at a media conference at the Health Promotion Bureau yesterday, Chief Epidemiologist of the Epidemiology Unit, Dr. Sudath Samaraweera yesterday said that a cluster of COVID-19 coronavirus has been created at Brandix Minuwangoda garment factory, and 71 people have been identified as having been infected with COVID-19.

He said that although there were large COVID-19 clusters in the Welisara and Kandakadu in the past, the risk was less as they were in the camps, but in this cluster the risk of community spreading is high since the infected persons came to work from their homes on a daily basis and were more exposed to society.

He further said that the risk of the disease spreading is high since the source of the infection was not yet covered.

He said that if there is anyone who has been associated with this factory in the last few days, they should stay at home and if there is any respiratory distress or complete symptom, they should inform the health officer in their area and seek immediate hospital treatment.

He also instructed the people to stay indoors as much as possible and go out only for essential purposes. People are also advised to refrain from congregating in large crowds.

The Chief Epidemiologist further said that no decision has been taken yet to postpone the forthcoming examinations and the relevant authorities will be informed about the situation within the next few days. He further said that the further spread of the disease will depend on the day to day behaviour of the people and the public is advised to extend their support by following the proper health guidelines.

Examinations Dept. ... From page 01

The department's Commissioner of Examinations (Schools) K.M.H. Bandara yesterday told the Daily News that the Examination Department is well prepared to hold both exams as scheduled.

He said that the Department of Examinations favors holding the Grade Five and the Advanced Level examinations on the dates foreseen as planned, but the government go-ahead is a requirement given the measures it has

put in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

"So the department will naturally await the government's signal," he said.

Meanwhile, Education Ministry sources told us although many countries affected by COVID-19 pandemic have chosen to postpone or cancel exams, the majority of them have held year-end national level exams with certain measures to ensure the safety and health of students.

Sri Lanka receives... From page 01

She highlighted that the Rs.442 million claim received does not include the marine pollution caused by the oil spill from the vessel. The 20-year-old MT New Diamond crude oil tanker was transporting 270,000 metric tons of crude oil from the port of Mina Al Ahmadi in Kuwait to the Indian port of Paradip when a fire broke out abroad in the eastern seas of Sri Lanka on September 3.

The vessel was sailing 38 nautical miles off Sangamankanda Point when it caught fire following an explosion in a boiler in the ship's main engine room.

A joint operation by the Sri Lanka Navy, Air Force and Indian Navy succeeded in extinguishing the fire.



All measures to prevent... From page 01



Issuing an urgent press release considering the identified cluster in Minuwangoda, the Health Ministry stressed the importance of preventing further transmission.

The Public is informed to support the efforts being taken and to comply with the instructions given in the Health Ministry website.

The Ministry urged the general public to follow the Ministry website: http://www.health.gov.lk/moh-final/english/article_read_more.php?id=885

For Amendments to the instructions can be accessed from <http://www.health.gov.lk/moh-final/eng->

[lish/article_read_more.php?id=904](http://www.health.gov.lk/moh-final/english/article_read_more.php?id=904)

The Health Ministry severely warns that whilst the curfew is only in place in Divulapitiya, Veyangoda and Minuwangoda Divisional Secretariat areas, the rest of the country should strictly adhere to the health care guidelines issued by the health authorities.

It is the public responsibility to avoid participating in any activities that encourage crowding. A mask should be worn at all times when going out of your homes into public space. Frequent washing of hands and avoiding touching face is advocated. All should follow the good res-

piratory etiquette to prevent any possible spread from person to person.

The elderly should be protected and unless absolutely necessary should remain indoors. The general public too is advised to limit outdoor activities to the absolutely necessary.

The Health Ministry urges the public to cooperate with the measures being taken for containment of spread and also urges all to practice in the New Normal as advocated.

Meanwhile, the Police Department yesterday said leave of all police officers have been cancelled considering the present situation in the country.

'Pujith, Hemasiri should be... From page 01

He said he had not been informed about a possible attack by the then IGP, Defence Secretary or the State Intelligence Service headed by the SDIG Nilantha Jayawardhane even by April 20.

According to him, none of the states in the world had pointed a finger at their Heads for such terrorist activities. "Officials who did not follow my instructions with regard to religious extremism should be held responsible for the bombings," he stressed.

The former President also said that the Ministry of Law and Order under which the Police Department comes was taken over by him only in January 2019. "As the President he was informed that



the mastermind of the attacks Zahran Hashim was engaged in spreading the ISIS ideologies in the Eastern Province and through social media only in January 2019," he added. The former President will further be testifying before the Commission on Next Monday (12).

SJB will vote... From page 01

Addressing a group of journalists in Nuwara Eliya on Sunday, he said that his party will vote against the 20th Amendment to the Constitution. "We will never support the government to pass the 20th Amendment to the Constitution with a 2/3 majority in Parliament," he said.

Suresh said he is the SJB leader in the planta-

tion sector. "I see no reason why I should leave the party and support the government," he said.

He added that a discussion on granting a Rs.1000 pay hike to the plantation sector employees started five years ago but the estate employees have not received the

pay hike as yet. "The government should order the Employers Federation to implement this pay hike. "We will give an ultimatum of 10 days to the government, otherwise we will resort to Trade Union action," he added.



Nobel Prize... From page 01

Announcing the prize in Stockholm on Monday, the Nobel Committee

noted that the trio's work helped explain a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the hepatitis A and B viruses. Their work makes possible blood tests and new medicines that have saved millions of lives, the committee said. "Thanks to their discovery, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly

improving global health," the committee said.

"Their discovery also allowed the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at hepatitis C," it added. "For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising hopes of eradicating hepatitis C virus from the world population."

The World Health Organization estimates there are over 70 million cases of hepatitis worldwide and 400,000 deaths each year. The disease is chronic and a major cause of liver inflammation and cancer. Agencies

Ambassador Asirwatham meets EIB President

Discuss cooperation in Green projects

As a follow up to the meeting held between the Foreign Ministers of Sri Lanka and Luxembourg on January 31, 2020 in Colombo, Sri Lanka Ambassador to Belgium, the European Union and Luxembourg Ambassador Grace Asirwatham met with Dr. Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) on September 24, 2020.

The discussion centred on the ongoing EIB activities in Sri Lanka and the possibilities of developing cooperation between Sri Lanka and the EIB in the field of Green projects. Impressed by the focus given on promoting Green projects in Sri Lanka under the National Policy Framework "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" with medium to long term objectives especially on environmentally friendly public

Green transport, creation of eco-industrial zones to recycle industrial waste, development of Green building under the Green and smart cities etc., the EIB President Dr. Hoyer expressed interest to receive project proposals for consideration of funding. Concerning the proposals on developing the renewable energy sector particularly wind and solar energy projects, the EIB President said that the areas proposed for financial cooperation were well within the scope of EIB and agreed to help Sri Lanka achieving the proposed targets in the renewable energy sector.

The EIB President appreciated Sri Lanka's commitment towards protection of environment, mitigation of climate change related issues and cooperation with UNFCCC including shar-

ing of details related to nationally determined targets, GHG emission reduction targets by 2030 and the progress being made to achieve SDGs.

Dr. Hoyer advised Sri Lanka to continue the technical discussion with the Vice President and senior officials of the EIB, with necessary project proposals to establish the envisaged financial cooperation in investment in Green projects. A team of senior EIB officials comprising Vice President Christian Kettel Thomsen, Director General/ Deputy Head of Operations Luca Lazzaroli, Head of Division Asia & Pacific, Public Sector Operations – Global Partners Department Edvardas Bumsteinas and Head of EIB Regional Representation for South Asia based in New Delhi Donal Cannon was also present at the meeting.



Sri Lanka Ambassador to Belgium, the European Union and Luxembourg Grace Asirwatham met with Dr. Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) on September 24, 2020.

Old Hardians Association General Meeting

The General Meeting of the Old Hardians Association this year will be held at 10 am on November 8 at "Prof. Evan A. Hardy Center" No.511/1, Ratmalana strictly adhering to hygienic and preventive meas-

ures followed by a Fellowship Lunch.

The General Meeting of the Association which was scheduled to be held on March 29, 2020 had to be postponed due to the prevailing COVID-19 threat.

Annual Pulimood oration postponed

The annual Pulimood oration scheduled for October 06 at Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo has

been put off due to the current situation in the country. The new date will be notified later.

Mannar will be made renewable energy hub - Duminda



Solar, Wind, Grid Power Generation Projects Development State Minister Duminda Dissanayake paying a courtesy call on Mannar Bishop Fidelis Lionel Emmanuel Fernando at the Bishop's official residence recently.

Text and Pix by NIMAL WIJESINGHE.

Anuradhapura Central Corr.

The Mannar region will be converted into the hub of the country's renewable energy development activities, emphasized Solar, Wind, Grid Power Generation Projects Development State Minister Duminda Dissanayake.

The State Minister was speaking during a courtesy call on Mannar Bishop Fidelis Lionel Emmanuel Fernando at the Bishop's official residence recently.

Dissanayake said that once this plan is realized ministerial level talks with India will be held regarding supplying surplus wind power electricity to India in the near future. State Minister Dissanayake expressed his heartfelt condolences over last year's Easter Sunday terror attacks. He emphasized that the culprits will be punished once the special investigations are complete. Bishop Emmanuel thanked the government and the State Minister for demarcating the Mannar district as the apex renewable energy development centre in Sri Lanka.

Corrupt politicians will be brought to book - State Minister

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE



State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana

People should decide the fate of corrupt politicians of the previous regime. Some of them have once again entered Parliament through the people's mandate. One particular politician who was allegedly involved in corruption and malpractices in the pharmaceuticals industry during the previous regime has been proved beyond reasonable doubt, Pharmaceutical Production, Supply and Regulation State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana said. According to Prof. Jayasumana, the very politician who had corruption allegations levelled against him was elected to Parliament in the 2015 General Election. This is a very bad precedent. Therefore, it is up to the intelligent voters to make a wise choice by ensuring that such individuals with a tainted past are not elected to Parliament ever again.

"A person who is involved in corruption and malpractices and punished by the law should never be voted into Parliament," he said.

"Legal action will be taken against all those politicians involved in corruption and malpractices during the past irrespective of their current positions, past and present political affiliations, social status etc. This Government is of the view that such politicians should be brought to book in keeping with the country's," he added.



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Pharmaceutical self-sufficiency in four years

- State Minister Prof. Jayasumana

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

Excerpts from the recent interview the *Daily News* conducted with Pharmaceutical Production, Supply and Regulation State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana.

Q - What is the current situation of local drug production?

A - Sri Lanka imports drugs worth Rs. 130 billion annually. It is about 85 percent of the total annual drug requirement of the country. At the moment, local state and private sectors produce only 15 percent of the total drug requirement of the country. The State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC) owns a plant in Rathmalana and there are several other pharmaceutical manufacturing factories owned by private firms. They produce drugs required for the country.

Q - What are your future plans to increase local drug production?

A - We have multiple approaches. We are planning to establish a new plant for the SPMC in Rathmalana and there will be a budget proposal for that. The project will be completed within 24 months. This new plant will produce intraocular lenses, orthopaedic implants and some new drugs which are not produced in Sri Lanka at the moment. This will increase local drug production.

At the same time, joint ventures with the private sector, including local drug manufacturers and foreign investors, will be launched. We have already completed the first round of discussions and we will call expressions of interest to invite them.

Several other factories have already commenced the production of drugs. Within the next couple of months, we will open several more factories in collaboration with the SPMC and other local drug manufacturers. Within three years, Sri Lanka will be able to produce 50 percent of the total drug requirement of the country. In four years, Sri Lanka will be self-sufficient in drugs.

The pharmaceutical industry is one of the major areas that will be developed under the vision and mission of the current Government. We will establish two pharmaceutical manufacturing zones in Sri Lanka and one of them, which will be export-oriented, will be set up in Hambantota, close to the harbour. The other zone will be established at Oyamaduwa in the Anuradhapura District where the Deyata Kirula exhibition was held. Our target is to export pharmaceuticals to Eastern African and South East Asian regions. Some of the major pharmaceutical companies in the world have already expressed their interest to invest in the Hambantota zone. The project will create 5,000 new jobs for Sri Lankan youths. The country will be self-sufficient in pharmaceuticals in four years.

About 96 percent of the drugs used in the private health sector are imported. It is the responsibility of medical doctors to prescribe brands of drugs manufactured in Sri Lanka. At the same time, irrational use of drugs, especially antibiotics, by people is a major issue in the country.

Q - The National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) Act, as well as some officials, were criticized by the media during the past for

various irregularities. What is the current situation and future plans for the NMRA?

A - We can conduct an internal inquiry if there are any formal complaints. But at the moment, we have not received any formal complaint with regard to the top officials of the NMRA.

The regulation of cosmetic devices is not included in the NMRA Act of 2015. I informed the NMRA to formulate a new Cosmetic Act and the first draft of this new Act is almost ready. I have already sent this first draft to different stakeholders, including the Cosmetic Manufacturers' Association of Sri Lanka, Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) and several other interested parties. I will proceed after I receive their comments and observations. I hope within the first quarter of the next year (2021), we may be able to introduce new regulations for cosmetics in the country. It will be a part of the existing NMRA Act. We are planning to amend the current NMRA Act. Earlier, there was no strict time frame to register new drugs and formulas. Following the discussions with the NMRA, we have now introduced new time frames.

Q - During the previous regime, there were media reports on low-quality drug imports, especially cancer drugs and substandard drugs produced in shanties in some foreign countries. What is the current situation?

A - It is true that low-quality cancer drugs were imported to Sri Lanka during the previous regime and there were many irregularities. We are conducting internal inquiries and a report compiled by a Presidential Commission, which inquired about those irregularities, is already available. We hope to obtain legal advice in order to proceed further. We found that certain drugs imported to Sri Lanka during the previous regime had not been analyzed properly and there were failures in laboratory procedures. We updated and enhanced the laboratory procedures with the assistance of the Sri Lanka Institute of Nano Technology (SLINTEC), Sri Lanka Standard Institute (SLSI) and the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI). According to the NMRA Act of 2015, a quality regulation laboratory should be available in the country though no such lab has yet been established. Therefore, the essential laboratory tests which have to be performed on all imported drugs and locally-produced drugs before being dispatched to the market were not properly analyzed in the past. I solved this matter with the assistance of the SLINTEC, SLSI and ITI.

Q - What will be the actions taken against the malpractices and corruption took place in your subject area during the previous regime,

which have already been exposed with evidence by a Presidential Commission Report?

A - There is no politics involved in this issue. Every possible legal action will be taken against all culprits involved in corruption and malpractices irrespective of their current positions, past and present political affiliations and social status etc. This Government is in the view that irrespective of all factors mentioned above, they should be punished according to the legal framework of the country.

People of this country should decide the fate of corrupt politicians of the previous regime. They have been elected to Parliament through people's mandate. A famous politician lost his seat due to his alleged involvement in corruption and malpractices in the pharmaceutical industry in the past and that was proved beyond reasonable doubt. He came back to Parliament. He became the Health Minister.

This should never happen again. It is up to people's judiciary to make sure that such individuals are not elected to Parliament ever again. A person who is involved in corruption and malpractices and punished by the law after proving beyond doubt should not come to Parliament.

Q - What do you think about the possibilities available for rich, unqualified foreign MBBS degree holders to become doctors in Sri Lanka, who even do not possess four simple passes in the Advanced Level Examination?

A - All local and foreign MBBS degree holders should be qualified. It should be educational qualifications; it is not money that is considered to become an MBBS doctor. Unfortunately, the previous Health Minister, misusing some powers vested in him, influenced the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) through a third party. He controlled the quality of the medical education of Sri Lanka. Some persons appointed by him are still in those positions. They are not allowing anyone to regularize the process.

Some foreign MBBS graduates do not have at least three simple passes (3S) in the Advanced Level (Science Stream) Examination. Some of them failed in all three subjects.

Then, how come they become MBBS doctors and work in Sri Lanka? This is very unfair and also a huge challenge to free education and free health service in the country. It is a huge injustice to the people of Sri Lanka and the safety of their lives.

I extend my full support for anything that has to be done against these unqualified doctors and the process of creating them which involves money. They are dealing with humans; not with metals or something.



State Minister Prof. Jayasumana inspecting a pharmaceutical product. (File Photo)



Russia hails Sri Lankan graduate heroes

An event titled "Evening of Friendship" was held at the Russian Centre in Colombo, on September 25 dedicated to the resumption of activities of the centre after the previously introduced restrictions related to the epidemiological situation in recognition of the efforts of Russian / USSR graduates frontliners who fought against COVID-19.

The event was organized jointly with the Association of Sri Lankan Graduates from Socialist Countries and the Sri Lanka-Russia Friendship Society.

The Chief Guest of the evening was Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Environment- Sri Lanka, former Director General of Health Services, Vice Chairman of the 146th Executive Board of the WHO, who led the work to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 new coronavirus infection in Sri Lanka.

Additional Secretary (Medical Services) Ministry of Health Dr. Sunil de Alwis who has made a significant contribution to overcoming the threat of the pandemic in Sri Lanka attended as the Guest of Honour.

The event was attended by Susil Premajayantha, State Minister of Education Reforms, Promotion of Open Universities and Distance Learning, President of Sri Lanka - Russia Friendship Society, Yuri Materiy - Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Democratic



State Minister of Education Reforms, Promotion of Open Universities and Distance Learning Susil Premajayantha being welcomed on the occasion.

Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and to the Republic of Maldives and Dr. Saman Weerasinghe, former Sri Lankan Ambassador in Russia, General Secretary of Sri Lanka - Russia Friendship Society.

The official part of the event comprised the presentation on the contribution of the outstanding Soviet/Russian Alumni to the fight against COVID-19 in Sri Lanka, a photo exhibition, and a solemn ceremony of presenting souvenirs to the graduates, to acknowledge their selfless efforts which have brought people's life in Sri Lanka back to normal.

Addressing the audience, Anastasia Khokhlova, First Secretary of the Russian Embassy and Director

of the Russian Centre in Colombo, noted that Russia acknowledges its graduates as one of the main assets of bilateral cooperation.

"I'm honoured to acknowledge that the utmost contribution in this battle against the pandemic threat was carried out by the Russian/ Soviet alumni, Dr. Anil Jasinghe and Dr. Sunil De Alwis alongside with many other graduates of various spheres of education, who did a great lot to successfully prevent the spread of the dangerous disease in Sri Lanka. It is the best compliment for us that the fundamental base for your utmost professionalism was laid at the Russian universities and cradled by our country", she said.

Tokens of appreciation were solemnly presented by Yuri Materiy, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Sri Lanka in presence of Susil Premajayantha, State Minister of Education Reforms, Promotion of Open Universities and Distance Learning, President of Sri Lanka - Russia Friendship Society and Dr. Saman Weerasinghe, former Sri Lankan Ambassador in Russia, General Secretary of Sri Lanka - Russia Friendship Society to acknowledge the contribution of:

- Dr. Anil Jasinghe - Secretary, Ministry of Environment- Sri Lanka Former Director General of Health Services, Vice Chairman of the 146th Executive Board of the World Health Organization
 - Dr. Sunil De Alwis - Addl. Secretary (Medical Services), Ministry of Health
 - Dr. Ruwan Wijayamuni - Chief Medical Officer of Health of the CMC
 - Dr. Ravi Basnayake - Senior Superintendent of Police, Police Hospital of Sri Lanka
 - Dr. Geethika Guruge - Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Department, CMC
 - Dr. Dinu Guruge - Regional Epidemiologists, Colombo CMC
 - Dr. Dhammika Adhikarawatta - Public Health Officer, CMC
 - Dr. Kapila Sooriyaarachchi - Head of Health Promotion Division, Public Health Department
 - Dr. Sudanthika Wijesooriya - In Charge of Corona unit, North Colombo Teaching Hospital
 - Dr. Theja Huruggamuwa - Covid Unit, General Hospital Kalutara
- A special feature of the event was a cultural programme presented by the students of the School of Music and the School of Ballet and Dance of the Russian Centre in Colombo.



The Chief Guest of the evening, Environment Ministry Secretary, former Director General of Health Services and Vice Chairman of the 146th Executive Board of the WHO Dr. Anil Jasinghe presented with a memento.

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Special programme to prevent COVID-19 spread in country

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Health Ministry has taken measures to implement a special programme to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 in the country.

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi yesterday instructed the relevant health officials to implement a planned programme focusing on the Gampaha District.

She further instructed that the necessary measures be taken to conduct PCR tests currently being carried out in the laboratories 24 hours a day. This was stated at a special discussion held at the Health Ministry yesterday to discuss the further measures needed to be taken to control the COVID-19 spread and strengthen the treatment of the virus in the Gampaha district.

Several decisions have already been taken to control the spread of the virus within the Gampaha District.

Accordingly, measures have been taken to utilize the Nuwangoda Hospital and Iranavala COVID-19 Treatment Centres to provide treatment to infected persons in the Gampaha District and the Gampaha Hospital to admit and test patients suspected to be infected with COVID-19.

PCR testing of nearly 2,000 employees of the Divulapitiya Garment Factory in the Gampaha District and their close associates as well as school children and PCR tests of the staff of the factories located in the Gampaha District were carried out yesterday.

A decision has also been taken to deploy a special team of officials from the Ministry of Health to monitor and strengthen the COVID-19 treatment services in hospitals in the Gampaha District and also to increase the number of PCR tests performed



daily and providing the required safety clothing and equipment to the medical staff who perform such operations without any shortage.

The Health Minister further pointed out that if a person shows any symptoms such as fever or cold, they can contact the 24-hour active "Suwaseriya" 1999 Health Advice Service for medical advice. In addition, the 1990 "Suwaseriya" ambulance service was operational 24 hours a day.

Secretary to the Ministry of Health Major General Dr. Sanjewa Munasinghe, Acting Director General of Health Services Dr.S. Sridharan, Additional Secretary (Public Health Services) Dr. Lakshmi Somatunga, Additional Secretary (Development) Janaka Sri Chandragupta and many other officials of the Ministry also participated in this discussion.

Karu in letter to PM states:

Bring in amendment to strengthen auditing process

Former Speaker and Chairman of the National Movement for Just Society Karu Jayasuriya in a letter to the Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said the Government should bring in amendment which will strengthen the auditing process.

"The Government should not amend the pro-

visions relating to the Auditor General, if it actually wants to strengthen the auditing process," Jayasuriya said.

Jayasuriya was referring to the Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's statement over the Opposition allegations over the 20th Amendment.

He said that a set of pro-

posals to be brought to the 20th Amendment at the Committee Stage have been submitted to the Court.

"It is unbelievable that positive amendments would be introduced to the 20th Amendment with regard to state auditing at this stage," the letter stated.

Patali's driver granted bail

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Colombo High Court yesterday ordered the withdrawal of the warrant and granted bail to former Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka's driver Dilum Thuthith Kumara over the case filed for an alleged motor accident that took place in 2016 at Rajagiriya.

When the case was taken up before High Court Judge Damith Thotawatta, accused Dilum Thuthith Kumara surrendered to the court filing a motion through a lawyer.

Accordingly, the Colombo High Court judge granted bail to the accused on an additional surety.

At a previous hearing, Dilum Thuthith Kumara, the driver of former Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka, who has been named as the second

accused in the case, was issued a warrant by the Colombo High Court for failing to appear in the court.

Accordingly, the High Court judge ordered the Colombo Crimes Division to arrest accused Dilum Thuthith Kumara and produce him before the court for not appearing before the court.

The case will be taken up again on October 12.

The case was filed against former Minister Patali Champika, his driver Thuthith Dilum Kumara and ASP Sudath Asmadala over the hit-and-run accident at Rajagiriya in 2016.

On previous occasions, indictments were served on the three accused and ordered to release each accused on a cash bail of Rs.10,000 and two sureties

of Rs.500,000. The indictment comprising 16 charges was filed against all three accused on charges of fabricating false evidence, conspiracy of fabricating evidence and submitting false reports to the Court.

The main charge is relating to conspiring and fabricating false evidence to claim that it was Dilum Thuthith Kumara who was driving the vehicle which caused the accident and another charge relates to him allegedly conspiring to conceal evidence in order to protect MP Patali Champika from legal penalty.

ASP Sudath Asmadala was charged with producing a false report to the Colombo Magistrate's Court in order to protect former MP Patali Champika from legal penalty.

'Viable solution needed to prevent flooding'

Committees will be set up comprising the representatives of public institutes to end the culture of distributing rations during floods, said Provincial Councils and Local Government Affairs State Minister Rear Admiral (Rtd.) Dr. Sarath Weerasekera.

Weerasekera said that people in Colombo have been seriously affected during the rainy season for many years and a viable solution should be given to end the culture of distributing rations during times of floods by setting up Committees.

He explained that long term and short term remedies are available to control floods and long term remedies are formed by the Line Ministries.

The State Minister said 70% of the impact of floods is due to the absence of short term remedies.

According to the State Minister, it has been identified that the failure to clean the drainage system and ditches for years and unauthorized constructions built on them is the major issue for this situation.

He said that the roads should be constructed in a manner where water free flow of water is not hampered and a Committee should be formed collectively by the public institutes and civil activists to take measures in this regard.

A Committee was set up for this task and was advised to meet at least once a month.

Jinnah Scholarships awarded to 304 students selected for universities



Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa handing over a certificate to a recipient. Picture by Ashraf A. Samad.

Three hundred and four students selected for Sri Lankan universities were awarded Annual Jinnah Scholarships at an event hosted by High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka, Major General (Rtd.) Muhammad Saad Khattak, at the BMICH last Friday.

The award-winning scholars were given Rs.50,000 each for their expenses of their first

year of university life. Minister of Sports, Namal Rajapaksa, distributed the awards to the scholars in the presence of State Minister of Education Susil Premajayantha. Rajapaksa thanked the Pakistan Government for the gesture and assured that the two countries would march forward in strengthening their bilateral relations in all fields of mutual interests.

JAYAWEERA BANDARA

A VERSATILE LAWYER

Jayaweera Bandara, a Lawyer by profession, passed away recently after a brief illness.

Jayaweera Bandara, who was born and bred in Dehiwala, Hill Street to be exact, was known to me for a very long period of time. Jayaweera Bandara became associated with my family consequent to his marriage to Chandana Jayaweera Bandara, a Lawyer by profession herself.

Jayaweera Bandara's late father was a teacher by profession and served in the staff of Royal College. I remember my late father an old Royalist referring to Senior Jayaweera Bandara as a strict disciplinarian.

I got to know that the late erudite gentleman was very free with his cane and in the event of a revelation of an act of indiscipline, and if the student concerned did not admit to the same, he would cane the entire class. Jayaweera Bandara's late sister, Indrani, was a lawyer in the corporate sector and his brother-in-law, Chula, was also a lawyer practiced in the Labour courts.

Jayaweera Bandara's wife, who has been a long-term friend of my family (whom I refer to as 'Aunty Chandi') hails from Chilaw. Her late father, Samson Rajapaksean, an advocate, was a close family friend of my late maternal

grandfather. The family relationship dates back even before this, with Aunty Chandi's late mother Lilian Clara de Silva Rajapakse's family being connected to my late great grandmother.

Aunty Chandi has two brothers and two sisters in her family who are all professionals, two of them being Lawyers. She had met Jayaweera Bandara when he had been stationed in Chilaw as the state prosecutor from the Attorney-General's Department.

Consequent to their marriage, late uncle Jayaweera has been closely associated with my family. A past pupil of Isipathana College, Colombo, he captained the school's first cricket team. Uncle Jayaweera excelled in the game of cricket at college, being classified as an all-rounder; he was also adjudged as the best bowler. Uncle Jayaweera was also the first advocate from Isipathana College.

Consequent to taking oaths in 1972, he joined the Attorney-General's Department. He resigned from the department prior to me joining same, and his tenure in the Attorney-General's Department could be more aptly described by his superiors and peers at the time.

I recollect Uncle Jayaweera referring to the Attorney-General's Department as, "It is a unique place where one could



serve the country and its people, if one carries out his duties with dedication and integrity."

I remember Uncle Jayaweera was very enthusiastic when I joined Sri Lanka Law College. He took it upon himself to tutor me in the subjects of Criminal Law and Evidence. He espoused the principles of evidence and relevancy. I remember him referring to me rather disdainfully with a tinge of sarcasm when I took an extremely long time to grasp a particular point of Law. He was a very quick-tempered person, and I believe I got off rather leniently due to the long-term mutual friendship that he and Aunt Chandi had with my late dear parents.

Uncle Jayaweera was a man of few words, rather reserved; but when he takes a liking to you, he becomes your lifelong friend. On many occasions during family events, I used to discuss many subjects with him: namely Law,

the present status of the law, politics, and cricket.

Uncle Jayaweera used to always sit in a place where he could observe the proceedings, and he was always a very keen observer and gave each and every person who comes to the function a cursory glance from head to toe, quietly observing the happenings and proceedings going on.

Uncle Jayaweera and Aunty Chandi have two sons, Gunika and Dr. Dinushka. Dr. Dinushka is married to Sudeshika, and they have two daughters: Ovini and Vihini. Gunika, who is a lawyer by profession, has, in Uncle Jayaweera's own words, built up his legal prowess and capabilities very rapidly.

Uncle Jayaweera lived his life by the 'Dhamma', and as a dutiful husband, father, and true friend. He passed away peacefully on August 21. May he attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.

DITTHADE ALWIS

2 Year Remembrance

Thrishamalar Sittampalam
1954 - 2018

Two years have passed and every single day you have been dearly missed.

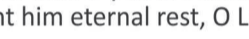
Everything you have taught me guides me, to push forward. I am so lucky to have had an amazing mom. I will forever try to make you proud. I miss you so much.

You will always and forever be in our hearts. Our thoughts and prayers are always with you. Your Loving Daughter Nirupa

3rd Year Remembrance

Eng. Nimal Rajapakse

Former Refinery Manager, Oil Refinery Sapugaskanda, Past President, OBA Maris Stella College, Colombo Branch Past District Governor, Lions Clubs International Dist. 30681



02.10.1947 - 06.10.1917

Another year comes to an end

No longer in our lives to share

But in our hearts you are always there

Grant him eternal rest, O Lord!

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by,

Geetha & Children



INVITATION FOR BIDS

National Lotteries Board

Ministry of Finance

PROCUREMENT FOR SUPPLY OF PAPER RECYCLING SERVICE FOR THE NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD FOR THE PERIOD OF 01 YEAR

The Chairman on behalf of the Department Procurement Committee (DPC) of the National Lotteries Board (NLB) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for supply of Paper Recycling Service for National Lotteries Board for the period of 01 Year.

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.

The Successful bidder should be able to shred expired lottery tickets by using shredder machine. This process should be carried out every 2 months.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from AGM (Procurement), Procurement Division, 1st Floor, National Lotteries Board, No. 32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01 (Tel -0114607020) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs on any working day.

A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written request to the address below from 06.10.2020 to 20.10.2020 from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs on any working day upon payment of One Thousand Rupees (Rs. 1,000.00) (with Vat). The method of payment should be in cash.

Bids shall be delivered to the address given below on or before 14.30 hrs on 21.10.2020. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids shall be opened soon after the closing of bids, at the Administration Division, 5th Floor, National Lotteries Board, No.32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01 in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend in person. All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security of Forty Thousand Rupees (Rs. 40,000.00) and it should be valid till 19.01.2021.

The Successful bidder should furnish a performance bond which is a sum equivalent to Two Hundred and Sixty Thousand Rupees (Rs.260,000.00). The performance bond should be valid for a period of 12 months from the date of awarding the letter of confirmation.

The Documents should be sent either via registered post or by hand over under the sealed cover marked "Bids for supply of Paper Recycling Service (NLB/SUP/08/PRS/2020)" should be written on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

The Pre-bid meeting will be held at National Lotteries Board, No.32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01 on 13.10.2020 at 10.00 hrs.

The Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
National Lotteries Board,
No. 32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha,
Colombo 01.



Ocean View Development Company (Pvt) Ltd

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

SECURITY SERVICE

Ocean View Development Company (Pvt) Ltd is calling quotations for the security service at Tower Building, Colombo 04.

- The applicant should be registered under the Ministry of Defence and should have a minimum of 03 years experience.

Applications can be obtained from the below address by paying a non-refundable fee of Rs.1000/= and a refundable deposit of Rs.4000/=.

Duly completed applications should be forwarded via registered post or deposited in the box placed at the below address on or before 30.10.2020.

- The service applied for should be mentioned at the top left hand corner of the envelope.

The decision of the Board of Directors of the Ocean View Development Company (Pvt) Limited shall be the final.

Conditions apply*

For further details please contact Manager (Maintenance) 0776210466 / 0112058226

Chairman / Managing Director,
Ocean View Development Company (Pvt) Ltd,
No 25 1/2, Ocean Tower Building,
Station Road, Colombo 04.

All Daham schools to remain closed

KOTADENIYAWA GROUP CORR, KALPITIYA CORR AND WELLASSA GROUP CORR.

The Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious Affairs and Cultural Affairs yesterday said that all Buddhist, Islamic Catholic and Hindu Dhamma schools will remain closed until further notice due to the prevailing situation in the country. Sputum Samples were taken from the students and the teachers of the school where the COVID-19 infected child was studying.

Samples from 98 students and the teachers of the schools were taken for COVID-19 test. The students of the class where the infected child was studying and the entire academic staff of the school were directed to the PCR test yesterday.

Samples are to be collected from all students of the school based on the results of these samples, an official of the Minuwangoda MOH said.

Meanwhile, Kalpitiya ASP Dumal Weerasinghe yesterday said the family members of the garment factory employee who tested positive, were self quarantined at their homes.

Obituaries

FERNANDO - SHALINDRA - Son of late Raymond Fernando & Helan Murial Perera, beloved husband of Deepani Athukorala, precious father of Jananga, Jayangi & Anushanga, everloving brother of Devika, Deepika & Sohiha, Past Pupil of Maris Stella College Negombo and owner of Meepura Wheel Alignment Centre, passed away peacefully on 4th October. Remains lie at 220, Colombo Rd, Negombo. Funeral will take place at 3.00 p.m. on the 7th of October 2020 at Bolawalana Roman Catholic Cemetery. 061337

PERERA - EDWIN - Beloved husband of late Lily, father of Roshan & Suresh, brother of late Cyril & late Vincent, father-in-law of Daya, grandfather of Lakmini, Dilshan and grandfather-in-law of Heshan, expired on 4th October 2020. Remains lie at Jayaratne Funeral Parlour, Borella from 4 p.m. today. Cremation at General Cemetery, Borella, on 6th October 2020 at 4 p.m. 061539



Anuradhapura North Mega Water Project expedited

ANURADHAPURA ADDITIONAL CORR. AND ANURADHAPURA ADDITIONAL DISTRICT GROUP CORR.

Steps are under way to accelerate the construction work of the Anuradhapura North Mega Water Project. This is a major step taken under the concept of providing potable drinking water to every household in the country.

The estimated cost of the project is Rs.11.5 billion. The project's construction work was at a standstill during the period of previous regime, but now it has been resumed following the construction of a water purification plant in the area.

State Minister Shehan Semasinghe recently held an inspection tour at the construction site. He told the *Daily News* that about

25,000 families in the Medawachchiya, Rambewa, and Ethakada Divisional Secretariat Divisions are benefited from the project. Furthermore, the Mahakanadarawa Reservoir is to be used as the main water source for the project, with additional water pumped in to the reservoir under Moragahakanada scheme, he added.

Semasinghe said that a number of families in the Mihintale area would also be provided drinking water under the water project. According to him, the Moragahakanada scheme's water management system, which was not properly implemented by the previous government, would be readjusted to provide drinking and irrigation water to more people.



State Minister Shehan Semasinghe inspecting the Anuradhapura North Mega Water Project. Pictures by Anuradhapura Additional Corr. and Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.



IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR TUESDAY OCTOBER 6
A.H.M.D NAWAZ (J)(P/CA)
SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J.
COURT NO. 301 AT 10.00 A.M.
TO BE MENTIONED
1. 97/19 Writ of Cert
2. 182/19 Writ of Cert
3. 307/19 Writ of Cert
4. 427/19 Writ of Cert
5. 556/19 Writ of Cert
6. 36/19 TAX with TAX 44/19
7. 09/20 TAX
8. 10/18 RII

FOR SUPPORT
1. 376/19 Writ of Cert
2. 435/19 Writ of Cert
3. 501/19 Writ of Cert
4. 27/20 Writ of Cert
5. 61/20 Writ of Cert
6. 135/20 Writ of Cert
7. 212/20 Writ of Cert
8. 352/20 Writ of Cert with 353/20, 354/20
9. 369/20 Writ of Cert
10. 03/20 LTA

NOTICE RETURNABLE
1. 495/19 Writ of Cert
2. 521/19 Writ of Cert
3. 340/20 Writ of Cert
FOR ARGUMENT
1. 109/19 Writ of Cert
2. 173/20 Writ of Cert
3. 01/19 WKF
K.K. WICKRAMASINGHE (J.)
DEVIKA ABAYARATHNE J.
COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M.
FOR INQUIRY
1. 02/20 BA
2. 03/20 BA
FOR ARGUMENT
1. 157 - 158/09 HC
2. 263/12 HC
3. 149/15 HC
4. 209/17 HC
5. 409/17 HC
6. 163/18 HC
7. 165/18 HC
A. L. S. GOONERATNE J.
DR. RUWAN FERNANDO (J)
COURT NO. 204 AT 10.00 A.M.
TO BE MENTIONED
1. 29/16 PHC
2. 85/16 PHC
3. 16/17 PHC
4. 17/17 PHC
5. 18/17 PHC
6. 02/19 BOR

FOR SUPPORT
1. 19/20 PA
NOTICE RETURNABLE
1. 10/17 PHC
FOR ARGUMENT
1. 146/15 PHC
2. 209/15 PHC
3. 32/19 PA
ACHALA WEN-GAPPULI J.

K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J)
COURT NO. (110) AT 10.00 A.M.
FOR JUDGMENT
1. 18 - 22/13 HC (K. Priyantha Fernando J.)
TO BE MENTIONED
1. 297 - 301/14 HC
2. 218/19 HC
3. 332/19 HC
4. 362 - 363/19

FOR ARGUMENT
1. 190/15 PHC WITH PHC 193/15, 194/15, 197/15, 201/15, 202/15
2. 300 -301/15 HC
3. 64/16 HC
4. 454/17 HC
5. 466/17 HC
ACHALA WEN-GAPPULI J.
COURT NO. (110) AT 02.00 P.M.
TO BE RESUMED
1. 612/10 Writ of Cert with WR 611/10 MAHINDA SAMAYAWARDHANA J.
ARJUNA OBEYESEKERE J.
COURT NO. (206) AT 10.00 A.M.
FOR JUDGMENT
1. 275/17 Writ of Cert (Mahinda Samayawardhana J.)
2. 276/17 Writ of Cert (Mahinda Samayawardhana J.)

TO BE MENTIONED
1. 90/18 Writ of Cert
FOR ARGUMENT
1. 166/18 Writ of Cert
2. 172/18 Writ of Cert
3. 364/18 Writ of Cert
IN THE COURT OF CIVIL APPEAL WESTERN PROVINCE (COLOMBO) LIST OF CASES FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6
LAFFAR THAHIR (H.C.J.)
SAMPATH B. ABAYAKOON (H.C.J.)
(AT 10.00 A.M.)
FOR JUDGMENT
264/15 (F) HCCA/Colombo Laffar Thahir (H.C.J.)
TO BE MENTIONED
295/15 (F) HCCA/Colombo 31/18 (F) HCCA/Colombo 07/19 RA HCCA/Colombo

FOR SUPPORT
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The price of complacency

It is too early yet to jump to the conclusion if we are, indeed, in the throes of a second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic. However now is the time to redouble all efforts to ensure the health guidelines that were put in place of the early days of the virus in this country is strictly adhered to if our worst fears are not to come to pass.

We say this because it is by pure chance that the detection of the first community spread of Covid-19 case in two moths came about when a lady supervisor of a leading garment factory in Minuwangoda tested positive after been subjected to a cursory PCR test on leaving hospital to which she was admitted for some other illness. It was later found that her daughter too had contracted the virus following which all members of the family together with some 600 factory employees were placed under quarantine. Two other employees of the same garment factory who had returned home to Punguduthivu in Jaffna too had been put under self-quarantine together with 19 other first contacts of the duo. A search is also on to identify the passengers in which the two employees travelled all the way to the north following the factory supervisor testing positive for Covid-19.

According to Army Commander Lt General Shavendra Silva who also heads the Coronavirus Special Task Force they are now in the process of tracing the source that infected the factory supervisor which certainly is a difficult task given that it was a chance detection and there is no knowing for how long she had been carrying the virus and apart from the immediate family and her charges and associates in the factory who else she had been in contact with for according to the Lt. General a large number outsiders obviously had been circulating in the areas. For all intents and purposes the carrier could be an outsider making it doubly difficult to trace the source. A curfew had been clamped in Minuwangoda, Divulapitiya and Veyangoda where child was schooling as a precaution to contain the virus, assuming of course that the source was within their confines. But like the Lt. General told a private TV channel last morning they are yet to determine the source and they were awaiting the PCR tests carried out on several hundred persons who are suspected to have been in close contact with the victim. At the time of writing the reports of the PCR testing were yet to be submitted and it is thereafter that the true extent of the seriousness of the situation could be gauged.

Such a sorry state of affairs would certainly have not come to pass if the public paid heed to the repeated warnings of the health experts not to let their guard down and follow the guidelines put in place, even though the Coronavirus, on the face of it, may have left our shores, based on the fears of a real possibility of the virus making a comeback in a second wave. However, in typical Sri Lankan style, after the initial vigilance and cautionary approach it did not take long to get back to square one, once the initial threat was seen off which made one wonder, if, after all, we were really amidst a deadly pandemic that has already claimed over one million lives the world over. Face masks were gradually dispensed with and the distance rule appeared to be a thing of the past with the reopening of offices and commercial establishments. Ditto for hotels, eateries and kiosks which started serving meals indoors contrary to the guidelines that only "take aways" are permitted. Public transport too followed suit with private buses carrying their usual 'loads' although the stipulation was that passengers would be limited to only seating capacity. Besides, the law enforcement themselves were guilty of letting the public get away with flouting health guidelines after the early days of the Coronavirus. Had the checks and restrictions been enforced with the same strictness and rigidity as before the present situation could easily have been averted. One should also not lose sight of the fact that quarantine centres are not limitless and capacities could shrink fast if there is a serious outbreak of the Coronavirus in this country. At present there are 72 quarantine centres which accommodate 7,000 persons and the number could grow at any moment.

The Health Ministry should get cracking without delay in devising emergency measures with the same commitment and resourcefulness its staff displayed in fighting the first outbreak of the Coronavirus ensuring all health guidelines that were in place being strictly enforced.

No doubt, the fears encountered during first phase of Coronavirus will teach the citizens to think anew regarding the precautions to be taken to protect themselves, health-wise, particularly the health guidelines to be adhered to in their interactions with society. It also brought about a new outlook in the people and had forced them out of their set routines and behavioural patterns, hitherto taken for granted. Hopefully, this experience will hold them in good stead to meet the challenge of any second wave on the horizon.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

This is a time for facts, not fear. This is a time for rationality, not rumours. This is a time for solidarity, not stigma - WHO chief on COVID-19



The 19th Amendment and its implications

Guest Column

Professor
SARATH MATHILAL DE SILVA



Part 3

By clause 9 of the 19th Amendment Chapter VIII (Cabinet of Ministers) which dealt with executive in the 1978 Constitution was repealed and replaced with a new Chapter VIII. The executive organs of Government in the 19th Amendment comprised (1) The President, (2) Prime Minister and (3) the Cabinet. The President is regarded as a member of the Cabinet who shall be the Head of the Cabinet (Article 42(3)).

The President appoints the Prime Minister from the Members of Parliament, who in the President's opinion is most likely to command the confidence of Parliament (Article 42 (4)). Any Cabinet Minister may through a notification in the Gazette delegate to any Minister not in the Cabinet, any power or duty pertaining to any subject or function assigned to such Cabinet Minister (19th Amendment, Article 44(5)). These provisions widen the scope of activity of a Cabinet Minister. It would have been better, where the Cabinet Minister makes such delegation, the Cabinet Minister had the prior concurrence of the President to prevent confusion, overlapping, conflict and maladministration that may affect the government machinery.

The repeal and the replacement of Article 61E, found also in the Seventeenth Amendment, provides that the President shall appoint Heads of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force without the approval of the Constitutional Council, but he shall require the approval of the Constitutional Council, subject to which he shall appoint the Attorney-General and the Inspector General of Police. The President's power to appoint the three heads of the Armed Forces is derived from his position as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. (19th Amendment, Article 30(1)).

The President has the power by Proclamation to summon, prorogue and dissolve Parliament. (Clause 17 of the 19th Amendment). However, the President shall not proclaim the dissolution of Parliament before there has been a lapse of

four years and six months from the date of first meeting of that Parliament. However, the President may proclaim an earlier dissolution whenever two-thirds of the whole number of members of the Parliament, when counted, including those who had been absent; had voted in support of the resolution (19th Amendment, Article 70(1) and the Proviso)). The adverse effect of this provision has been well noted in the recent past.

Article 78 of the Constitution requires every Bill to be published in the Gazette at least 7 days prior to it being placed on the Order Paper. The 19th Amendment has increased that period to 14 days, as inadequacy of seven days was experienced on this matter. The 19th Amendment has made an important change in Chapter XIII of the 1978 Constitution which deals with Referenda. That change has been brought about by repealing the whole of paragraph (2) of Article 85. That paragraph recognized the President's power at his sole discretion, to submit to a Referendum a Bill which had been rejected by Parliament. That power has now been taken away from the President by repealing that second paragraph of Article 85. In the context of the principle of cheque and balances between the President and Parliament, the President being the Executive President with the mandate of the people deserves that power.

The Right of Access to Information

The 1978 Constitution in Chapter III - Fundamental

Rights embodies a number of enforceable fundamental rights before the Supreme Court. These fundamental rights cover in the main civil and political rights (Articles 10 -14), the limitations of which are also found in Article 15 of the Constitution.

The long felt a new addition to our FR Chapter is the Right of Access to Information incorporated as Article 14A under the 19th amendment. This fundamental right is really a salutary addition to our FR Chapter. That Constitutional right of access to information (RTI) is provided to every citizen to obtain information held by a wide variety of public authorities that control its sources. These sources are described in the amended Article 14A of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. It lists the following sources as:

(a) the State, a Ministry or any Government Department or any statutory body established or created by or under any law; (b) any Minister of a Province or any department or any statutory body established or created by a statute of a Provincial Council (c) any local authority; and (d) any other person, who is in possession of such information relating to any institution referred to in sub-paragraph (a) (b) or (c).

In terms of Article 14A (2) no restrictions shall be placed on the right declared and recognized by this Article, other than such restrictions prescribed by law as are necessary in a democratic society. In this Article citizen includes a body whether incorporated or unincorporated if not less than three - fourths of the members of such body are citizens.

In terms of provisions of Article 14A of the 19th amendment, the Right to information Act No. 12 of

2016 was passed on August 14, 2016, and become operational on March 3, 2017. It provides a detailed exposition of some of the procedural and substantive implications of a citizens' right of access to information.

Several other provisions of the 19th Amendment

■ The Supreme Courts' jurisdiction (Article 122) with regard to urgent Bills so designated by the Cabinet of Ministers has been repealed without replacing provisions (Clause 30). Since the Supreme Court jurisdiction in this matter is provided for in that Article in the original Article 122, this original Article may be retained.

■ The original Article 92 found in the 1978 Constitution in paragraph (a) placed the requirement to achieve a minimum age of thirty years upon a person who wishes to contest, as a Presidential Candidate. While the 17th Amendment made no changes to Article 92 of the Constitution, the 18th Amendment amended that Article by the repeal of Paragraph (c) of that Article. The 19th Amendment increased that age from 30 years to thirty-five years (19th Amendment, Article 92(1)(a)). It appears that there is no rationale for this change from the age of 30 years to 35 years, other than personal views.

■ An important amendment to Article 91 found in the 19th Amendment is the exclusion of 'a citizen of Sri Lanka who is also a citizen of any other country' to be elected as a Member of Parliament. (Article 91(4) (viii)). Any dilution to the existing law as introduced by the 19th Amendment which bans dual citizen from being elected to Parliament need be carefully reviewed as such dilution may infringe on the constitutionally accepted principles of peoples' sovereignty, nationality and franchise.

In the final analysis, the 19th Amendment by the public experience is really a great obstacle to the proper governance of the country, to the proper national development and maintaining law and order and national security. Surprisingly, the 19th Amendment blocked the acceptance by the Executive President, being also Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ministerial

portfolio of National Defence which needs to be corrected.

The President's powers relating to summoning and dissolution of Parliament under the 19th Amendment also created deep issues. It is undoubted that auditing and procurement processes are vital and there are laws in place to manage them. But two Commissions - The Audit Commission and The National Procurement Commission under the 19th Amendment by their conduct have not proved to be of vital institutions.

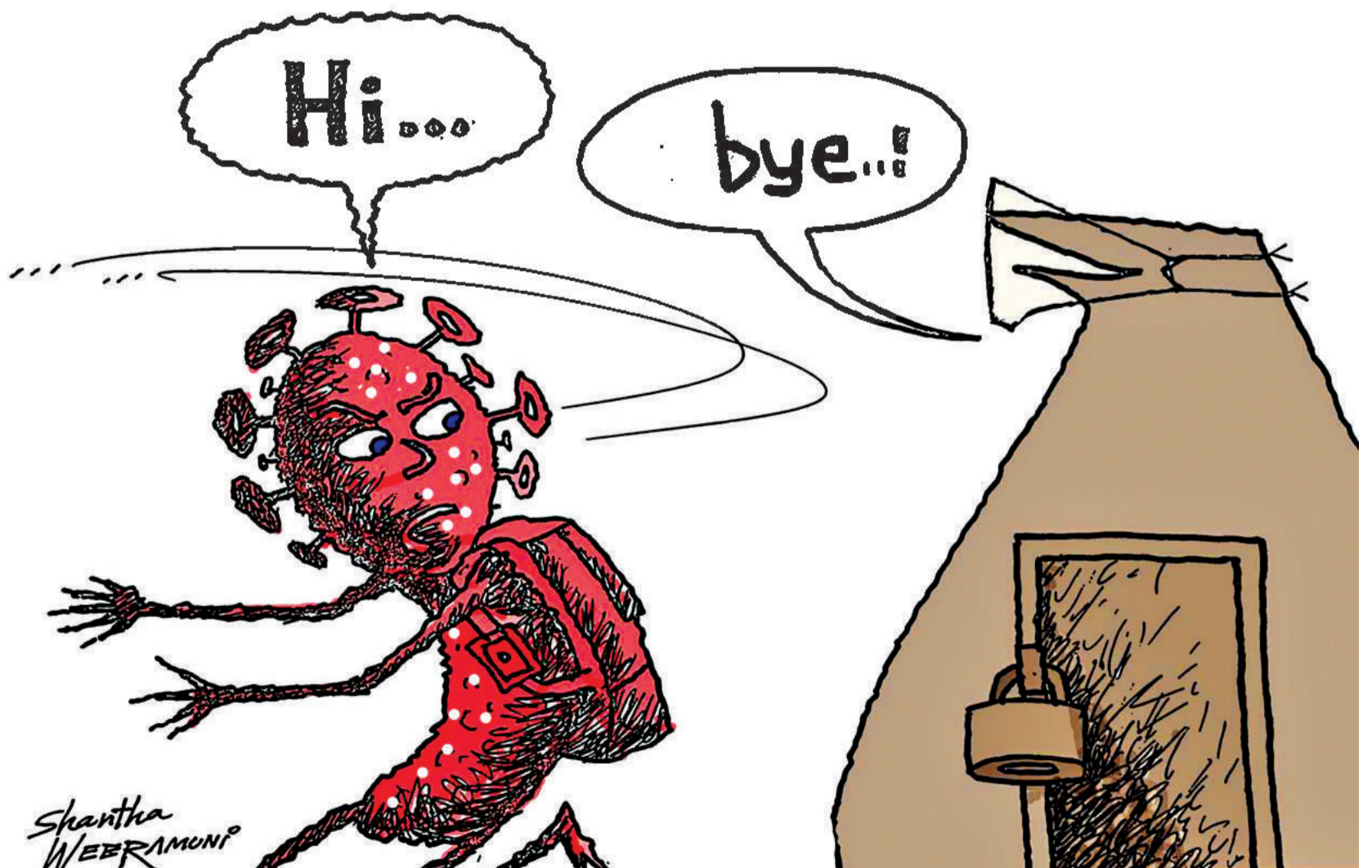
Outcomes even without politics are visible to the people. The 19th Amendment does not appear to have been drafted even to realize the true mandate received by the then government due to some element of malice ignoring the realization of the true 'good governance' principles. It failed, except a few, not only in principle but also in practice due to rivalry politics.

The 19th Amendment led to three power centres - the President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker within the government which in turn weakened governance and was detrimental to the country. This is mainly due to inherent technical issues of the 19th Amendment further worsened by the unhealthy attitudes of those exercising three power centres and application of different political ideology.

The inclusion of civil activists in the Constitutional Council also created issues and they proved themselves to be unfit at that top decision making body. Since the Constitutional Council led by the Speaker through its powers has restrained and overstepped the due executive powers of the President mandated by the people, Constitutional Council should be given only observational powers and failing which President can go ahead with such appointments.

Therefore it is recommended that leaving several salutary provisions of the 19th Amendment remained unchanged as stated at the beginning, the rest of the 19th Amendment be abolished by enacting a new Amendment to meet the urgent need subject to enacting a well thought Constitution as per public mandate.

Concluded



Garden Agro-Engineering, the best champion to fight the Nation's Hunger

Dr. C. G. ILANGAKOON
International Treaty Law

Sri Lanka enjoyed more-than-enough development intelligence, exerted by multitudinous expertise and contradicting politics. Yet, what was able to be succeeded by all of them represents no development independence. Subsequent to the capturing of political power by the UNP leadership in 1977 and the introduction of imported and competition-based free market economy, the well set-forth self-sufficiency orientation of Sri Lanka was castrated and the world market began to flex its muscle on the best centres of the country's economy.

One domain it destroyed was our independence of food security. The alien vested interest, the British colonialism being at the forefront of it, well comprehended that our strength was in the independence of food security and in order to paralyze the nation in its spirit and soul, what must be attacked to was not anything else, but the thrice-harvest possibility.

We enjoyed this disgusting economic trap for an unbearable period of 43 years, in it, being proud of relishing imported food and being nourished with the stupid courage of condemning our own culture of vegetation and poultry farming. The damage done is tremendous. The majority of the knowledge of intelligence failed to realize this and those who realized it entertained indifference.

Nevertheless, the year 2016 made the much needed difference. The difference was triggered by the master-mind of best world politics Basil Rajapaksa, with the blessings of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, who gave the political leadership and of Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who exerted the military leadership in the war against LTTE terrorists. It was the year, in which the "Podu Jana Peramuna of Sri Lanka (The PJP)SL) was formed. There he got and led the best brains of Sri Lanka to ink the "Economic Constitution" of the island and structured the fundamental policies and guidelines to condition the initiatives and cause the development of the Motherland.

People-oriented programme

The outdated, country-destroying and imported doctrines of the Western intelligence were deposited in the dustbin and the authentic development-friendly, prosperity-producing, people-oriented and independence-generating

policy-frame of wisdom was galvanized into action. What the new wisdom saw was, not that which is not, but, that which is. This new wisdom vision was peopled, by obtaining their twofold mandate. One in 2019 Presidential election and the second in the 2020 general election.

The Podu Jana Peramuna Election Manifesto writes: "In conformity with our economic policy, the basic foundation of the agriculture is: (1) To stop relinquishing the agriculture by the citizen of Sri Lanka and finding other employments (2) To promote those engaged in other vocations in to attraction of agriculture itself (3) To build a developed agricultural economy in small land spaces, with less production cost and employing sophisticated technological strategies (4) to obtain a bulky harvest with best quality. To achieve the above, the presently available all policies shall be examined into and a National Agricultural Policy shall be formulated, with no space to be amended and augmented from season to season" - (The Country Building Gotabaya Prosperity Vision, Sinhala Version, Chapter 5 - "People Centred economy" Section 3 - "The Technology Blended Our Cultivation", Page 38).

Now, the President of Sri Lanka has appointed the National Organiser of PJP SL Basil Rajapaksa as the Chairman of the Prosperity Production Presidential Task Force. In order to fulfill the promises, pledged by the PJP SL people-mandated Manifesto, he has declared a National Agro-Engineering Programme twenty four lakhs of gardens shall be given to plantations and animal husbandry across the country. The project targets: (1) economic prosperity (2) Food security (3) Food insurance (4) Social well-being (5) Environmental friendliness (6) Structuring of productive citizen (7) Happy living family (8) Creation of positive attitude towards domestic products (8) Independence of village community (9) Development of infra-structure (10) Burdening the roll of Provincial Council Members (11) Village self-sufficiency (12) Capacity building to encounter the pandemics like Covid 19 and many more.

The Covid 19 locked the whole Sri Lanka into social isolation. There is no guarantee that this pandemic would cease soon. Its uninformed eruption is an absolute possibility. If it will be so, we are allowed to go outside only for the purchase of food and medicine within a small radius from our homes. Within few days our daily life will be topsy-turvy. Hence, the garden Agro-Engineering Project is very much timely to confidently face the pandemics like Covid-



Value of home gardening highlighted during COVID-19 epidemic.
Pictures by Hidogama group correspondent

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19. Why? The most central issue will be food. The proposed programme will make the community pandemic-surviving and they will be able to spend the period with less frustration and mitigated mental stress.

It is high time for Sri Lanka to be initiated into the garden cultivation component of the permaculture, aimed at producing food in suburbs and villages, promoting energy efficiency and self-production. Here, the enterprise starts from one's own voluntary wish and from one's own home. It is here, more than all other sectors of permaculture, the imagination and the flair of the solutions adopted are surprising.

The selection of plant species to cultivate in outside home spaces should be based primarily on their ability to cope with the harsh conditions of the environment, such as high wind and radiance, lack of organic material and nutrients, and intermittent drought. Therefore, careful plant selection should be integrated into outside space design. There are increased a biotic stresses, such as disturbance, pollution, drought, radiation, heat and microclimate extremes. Besides, there might be a rush on vegetable seedlings in garden centers, because

many more people, may want to grow their food. The spread of Covid-19 has caused panic buying at supermarkets, so many families can skip the supermarket and head to their local garden centre to grow their own and become self-sufficient. Therefore, it might be often necessary to wait on average for a week or a couple of, to get seedlings.

Advantages of agro-engineered gardening

From various sites on the web, it is possible to draw countless ideas for designing and managing a small home garden. Regardless of space and financial availability, the farmers can devise their slice of food independence. The most important thing is to start and be ready to try, without being afraid of making mistakes.

A vegetable garden in the village has many advantages. First, you will produce healthy vegetables for yourself. Then, there is the psycho-physical well-being that comprises doing a little physical activity and enjoying the satisfaction of seeing your vegetables grow. Even at the community level, a vegetable garden has its positive sides: a green spot in the cement brightens the view, purifies the air, and cools the environment because of plant transpiration. On an ecological level, an agro-engineered garden is a refuge and a shelter for many animals.

This BR Wisdom Project has been planned to implement this big season, giving priority to improve the home economy while integrating in to large-scale development programs. It will need the services of a circle of officers, comprising: (1) Grama Niladhari (2) Samurdhi Niladhari (3) Agricultural Research Procurement Assistant Office (4) Economic Officer and (5) Family Health Services Officer. The gardens must be rightly identified through rural officers at: (1) national level (2) provincial level (3) district level and (4) the regional level. The gardens will have to be well monitored chronologically under specially appointed supervising committees.

Water is the most important issue. On terraces, there are usually rain gutters. Instead of wasting rain water, which moreover is of excellent quality, as it is salt-free, a tank can be adapted for the collection of rain water. The lid, necessary to avoid water evaporation, should be perforated to facilitate the entry of the tube. Considering the heat in the summer month and the outrageous demand for water due to transpiration and evapo-transpiration, an additional reserve of water is useful and falls within the perspective of sustainability and saving of natural resources. If the water is in excess, the accumulated water will also be very useful for other cleaning purposes.

The project designer is reported to have decided to give Vegetables, fruits, spice processing plants, Osu plants, export agricultural plants, wooden plants etc. to the selected gardens under this vision and for those areas, which are suitable for more fruit. Also the focus is on domestic chicken control, goat control, mirage tanks, garden reservoirs and fish farming in garden mud ponds, and developing the domestic milk industry. It is also hoped to empower the women to find solutions to social issues by building an economic situation that can contribute to the family economy by preventing women from focusing on jobs in the Middle East. The sending of Sri Lankan mothers and sisters to Middle East, has become such a disgusting issue, it has acquired the status of a factor, which ruins the dignity of Sri Lankan women. Though, it brings foreign exchange to Sri Lanka, the practical side of it is not only tear-inviting, but also extremely painful. No government took any initiative to stop this quagmire, being incited by the greed for foreign currency.

The Prosperity Production Task Force Chairman Basil Rajapaksa emphatically stressed that the Garden Agro-Engineering Project would serve as a powerful means to protect our environs, being contaminated and destroyed by various actors. It will plant an innovative attitude in the minds of farmers, their assistants and family members to respect and love fauna and flora. The psychology would be really strong, since, it begins from one's home. The project will create the space to produce a fertile soil, which contains no artificial and harmful chemicals. Hence, having food, not poisoned by murderous chemicals, Sri Lanka is going to have a healthy nation, which can make a positive contribution to the economy.

This project also can serve as a solid foundation to bring back our ancestral self-sufficiency doctrine of trinity- Tank, Dagoba and Temple. With this enriched morality, the divided Sinhala Buddhist can unite in to one strong community, the members of which, with other Tamil and Muslim minority communities, are ever ready fight for the freedom, independence and the security of the Motherland. In order to live what is required is: food, water, home, clothes and clean air. Depositing the food security in the operation of import from other countries, will never guard Sri Lanka against food threats. The corona crisis convinced it. The construction of the tallest tower in South Asia will have no commendable impact, if the starving children are looking for food in the dustbin, kept outside with leftover food. The voters of Sri Lanka must be grateful to the Prosperity Production Presidential Task Force Chairman Basil Rajapaksa, for taking the firm decision to execute this timely project, which all his predecessors forgot or failed to implement.



Food security through home gardening.

Nature and Biodiversity for a Sustainable Future

SAMIRA SADEQUE

"Investing in nature is investing in a sustainable future," was one of the key messages from yesterday's first-ever United Nations Summit on Biodiversity where world leaders and experts agreed on the urgency to act swiftly to preserve biodiversity globally.

"More than 60 percent of the world's coral reefs are endangered due to overfishing, destructive practices and climate change," U.N. Secretary General António Guterres said in his opening remarks at the biodiversity summit, which was held as the 75th Session of the U.N. General Assembly wrapped up this week. This loss doesn't come without a cost. Guterres added that according to an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimate, the amount of money required for sustainability of nature is about \$300 - 400 billion, which is less than "current levels of harmful subsidies for agriculture, mining and other destructive industries".

Guterres also pointed out how this disproportionately affects poor communities.

According to the Convention on



Sinharaja rainforest

Biological Diversity, between 50 to 90 percent of the livelihoods of poor households comes from ecosystems.

"Nature offers business opportunities to poor communities, from sustainable farming to eco-tourism or subsistence fishing," Guterres said.

This year was especially crucial given the COVID-19 pandemic and the havoc it wreaked across communities around the world.

Volkan Bozkir, president of the General Assembly, pointed out the world's inability to ensure preservation of biodiversity severely impedes the ability to fight diseases — a result that is being witnessed firsthand this year. It also negatively affects food security, water supplies, and livelihoods, among other issues.

"We must be pragmatic: our

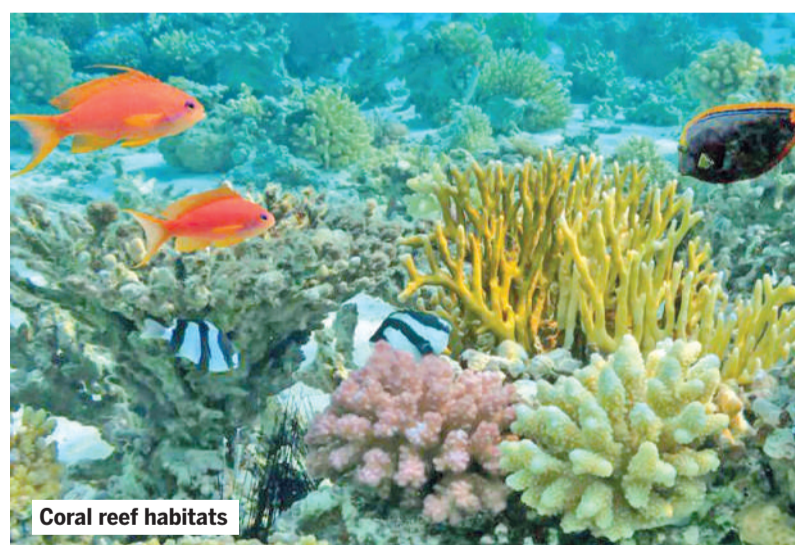
healthcare systems rely upon rich biodiversity," Bozkir said. "Four billion people depend upon natural medicines for their health, and 70 percent of drugs used for cancer treatments are drawn from nature."

"More than half of the world's GDP - \$44 trillion - is dependent on nature," he added.

Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed the meeting, extending a warm welcome for next year's Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) scheduled to take place in China.

"COP15 offers an opportunity for parties to adopt new strategies for global biodiversity governance," Xi said.

Xi proposed a list of steps that leaders can take in order to ensure



Coral reef habitats

biodiversity preservation around the world:

Adhere to ecological civilisation and increase the drive for building a beautiful world, given that a sound ecosystem is crucial for the prosperity of civilisation. "We need to respect nature, follow its laws, and protect it," he said. "We need to find a way for man and nature to live in harmony, balance and coordinate economic development and ecological protection."

Uphold multilateralism and build synergy for global governance on the environment. "Faced with the risks and challenges worldwide, countries share a common stake as passengers [on] the same boat, and form a community with a shared future," Xi said. "To enhance global governance on the

environment, we must firmly safeguard the U.N.-centred international system, and uphold the sanctity and authority of international rules."

Meanwhile, panelists at a "Fireside Chat" panel brought up the importance of including indigenous communities in the conversation.

Inger Andersen, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme, said the indigenous community is "critical" to this conversation.

"Let's recall they are the owners and managers of one quarter of global land area, and one third of protected areas," Andersen said. "So safeguarding their right to their land is part of safeguarding biodiversity."

Ana Maria Hernandez Salgar, the first woman chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), also shared a similar sentiment as she reflected on what, in her experience, has led to true change.

"We have to work collectively: governments, individuals, private sector, academia, we need to address the root cause of biodiversity loss - it works," Salgar said.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the appointed Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, also spoke on the same panel and added that it's important not to lose sight of the fact that biodiversity, on top of being a concern, is also a solution to some of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

"We know, 14 out of the 17 SDGs depend on biodiversity, from nature-based solutions, to climate, to food, water, security, sustainable livelihood: biodiversity remains the basis for sustainable future and sustainable development," Mrema said.

Perhaps the conversation on the link between biodiversity preservation and humans was most aptly put forth by Achim Steiner of the U.N. Development Programme who moderated the panel.

At the core of the preservation efforts is how we view the issue, Steiner said.

"Biodiversity has as much to do with nature as it has to do with people, people's dependence on nature, people's inability to see the complexities of nature, people's blindness and sometimes greed and ignorance and also the planetary blindspots of our economies." -IPS

JAPAN'S INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DAY TODAY

QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE ECHOES SPIRIT OF COLOMBO PLAN



Deshamanya Dr. P. R. Anthonis
(Courtesy The Colombo Plan Secretariat)

The Colombo Plan (The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific) is a regional inter-governmental organization which was established in Sri Lanka in 1951 for the purpose of providing assistance, mainly through technical cooperation for the economic and social advancement of the peoples of South and Southeast Asia.

On October 6, 1954, Japan decided to join the Colombo Plan. With this decision, Japan made a fresh start as a donor country and Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) began. Thus, in 1987, the Government of Japan designated October 6 as International Cooperation Day. The Colombo Plan will celebrate the 70th anniversary next year.

Japan's assistance to Sri Lanka

Japan has been a close partner in Sri Lanka's social and economic development, and provided Sri Lanka with assistance equivalent to 1,445 billion Japanese Yen (approximately Rs. 2,530 billion) since 1965 as of the end of the Japanese fiscal year of 2018, in the form of grants, Yen loans and technical cooperation mainly by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Japan's assistance to Sri Lanka ranges from large-scale infrastructure development to community development at the grassroots level together with human resources development.

The construction of Southern Expressway, Baseline Road, Upper Kotmale Hydro Power, Sri Jaywardenepura, Anuradhapura and Jaffna hospitals and the expansion of the Colombo Port are examples of Japanese-assisted projects. In addition, the Project for Construction of New Bridge over the Kelani River and the Bandaranaik International Airport Development Project are among the ongoing projects.

The Government of Japan's assistance is based on



I. Katagami and M. Ohno representing Japan at the 16th Meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee in London, 1964.
(Courtesy The Colombo Plan Secretariat)

its Country Development Cooperation Policy for Sri Lanka, which aligns with Sri Lanka's policies and long-term development needs. Based on the principle of "promoting high quality and inclusive growth", the Government of Japan gives priority to the following three areas: "promoting quality growth," "development cooperation for inclusive growth," and "mitigating vulnerability."

(1) Promoting quality growth

In order to help Sri Lanka achieve quality growth, the Government of Japan actively supports infrastructure development in sectors such as transportation, energy, water supply and sewerage, eyeing utilization of Japan's advanced technology, both in hardware (physical) and software (institutional).

(2) Development cooperation for inclusive growth

Regional and individual disparities have been major challenges for Sri Lanka. Japan is, therefore, committed to supporting the development of industries and human resources especially in conflict-affected areas with a focus on agriculture, improvement of basic infrastructure that contributes directly to people's lives and their industrial activities, and women's economic empowerment in order to improve livelihoods of the people in these areas.

Japan is recognized as a leading donor in supporting demining operations in the conflict affected

areas which is a prerequisite for the resettlement of people. Since 2002, Japan has provided US\$ 37 million (approximately Rs. 6.7 billion) for demining activities in the Northern and Eastern Provinces under its "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)" administered by the Embassy of Japan. The GGP scheme provides assistance also for a variety of grassroots level projects mostly through local NGOs.

(3) Mitigating Vulnerability

Sri Lanka, being an island nation like Japan, is seriously affected by monsoon and vulnerable to natural disasters such as heavy rain. It is also vulnerable in social service due to the delay in establishing its service delivery system. To prepare for measures to mitigate its vulnerability, Japan provides physical and institutional assistance to develop and strengthen the Sri Lankan Government's capacity for tackling climate change and natural disaster risk reduction.

At the time of the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in 2004, the Government of Japan immediately dispatched a disaster relief team to be followed by various support in both tangible and intangible ways, including rehabilitation of bridges and mental health care for the affected people.

(4) People-centered Development

One of the most remarkable features of Japan's assistance is people-centered development. Capacity building of the people in Sri Lanka through trainings or technical cooperation is a key for achieving sustainable development goals. As of Fiscal Year 2018, over 13,366 Sri Lankans were provided trainings, while 1,148 JICA Volunteers and 2,958 Japanese experts were dispatched to Sri Lanka cumulatively.

Examples include the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resources Development Scholarship (JDS) Programme which offers public officers opportunities to study post-graduate courses in Japan in order to develop their expertise. Since its commencement in FY2010 up to FY2018, 135 officials have completed Masters Degree in Japan, and Japan started to provide two officials every year with the opportunity to study Doctoral courses in Japan from FY2018.

These initiatives enhance not only Sri Lanka's sustainable development but also the friendship between the peoples of both countries.

Bridge Construction Projects

The domestic passenger and cargo transport highly depend on road transportation in Sri Lanka and the steady and rapid economic growth boosts demand for transportation. Many major bridges on National roads across the country are over 100 years old, and the old bridges become bottlenecks in the highway sections crucial for economic activities including tourism, due to their poor conditions and insufficient width. The Project aims to construct the major bridges on the National road network, in order to ensure smooth road transportation, thereby contributing to economic development.

Implementation: Road Development Authority, Highways Ministry



Polwathumodara Bridge in the Southern Province.

Quality Infrastructure Development

Developing countries face growing needs for infrastructure development. To achieve inclusive, sustainable, and resilient "quality growth," it is necessary to promote "quality infrastructure investment" for bridging the infrastructure gap, which has become a bottleneck against global economic growth. The importance of quality infrastructure investment has been confirmed in recent years by the G20, APEC, the FDI, and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, etc.

In 2019, at the G20 Osaka Summit, G20 Countries including emerging donors endorsed the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment" as follows:

Principle 1: Maximizing the Positive Impact of Infrastructure to Achieve Sustainable Growth and Development (job creation, transfer of expertise, enhancing connectivity etc.)

Principle 2: Economic Efficiency in View of Life-Cycle Cost (attaining value for money etc.)

Principle 3: Environmental Considerations

Principle 4: Resilience against Natural Disaster and Other Risks

Principle 5: Social Considerations (Open access to infrastructure services, safety, respect gender and socially vulnerable people etc.)

Principle 6: Strengthening Infrastructure Governance (Openness and transparency of procurement, debt sustainability etc.)

Japan will continue to support quality infrastructure development for transportation/better connectivity between urban and rural areas, stable power supply, and water supply and wastewater management, among others, to respond to the growing economic activities and urbanization in Sri Lanka.

Ambassador Sugiyama Akira's Message

-From the Memory of Colombo Plan towards the Era of "Quality Infrastructure"-

It is my honour to commemorate Japan's International Cooperation Day in Colombo, the city where the initiative for a new framework of regional cooperation, capped with the name of the city, was first conceived in 1950 - upon which Japan has shaped its new role in the aftermath of World War II.

Sixty-six years ago, on this day, October 6, 1954, a historic decision to join "the Colombo Plan" was made by the Cabinet of the Government of Japan. This decision has set the new course for redefining Japan's identity as a major development partner in the international community, and to mark the aspirations of this epoch, October 6 was inscribed as International Cooperation Day on the first page of the history of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA).

It is, thus, most befitting for us to revisit the genesis of the Colombo Plan today, to which International Cooperation Day is inseparably connected, while recalling its founding principles authored by the leading architects of the Colombo Plan, amongst whom Sri Lankan luminaries stood at the helm when the world was in search of the new order of stability and peace.

At the outset of the Colombo Plan, greater emphasis was placed on the Technical Cooperation Scheme with a view to developing human resources as the agency of consolidating the foundation of the nation building. Led by this currency of the times, the Japanese assistance to Sri Lanka, which started in 1955, also commenced with technical cooperation backed



Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Sugiyama Akira

by the rich experience and knowledge accumulated rapidly during the industrial revolution in the Meiji Era, which had also contributed to the post-war economic recovery and development in Japan.

Technical cooperation not only facilitates the transfer of technology, but also fosters the bond of friendship most naturally through the training programmes with the human touch. To date, over 13,350 Sri Lankan prospective leaders have received training opportunities under Japanese ODA programmes. One of the iconic figures to recall in this context is Deshamanya Dr. Polwatharachchige Romiel Anthonis, a world-renowned surgeon who had been trained in Japan. He is one of the first recipients of the Colombo Plan Scholarship, and who had pursued professional guidance from Prof. Nakayama Komei at Chiba University, known to be, as Dr. Anthonis described, "the greatest surgeons of the time". The legacy of Deshamanya Dr. Anthonis is a culmination of enduring strength that technical cooperation is endowed with, which features

human-centred development, that elicits inspiration in our hearts unendingly.

Over the nearly seven decades, the Japanese economic cooperation towards Sri Lanka has evolved in close consonance with the genuine development needs of the Sri Lankan people. Currently, the Government of Japan's assistance to Sri Lanka, based on the principle of "promoting high-quality and inclusive growth," gives priority to i) promoting quality growth, ii) development cooperation for inclusive growth, and iii) mitigating vulnerability. In order to achieve the first goal, that is, promoting high-quality growth of Sri Lanka, Japan has extended assistance for developing infrastructure in wide-ranging areas, including transportation, energy, water supply, waste water management, and irrigation.

In recent years, Japan launched an initiative of "Quality Infrastructure" development, which, in our view, leads to resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth of developing countries. "Quality Infrastructure" should be developed in accordance with international standards, with particular emphasis on (i) open access, (ii) transparency, (iii) economic efficiency including life-cycle cost, and (iv) financial viability of recipient countries. This concept is gaining currency in the international community. In 2016, when Japan hosted the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, the G7 leaders agreed upon the "G7 Ise-Shima Principles of Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment." In addition, at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, under Japan's leadership, G20 countries including emerging donors endorsed "G20 Principles of Quality Infrastructure Investment", which includes the four priority elements I just mentioned. Japan, under this concept, will continue to engage in the development of infra-

structure in Sri Lanka most diligently, with special focus on ports, airports, power supply, water supply, sewage system, and irrigation, among others, to correspond to the vision of the Government of Sri Lanka. I would like to add that "Quality Infrastructure" will contribute to enhancing "physical connectivity" in the Indo-Pacific region, leading to the peace, stability and prosperity across the region.

The spirit of Colombo Plan rests on "Planning Prosperity Together" which is characterized by building and sustaining "win-win-win" relationships between donors, recipients and stakeholders along with the vision of mutual benefit, the common good, inclusiveness as well as equality and the right of the peoples and the nations as its founding principles. It is my humble belief that the universality and timelessness of the spirit and principles must have served as one of the major reasons for the resiliency of "harmonious federation" of the Colombo Plan, despite the fact that the world has witnessed a cauldron of major changes over the last seven decades since its establishment.

As the center of gravity shifts towards the Indo-Pacific regions, where the greater majority of the member states of the Colombo Plan are the stakeholders, the growing relevance of the founding principles of the Colombo Plan merit renewed appreciation. As observed above in my historical account of International Cooperation Day, Japanese ODA is inseparably connected to the same lofty principles of the Colombo Plan - the principles that are deeply rooted in the spirit of mutual cooperation and compassion - which, with its unchallengeable humanity, will guide us a long way into the future, as it has done in the past.

BIA Development Project

At the Bandaranaik International Airport (BIA), which acts as a regional and National economic motor, the number of passengers handled per year has been substantially exceeding its capacity of six million passengers in recent years. With JICA's financial assistance, the project aims to increase passenger-handling capacity to 15 million passengers per annum by adding another nine million and to improve passenger convenience with the expansion of the airport infrastructure and facilities, thereby contributing to the enhancement of the connectivity with overseas countries and promoting economic growth, including the tourism industry.



Implementation: Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited

Landslide Disaster Protection Project

In the mountainous and hilly areas, landslide disasters have frequently occurred due to the fragile geological characteristics and steep topographical conditions, and they have caused significant economic losses due to the disruption or closure of the road. The JICA has implemented the project to alleviate the risk of landslide on National roads by implementing countermeasures for slopes

along major National roads, and thereby contributing to the economic and social development through the enhancement of the safety of the road network and the lives of local residents.

Implementation: Road Development Authority, Highways Ministry

Project area: Central, Uva, Sabaragamuwa Provinces



WARS, SCANDALS and now COVID-19 thwarts 2020 NOBELS

SWEDEN: Wars, jailed laureates and diplomatic rows have occasionally put the brakes on the Nobel prizes through the years. This time it is the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic that has thwarted plans, and while prize announcements will go ahead this week, December festivities will be scaled back.

The traditional December 10 awards ceremony and banquet in Stockholm honouring the laureates in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and economics has been replaced by a televised event where the winners will receive their prizes in their home countries.

The Oslo ceremony for the peace prize, held on the same day, will meanwhile go ahead on a smaller scale, and that banquet has also been cancelled.

Here are some previous occasions when the Nobels didn't go as planned.

The committees tasked with selecting Nobel laureates in the fields of medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics can refrain from awarding the prize. The Nobel Foundation's statutes say this is possible when no work or research is deemed worthy.

Not awarding the prize can also be an honour. In 1948, several months after the death of Mahatma Gandhi, the Nobel Peace

Prize was not awarded, a homage to the Indian pacifist who never won the prize - widely considered a historic omission. The committee at the time said "there was no suitable living candidate".

In total, 49 prizes have not been awarded since the first Nobels in 1901, most of them in the field of peace (16 times). The prize can also be postponed.

That was the case in 2018, when a scandal engulfed the Swedish Academy which selects the literature prize winner. The 2018 prize was awarded instead the following year, to Polish author Olga Tokarczuk.

While Sweden remained neutral during the two world wars, the Nobel committees often refrained from awarding the prizes, especially during World War II. Both moral and logistical reasons were cited, as well as the fact that the committees in Stockholm no longer had access to scientific publications.

Norway, which awards the peace prize, was meanwhile occupied by Nazi Germany from April 1940. The peace prize was not awarded between 1939 and 1945, when the 1944 prize was awarded retroactively to the Red Cross. In Stockholm, the prizes were



A bronze bust of Alfred Nobel is pictured before the Nobel Prize ceremony at Stockholm Concert Hall, in Stockholm.

awarded again from 1944, though the prize ceremony in December was cancelled.

In 1924, organisers cancelled the formal prize ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo because of a combination of ailing laureates, including Polish writer Wladyslaw Reymont, and the fact that the chemistry and peace prizes were not awarded. That was the only time the ceremonies have

been cancelled in peacetime. Meanwhile, the celebratory banquet traditionally held after the December 10 prize ceremony at Stockholm's City Hall was cancelled in 1956 to avoid inviting the Soviet ambassador because of the repression of the Hungarian Revolution. An unofficial, smaller dinner was organised instead.

Several laureates have over the years been unable to attend the Nobel ceremony for political reasons.

German journalist and pacifist Carl Von Ossietzky was detained in a Nazi concentration camp and was unable to receive his peace prize in 1936. He died two years later.

Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was under house arrest when she won the peace prize in 1991 and was unable to accept her prize in person until 2012.

In 2010, Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo was in prison when he was awarded the peace prize. His chair remained empty, where the prize was placed. He died in 2017.

In the case of Alexander Solz-

henitsyn, the Soviet writer was forced to decline his 1970 literature prize, fearing that he would not be able to return to his country should he travel to receive it. He finally accepted the award four years later.

Several laureates have declined their prizes, including two who did so of their own will.

French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre turned the literature prize down in 1964, and although Russian author Boris Pasternak accepted it in 1958, Soviet authorities later forced him to decline it.

In 1973, Vietnam's peace negotiator Le Duc Tho refused to share the peace prize with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, arguing that the ceasefire ending the Vietnam War was not being respected.

Kissinger meanwhile refused to travel to Oslo for the prize ceremony because of the risk of protests, and was replaced by the US ambassador.

In the 1930s, three German scientists were awarded Nobels: Richard Kuhn (1938) and Adolf Butenandt (1939) in chemistry, and Gerhard Domagk (1939) in medicine.

But Hitler - outraged over the prize to Von Ossietzky - barred any German from accepting a Nobel, and they were forced to decline their prizes. They received their Nobels after the war. - AFP



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. - AFP

EU Chief 'self-isolating' for COVID-19

BELGIUM: The President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said Monday she would self-isolate for a day after learning she had met someone infected with COVID-19.

"In accordance with regulations in force, I'm

therefore self-isolating until tomorrow morning. I've tested negative on Thursday and am tested again today," she tweeted.

Von der Leyen said she was at a meeting on Tuesday last week

attended by a person who tested positive for the coronavirus on Sunday.

The head of the EU executive did not mention this in her announcement, but on Tuesday

last week she was visiting Lisbon for talks with senior Portuguese officials. When she is in Brussels, von der Leyen generally stays in a small flat on the 13th floor of the European Commission's Berlaymont headquarters, near her office. - AFP

Britain passes 500,000 coronavirus cases

UK: The United Kingdom passed 500,000 confirmed coronavirus infections on Sunday, official figures showed, in the latest grim milestone for the European country worst-hit by the pandemic.

Health authorities blamed a technical glitch for a sudden spike in cases announced in evening figures that had kept several thousand cases from the last week of September off the official tally.

Sunday's numbers showed 22,961 cases for the day, a rise of more than 10,000 on Saturday's figures.

Officials said the issue had now been resolved and earlier cases missed in the official count would be included in future figures.

The United Kingdom has now recorded 502,978 COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic, with more than 42,000 deaths. In an interview with the



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said Britain faces a 'very tough winter' in the battle against the coronavirus.

BBC on Sunday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the country faced a "very tough winter" in the battle against the disease, but said there was "hope" the situation could improve by Christmas.

Health authorities are meanwhile drawing up a vaccination programme that prioritises elderly people and at-risk workers.

"There's going to be no vaccination of people under 18," vaccine taskforce chairwoman Kate Bingham told the Financial Times.

- AFP

Comtrust Money Market Fund Dividend Distribution 2019/2020

The Board of Directors of Comtrust Asset Management (Pvt) Ltd., Managers of the Comtrust Money Market Fund are pleased to announce that a final Dividend of One Rupee and Fifty cents per unit has been distributed to all our unit holders, who were registered with us as at 24 September 2020. Comtrust Money Market Fund unit prices are quoted ex-dividend with effect from 25 September 2020

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Comtrust Gilt Edged Fund Dividend Distribution 2019/2020

The Board of Directors of Comtrust Asset Management (Pvt) Ltd., Managers of the Comtrust Gilt Edged Fund are pleased to announce that a final Rupees One per unit has been distributed to all our unit holders, who were registered with us as at 24 September 2020. Comtrust Gilt Edged Fund unit prices are quoted ex-dividend with effect from 25 September 2020.

comtrust ASSET MANAGEMENT
"Celebrating 25 years of Trust"

Comtrust Asset Management (Pvt) Ltd
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ADA KOTIPATHI

DATE: 04-10-2020
DRAW NUMBER: 2942
COLOUR: Purple

WINNING NUMBERS
06 08 22 52

Gemini

Double Chance
7024
443

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES
Rs. 8,159,120/-

SUPER BALL

Draw Number: 1235
Colour: Red
Date: 04.10.2020
Date: Sunday

Winning English Letter and Numbers
T 15 56 59 62

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,279,380/-

SUPER 500 7 4 6 9

ADA KOTIPATHI

DATE: 04.10.2020
DRAW NO.: 1061
COLOUR: GREEN

Winning Numbers
09 12 20 23

English Letter
P

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,007,800/-

Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: 8404
Winning number for Rs. 100/- cash prizes: 209

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DATE: 04.10.2020
DRAW NO.: 3391
COLOUR: PINK

Winning Numbers
11 45 46 57

English Letter
J

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,733,380/-

Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: 6261

English Letter & Winning Numbers

Draw No: 633
Date: 04 Oct. 2020
Colour: Yellow
Sunday

Winning Numbers
R 07 14 36 80

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,106,420/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 85,332,875/-

Yellow, Pink and Green coloured tickets are valid on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays respectively. Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.

Cineworld temporarily shuts cinemas on COVID-19 coronavirus impact

UK: British cinema chain Cineworld announced Monday that it is temporarily shutting cinemas in Britain and the United States, as coronavirus pandemic delays major new films like the latest James Bond spy blockbuster.

The company said in a statement that it will suspend its 127 Cineworld and Picturehouse theatres in Britain from Thursday, and 536 Regal theatres in the US.

The news confirmed weekend media speculation over the temporary closures at the group, which employs around 45,000 staff in its two main markets.

"In response to an increasingly challenging theatrical landscape and sustained key market closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cineworld confirms that it will be temporarily suspending operations" in the two countries, it said in a statement.



People walk past a Cineworld cinema in Leicester Square, London.



US President Donald Trump waves to supporters as he briefly rides by in the Presidential motorcade in front of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he is being treated for COVID-19 in Bethesda, Maryland.



Supporters of the US President hold flags as they rally outside of Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland on Sunday, where the president is being treated for COVID-19. - AFP

TRUMP BREAKS PROTOCOL, LEAVES HOSPITAL TO GREET SUPPORTERS

US: US President Donald Trump sparked an angry backlash from the medical community Sunday with a protocol-breaking visit to his supporters outside the hospital where he is being treated for the highly-infectious, potentially deadly new coronavirus. He was masked as he waved from inside his bulletproof vehicle during the short trip outside Walter Reed military medical center near Washington, which appeared designed to take back the narrative on his improving health after a weekend of muddled messaging from his doctors. The last-minute limousine outing came with Trump's doctors satisfied enough about his progress to suggest

the possibility of his being discharged on Monday. But experts complained that the outing broke his own government's public health guidelines requiring patients to isolate while they are in treatment and still shedding virus - and endangered his Secret Service protection. Trump, who has been repeatedly rebuked for flouting public health guidelines and spreading misinformation on the pandemic, said in a video that dropped on Twitter just before the appearance that he had "learned a lot about Covid" by "really going to school" as he has battled the virus. But health experts took to the airwaves and social media to criticize the "stunt," which they said demonstrated

that he had learned nothing at all. "Every single person in the vehicle during that completely unnecessary Presidential 'drive-by' just now has to be quarantined for 14 days," said James Phillips, chief of disaster medicine at George Washington University. "They might get sick. They may die. For political theater. Commanded by Trump to put their lives at risk for theater. This is insanity." White House spokesman Judd Deere said "appropriate" precautions had been taken to protect Trump and his support staff, including protective gear. "The movement was cleared by the medical team as safe to do," he added. But Zeke Emanuel, chair of the Department of Medical Ethics and

Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania and regular TV pundit, described the appearance as "shameful." "Making his Secret Service agents drive with a COVID-19 patient, with windows up no less, put them needlessly at risk for infection. And for what? A PR stunt," he tweeted. The episode came hours after a briefing by Trump's medical team, who said he had "continued to improve" and could be returned to the White House, which has the facilities to treat and isolate the president, as early as Monday. The president was flown to Walter Reed with a high fever on Friday after a "rapid progression" of his illness, with his oxygen levels dropping worryingly

low, Trump's physician Sean Conley said in a Sunday briefing. Health experts have complained that the messaging from the administration - and particularly Trump's medical team - has caused widespread confusion. Conley admitted Sunday that he had kept from the public the fact that the president had been given extra oxygen, in a bid to reflect an "upbeat attitude." And he gave a rosy account of Trump's progress Saturday, only for White House chief of staff Mark Meadows to tell reporters immediately after that Trump's condition had been "very concerning" and that he was "still not on a clear path to a full recovery." With his tough reelection campaign in its final month against Democratic rival Joe

Biden, Trump's diagnosis and hospitalization have left him sidelined from what he does best - campaigning. Meanwhile, Biden - who announced Sunday his latest negative test for the virus - started the week with a trip Monday to key swing state Florida. There were more than 200 people at the fundraiser, and a contact-tracing operation underway in New Jersey was looking at potentially thousands of people who may have been exposed. All this came in a week when a Wall Street Journal/NBC poll - taken in the two days after a bruising presidential debate with Biden but before news emerged of Trump's illness - gave Biden a significant 53-39 percent lead among registered voters. - AFP



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his son Nicolas Ernesto Maduro Guerra (L)

Maduro's son to join Sputnik V vaccine trial

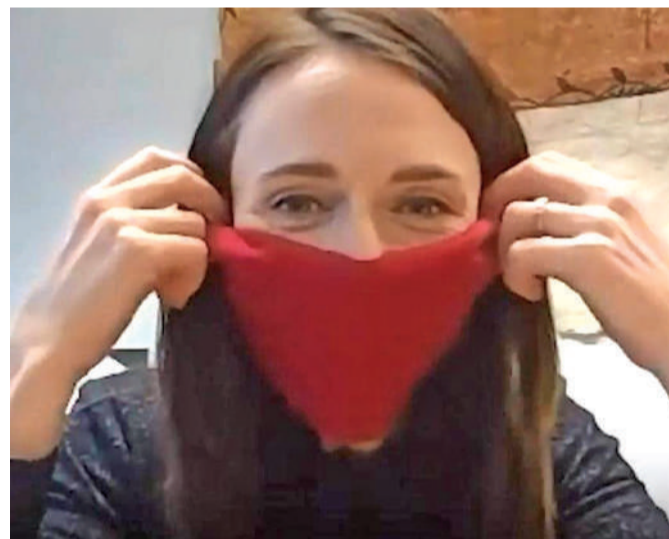
VENEZUELA: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said Sunday his son will join trials of Sputnik V, the coronavirus vaccine which was met with caution when Russia announced it was the world's first to be approved. An initial batch of the vaccine arrived in Venezuela on Friday, the government announced, and 2,000 residents will participate in the trials. "In this clinical trial phase, my son, Nicolas Ernesto Maduro Guerra, told me of his decision to be vaccinated with the Russian vaccine, to join the trial. I think it is very good," the socialist leader said in a speech on state television network VTV. Maduro's sister is also a volunteer for the clinical trials. Maduro Guerra, 30, is also a politician and a member of his father's governing United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV). Named "Sputnik V" after the historic Soviet-era satellite, the vaccine was met with skepticism from the global medical community. Russia in August declared itself the first country to approve a coronavirus vaccine, although it is still undergoing large-scale clinical trials after promising results.

The drug is currently in Phase 3, the human testing state, and according to Moscow, more than 40,000 volunteers have been inoculated during the process. "When the entire scientific, clinical and testing phase is closed, voluntary vaccination will come... As soon as we start mass vaccination, I am going to be the first one to get it," Maduro said. Russia has been one of Maduro's main backers in the face of international pressure led by Washington, which seeks to displace him from power because it considers his reelection to have been fraudulent. The US, as well as some 50 other countries, recognize Maduro's opponent, National Assembly speaker Juan Guaido, as Venezuela's interim president. Guaido slammed the decision to participate in the Russian trials, saying, "They use our people as guinea pigs." According to official figures, as of Saturday, Venezuela has registered 77,646 cases of Covid-19 out of the entire 30 million population, and 649 deaths. These numbers are disputed by the country's opposition and international organizations such as Human Rights Watch. - AFP

'We beat the virus again' - Jacinda Ardern

NEW ZEALAND: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern declared on Monday New Zealand "beat the virus again" and announced restrictions in the country's largest city would be eased, after a second Covid-19 wave was contained. The virus was believed to have been eradicated in late May after a strict national lockdown led to New Zealanders enjoying 102 days without community transmission. But a new cluster emerged in Auckland in August, forcing the city of 1.5 million into lockdown for almost three weeks. With no new confirmed cases in Auckland for 12 days, Ardern said Monday the virus was now under control and congratulated residents for enduring the second lockdown. "It felt longer and dragged on in what was already starting to feel like a very long year," she said. "But despite this, Aucklanders and New Zealanders stuck to the plan that has worked twice now, and beat the virus again." Ardern said from late Wednesday Auckland

would join the rest of New Zealand on level one, the lowest rating on the government's four-tier virus alert system. Under the change, there are no restrictions on social gatherings, allowing the second Bledisloe Cup Test in Auckland on October 18 to be played in front of a full stadium at Eden Park. "This is positive news that (Auckland fans) will be able to enjoy Test match rugby," New Zealand Rugby said in a statement. New Zealand has recorded just 25 COVID-19 deaths in a population of five million, with 40 active cases in the country on Monday. But Ardern, who faces a general election on October 17, warned success could not be taken for granted. She pointed to a decline in the use of the official Covid-19 tracing app and falling virus test numbers. "A resurgence of the virus is not our only worry, resurgence of complacency is right up there too," Ardern said. - AFP



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern wears her mask.

France, Italy step up flood rescue efforts

FRANCE: French and Italian rescue services stepped up search efforts Sunday after floods cut off several villages in the mountainous border regions, causing widespread damage and killing at least four people. Others remained unaccounted for on the French side of the border after storms, torrential rain and flash floods battered the area, washing away roads and houses, cutting off entire villages and triggering landslides. Emergency services recovered at least four bodies Sunday on the Mediterranean coast of Liguria, Italy, ANSA

news agency and other Italian media reported. Italian and French teams were working together to try to identify them, but it was not yet clear that they were victims of the flooding or if their deaths had another cause. French rescue workers are still looking for eight people listed as missing, after people saw them swept away in the flood waters. Another 12 people are also unaccounted for. In Breil-sur-Roya, a French village close to the Italian border, houses were buried in mud and turned-over cars were stuck in the riverbed.

Rescue efforts were concentrated on the Roya valley where roughly 1,000 firefighters, backed by helicopters and the army, resumed their search for survivors and helped people whose homes were destroyed or inaccessible. Storm Alex barreled into France's west coast on Thursday, bringing powerful winds and rain across the country before moving into northern Italy. "What we are going through is extraordinary," said Bernard Gonzalez, prefect of the Alpes-Maritimes region, after as much as 60 centimetres (two

feet) of rain fell in 24 hours in the worst-affected areas. Italy confirmed two people died Saturday, a volunteer firefighter on a rescue operation and a man whose car was washed away. France also announced two fatalities. The first found was a shepherd whose body was pulled from a river near the border. Firefighters later announced a man had been found dead in his car in the southeastern village of Saint-Martin-Vesubie. France has declared the region a natural disaster zone. Saint-Martin-Vesubie, a village home to 1,400 north of Nice, was completely cut off by the storm. A bedraggled group of tourists and residents gathered in the village square to be airlifted to safety, an AFP journalist said after reaching the site on foot. The Presidents of Italy's Piedmont and Liguria regions signed a joint letter calling on the government to declare a state of emergency with several villages cut off. "The situation is very serious. It is like it was in 1994," when 70 died after the Po and Tanaro rivers flooded, Piedmont's president, Alberto Cirio, told La Stampa newspaper. - AFP



A pile of vehicles on a street in Breil-sur-Roya, south-eastern France after extensive flooding caused widespread damage in the Alpes-Maritimes department. - AFP

103-year-old woman survives COVID-19

MEXICO: A 103-year-old Mexican woman suffering from a chronic pulmonary disease has survived a bout of COVID-19, the Mexican Social Security Institute announced. The institute (IMSS), which is part of the Mexican healthcare system, said the woman, identified only as Dona Maria, had been hospitalized for 11 days. She had tested positive for the virus but, despite her pulmonary problems, did not have other aggravating factors such as diabetes, obesity or high blood pressure. "That's what contributed to her treatment," the IMSS said in a statement Saturday. The woman was admitted on September 22 to a regional hospital in Guadalajara in western Jalisco state, suffering from fever, breathing trouble and a runny nose. She did not require a ventilator. "She was always very cheerful, lucid, talking to the doctors. Even at the end, she urged us to take care of ourselves. Her progression was very good; her symptoms have disappeared," said hospital director David Sanchez. - AFP

COVID-19 VACCINE alone won't curb spread of virus, report warns

UK: A report of Royal Society's DELVE (Data Evaluation and Learning for Viral Epidemics) Initiative suggests that there are serious challenges to developing, evaluating, manufacturing and distributing the vaccine.

A successful vaccine stimulates immune responses that negate chances of transmission of infection and reduce risk and severity of disease. It also ensures long term protection so that people do not have to be re-vaccinated frequently.

Currently, scientists have not been able to put their finger on SARS-CoV-2 infection's immune responses. They do not even know if the infection has any immune responses. Antibodies and T cells have been detected in those who have recovered from the virus, but it is not clear whether it leads to protection against reinfection, according to the report.

Over 200 SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidates are currently in development, with a handful being in later stages of clinical trials. Some of the candidates that are in later stages of trials, such as the Oxford/AstraZeneca candidate, have used 'viral vectors' - where a part of the SARS-CoV-2 genetic code is inserted in another harmless virus through which antibodies are generated.

Others, such as Moderna, have used an alternative design, where a viral genetic code is produced as an RNA vaccine, which also leads



A successful vaccine stimulates immune responses that negate chances of transmission of infection and reduce risk and severity of disease.

to the production of viral protein when it enters a cell, the report stated.

Even as development of these candidates has been accelerated, vaccines fail at a later level of trials many times due to poor immunogenicity, it added.

Once a vaccine is available, the choice of vaccination strategies will need to be phased to match manufacturing capacity.

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) estimates that for 2021, a global annual capacity of between 2 to 4

billion doses could be available without disrupting existing vaccine supplies, with much of the capacity being in India and China, the report said.

If immunity is short lived and annual vaccine boosters are needed, capacity will be needed to extend coverage whilst maintaining immunity in existing recipients, it added.

The vaccine supply chain consists of a series of transportation and storage steps.

Sourcing of raw materials used for drug product manufacturing

and distribution of the finished product might be disrupted due to the pandemic itself.

Supply chain will be disrupted in case borders are closed due to lockdown, personnel become ill, countries compete for short supply or medical system is overwhelmed. For making transportation easy, manufacturers are working towards improving thermostability of prospective vaccines to reduce the need of the distribution at very low temperatures, the report said.

- HINDUSTAN TIMES

NASA tests new \$23 mn titanium space toilet

US: NASA's first new space potty in decades - a \$23 million titanium toilet better suited for women - is getting a not-so-dry run at the International Space Station before eventually flying to the moon.

It's packed inside a cargo ship that should have blasted off late Thursday from Wallops Island, Virginia. But the launch was halted with just two minutes remaining in the countdown.

Barely 100 pounds (45 kilograms) and just 28 inches (71 centimeters) tall, it's roughly half as big as the two Russian-built toilets at the space station. It's more compact to fit into the NASA Orion capsules that will carry astronauts to the moon in a few years.

Station residents will test it out for a few months. If the shakedown goes well, the toilet will be open for regular business. With SpaceX now launching astronauts to the space station and Boeing less than a year from sending up its first crew, more toilets are needed. The new one will be in its own stall alongside the old one on the U.S. side of the outpost.

The old toilets cater more toward men. To better accommodate women, NASA tilted the seat on the new toilet and made it taller. The new shape should help astronauts position themselves better for No. 2, said Johnson Space Center's Melissa McKinley, the project manager.

"Cleaning up a mess is a big deal. We don't want any misses or escapes," she said.



"Trust me, I've got going to the bathroom in space down, because that is a vital, vital thing to know how to do," she told The Associated Press earlier this week.

Let's just say everything floats in weightlessness. As for No. 1, the funnels also have been redesigned. Women can use the elongated and scooped-out funnels to urinate while sitting on the commode to poop at the same time, McKinley said. Until now, it's been one or the other for female astronauts, she noted.

Like earlier space commodes, air suction, rather than water and gravity, removes the waste. Urine collected by the new toilet will be routed into NASA's long-standing recycling system to produce water for drinking and cooking. Titanium and other tough alloys were chosen for the new toilet to withstand all the acid in the urine pretreatment.

Going to the bathroom in space may sound simple, but "sometimes the simple things become very difficult" without gravity, said NASA astronaut Mike Hopkins, commander of the second SpaceX crew, due to launch on October 31 from Kennedy Space Center.

While the old design isn't that hard to use, subtle design changes can make all the difference for women, noted NASA astronaut Shannon Walker, a former space station resident who's also on the next SpaceX crew.

The typical space station population will go from six to seven with the next SpaceX flight, and even more when non-professionals like tourists start showing up as early as next year. Astronauts normally stay six months.

The last time NASA ordered up a new toilet was in the early 1990s to accommodate two-week space shuttle missions. The agency contracted with Collins Aerospace to provide the latest model; the company also worked on the shuttle potties.

Also in the 8,000-pound (3,600-kilogram) shipment aboard Northrop Grumman's Cygnus capsule: air tanks to make up for a slight space station leak, radish seeds for greenhouse growing and a cinematic 360-degree VR camera for you-are-there-spacewalk shots.

Perhaps the most unique payload: Estee Lauder's newest wrinkle serum.

The cosmetics company is paying \$128,000 for an out-of-this-world photo shoot, part of NASA's push to open the final frontier to marketing, industry and tourism.

Don't count on perfumed aromas, though, to counter bathroom odors.

The serum is fragrance-free and the 10 bottles will remain sealed until returned to Earth early next year.

- HINDUSTAN TIMES

Kim Jong Un wishes Trump a speedy recovery

SOUTH KOREA: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un sent a message to Donald Trump after the US president's diagnosis with coronavirus, wishing him a quick recovery, state media said Saturday.

"He offered his sympathy to the president and the First Lady," the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

"He sincerely hoped that they would be recovered as soon as possible. He hoped they will surely overcome it. He sent warm greetings to them."

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said it was the first time Kim had sent well wishes to a world leader who tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Trump announced in the early

hours of Friday that he had tested positive for Covid-19. Later in the day, he headed to a military hospital for further observation and treatment.

Trump and Kim held three high-profile meetings starting in June 2018, after an uptick in tensions between Washington and Pyongyang at the start of Trump's term.

But nothing concrete emerged in terms of Pyongyang's denuclearization, and talks have been officially at a standstill for months.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in mid-September that talks were ongoing behind the scenes.

Trump has consistently portrayed his close relationship with Kim as one of his foreign policy achievements. - AFP



US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un shake hands during a meeting inside the Demilitarized Zone separating North Korea and South Korea in this June 30, 2019 file photo.



In this June 18, 2020 photo provided by NASA astronaut Kate Rubins, (C), and support personnel review the Universal Waste Management System, a low-gravity space toilet, in Houston.

04.10.2020 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 604,286
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 25,251,130.00
Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 25

MEGA POWER
OFFICIAL RESULTS
DATE 2020.10.04
DRAW NUMBER : 632

English Letter: **K** Super Number: **23 26 27 58 77** Winning Number: **23**

PRIZE STRUCTURE	PRIZE MONEY RS.	NO. OF WINNERS
1st PRIZE: If all 4 Numbers are correct	1,000,000.00	01
2nd PRIZE: If only 3 Numbers with English Letter is correct	100,000.00	08
3rd PRIZE: If all 3 Numbers are correct	1,000.00	107
4th PRIZE: If only 2 Numbers with English Letter is correct	500.00	231
5th PRIZE: Only 2 Numbers are correct	100.00	5,955
6th PRIZE: If only 1 Number with English Letter is correct	40.00	4,030
7th PRIZE: Only 1 Number are correct	20.00	98,487
8th PRIZE: Only English Letter are correct	20.00	17,912

Next Mega Super Prize: Rs. 51,880,633.20
Next Power Super Prize: Rs. 11,151,072.80
Next Grand Super Prize: Rs. 18,612,194.40
Total Prizes Won In This Draw: Rs. 5,107,180.00

SEVANA
OFFICIAL RESULTS
DATE: 2020/10/04
Draw Number: 301

English Letter: **Y** Winning Number: **03 36 43 52**

COMBINATION	PRIZE	NO. OF WINNERS
1st Prize: If all 4 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000,000/-	Each -
2nd Prize: If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 100,000/-	Each 02
3rd Prize: If any 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000/-	Each 63
4th Prize: If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 200/-	Each 139
5th Prize: If any 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 100/-	Each 3,426
6th Prize: If English Letter and 1 number is correct	Rs. 50/-	Each 2,008
7th Prize: If 1 number is correct	Rs. 20/-	Each 48,210
8th Prize: If only English Letter is correct	Rs. 20/-	Each 7,433

Next Draw Super Prize: 14,000,000/-
Total Prizes Won in this Draw: 1,846,660/-

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA
OFFICIAL RESULTS
DATE: 04-10-2020
DRAW NUMBER : 4265

English Letter: **H** Winning Numbers: **3 5 1 1 6 2**

Prize structure - from right to left	Number of winners
1st Prize: 3 5 1 1 6 2	Rs. 2,000,000/- 01
2nd Prize: 5 1 1 6 2	Rs. 100,000/- 10
3rd Prize: 1 1 6 2	Rs. 10,000/- 102
4th Prize: 1 6 2	Rs. 1,000/- 989
5th Prize: 6 2	Rs. 100/- 9,886
6th Prize: 2	Rs. 20/- 97,819

Prize structure - from left to right	Number of winners
7th Prize: 3 5 1 1 6	Rs. 10,000/- 09
8th Prize: 3 5 1 1	Rs. 1,000/- 92
9th Prize: 3 5 1	Rs. 100/- 978
10th Prize: 3 5	Rs. 50/- 9,785
11th Prize: H	Rs. 20/- 39,187

Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs. 9,506,770.00

The Super Prize of next draw: Rs. 20,909,999.00

DHANA NIDHANAYA
Official Results
2020/10/04
Draw Number - 324

English Letter: **F** Winning Number: **01 05 13 33**

COMBINATION	PRIZE	NO. OF WINNERS
1st Prize: If all 4 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000,000.00	-
2nd Prize: If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 100,000.00	01
3rd Prize: If any 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 3,000.00	61
4th Prize: If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000.00	147
5th Prize: If any 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 100.00	3,343
6th Prize: If English Letter and 1 number is correct	Rs. 60.00	2,252
7th Prize: If 1 number is correct	Rs. 20.00	56,379
8th Prize: If only English Letter is correct	Rs. 20.00	10,604

Total prize money won in this draw Rs. 2,239,380.00
Number of Prize Winners in this draw. 72,792

Next Draw Super Prize: 118,270,917.04

Govisetha
OFFICIAL RESULTS
DRAW NUMBER 2560 DRAW DATE 04.10.2020

English Letter: **M** Winning Numbers: **23 29 30 78**

COMBINATION	PRIZE	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	04
3 PRIZE: IF ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 2,000.00	147
4 PRIZE: IF LETTER & ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 1,000.00	361
5 PRIZE: IF ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 100.00	8745
6 PRIZE: IF LETTER & ANY NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 40.00	5716
7 PRIZE: IF ANY NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	14321
8 PRIZE: IF ONLY THE LETTER IS CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	26229

TOTAL PRIZES OF THIS DRAW: 184,624
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW: Rs. 6,551,140.00
SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW: Rs. 61,203,581.60

FEARS GROW FOR CIVILIANS AS KARABAKH FIGHTING RAGES



ARMENIA: Clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces were raging over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region on Monday as fears grew for civilians after the two sides shelled major cities.

Separatist forces in Karabakh – an ethnic Armenian enclave that broke away from Azerbaijan in the 1990s – reported firefights along the frontline with the regional capital Stepanakert under heavy artillery fire.

Azerbaijan's defence ministry said Armenian forces were shelling three of its towns, after hitting the country's second-largest city Ganja on Sunday.

Increasing artillery fire on urban areas has raised concerns of mass civilian casualties if the fierce fighting, which has already killed more than 240 people, continues to escalate.

The International Committee of the Red Cross on Sunday condemned the reports of "indiscriminate shelling and other alleged unlawful attacks using explosive weaponry in cities, towns and other populated areas".

Civilians huddled on Sunday in the basement of Stepanakert's stone-walled Holy Mother of God cathedral, AFP journalists saw, seeking refuge as explosions and air raid warnings

sounded. Azerbaijan said Sunday that two civilians had been killed in shelling on the southern town of Beylagan, where a journalist working with AFP saw residents picking through the rubble of destroyed homes.

Each side accused the other of targeting civilian areas.

Karabakh's declaration of independence from Azerbaijan during the collapse of the Soviet Union sparked a war in the early 1990s that claimed 30,000 lives.

Talks to resolve the conflict have made little progress since a 1994 ceasefire agreement.

- AFP



A view shows aftermath of recent shelling during the ongoing fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region, in the disputed region's main city of Stepanakert, on Saturday.

Donald Trump not first US President to fall seriously ill

US: Donald Trump's shock announcement that he has coronavirus and his subsequent hospitalization has sent the US reeling. However, the 45th President is hardly the first to suffer from a major illness or even a global pandemic while in office.

From George Washington to George W. Bush, here's a roundup of the US presidency's more memorable brushes with disease and death.

The US Constitution's 25th Amendment allows Presidents to temporarily hand power to the vice president while incapacitated, a process in which one organ – the colon – has played a starring role. Former president George W. Bush invoked the 25th Amendment in 2002 and again in 2007 while being sedated for routine colonoscopies, putting then-vice president Dick Cheney in charge for hours.

Although the amendment was adopted in 1967, Ronald Reagan indicated in 1985 he did not believe he officially invoked it when he left then-vice president George H.W. Bush briefly at the helm while doctors removed a cancerous polyp from the president's colon.

Reagan said the period was too "brief and temporary" for the amendment to apply.

Hoping to avoid public attention, former President Grover Cleveland covertly stowed away for surgery at sea on a friend's yacht in 1893.

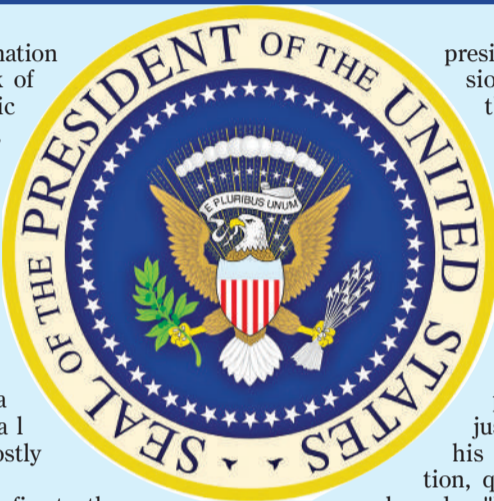
With the nation on the brink of an economic depression, Cleveland aimed to keep the cancer on the roof of his mouth as secret so as not to send the nation into a financial panic. He mostly succeeded.

The tumor, five teeth and a piece of his left jawbone were reportedly removed somewhere off the coast of New York, and a rubber prosthetic was later inserted for aesthetics.

Trump is hardly the first US president to be laid low by a global pandemic, or play down the dangers only to become infected by the disease. Woodrow Wilson caught the Spanish flu in April 1919 while in France for the Paris peace talks negotiating the end to WWI.

Despite the grave nature of his health, his administration worked furiously to keep his illness from the general public.

In 1790, George Washington caught such a bad flu it put the fate of the young nation in peril – should the president die, so might the country. The street outside the



presidential mansion, then in the temporary capital of New York, was closed off and covered in hay to muffle the noise while the first president, just a year into his administration, quietly convalesced. "Beset by hiccups, Washington made strange gurgling noises that were interpreted as a death rattle," biographer Ron Chernow writes in his book "Washington, A Life." The president survived.

Petersen House, the abode where Abraham Lincoln died in downtown Washington, is today part of the US National Park Service, a "dark tourism" destination where visitors can see where the 16th president spent his final hours after being shot in the head across the street at Ford's Theater. Lincoln died in the home's back bedroom the morning after the attack.

He is one of four US Presidents murdered in office, all by gunfire. James A. Garfield died of infection two

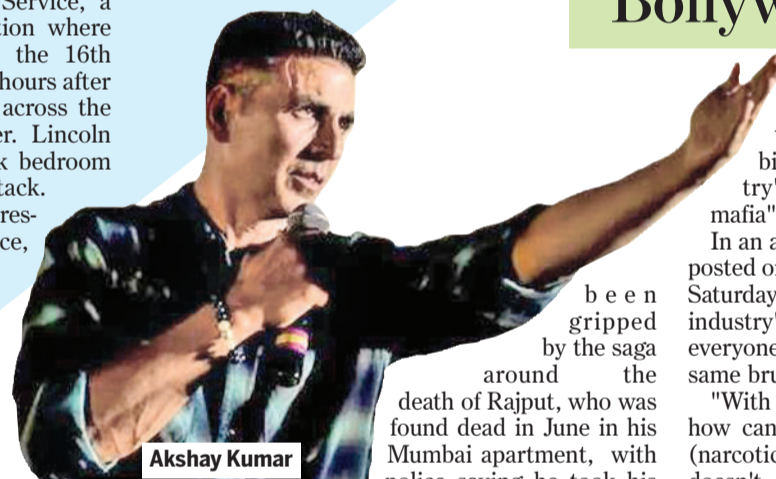
months after being gunned down in 1881 by a disgruntled public office seeker. Anarchist Leon Czolgosz killed president William McKinley in 1901. And John F. Kennedy was famously shot while riding in an open-top convertible in Dallas in 1963.

In addition, Reagan was seriously wounded in a 1981 assassination attempt outside a Washington hotel by a deranged gunman.

In 1850, President Zachary Taylor attended a July 4 dedication for the Washington Monument. After reportedly chugging iced milk and eating a large quantity of cherries, he fell ill and died several days later. Contemporaries blamed the milk. Historians say the matter is still up in the air.

Three other presidents have also died of natural causes while in office: William Henry Harrison, Warren G. Harding and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

- AFP



Akshay Kumar

INDIA: Bollywood megastar Akshay Kumar acknowledged on Saturday a drug problem within India's film industry, following a growing narcotics probe surrounding the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Movie-obsessed India has

been gripped by the saga around the death of Rajput, who was found dead in June in his Mumbai apartment, with police saying he took his own life.

The investigation into the 34-year-old's death has expanded into a massive drugs probe, with his former girlfriend, actress Rhea Chakraborty, arrested earlier this month for allegedly buying cannabis for him.

Indian media has also joined

Patel vows to reform 'broken' British asylum system

UK: British Home Secretary Priti Patel accused migrants crossing the Channel on boats of "shopping around" to claim asylum, as she vowed Sunday to overhaul the UK's response to the arrivals.

Delivering the keynote address on the second day of the ruling Conservatives' annual party conference, Patel pledged to introduce legislation next year "to fix this broken system".

In a speech short on policy details, she said asylum-seekers travelling through Europe before reaching Brit-

ain on small vessels showed the current system was "neither firm nor fair". "Shopping around for where they claim asylum. Making that final and extremely dangerous Channel crossing to the United Kingdom, while lining the pockets of despicable international criminal gangs," Patel said.

"Our broken system is enabling this international criminal trade."

Britain is grappling with how to deal with a recent surge in irregular migration across the Channel, with recent reports of possible solutions under consideration also causing an outcry. Patel did not address any of the mooted measures in her address, delivered virtually to Conservative Party members' from a stage in England's second city Birmingham due to the pandemic.

She said the reforms to the system would aim to welcome people through safe and legal routes and "stop the abuse of the system", but warned "this will take time".

- AFP



British Home Secretary Priti Patel

Akshay Kumar acknowledges Bollywood's drug 'problem'

calls for a wider investigation into the multi-billion-dollar film industry's so-called "drugs mafia".

In an almost four-minute video posted on his Twitter account on Saturday, Kumar called on the industry's fervent fans not to tar everyone in Bollywood with the same brush.

"With a hand on my heart, how can I lie and say that this (narcotics and drugs) problem doesn't exist in our industry," Kumar, 53, said in Hindi in a video watched more than 2.5 million times.

"It exists in our profession the same way problems exist in every other profession. But to say that everyone in every profession is involved in all its problems would be wrong."

Several high-profile actresses including 34-year-old superstar Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh have been hauled in for questioning.

Wider national interest in the Bollywood case peaked last month after TV channel TimesNow broadcast sections of WhatsApp conversation about procuring hash, alleging that the two people chatting were Padukone and her manager.

Rajput's family, meanwhile, has disputed reports the actor suffered from depression and has also accused Chakraborty of stealing his money and harassing him.

Chakraborty, 28, who has been hounded for months by the media along with her family, has denied any wrongdoing. - AFP

Pope says market capitalism has failed in pandemic

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis says the coronavirus pandemic has proven that the "magic theories" of market capitalism have failed and that the world needs a new type of politics that promotes dialogue and solidarity and rejects war at all costs.

Francis on Sunday laid out his vision for a post-COVID world by uniting the core elements of his social teachings into a new encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti" (Brothers All), which was released on the feast day of his namesake, the peace-loving St. Francis of Assisi.

The document draws its inspiration from the teachings of St. Francis and the pope's previous preaching on the injustices of the global economy and its destruction of the planet and pairs them with his call for greater human fraternity and solidarity to address those issues.

In it, Francis rejected even the Catholic Church's own doctrine justifying war as a means of legitimate defense, saying it had been too broadly applied over the centuries and was no longer viable.

"It is very difficult nowadays to invoke the rational criteria elaborated in earlier centuries to speak of the possibility of a 'just war,'" Francis wrote in the most controversial new element of the encyclical.



Pope Francis arrives at the St. Francis Basilica to sign a new encyclical on fraternity and solidarity in the post-COVID world, in Assisi, Italy, Saturday. The Pontiff made his first trip outside the Vatican in seven months since the virus outbreak.

Francis had started writing the encyclical, the third of his pontificate, before the coronavirus struck and upended everything from the global economy to every day life. He said the pandemic, however, had confirmed his belief that current political and economic institutions must be reformed to address the legitimate needs of the people most harmed by the pandemic.

"Aside from the differing ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident," Francis wrote. "Anyone

who thinks that the only lesson to be learned was the need to improve what we were already doing, or to refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality."

He cited the grave loss of millions of jobs as a result of the pandemic as evidence of the need for politicians to listen to popular movements, unions and marginalized groups and to craft more just social and economic policies.

"The fragility of world systems in the face of the pandemic has demonstrated that not every-

thing can be resolved by market freedom," he wrote. "It is imperative to have a proactive economic policy directed at 'promoting an economy that favours productive diversity and business creativity' and makes it possible for jobs to be created, and not cut."

He denounced populist politics that seek to demonize and isolate, and called for a "culture of encounter" that promotes dialogue, solidarity and a sincere effort at working for the common good.

As an outgrowth of that, Francis repeated his criticism of the "perverse" global economic system, which he said consistently keeps the poor on the margins while enriching the few. Francis rejected the concept of an absolute right to property for individuals, stressing instead the "social purpose" and common good that must come from sharing Earth's resources. The title of the encyclical had sparked controversy in the English-speaking world, with critics noting that a straight translation of the word "fratelli" (brothers) excludes women. The Vatican has insisted that the plural form of the word "fratelli" is gender-inclusive and that the document by its very nature is inclusive of women.

- HINDISTAN TIMES

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Rugby star Bowala played for six 'A' Division clubs

ALHAF NAWAZ

It is quite phenomenal to see a sportsman excel at School, Club and International level. Anuradha Bowala was one of them who had the rare distinction of playing for six 'A' division clubs in his rugby career, which is a record in Sri Lankan Rugby history.

Anuradha Bowala well known as 'Bo' in the rugby fraternity is the son of Panchi Bandara Bowala a retired ASP of Sri Lanka Police. He has one brother late Senaka Bowala and two sisters Kumari Dharmapala and Subadra Perera.

He started his education at Ispithana College, Colombo and carried on until high school. His elder brother Senaka was also a prominent figure in rugby at college in the 1969/1970 season before he went on to play for CH and FC and Air Force as a prop forward, was instrumental in influencing his brother Anuradha to take up rugby. Late Senaka Bowala played for Presidents XV and Defence Service team. Anuradha began his rugby career at college in 1975 playing for the college under-15 team. In 1976, he captained the college under-17 rugby team at inter school match-

es. In 1977/1978 season he was selected to play in the first XV team of the college under H.K.Sisira and M.P.F. Sallay. Two years later the college was placed third in the Asian Schools tournament in Bangkok under his leadership and he was adjudged the most outstanding player while playing as a winger in 1978 under the captaincy of late M.P.F. Sallay, he scored 23 tries in a single schools rugby season which was achieved by his school mates H.K.Sisira and Hisham Abdeen. Ispithana became the runners up to S Thomas' who won 13-6 in the centenary year knockout tournament conducted by SLRFU where they beat Dharmaraja in the quarter final and went on to trounce Trinity in the semi-final by 21 points to 6, played after a lapse of 12 years. The last encounter against them was in 1966 where Ispithana lost 33-3 at Bogambara Stadium under the captaincy of Sunil Wickramasinghe. He also represented Sri Lanka Schools team against the visiting Loughborough College from London where the local squad consisted of six Ispithanians, six Thomians and six Royalists,



which was led by Rohantha Peiris of Royal College.

Bowala also represented Ispithana at the fourth Asian Schools rugby football tournament in Bangkok in 1979 under K.D. Nanayakkara's captaincy. While being a schoolboy he represented Havelocks at the inter club sevens in 1979 along with Angelo Wickramaratne, Michael Jayasekara. Bowala led Ispithana in 1980 which won the 'Philip Bultjens Cup' for the first time beating Trinity 22-0 in the final.

This popular school's sevens was started in 1975 where Trinity won it in 1975, 1976, 1977 followed by Royal in 1978 and 1979. Thereafter it was Ispithana which dominated maintaining the winning streak until 1987. They beat Royal 14-7 after a lapse of nine years in 1980.

The 1980, the Champion Ispithana sevens team was coached by legendary O.W.R. Perera ably assisted by Maxwell Dias. Bowala led the side which consisted of his former skipper M.P.F.Sallay, Anura de Silva, Hisham Abdeen, Hector Gunathilake, Dilroy Fernando, M.D. Ifthikar, V.P.Sepala, Kamal Mahendra few to be named. Same year they became runner up team of the Noel Gratiaen Cup under his leadership in the fifteen a side tournament which also included M.P.F.Sallay, Anura de Silva, Neomal de Silva, K.D.Nanayakkara, M.R.T. Bunty Noordeen, D.P.Udayasiri, Udaya Rajam, M.D. Ifthikar, Hisham Abdeen, Leslie de Silva, V.P.Sepala, H.A Sarathchandra, Sheham Siddik, Dilroy Fernando, Lal Perera, Saliya Gunasekara, Harsha Gunaratne, Thisantha de Silva, Upul Weerasinghe and Kamal Mahendra.

Besides playing rugby Bowala also took part in Athletics in the under-15 age category where he went to establish a public school Javelin throw record. He also won the under-16 4 x100, 100 and 200 metres events in 1977. In 1980 he represented the under-19 100/200 metres events while being a member of the 4x100 relay team at the 'Tarbat Cup'.

Apart from the other sporting disciplines he played Cricket in the under 14, 16 and the first XI team from 1978 to 1980, where he opened bowling with former test player Ashantha de Mel. His club rugby career started in 1978 as a schools boy at the age of 17 years donning CH and FC jersey. After two years he represented Havelock's in 1980 to be in the sevens champion team. In 1981 he swapped clubs and joined the Sri Lanka Air Force along with his brother Senaka Bowala. In 1982 he once again crossed over to represent CR and FC sevens champions team. He was picked as the best player at the inter-club sevens in 1982.

He toured with CR and FC for the 'Milk Cup' at the Singapore sevens in 1982. He then was called for the

National team to represent Sri Lanka team at the Rugby Asiad in Japan in 1984. When he was in his peak he kept on shuffling clubs and played for Dimbula in 1984/1985 season before he joined Kandy Sports Club in the 'A' division rugby in 1984. In 1983 he sustained a serious leg injury and was out for one year. In 1986/1987 season he represented the national sevens team at the Hong Kong sevens followed by the Sydney World Cup sevens in 1987. He also represented Sri Lanka in the under-25 tour to Taiwan in 1986. In 1987 played once again for Havelocks Sevens team which became champions.

He says that he owes his success to two great college coaches Kamal Jayawardena and O.W.R. Perera who played a key role in him becoming a top rugby player.

He is the only Sri Lankan to represent six 'A' division rugby clubs in his career from 1978 to 1987, which was a very rare achievement. Bowala is domiciled in Melbourne, Australia with his family and his wife is Nilmini a house wife and has two sons Suren and Gihan who play American Football in Australia.

Tharindu Rukshan does Devapathiraja proud

DILWIN MENDIS
Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Third Year Player, left hand middle order batsman, gloveman of the side and under 23 club cricketer Tharindu Rukshan has come up with good performances for his Alma Mater Devapathiraja National School, Ratgama.

His first school was Siri Sumana Vidyalaya, Ratgama and he came under Rashan Madushanka when he was in the grade five and in the same year he played for the Big Match against Sri Sumangala Vidyalaya, Hikkaduwa in a thirty over encounter.

He entered Devapathiraja College in Grade Six and in the same year he attended cricket practic-

es under Ranjan Lasantha de Silva who too is a past cricketer of Devapathiraja. He got selected to the under 13 team and played as the wicket keeper and the opening batsman and in his first year itself he scored 450 runs with three fifties and claimed 25 victims behind the stumps.

In his second year he passed the 450 run mark with two half centuries and had 24 victims behind the stumps and captained the team. As an under 15 player he scored 351 runs with two fifties and claimed 25 wickets behind the stumps and in his second year too he achieved the same feat.

Last year playing in the under 17 he scored 390 runs with two fifties



Tharindu Rukshan

the stumps and in the last season he collected 552 runs with a top score of 65 runs with Mahanama College, Colombo and had 25 victims behind the wickets.

Presently he is in the under 23 Cricket Pool of Galle Cricket Club preparing for the forthcoming cricket tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket. He has another three years under his belt to represent his Alma Mater. Though he opened batting for the under 13, 15 and 17 teams his coach advised him to bat in the middle order in the first eleven team which bore fruit. Tharindu is well supported by his uncle Dinesh Tharanga who is also a former Devapathiraja College, Cricketer.



Devapathiraja National School, Ratgama First Eleven Cricket Team 2019/2020 Front Row Seated L/R - Chamika Sandaruwan, Raveen Yasas, Nishantha Kumara, Pathum Madushanka, Mr. Alwis (Principal), Thisara Dilshan, Ranjan Lasantha (Coach), Kalpa Chethiya, Sudeera Weeraratne Back Row Standing L/R - Sadru Theekshana, Hareen Asintha, Jeewaka Shasheen, Ravindu Randika, Sasanka Nirmal, Pawan Sandesh, Shehan Hasaranga, Irushka Thimira, Tharindu Rukshan (Picture by Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

Kandy District Cricket Tournery in full swing

HAFIZ MARIKAR

The Kandy District Cricket Association inter-club cricket tournament is in full swing with a total of 30 teams participating. Up to date out of seventy games, forty one games have been played with some stunning upsets as well as close matches. The tournament is played in the One Day format.

Out of the games results of thirty eight games were published. Kandy District Cricket Association with their excellent performances in organizing matches have identified good players in the city through these matches, based on performance some of the outstanding cricketers have been spotted.

In the 38th game Prisons Sports Club beat University Staff C.A by 5 wickets. Prison Sports Club won the toss and elected to field first, and bowled out University Staff C.A. for 88 in 27 over's A. Rajapaksha 30 not out. M. Gomez 3 for 14 and M. Herath 3 for 27. In reply Pris-

on Sports Club made 89 for 5 in 31.4 overs M. Gomez 39 not out. U. Prathapasinghe 2 for 12

In the 39th game Kandy Academy Sports Club beat Blue Universal Sports Club by 49 runs at the Pallkelle Prisons grounds. Blue Universal won the toss and elected to field first and Kandy Academy Sports Club were able to score 194 for 9 in 50 over's P. Kumara 53, D. Costa 36 not out. B. Prasad 3 for 30 and A. Mahesh 2 for 25. In reply Blue Universal Sports Club made 145 all out in 33 over's. A. Khan 31 C. Heshan 3 for 02 and D. Madushanka 2 for 10

In the 40th game Ekamuthu Sports Club beat Galagedara Cricket Club by 45 runs at the Palkelele Prisons grounds in a group D game. Galagedara Cricket Club won the toss and elected to field first, and Ekamuthu S.C. went on to score 177 runs losing all the wickets in 34.5 over's. D. Madushanka 37 N. Priyadarahana 26 were the top scorers and

the bowlers who did well were S. Aramph 3 for 24 and T. Weerasinghe 2 for 28. Galagedara Cricket Club in reply were able to score 132 runs for ten wickets in 36.4 over's. The batsmen who did well were T. Weerasinghe 42 and R. Dassanayake 29. Then in bowling J. Kavinda bowled well to take 6 for 26 and U. Danesh 2 for 19.

Then in the 41st game University Cricket Club beat Old Rajans Sports Club by 36 runs at Lake View grounds. In this game Old Rajans Sports Club won the toss and invited the opponents to take the first turn of the wicket. University Cricket Club gave a good batting display and went on to score 199 runs in 46 over's. L. Rathnayake made a solid 72 and P. Dilshan 42. P. Rathnayake took 4 for 13 and C. Nishantha 2 for 38. Old Rajans Sports Club were all out for 163 in 42.1 over's. M. Wijekoon 62, J. Gunatunga 57. M. Karavita 3 for 22 and M. Rizan 3 for 26

Miandad SC cricket team victorious

(ADDALAI CHENAI CENTRAL CORRESPONDENT)

Miandad Sports Club cricket team, Sainthamaruthu emerged winners of the Cricket match when they beat New Star Sports Club cricket team, Sainthamaruthu by two wickets played at the Sainthamaruthu public play grounds recently.

The 20 -overs cricket match was held with the aim of developing friendship between the Sainthamaruthu MIANDAD SC and Sainthamaruthu New Star SC players.

Sainthamaruthu New Star SC team batting first scored 135 runs in their allocated 20 overs being all out. Sainthamaruthu MIANDAD SC team in reply scored 139 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 15.3 overs.

Kandy YMCA excel in powerlifting and weightlifting



The Champion Weightlifters and Powerlifters of Y. M.C.A. from left: D.M. Senaka, M.M.D. Harischandra, A.E. Wijewickrema, (Coach) S.K.S.Pradeep, B.J.Wijewickrema.

Text & Pic. BY UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA
-Kandy Sports Spl.Corr.)

Kandy Y.M.C.A. has produced many National and International level Weight lifters for the last 50 years or more and in the recent past YMCA has produced Power lifters as well.

Following are the present Champion Weight lifters and Power lifters.

M.D.M. Senaka - National Power lifting Champion in his weight Class 105 Kg. from 2015 to 2018 placed 6th among over 20 contestants at the Asian Power lifting Championship held in Indonesia in the year 2017.

Mrs. M.M.D.Harischandra - National women's Weight lifting Champion in her Weight Class 87 Kg. from 2004 to 2018 placed 1st at the South Asian Weight lifting Championship held in Nepal in the year 2012.

S.K.S.Pradeep - National Power lifting Champion in his weight class 59 Kg. from 2016 to 2018, Placed 2nd at the Asian Power lifting Championship in his Weight class held in Mongolia in 2018.

In addition he was placed first at the Asian Pacific Classics Power lifting Championship held in Australia and he became the 7th in the World ranking in the Year 2019. Currently he is the 59 Kg. category Record Holder in Power lifting.

B.J.Wijewickrema - Placed second in his weight class 89 Kg. at the youth Weight lifting Commonwealth Games held in Samoa in the year 2015.

Placed third at the Youth Weight lifting Commonwealth Games held in Malaysia in the year 2012 and Placed second in the same meet also held in Malaysia in the year 2016.

Amāna Bank employees take part in 'Race the Pearl'

Three of Amāna Bank's employees undertook Sri Lanka's one and only ultra-endurance cycling challenge 'Race the Pearl' which took to the roads of Sri Lanka on October 2. Held for the 3rd time, 'Race the Pearl' was a 600km spanning cycle race connecting the furthestmost points of Sri Lanka, Point Pedro to Point Dondra. 'Race the Pearl' is the Sri Lankan equivalent to the famous 'Race Across America', for which this race was a sanctioned qualifying event.

With close to 50 cyclists taking part in the race, Amāna Bank was represented by three of its employees namely, Irshad Iqbal (VP - Business Banking), Tuan Samsudeen (Executive Central Processing) and Chathura Dayaratne (Manager - IT Infrastruc-

ture Systems), who are avid cycling enthusiasts.

Tuan Samsudeen took part in the 24 hour ultra-racing challenge while Irshad Iqbal and Chathura Dayaratne competed in the relay event.

Tuan Samsudeen is an experienced cyclist having ridden the 2nd edition of Race the Pearl in 2019 in the 48 hour category as well as having taken part in 'Ride 4 Ceylon' Colombo to Jaffna 435km bike ride in 2020. He was also instrumental in commencing a 'Bike 2 Work' campaign amongst the employees of Amāna Bank, which encouraged fellow riders Irshad Iqbal and Chathura Dayaratne to take part in this years 'Race the Pearl'.



Irshad, Tuan and Chathura of Amāna Bank

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The 42nd Most Popular Schoolboy/girl Cricketer Contest is now on. Mail the completed coupon to the **SPORTS EDITOR, SUNDAY OBSERVER, LAKE HOUSE, COLOMBO 10.**

CONDITIONS:
Children of Lake House & Mobitel staff are not eligible to participate in the competition.
Each coupon must contain only one vote for one player and for one contest.
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Nadal breezes at Roland Garros, Thiem escapes and Zverev in sickness row

PARIS, SUNDAY: Twelve-time champion Rafael Nadal breezed into his 14th Roland Garros quarter-final on Sunday as Dominic Thiem survived an epic five-setter and Alexander Zverev stunned the coronavirus-affected tournament by admitting he played despite being sick and was struggling to breathe.

On a dramatic windswept and chilly day in the French capital, teenagers Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek created shockwaves by reaching their maiden Grand Slam quarter-finals.

Nadal beat American qualifier Sebastian Korda 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 to stay comfortably on course for a record-equalling 20th Grand Slam crown.

It was Nadal's 97th win at the tournament against just two defeats since his title-winning debut in 2005.

"It was a good performance and I am happy with that," said Nadal who has now made his 42nd quarter-final at a major.

He will next face Italy's Sinner, 19 and ranked 75, who defeated Zverev 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 to become the youngest men's Grand Slam quarter-finalist since Novak Djokovic in Paris in 2006.

In a tournament turned upside down by the coronavirus, which meant a four-month delay and with a crowd capacity of just 1,000 a day, Zverev admitted he had played despite illness.

The German star, runner-up to Thiem at the US Open, raised questions over whether he should even have been allowed to take to the court when he revealed he had been feeling ill since his win over Marco Cecchinato in the previous round.

"I am completely sick after the match with Cecchinato in the night. I can't really breathe, as you can hear by my voice," said Zverev.

"I'm not in the best physical state. I shouldn't have played." Zverev, 23, was up to date

with his tournament-mandated Covid-19 tests, the French Tennis Federation (FFT) said in a statement. His last one was on September 29.

However, the FFT added that the German "did not consult the tournament doctors before his match".

Zverev's previous coronavirus test was negative. The result was received on September 30.

"Today (Sunday) he received a reminder for his next test, to be carried out within five days of the previous results," the FFT added.

Sinner is first player to reach the last eight on his Roland Garros debut since Nadal lifted the trophy in 2005.

"Today was very tough knowing that it's going to be a long match but in the end I'm very happy about my performance," said Sinner.

Third seed Thiem, the runner-up to Nadal for the last two years, was given a major scare by France's Hugo Gaston,

ranked at 239, who stunned 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka in five sets in the third round.

Thiem made the last eight for a fifth straight year but had to battle for a 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 6-3 win and will now face Argentine 12th seed Diego Schwartzman for a place in the semi-finals.

"He plays drop shots from another planet," 27-year-old Thiem said of Gaston, the last Frenchman in the draw. "I was lucky to make it through."

World number 54 Swiatek, 19, shocked top seed and title favourite Simona Halep 6-1, 6-2.

Swiatek fired 30 winners past 2018 champion Halep who failed to carve out a single break point.

"I am surprised I could do this," admitted Swiatek after ending the 17-match winning streak of Halep, the overwhelming favourite in the absence of 2019 champion Ashleigh Barty and US Open winner Naomi



Dominic Thiem



Rafael Nadal

of Argentina, made the quarter-finals with wins over fifth seed Kiki Bertens and Barbora Krejickova respectively.

Travisan, 26, put out Bertens 6-4, 6-4 and will now face Swiatek. Podoroska, also making her main draw debut, defeated Krejickova 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 and will next face third seed Elena Svitolina of Ukraine.

The 23-year-old Podoroska, who was ranked at 255 at the start of the season, has now won 42 matches across all tours in 2020 despite the truncated season.

Svitolina reached the quarter-finals for the third time with a 6-1, 6-3 win over France's Caroline Garcia.

Sunday's shocks mean that only four seeds remain in the women's draw - Svitolina, fourth-seeded Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin, two-time Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova, seeded at seven, and Tunisia's Ons Jabeur, the 30th seed. **AFP**

Osaka and following the injury-enforced withdrawal of Serena Williams.

It was a stunning turnaround for the Pole who won just one game against the Romanian at the same stage in Paris last year, swept off court in just 45

minutes. Halep, who had arrived in Paris with claycourt titles from Prague and Rome, admitted: "She played really well, it was her match today."

Qualifiers Martina Trevisan of Italy, ranked at 159, and 131st-ranked Nadia Podoroska

Baseball to be popularise in the CP



Theekshana Gammampila, Head of Training at SLBSA elaborating some points of the game to the participants

The Sri Lanka Amateur Baseball/Softball Association (SLBSA) resumed their development by conducting three Teachers Training programmes (TTP) in Kandy, Lagala and Matale respectively.

After the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, this programme was done with the blessing of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) which was sponsored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) through the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka (NOCSL).

More than 150 Coaches, Sports Officials, Physical Training Instructors (PTIs) and Teachers participated on all three days as the Sri Lanka SLBSA successfully conducted the three Teachers Training programmes on September 23, 24 and 25 in the Central Prov-

Dad's Army: old soldiers Watson and du Plessis fire up Chennai

DUBAI, MONDAY: Veterans Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis rewarded Chennai Super Kings' faith in sticking with their old guard after leading their team to a thumping 10-wicket Indian Premier League win.

Watson, aged 39, struck form with an attacking 83 in an unbeaten 181-run opening stand with the 36-year-old du Plessis, who plundered 87, as Chennai thrashed Kings XI Punjab on Sunday.

Led by 39-year-old Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the three-time Indian Premier League winners are labelled "Dad's Army" by the media and they ended a run of three consecutive defeats by

keeping to a philosophy of backing their ageing players.

While South Africa's in-form du Plessis struck his third half-century of the season, it was Australian Watson's return to form that enabled the team to bounce back.

"It is something (selection consistency) that we bank on and sometimes (Chennai coach Stephen) Fleming doesn't get as much credit," Dhoni said after the win.

"It's not that we don't have debates, but it's one plan, that's the relationship between us."

Watson overcame put behind him scores of four, 33, 14 and one to help Chennai to



Faf du Plessis and Shane Watson

a franchise record opening stand.

Fleming, the former New Zealand captain who has been with Chennai since the inaugural 2008 season of the cash-rich

Twenty20 league, said it was important to retain confidence in players during the lean periods.

"You have to be very courageous when things don't go their way and positive as well," Flem-

ing told reporters after the match. "Attitude you can control and all we try to do is provide some selection security with guys and then ask them to be as confident and positive as they feel."

"If Shane had been struggling in the nets and looking out of touch then it may have been a selection issue," added Fleming. "But he has been nothing but solid."

Du Plessis smashed 11 fours and a six in his 53-ball stay at the crease in Dubai and credited the team management for sticking with their players.

"Credit to Dhoni and Fleming, it's obviously the CSK way," said du Plessis. "They stick with players a bit longer than other teams might." **AFP**

Boult conquers hot conditions to help Mumbai top IPL table

DUBAI, MONDAY: New Zealand quick Trent Boult returned figures of 2-28 as he overcame hot UAE weather to help holders Mumbai Indians reach top of the Indian Premier League table on Sunday.

Boult, a left-arm paceman, led a disciplined bowling attack with Australia's James Pattinson, who also took two wickets, as Mumbai outplayed Sunrisers Hyderabad by 34 runs in the afternoon match of the Twenty20 tournament.

South Africa's Quinton de Kock hit form with his 39-ball 67 to guide Mumbai to 208 for five, a total the bowlers defended by restricting Hyderabad to 174-7 at the short-boundary Sharjah cricket ground.

"We had watched a bit of cricket played on this wicket. Small ground too. Good effort by the boys. We had something to bowl to," Boult said after being named man of the match. "I am known for swing and not for slower ones with the new ball, but you just use variations

and angles." Boult got the key wickets of England batsman Jonny Bairstow for 25 and his national captain Kane Williamson, caught behind for three, to choke David Warner's Hyderabad.

"I don't actually get Kane out too much in the nets. So nice to do so, but more important to get the wicket," he said.

"Very foreign conditions for me, very hot, but you have to be clear in your head. Execute what you want to do, and not worry about the ball travelling out of the park." Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai, who led the eight-team points table with three wins and two losses, have won record four titles in the IPL that is being played in the United Arab Emirates after being moved out of India due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The cash-rich tournament has been played behind closed doors across three UAE venues including Abu Dhabi and Dubai. **AFP**

"I'll hold my hands up, I'm responsible for this. I promise we'll do everything we can to turn this around."

Jürgen Klopp was so taken by surprise at Liverpool's collapse that he actually wore a bemused grin at times as his team fell to the biggest defeat of the German's career.

"We lost balls in the wrong area and did not protect properly. It looked like we lost the plot after it went to 1-0," Klopp said.

"We created but did not protect ourselves properly so each ball we lost was a massive counter attack. **AFP**

Liverpool, Man Utd humiliated as Premier League goes wild

LONDON, SUNDAY: Champions Liverpool suffered a humiliating 7-2 defeat at Aston Villa and Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho savoured a 6-1 win over his former club Manchester United in one of the most astonishing days in Premier League history.

Bitter rivals Liverpool and United were joined in misery on Sunday after chastening defeats that rank among the worst that English football's two most successful clubs have ever suffered.

Historians were reaching for the record books as the goals flowed, first at Old Trafford as United conceded six goals in a match for only the third time in the Premier League era, then at Villa Park as Liverpool surrendered seven goals for the first time since 1963.

For the first time since 1986, United have lost their opening two

home league games of the season and manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer labelled their heaviest home defeat since 2011 as "my worst day ever".

"It's very embarrassing, it hurt all the players. It hurts me as the manager," Solskjaer said.

"I'll hold my hands up, I'm responsible for this. I promise we'll do everything we can to turn this around."

Jürgen Klopp was so taken by surprise at Liverpool's collapse that he actually wore a bemused grin at times as his team fell to the biggest defeat of the German's career.

"We lost balls in the wrong area and did not protect properly. It looked like we lost the plot after it went to 1-0," Klopp said.

"We created but did not protect ourselves properly so each ball we lost was a massive counter attack. **AFP**

Under-23 Major Club Youth Cricket

Baduraliya CC, Lankan CC, Colts CC & SSC into semis

Baduraliya CC, Lankan CC, unbeaten Colts CC and unbeaten SSC entered to the semi-finals of the Under-23 Major Club Youth Cricket Tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

Baduraliya CC leading group 'A' with 22 points and Lankan CC leading group 'B' with 17 points. Unbeaten Colts CC leading group 'C' with 24 points and SSC leading group 'D' with 29 points.

NCC were bowled out for 37 runs by Colts CC at Colts. Colts CC, Kurunegala YCC, Moors CC, Baduraliya CC, BRC, Chilaw Marians CC, Sebastianites C & AC, Ragama CC, Lankan CC, SSC and CCC won their matches.

Nipun Dhananjaya (SSC)

and Sanoj Dasritha (Chilaw Marians CC) made centuries.

Nipun Dhananjaya (SSC) was the leading batsman and Nipun Lakshan (Nugegoda S & WC) was the leading bowler after first round.

The first semifinal between Badureliya CC and SSC will be worked off on October 7 at CCC grounds while the other semifinal between Lankan CC and Colts CC will be played at NCC grounds on the same day. The final will be played at SSC grounds on October 11.

- **At Colts.** Colts CC won by 10 wickets.
- **NCC:** 37 (15.5) (Dhanjaya Lakshan 4/9, Nipun Ransika 3/9, Nipun Malinga 2/11)
- **Colts CC:** 38/0 (6.2) (Avishka Fernando 20 n.o.)

- **At Kurunegala.** Kurunegala YCC won by 8 wickets.
- **Kandy Custom SC:** 109 (43.5) (Rashmika Madushanka 37, Methushan Thilina 21, Nipun Bandara 3/18, Divyesh Praveen 2/11, Ruvin Peiris 2/16, Saumya Prabhsh 2/22)
- **Kurunegala YCC:** 111/2 (25.4) (Keshan Wanniarachchi 58 n.o., Asitha Wanninayake 40 n.o.)
- **At Panadura.** Lankan CC won by 8 wickets.
- **Panadura SC:** 127 (38.4) (Pasindu Pathum 20, Yasiru Rodrigo 3/16, Dunith Wellalage 3/35, Damith Silva 2/21)
- **Lankan CC:** 128/2 (14.3) (Vishwa Chaturanga 75, Sawan Kankanamege 33 n.o.)
- **At CCC.** CCC won by 7 wickets.

- **Galle CC:** 181 (48) (Vinura Dulshara 70, Kavindu Ediriweera 32, Pawantha Weerasinghe 3/26, Suwath Mendis 2/28)
- **CCC:** 185/3 (24.5) (Sonal Dinusha 61 n.o., Malindu Maduranga 50, Kavindu Ranasinghe 48 n.o., Kushan Madusha 3/51)
- **At SSC.** SSC won by 67 runs.
- **SSC:** 257/9 (50) (Nipun Dhananjaya 100, Chamindu Wickramasinghe 53, Krishan Sanjula 27, Dileepa Jayalath 5/44, Vinuja Ranpul 3/61)
- **Bloomfield C & AC:** 190/7 (50) (Nipuna Ranpul 75 n.o., Nipun Haggalla 36, Chanul Athukorala 20, Kavindu Nadeeshan 2/19, Lakshitha Manasinghe 2/46)
- **At MCG Katunayake.**

- **Chilaw Marians CC** won by 46 runs.
- **Chilaw Marians CC:** 261/7 (50) (Sanoj Dasritha 100 n.o., Kamindu Mendis 49, Kavindu Irosh 32, Kasun Ekanayake 3/58)
- **Air Force SC:** 215 (49.1) (Shabik Ifthary 62, Suhanga Wijewardhane 58, Ramesh De Silva 3/22, Raveen Yasas 2/18)
- **At Moratuwa.** Sebastianite C & AC won by 18 runs.
- **Sebastianite C & AC:** 211 (49.3) (Malindu Uthpala 57, Lahiru Fernando 44, Ryan Fernando 27, Nipun Lakshan 3/34, Muditha Lakshan 3/37)
- **Nugegoda S & WC:** 193 (46.2) (Nipun Lakshan 53, Amitha Dabare 47, Muditha Lakshan 25, Abishek

- Liyanarachchi 21, Kavinda Ishwara 20, Praveen Cooray 3/35, Hansa De Silva 2/33, Tharusha Fernando 2/38, Kalana Sandeep 2/46)
- **At Panagoda.** BRC won by 4 wickets.
- **Army SC:** 147 (38.1) (Shehan Fernando 39, Pathum Kumara 34, Samitha Dilshan 22, Hiranth Jayasinghe 4/23, Kevin Koththigoda 3/44, Savindu Uthsara 2/13)
- **BRC:** 150/6 (27.4) (Yesith Rupasinghe 52, Moditha Ranathunga 33, Shehadea Zoysa 2/19, Mahesh Theekshana 2/41)
- **At Maggona.** Baduraliya CC won by 5 wickets.
- **Police SC:** 157/9 (31) (Resandu Thilakarathna 30, Lakshina Rodrigo 28, Rasanja-

- na Silva 4/38, Nirmala Rathnayake 2/15)
- **Baduraliya CC:** 161/5 (29) (Dunith Jayathunga 56, Ramesh Silva 40 n.o., Avindu Theekshana 21 n.o., Nimesh Mendis 2/38)
- **At Bloomfield.** Ragama CC won by one wicket.
- **Negombo CC:** 236 (49.3) (Dimuth Sandaruwan 56, Kavindu Nirmana 46 n.o., Nishan Peiris 22, Savindu Perera 22, Sanjula Bandara 3/33, Shashika Dulshan 3/47, Nipun Kanchana 2/43)
- **Ragama CC:** 237/9 (49.5) (Manessha Rupasinghe 65, Nushal Dharmaratne 61, Janishka Perera 36, Hasitha Rajapaksha 22 n.o., Nishan Madushka 21, Sithum Akilanka 5/35, Kavindu Nirmana 2/52). **(YK)**



Finance

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“QR Code method vital to prevent black money economy”



State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal, CBSL Governor Prof W D Lakshman, Cabinet Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardana and Director Payments CBSL Dhar-masiri Kumaratunge.

Dr. Bandula Gunawardana using payment technology at Cargills store at CBSL. Pictures by Wasitha Patabadige

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

Sri Lanka's financial literacy especially in the rural areas is very low and due to this there is a large black economy, Minister of Trade Dr. Bandula Gunawardana said speaking at the launch of “DIERO LANKAQR” awareness campaign by the Payments and Settlements Department of CBSL.

The Minister said that the launch of the QR Code will be the best method to overcome this as even a small transaction under Rs. 100 could be performed from it.

Dr. Gunawardana said that the government institutions too should follow this since it will minimize delays in payments and there will also be better transparency. State Minister Ajith Cabraal said that the launch of digital payments of this nature will also help to stop black money coming to the country through several channels from overseas as well.

The Minister said it was disappointing to note that a similar system was launched in India in 2016 and very much before in several other countries. “The authorities must

ensure that they keep pace with technology and move with modern times to avoid lapses of this nature,” he said.

Meanwhile the Governor Central Bank Prof. W. D. Lakshman said that 2020 has been named “Year of Digital Transactions” and this system will gradually promote e transactions which will also help the economy in several ways.

The main objective of this scheme is popularizing digital transactions among the general public and businesses. “In line with this initiative, the Payments and Settlements Department of CBSL has made arrangements to launch Island-wide awareness campaigns of LANKAQR.”

Accordingly, the first awareness campaign “On Co LANKAQR” was held last month in CBSL Matale Regional Office.

This event was also attended by several State Ministers, representatives of retail sector and payment service providers, CEOs of all Licensed Commercial Banks, Licensed Specialized Banks and Licensed Finance Companies along with prominent government authorities.

“Construction Industry, catalyst for economic revival”



State Minister Dr. Nalaka Godahewa addressing the event

The present large liability faced by our Government on foreign debt, is hindering the government's capital investments.

“However we will be determined to invest capital in priority areas of development,” said State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness, Dr. Nalaka Godahewa. He was speaking at the inauguration of Build Sri Lanka Housing and Construction Exhibition organized by the Chamber of Construction Industry of Sri Lanka on Friday at BMICH.

He said that the Government has already developed a strategy to settle the loan payments without any default. As such we will settle all debts in a timely manner.

“Consequent to the strain on Government investments due to loan repayments, we are seeking alternative ways of funding vital infrastructure development. In this respect we are seriously looking at various PPP options. The Colombo International Financial City or the more commonly known Port City development is a very good example of PPP project. In this project the Government did not have to spend on capital but attracted private investments to the tune of US\$15 Billion.”

“Even with this gloomy global outlook due to Covid - 19 pandemic, our government is striving hard to reverse these trends. These of course are uphill tasks but our leaders have the best credentials for beating all odds and not only taking the country out of calamities but turning

around our economy to accelerate the growth.”

“When the economy is growing rapidly there will be a construction boom. In the same vein it is the construction industry that will be affected first, when the economy is not growing well.”

“In our country the contribution from construction sector to GDP which was about 15% in 2011 but got reduced to less than 9% in 2019. This was due to the low economic growth experienced after 2015.”

“We are very mindful that it is a time tested remedy to invest more on construction projects to overcome an economic recession. Even many developed countries had adopted this strategy during past global recessions.”

“With the newly established political stability and as priority projects initiated by our Government, the growth scenario should improve. You are already enjoying the benefits of reduction of lending rate from as high as 14% to 15% to a single digit and guarantees given by central bank to get money from government clients.”

There was a road revolution during the 2005 to 2014 tenure of Mahinda Rajapaksa. In that era, highway sub-contractors were local firms which immensely benefited from the policy.

“However by 2019 foreign contractors account for more than 40% of large construction projects in the country due to policy reversal after 2015. The “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor” policy statement clearly mentions that state construction work will be reserved for the domestic construction firms.” (SS)

Govt. to launch road shows after Budget 2021 - Cabraal

RAVI LADDUWAHETTY

The Government will commence regular virtual road shows to strengthen investor relations following the announcement of the National Budget in Parliament November 2020, State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabraal told a presentation for officials last week.

“Those interactions will provide further clarity on the Government's medium term fiscal and financing plans, as well as keep investors posted on the progress relating to the economic initiatives of the new Government”, he said.

Commenting on the Government's commitment to its investors as deep and unwavering, the former Central Bank Governor said: “Sri Lanka re-affirms to foreign investors that it remains willing and able to meet its debt obligations, as it has done impeccably in the past.”

All payment transactions for the repayment of the International Sovereign Bond of US\$ 1 billion which matured on 04 October 2020 were lined up, and funds were credited to the paying agent's account on 02 October 2020.

“Official reserves of the CBSL increased to US\$ 7.4 billion by

end August 2020. The recently introduced measures to entice foreign investors to the government securities market and the real economy through an attractive foreign exchange SWAP arrangement are likely to help enhance foreign currency inflows.”

“This is in addition to the support of friendly countries, such as the SWAP arrangement of USD 400 million with the Reserve Bank of India in July 2020, and the expected disbursement of the 2nd tranche of the Foreign Currency Term Financing Facility of US\$ 700 million from the China Development Bank in October 2020.”

“Sri Lanka's policy environment remains facilitative of enabling high economic growth beyond the recovery phase while preserving the macro-economic stability and the public enterprise management improvements planned will be designed to get to the 25th rank in “Doing Business” Indicators by 2025.

The financial sector will be strengthened through a well designed “consolidation” program on the back of over 11 years of well anchored mid-single digit levels of inflation.

The CBSL has pursued an increasingly accommodative monetary policy stance to deal

with the Pandemic fallout. Fiscal policy, while remaining focused on supporting the economy, will return to a path of consolidation to achieve a budget deficit of 4% of GDP as envisaged in the Government's policy framework, “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor”.

“Foreign holdings in Treasury bills and bonds are likely to attract a substantial volume of investments in coming months, he said, and added that foreign holdings in Treasury bills and bonds exceeded US\$ 3,450 million in 2014.

He also remarked that current holdings have a substantives pace for new investments.

D.P.K. Gunasekera assumes duties as BOC GM



A career banker who counts over 40 years of professional industry experience, D. P. K. Gunasekera has assumed his duties as the General Manager of Bank of Ceylon with immediate effect.

Gunasekera had previously held key positions at BOC including Senior Deputy General Manager (International, Treasury and Investment), Deputy General Manager (Corporate & Offshore Banking), Assistant General Manager (Overseas Branches), plus the role of Assistant General Manager (Corporate Relations) beginning October 2010.

He began his career in 1980 at BOC in the area of retail banking and served in branches right across the island. Going onto specialize in Treasury Operations, his particular focus included high-impact areas including foreign exchange trading, money market operations, and Government securities.

He holds international experience as well, receiving exposure across a wide range of operational aspects at Bank of Ceylon UK Ltd., London, while also undergoing specialized training in foreign exchange trading at both American Express Bank London and Lloyds Bank London.

Gunasekera also functions as the director of several Bank of Ceylon subsidiaries and associate companies.

Sri Lanka Tourism, Australia's MDF develop five-year plan To transform tourism research

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) and Australia's Market Development Facility (MDF) have joined hands to develop a research roadmap to facilitate Sri Lanka's position as Asia's foremost tourism destination.

The roadmap will pave the way for better understanding of the visitors who come to Sri Lanka and assist the public and private sectors in making evidence-based decisions and investments in tourism. This is the first time a thorough analysis has been undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of the data collection efforts by SLTDA and its usage.

SLTDA identified the need for better quality data and research to improve the strategic direction of Sri Lanka's tourism sector, in line with the goals set in Sri Lanka's Tourism Strategic Plan.

“SLTDA's goal is to identify a

diverse range of tourists, tourism services and products that would make Sri Lanka a top tourism destination globally” noted Kimarli Fernando, Chairperson, Sri Lanka Tourism.

“As the primary agency for the collection, analysis and publishing of tourism related data, our goal is to use this roadmap to upgrade SLTDA's research capacities and practices to identify opportunities for new investments, promotions and policy.”

Through support provided by MDF, the flagship private sector development program for the Australian government, an international consultancy will work closely with SLTDA to examine current research frameworks and practices and conduct a gap analysis. Based on this, a five-year roadmap focused on improving tourism data collection,

analysis and usage will be developed.

The roadmap identifies a series of steps to be implemented over the next five years which would bring the capability of Sri Lanka Tourism to the standards adopted by leading tourism destinations globally.

Australia's engagement in this study is part of its broader support to the Sri Lankan tourism industry, through MDF, which is funded by the Australian Government and implemented by Palladium, in partnership with Swiss contact. In the past, Australia has extended support to SLTDA in increasing its research capability through facilitating a study tour for SLTDA staff with Tourism Research Australia (TRA).

“By harnessing data and research, decisions on promotion and investments can be based on evidence and



Kimarli Fernando

the returns on investments and marketing can be tracked and measured, thus offering greater value to the public and private sectors” stated MDF Sri Lanka Country Director, Momina Saqib.

With the implementation of the five year research road map Sri Lanka Tourism and the tourism industry fraternity will be strategically benefitted with data driven, informed decision making which will assist them with target marketing while enabling higher ROI for resources and investments.

CCPI based inflation dips in Sept.

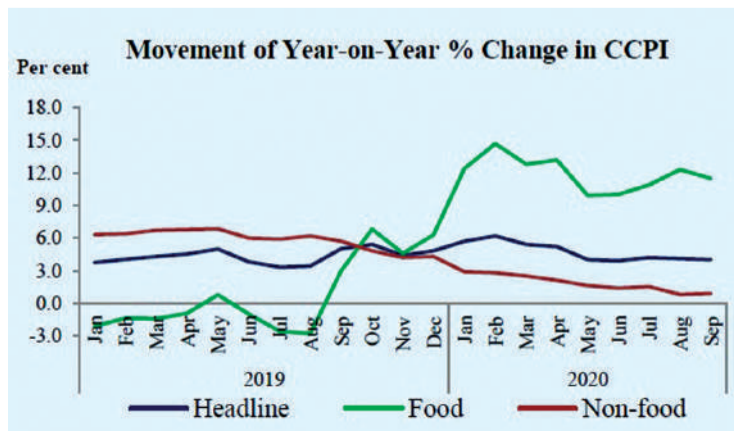
Headline inflation as measured by the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) change in the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI, 2013=100) marginally decreased to 4.0% in September 2020 from 4.1% in August 2020. This was driven by the statistical effect of the high base prevailed in September 2019. Food inflation (Y-o-Y) decreased to 11.5% in September 2020 from 12.3% in August 2020, whereas Non-food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased to 0.9% in September 2020 from 0.8% in August 2020.

The change in the CCPI measured on an annual average basis

also decreased to 4.7% in September 2020 from 4.8% in August 2020.

Monthly change of CCPI recorded at 0.7% in September 2020. This was due to price increases observed in items of both Food and Non-food categories.

Accordingly, within the Food category prices of vegetables, coconut, fresh fruits and big onion increased in September 2020. Within the Non-food category, prices of items in Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotic and Transport sub-categories increased during the month.



The core inflation (Y-o-Y), which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, declined to 2.9% in September 2020 from 3.2% in August 2020. Moreover, annual average core inflation also declined to 3.6% in September 2020 from 3.8% in August 2020.

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Market Statistics on 05.10.2020		Market Statistics on 05.10.2020													
Security	Volume	**V.W.A. Previous Close	Open	High	Low	**V.W.A. Yesterday's Close	Change (Rs.)	Security	Volume	**V.W.A. Previous Close	Open	High	Low	**V.W.A. Yesterday's Close	Change (Rs.)
Main Board															
A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD.	126,655	23.10	22.00	22.00	18.00	19.60	(3.50)	TEEJAY LANKA	537,393	35.80	33.50	33.50	29.60	30.80	(5.00)
ABANS	6,204	93.10	88.40	88.40	80.00	82.80	(10.30)	THREE ACRE FARMS	11,282	137.00	131.00	132.00	120.00	122.10	(14.90)
ACCESS ENG SL	5,194,990	23.90	23.00	23.00	20.90	21.30	(2.60)	TOKYO CEMENT	4,220,817	57.10	54.90	54.90	46.00	50.00	(7.10)
ACL	767,981	53.00	49.90	50.00	44.90	46.80	(6.20)	TOKYO CEMENT [TKYO.X0000]	5,180,561	46.30	44.00	44.50	39.00	41.40	(4.90)
ACL PLASTICS	13,146	184.60	182.00	182.00	151.00	156.50	(28.10)	UNION BANK	1,724,282	11.00	10.30	10.70	9.90	10.00	(1.00)
ACME	305,987	6.20	5.90	5.90	4.70	5.20	(1.00)	UNION CHEMICALS	376	488.60	487.10	549.80	450.00	486.00	(2.60)
AGALAWATTE	9,807	17.50	17.20	18.00	16.50	17.10	(0.40)	UNISYST	126,916	15.40	14.70	14.70	12.00	12.80	(2.60)
AHOT PROPERTIES	46,814	35.00	34.90	34.90	29.00	32.00	(3.00)	UNITED MOTORS	3,054	55.00	54.00	54.00	50.00	50.40	(4.60)
AITKEN SPENCE	121,240	40.10	37.90	38.90	33.50	36.10	(4.00)	VALLIBEL	2,306,789	7.70	7.50	7.60	6.70	7.10	(0.60)
ALLIANCE	3,956	57.60	53.00	53.00	45.00	51.00	(6.60)	VALLIBEL FINANCE	83,642	63.90	63.00	63.00	57.00	57.60	(6.30)
AMANA BANK	805,566	3.50	3.20	3.40	2.90	3.20	(0.30)	VALLIBEL FINANCE	186,260	5.70	5.60	5.60	5.40	5.50	(0.20)
AMAYA LEISURE	20,727	30.00	29.00	29.50	28.50	28.60	(1.40)	YATAWALA	32,599	37.40	36.50	36.50	32.50	33.50	(3.90)
ASIA ASSET	290,936	9.10	8.80	8.80	7.50	8.00	(1.10)	YORK ARCADE	2,473	105.50	103.00	103.00	90.00	96.10	(9.40)
ASIRI	141,958	20.80	20.00	20.00	18.00	18.20	(2.60)	SECOND BOARD	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ASIRI SURG	35,261	10.40	10.00	10.40	9.80	9.90	(0.50)	ABANS FINANCIAL	45,809	28.60	28.50	28.90	27.40	28.10	(0.50)
BAIRAHA FARMS	72,884	122.20	116.00	116.00	99.90	106.20	(16.00)	AMBEON CAPITAL	833,174	5.90	5.50	5.50	5.00	5.00	(0.90)
BALANGODA	69,194	14.40	13.80	13.80	11.50	12.20	(2.20)	ARPICO	222	126.50	126.50	126.50	116.00	116.00	(10.50)
BUKIT DARAH	2,076	463.10	406.10	464.90	380.00	392.50	(70.60)	ASIA BEACH	18,423	7.00	6.40	6.90	5.90	6.20	(0.80)
C M HOLDINGS	20,237	79.70	73.50	77.80	69.00	71.70	(8.00)	BROWNS BEACH	9,210	12.00	11.50	11.50	10.80	11.00	(1.00)
C T HOLDINGS	1,341	164.60	163.20	163.20	154.90	156.40	(8.20)	COMM LEASE & FIN	312,818	4.50	4.00	4.10	3.50	3.70	(0.80)
CANDOR OPP FUND [COF-U-0000]	2,100	7.40	6.90	6.90	6.70	6.80	(0.60)	DIALOG FINANCE	7	54.00	45.10	45.10	45.10	54.00	0.00
CARGILLS	345	188.00	188.00	188.00	183.10	183.80	(4.20)	DISTILLERIES	634,917	19.10	18.10	18.10	16.20	17.00	(2.10)
CARGO BOAT	5,457	59.90	53.10	56.00	48.00	50.60	(9.30)	GOOD HOPE	94	947.20	800.10	800.10	800.00	947.20	0.00
CARSONS	3,192	319.00	305.00	305.00	252.10	263.70	(55.30)	KOTMALE HOLDINGS	320	238.60	201.00	202.00	200.00	201.30	(37.30)
CDB	1,628	90.00	88.00	88.00	80.40	81.30	(8.70)	LCLC DEV FINANCE	133	38.40	48.00	48.00	40.00	40.40	2.00
CDB [CDB.X0000]	4,811	65.20	62.80	65.00	57.00	59.70	(5.50)	LCLC FINANCE	1,840,016	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.40	3.50	(0.50)
CENTRAL FINANCE	112,081	81.00	80.00	80.00	73.00	74.70	(6.30)	MADULSIMA	64,191	10.10	9.50	9.50	8.00	8.80	(1.30)
CENTRAL IND.	149,494	62.00	60.00	60.00	48.00	52.60	(9.40)	OCEL PLC	409	20.40	20.20	20.20	19.70	19.70	(0.70)
CEYLINCO INS. [CINS.X0000]	419	810.00	805.00	805.00	792.00	802.00	(8.00)	PDL	575	140.00	140.00	140.00	135.00	136.50	(3.50)
CEYLON GUARDIAN XD	48,622	133.30	128.50	128.60	110.00	114.80	(18.50)	SELINSING	1,856	745.40	690.80	700.00	690.80	700.00	(45.40)
CEYLON INV. XD	110,769	71.20	67.90	67.90	57.50	59.20	(2.00)	SINGER SRI LANKA	110,554	46.10	43.00	44.80	36.00	39.50	(6.60)
CEYLON TOBACCO	1,375	968.00	945.00	945.00	900.00	933.60	(34.40)	TRADE FINANCE	13	56.30	55.00	55.00	55.00	56.30	0.00
CHEMANEX	11,047	69.00	60.00	64.50	60.00	62.90	(6.10)	DIRI SAVI BOARD	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CHEVRON	850,128	88.60	85.00	85.00	78.00	80.10	(8.50)	AGSTAR PLC	167,716	7.00	6.80	6.80	5.90	6.20	(0.80)
CIC	218,482	94.00	91.00	91.00	81.60	85.10	(8.90)	ALUMEX PLC	884,397	19.00	18.00	18.50	15.00	16.60	(2.40)
CIC [CIC.X0000]	233,564	73.90	68.00	72.00	63.00	66.30	(7.60)	AMANA LIFE	26,899	8.20	7.70	7.70	7.50	7.70	(0.50)
CITRUS LEISURE	174,107	10.50	10.00	10.00	8.50	9.20	(1.30)	AMANA TAKAFUL	45,689	10.00	9.40	9.40	8.50	9.20	(0.80)
COLD STORES	1,924	677.60	670.00	675.00	645.00	645.40	(32.20)	AMBEON HOLDINGS	427,846	19.00	17.50	17.50	14.60	15.40	(3.60)
COLOMBO CITY	75	860.00	807.00	807.00	801.10	860.00	0.00	AMF CO LTD	2	395.90	353.00	353.00	353.00	395.90	0.00
COLOMBO LAND	156,412	26.80	25.00	25.00	22.00	22.70	(4.10)	ANILANA HOTELS	2,511,842	1.40	1.30	1.30	1.10	1.10	(0.30)
COMMERCIAL BANK	1,882,557	79.20	76.50	77.40	73.10	74.70	(4.50)	ARPICO INSURANCE	11,294	24.90	23.00	24.50	20.00	23.00	(1.90)
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]	200,190	69.00	65.00	66.00	61.10	64.90	(4.10)	ASIA SIYAKA	6,976,777	3.40	3.10	3.20	2.80	2.90	(0.50)
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	1,215,331	12.60	12.00	12.00	9.50	10.20	(2.40)	BANSEI RESORTS	38,494	8.00	7.90	7.90	7.70	7.70	(0.30)
DFCC BANK PLC	1,712,707	69.50	66.00	67.00	61.00	63.10	(6.40)	BERUWALA RESORTS	810,049	1.10	1.00	1.00	0.90	0.90	(0.20)
DIALOG	2,532,380	11.20	11.00	11.00	10.60	10.90	(0.30)	DIRI SAVI BOARD	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DIMO	2,017	368.60	340.00	340.10	310.00	316.70	(51.90)	BIMPUPH FINANCE	282,164	12.90	12.00	12.90	9.70	11.40	(1.50)
DIPPED PRODUCTS	215,451	224.30	218.00	218.00	199.00	200.80	(23.50)	BOGALA GRAPHITE	19,746	21.00	20.00	20.00	17.00	17.80	(3.20)
DOCKYARD	166,983	77.00	74.00	74.00	58.00	65.70	(11.30)	BOGWANTALAWA	9,591	15.40	14.90	14.90	13.00	14.00	(1.40)
DOLPHIN HOTELS	5,065	26.00	25.50	25.50	20.20	21.10	(4.90)	BPPL HOLDINGS	1,066,644	13.80	13.00	13.30	11.80	12.10	(1.70)
DURDANS	2,032	91.40	90.00	90.00	85.00	89.00	(2.40)	BROWNS	8,183	65.20	63.10	63.10	56.00	61.60	(3.60)
DURDANS [CHL.X0000]	600	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	0.00	BROWNS INVMTMNTS	63,539,845	2.80	2.70	2.70	2.40	2.50	(0.30)
E B CREAMY	115	1,150.50	1,027.00	1,027.00	1,020.00	1,020.30	(130.20)	C T LAND	6,774	32.10	31.50	31.50	30.00	30.60	(1.50)
EAST WEST	337,841	12.70	11.90	12.50	10.80	11.10	(1.60)	C.W.MACKIE	1,652	45.00	42.70	42.70	38.00	40.00	(5.00)
EASTERN MERCHANT	1,122,254	9.20	8.50	8.50	6.90	7.70	(1.50)	CEYLON BEVERAGE	3	769.50	750.00	750.00	750.00	769.50	0.00
EXPOLANKA	53,301,175	13.50	12.50	13.00	11.50	11.90	(1.60)	CEYLON TEA BRKRS	570,531	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.20	3.40	(0.50)
FIRST CAPITAL	231,779	59.30	56.40	56.00	50.00	52.40	(6.90)	CFI	7,507	65.50	62.10	65.50	60.00	65.00	(5.50)
FORT LAND	921,517	13.90	13.00	13.00	11.00	11.90	(2.00)	CIT	728	86.90	72.00	74.00	71.50	78.30	(8.60)
GESTETNER	1,727	88.10	85.00	91.90	84.00	84.60	(3.50)	CITRUS HIKKADUWA	77,328	6.00	5.50	5.60	4.50	5.50	(0.50)
GRAIN ELEVATORS	239,815	83.10	78.50	79.00	70.20	72.70	(10.40)	CITRUS WASKADUWA	853,917	4.20	4.00	4.00	3.40	3.60	(0.60)
HAYCARB	111,995	321.20	314.90	314.90	290.00	300.40	(20.80)	COM.CREDIT	43,298	25.70	25.00	25.00	22.00	22.80	(2.90)
HAYLEYS	151,259	284.50	270.00	274.00	251.00	255.40	(29.10)	COMMERCIAL DEV.	4,881	95.50	90.00	91.00	81.00	89.90	(5.60)
HAYLEYS FABRIC	7,115,434	27.10	25.00	25.00	22.00	23.10	(4.00)	DILMAH CEYLON	21	669.50	671.00	671.00	665.00	669.50	0.00
HAYLEYS FIBRE	9,697	117.90	115.00	115.00	110.20	111.30	(6.60)	E - CHANNELLING	316,598	8.00	7.60	7.60	6.00	6.30	(1.70)
HDFC	115,440	40.20	36.90	38.00	34.00	34.80	(5.40)	EDEN HOTEL LANKA	3,719	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.50	11.60	(0.40)
HDMAS HOLDINGS	558,089	75.50	73.80	73.80	66.00	69.50	(6.00)	ELPITIYA	383,021	36.40	33.00	35.40	30.50	32.10	(4.30)
HNB	1,013,132	124.50	120.00	122.00	115.00	115.90	(8.60)	EQUITY TWO PLC	547	68.80	64.80	64.80	57.20	6	

SLASSCOM recognises winners of Oslo Innovation Week

The first member meet-up since the Covid-19 lockdown of the Sri Lanka Association for Software Services Companies (SLASSCOM) was an eventful one that comprised of the Oslo Innovation Week award ceremony.

Hosted by the SLASSCOM Entrepreneurship and Innovation Forum and sponsored by PwC Sri Lanka, the evening was graced by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Sri Lanka Trine Jorani Eskedal, embassy staff, SLASSCOM members and well-wishers.

SLASSCOM Chairman Channa Manoharan highlighted that this meet-up was a special one not only since it was the first post-Covid event for the association but also because it was the celebratory platform to recognize the winners of the Oslo Innovation Week Accelerate 2020.

Launched in partnership and under the patronage of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Sri Lanka, the Oslo Innovation Week Accelerate 2020 was a competition to recognize and support Sri Lankan tech



Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, handing over an award to a winners

start-ups. The competition revolved around innovative products and services that can help fight the pandemic while addressing social issues arising from same. The competition also required applicants to focus their innovations on the UN17 Sustainable Development Goals in one of five areas namely, Ocean, Healthcare, Energy, Equality and Smart Cities.

"The aim of the competition was to inspire Sri Lankan start-ups to explore the opportunities of using digital technology to solve social issues and more importantly, to support them with finan-

cial aid, mentorship and guidance to successfully commercialize their innovations," explained SLASSCOM Director Anura De Alwis.

The six winners of the Oslo Innovation Week Accelerate 2020 competition were selected from a pool of over 50 shortlisted applicants by an expert panel of judges made up of local and foreign specialists in business and IT domains. They included the teams Q-bus, Magicbits, Studybuddyzone, Fusion Lab, Ananke IoT Services and Ultraclass.

From these winners, the team Ultraclass have been



SLASSCOM Chairman Channa Manoharan with a winner

selected to represent Sri Lanka and showcase their innovations at the Oslo Innovation Week 2020 Top 100 pitches, which will be held virtually this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

"Our dependency on digital infrastructure and online services has never been more than it is today," mentioned H.E. Trine Jorani Eskedal. "Over four billion people use digital technologies, but this means that half of the world still doesn't, and we need to pay special attention to these people and support them," she added.

She congratulated the winners and thanked SLASS-

COM for their initiation in recognizing local innovators and start-ups.

The evening also included the recognition of six innovators from Cutting Edge 2020 – an innovation-centred exhibition hosted by Informatics Institute of Technology (IIT) – namely, Gayalie Jayawardhane, Mohamed Irfan Ismath, Jitendran Jude Sajith Hector, Nisal Sudila, Safiyaah Thur Rahman and Stelan Briyan Simonsz. These students will be taken into the SLASSCOM mentorship programme to be guided in the lines of commercializing their innovations.

I. G. Perera re-elected President ISMM

The Institute of Supply and Materials Management which held its AGM recently re-elected its incumbent President I. G. Perera unanimously for a second term. He took his oaths before the Immediate Past President Nalin Silva at the AGM.

Having commenced his working career as an Inventory Controller and moving on to, Warehouse Management, Procurement Management, Human Resource Management, Quality Management and Lean Management, IG gained a wealth of experience and exposure working for reputed multinational companies which are leading manufacturing exporters in Sri Lanka and overseas that utilized state of the art technologies and systems.

IG had his executive education from INSEAD University France, Henley Management College, UK, Indian Institute of Management, and University of Western Sydney, Australia. IG is also a Fellow of the Institute of Supply and

(ISMM) and an Accredited Trainer of the International Trade Centre (Geneva) affiliated to the UN.

Presently, he is in the visiting Faculties of Green University (NSBM), Homagama, University of Colombo, NIBM, ISMM, MILODA, Coventry University, Birmingham City University, University of Plymouth, UK and RMIT (Australia).

The Council of Management 2020/2021; President I. G. Perera, Vice Presidents, Jayantha Gallehewa and Sarath Gamage.

Maj. Gen. (Rtd) R. V. Udawatta, General Secretary, S. K. Dimuka Hemantha, Assistant Secretary, Krishan Tennakoon, Treasurer, G. Dharshana Wijemanne, Assistant Treasurer, R. A. Chamira Harshalal, Editor, Milinda Obeysekera.

The Council of Management 2020/2021: President, I. G. Perera, Vice Presidents, Jayantha Gallehewa, Sarath Gamage, Maj. Gen. (Rtd) R. V. Udawatta, General Secretary, S. K. Dimuka Hemantha, Assistant Sec-



retary, Krishan Tennakoon, Treasurer, G. Dharshana Wijemanne, Assistant Treasurer, R. A. Chamira Harshalal, Editor, Milinda Obeysekera.

Council Members: Gamini Madhuraarachchi, Udaswin Daluwatte, M. Camillus De Hoedt, Pradeep Kudagamage, D. A. Ranil Abeysekera, Darshana Jayasinghe, Lilantha Subasinghe, Sqd. Ldr. V. Lakmewan Athukorala, Rasika Wickramanayaka, Priyanga D. Kirihena, B. P. Lalith Batuwita. Appointed Members: D. E. K. Prasad Krishantha, S. H. Chinthaka Prasad, S. R. B. Chapa Refaie and A. B. M. P. Abeykoon.

Representatives of Institutional Members: Asanga Weerackody – Eagle Logistics Colombo (Pvt) Ltd., Sanjaya Gunasekera – Logiwiz Limited

Senkadagala Finance appoints Dr Roshan Perera to Director Board

Senkadagala Finance has announced the appointment of Dr. Roshan Perera as an independent non-executive director.

Dr. Perera is a former Central Banker with over 20 years of experience in formulating and implementing monetary and fiscal policy. During her term at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, she occupied multiple senior management positions including: Deputy Director – Economic Research Department, Additional Director – Bank Supervision Department and Director – Risk Management Department. Prior to these, Dr. Perera was a consultant for various institutions such as the Insti-

tute of Policy Studies, World Bank and UNDP. She was also the Director – Banking Cluster of the Ministry of Public Enterprise Development.

Dr. Perera graduated from the University of Colombo with both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics. She obtained her PhD in Economics from the University of Melbourne, and most recently received a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University.

Commenting on her new role as a Board Director of Senkadagala Finance PLC, Dr. Perera stated, "Senkadagala Finance is a well-respected, licensed finance

company and I look forward to enhancing the current growth which Senkadagala Finance has displayed in the recent past."

Initially established in the Hill Capital of Kandy in 1968, Senkadagala Finance PLC has grown to become one of the larger licensed finance companies in Sri Lanka, with a network of 100 branches. In this regard the company has partnered with international development financial institutions such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC), member of the World Bank group and the Dutch Development Bank, FMO and leading Banks in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Pitigala-Arachchi, Deputy Vice Chancellor of SLIIT Int'l

The Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT), in its 21st year of operation, will expand into a whole new space in higher education. They are engaging top administrators and academics, drawing the best talent in the education sector to support this endeavour.

In line with this objective, SLIIT has engaged expert educator and academic, Dr Athula Pitigala-Arachchi, as the Institute's Deputy Vice Chancellor International. Dr Pitigala-Arachchi, who was CEO of the Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT) from 2004 to 2020, is a highly accomplished individual with a notable career in education.

"As SLIIT has rapid expansion plans for the coming year,



we are fortunate to have experienced people in the higher education sector joining our insti-

tute. This is an endorsement of our potential to grow this industry in the right direction. In this post-lockdown environment in Sri Lanka, this sector is at a crossroads, and we believe this is an opportune time to expand our offerings so that students here and in the region will see Sri Lanka as a hub for higher education," says Professor Lalith Gamage, Vice Chancellor of SLIIT.

An alumnus of the University of Peradeniya, the newly appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor holds a Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Bristol, UK and BDS (Hons) degree from the University of Peradeniya.

Dr Pitigala-Arachchi served the University of Peradeniya for many years as a senior academic and administrator; he served the University as the Deputy Vice Chancellor for four years before joining APIIT where he held the position of CEO for the past 16 years.

He has served on the University Grants Commission (UGC) Standing Committee on Quality Assurance.

Under their new expansion programme, SLIIT will not only target local students but will attract international students looking for safe higher education opportunities overseas.

Established in 1999, SLIIT is the only not-for-profit, non-state degree awarding institute in Sri Lanka, approved by the UGC under the Universities Act.

Thanuja Lankathilake at the helm of SLAAR

The 27th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Association of Airline Representatives (SLAAR) was held on September 10, 2020 at The Ramada Colombo and Chairperson – GSA Air India, Thanuja Lankathilake was elected President.

Captain Themiyi Abeywickrama - Director General & Chief Executive Officer of Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest and Major General (Rtd) G. A Chandrasiri - Chairman of Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Ltd was the Guest of Honor.

Addressing the gathering, the newly elected Chairperson of SLAAR, Lankathilake said, "SLAAR would continue to strengthen

the close working relations and bonds we have had over the years with industry stakeholders. Especially during this time when the global aviation industry is being challenged at its highest resulting from the after effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. SLAAR would extend its fullest support in promoting Sri Lanka in becoming an aviation hub in the near future."

"I will not deny that the task ahead for us is a monumental one, and with the newly elected committee, we will ensure that no stone will remain unturned as we drive ourselves to claw back to what it was prior to coronavirus pandemic and uplift the industry for the benefit of all its stakeholders."

Gerard Victoria the outgoing Chairman said, "The volatile landscape in the pandemic has enforced a new outlook to the way we conduct business. It is vital to adapt, collaborate and optimize strengths to face the challenges of the pandemic while pushing boundaries in order that Aviation can endure and overcome for resilient performance."

SLAAR was founded in 1993 with the primary goal of providing the off-line Airlines with an opportunity to voice their difficulties, to seek common solutions as well as to discuss matters pertaining to their day-to-day operations. Its membership consists of 33 Passenger and Cargo General Sales Agencies.

Indrani Fernando heads WCIC

The Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce conducted its 35th AGM at the Kingsbury Hotel and Indrani Fernando, took over the reins as its leader to continue the fast tracked journey the WCIC has embarked on.

British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Sarah Hulton, was the Chief Guest. She in her address established the importance of entrepreneurs in the progress of any economy, and committed to support the WCIC in its endeavors.

The Chamber, which has now strategized its forward journey, has already finalized the Strategic Plan for the 2020/2021 that will be shouldered by Pillar Leaders, who are part of the Board. Indrani Fernando stated, "having been a part of this chamber for many years, I have been a witness to the contribution it has made to the society at large, supporting the entrepreneurs to achieve higher standards and

professionals to reach greater achievements. We have connected and collaborated with both the public and the private sector to deliver, extraordinary results under the guidance of the immediate past Chairperson." "Quite recently we revalidated our fundamentals adjusting our Vision, Mission and Core Values to align with the needs of tomorrow. Our sharpened direction clearly highlights the need for action. With extreme clarity on our forward journey we have been able to shape out a clear structure and a plan." "Even for the new term the Strategic Plans is already in place and a very capable and energetic Board has taken the responsibility to drive the activities. In actual fact, I have become the first, privileged WCIC Chairperson who will take over with a already created structured Strategic Plan for the year."

Presenting her review of the year



New office bearers: Seated Left to Right: Jani Perera (Assistant Treasurer), Zahara Cader (Joint Secretary), Gayani De Alwis (First Vice Chairperson), Chathuri Ranasinghe (Immediate Past Chairperson), Indrani Fernando (Chairperson), Ramani Ponnambalam (second Vice Chairperson), Sonali De Silva (Joint Secretary), Anoji De Silva (Treasurer)
Standing Left to Right: Samitha Perera, Nayana Karunaratne, Sarah Samoon, Tehani Mathew, Samitha Kumarakulasingham, Ilanga Karunaratne and Suba Ramaturthy

2019/2020 the outgoing Chairperson Chathuri Ranasinghe shared a detailed review of the challenges and the achievements. "We were able to sharpen our Vision, mission, and core values, which resulted in the need to create a relevant Brand Identity in line with the created direction, depicting the pro-

gressive nature and the need to embrace the emerging world during the past three years. "As we enter the new terrain it is important to ensure our focus stays sharp." The Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce is the premier organization supporting Entrepreneurs and professional businesswomen.



Newly appointed committee: Thanuja Lankathilake (Chairperson – GSA Air India), Gerard Victoria (Immediate Past Chairman – Hayleys Aviation), Gyan Amerasinghe (Deputy Chairman – GSA Emirates Airline), Shamith Wijethilake (Secretary – GSA Air Asia), MrDimundAmarathunge (Treasurer – Leisure Cargo Lanka), MrSrimath Fernando (Asst. Treasurer – GSA Saudi Airline), Sureeka Fernando (Committee Member – GSA Swiss International Airline), Niranjan Athapaththu (Committee Member – GSA Kuwait Airways), MsPrahharshini Boling (Committee Member – GSA Singapore Airline), Sudeshinie Jayawardena (Committee Member – GSA British Airways), SashinMuthuthanthri (Committee Member – GSA Indigo Airline), Sajith Amarasekara (Committee Member – GSA Malaysian Airline), Santhush Udumalagala (Committee Member – GSA Malindo Air) New office bearers after their election

DLB presents South Asia's first digital lottery

Through DLB Sweep App

The Development Lotteries Board (DLB) marked a significant turning point of its history by way of launching the first digital lottery "Sasiri" under the patronage of S.R. Attygalle, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance.

Sasiri is the first digital lottery in South Asia and it can be purchased online through the DLB Sweep App as a printed lottery ticket. Lagna Wasana, Super Ball and Shanida lotteries can also be purchased online through the same App.

"The main objective of the introduction of this Sasiri lottery ticket

is to make a financial contribution to the COVID-19 Fund established during the recent past to face the pandemic. Therefore the profits earned from this lottery sale are remitted to the President's Fund and it is expected to remit this money to COVID Fund from the President's Fund," an official from DLB said.

The first draw of this Sasiri lottery is due to be held on October 14 and thereafter the draws will be held on every Wednesdays and Saturdays. Customers have the opportunity to win many prizes including



cash prizes of one hundred thousand by way of matching three numbers. Arrangements have been made to credit the cash prizes directly to the bank accounts of the winners, who are fortunate to be the winners of this Sasiri digital lottery. Further, the prizes of printed lottery tickets can be collected either from

the distributor or the Head Office of the DLB. DLB also has made all arrangements to conduct the draw of this lottery going beyond the traditional systems and applying digital technology. DLB Sweep App can be downloaded via any smart phone or tab using the link www.dlb.lk/apps.

SLT, Mobitel partner 'Manusath Derana' to convert decommissioned SLTB buses

Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT) and Mobitel partnered with 'Manusath Derana' to help transform 25 decommissioned Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) buses into modern and fully equipped libraries.

These library buses will contain reading facilities, WiFi connectivity and other such support systems ready to enable children to connect with the information world. These libraries will act as learning centres that will provide equal opportunities for students with accessible educational resources and to help inculcate the crucial habit of reading.

This initiative was carried out in partnership with the National Library of Sri Lanka and SLTB, with the SLT Group focusing on this national CSR project to convert these decommissioned buses to empower 25 rural schools across the country.

To mark the handing over the first five buses, a launching ceremony was held recently at the Presidential Secretariat. The event was graced by President and other dignitaries from SLT, Mobitel, SLTB and the National Library. Rohan Fernando (SLT Group Chairman), Lalith Seneviratne (SLT Group CEO), Kiththi Perera (CEO/SLT), Nalin Perera (CEO/Mobitel), Priyantha Fernandez (COO/SLT), Prabhath Dahanayake (CMO/SLT), Shashika



President and officials from SLT, Mobitel SLTB and the National Library at the ceremony held at the Presidential Secretariat.

Senarath (CMO/Mobitel) and several other officers from SLT and Mobitel were present at the event. SLT, as the national information and

communications technology provider and leading broadband and backbone infrastructure service provider in Sri Lanka, and Mobitel as their mobile telecommunication subsidiary, have recognized the importance of school libraries and how they drastically help improve student literacy and learning outcomes in Sri Lanka.

Particularly in this day and age, where libraries have become slightly overlooked, SLT has ensured that this invaluable tool is there for those who need it, in a way that is also up to date in terms of digitization.

The SLT Group identifies education as one of the most important investments that can be made, as this investment is placed on the youth as the future of this country.

Thus, the SLT Group is committed to supporting the educational landscape by providing access to reading materials through e-learning and m-learning platforms, thus empowering thousands of students, graduates and other knowledge seekers across the country to come together and share in their love of books, learning and technology.



Mobitel presents Huawei 5G Nova 7 SE to Minister of Sports



Liang Yi, Chief Executive Officer, Huawei Technologies Lanka Co (Pvt) Ltd. hands over the phone to Namal Rajapaksa along with Lalith Seneviratne, Group CEO of SLT and Mobitel, Shashika Senerath, Chief Marketing Officer of Mobitel.

Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd. together with Huawei presented the latest 5G Nova 7 SE to Minister of Youth and Sports Namal Rajapaksa. This symbolic event marked Mobitel's commitment in bringing the latest

devices to the Sri Lankan market and gearing Sri Lanka towards the 5G era.

Mobitel became the first mobile network provider to demonstrate 5G technology in South Asia back

in 2019 and was recognized for having the fastest LTE network in Sri Lanka for two consecutive years by Ookla, the global leader in internet speed and testing applications.

Union Assurance partners NTB to offer Group Life Insurance



Union Assurance CEO Jude Gomes presents the new Group Life Cover to Priyantha Talwatte Director and CEO, Nations Trust Bank in the presence of the management teams of Nations Trust Bank and Union Assurance.

Union Assurance PLC partners with Nations Trust Bank PLC, to provide a comprehensive Group Life Insurance solution to Nations Max Bonus savings account holders. The solution comes with many value-added benefits to the account holder.

The Group Life Insurance solution from Union Assurance provides comprehensive Life Insurance protection to Nations Max Bonus account holders which are tailor-made to suit the requirements of the account-holders.

Union Assurance Chief Executive Officer Jude Gomes expressed his views stating that "As a pioneer in the Life Insurance Industry, we constantly redefine our products and services to meet evolving customer needs. This partnership with the Nations Trust Bank will help us expand our reach and will make a positive impact on the lives of a wider group of individuals, which will be beneficial for both organisations."

Union Assurance and Nations Trust Bank have held a strong partnership

since 2008. Strengthening this partnership further, Nations Trust Bank and Union Assurance continue to establish new avenues to reach out to meet the demands and provide holistic financial solutions to more customer segments.

Union Assurance is a pioneer life insurance provider in Sri Lanka, completing over three decades of success with a market capitalization of Rs. 18 billion, a Life Fund of Rs. 38 billion and a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 455% as of July 2020.

'People's Elegance' banking centre to Ratnapura Targets leading gem exporters



Governor of Sabaragamuwa Province Tikiri Kobbekaduwa and CEO Officer/General Manager Ranjith Kodituwakku opening "People's Elegance" banking centre in Ratnapura.

People's Bank extended its premier "People's Elegance" exclusive banking concept to Ratnapura by opening a "People's Elegance" banking centre on October 2, to cater to leading high net worth customers in the world renowned gem city.

The new banking centre, located at the People's Bank Regional Head Office in New Town Ratnapura, was opened by the Chief Guest, Governor of Sabaragamuwa Province Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager Ranjith Kodituwakku, Deputy General Manager (Channel Management) Lionel Galagedara, Deputy General Manager (Enterprise Banking) Krishani Naranogoda, Ratnapura Regional Manager Nalin Perera and other bank officials were also in attendance.

A large number Sri Lanka's leading gem exporters, also participated in the opening ceremony.

"People's Elegance" Banking centre will provide an array of exclusive personalized banking services to meet unique banking requirements of discerning high net worth customers of

the area and investors of the "International Gem City" mega project in Ratnapura. People's Bank is the official investment banker to the mega integrated development project that is expected to be completed over the next 4-5 years.

Although Sri Lanka is renowned the world over as an island blessed with precious gems, there is no international hub for gems for the island to market on the global stage. With the aim of rectifying this shortcoming, the Urban Development Authority (UDA) has envisioned a plan to commence a mega integrated development project that will create the "International Gem City" in the city of Ratnapura within the next five years.

The UDA has already allocated 50 acres of land in Ratnapura for this project and the proposed "International Gem City" will consist of large areas solely dedicated for all gem-related activities and services including gem auctions, exhibitions, laboratories and lecture rooms. A 5-star hotel is also part of the project bring-

ing added convenience to international gem traders and tourists. In order to further enhance the knowledge levels of Sri Lanka's youth on gems, an undergraduate degree in Gemology in collaboration with the University of Sabaragamuwa is also in the pipeline.

The UDA has already allocated 15 acres of land in Ratnapura for the project. This project along with two other key pillars, the Ruwanpura Expressway and tourism in the Sabaragamuwa Province are expected to play a key role in developing the province in the next 4-5 years. Additionally, the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council has earmarked 69 tourism destinations in the Sabaragamuwa Province for further development to prepare them to accommodate a large number of international tourists.

The International Gem City will be driven by a company established by the UDA with funds being acquired through shares issued to the public as well as from international investors by the National Gem and Jewellery Authority.

HNB partners Prime Group



HNB Assistant Manager, Housing and Personal Loans, Sampath Dodanwela, Prime Group Director, Nalinda Heenatigala, Prime Group Co-Chairperson, Sandamini Perera, HNB Deputy General Manager- Retail & SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne, HNB Head of Personal Financial Services, Kanchana Karunagama and HNB Manager- Housing and Personal Loans, Asitha Fernando.

HNB PLC, announced a partnership with local real estate developers Prime Group, to offer prospective homeowners special interest rates and attractive benefits for Prime Group properties.

The partnership will provide customers with a special promotion on the extensive portfolio of lands, houses, and apartments on offer by Prime Group for 60 days. HNB Deputy General Manager Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne, HNB Head of Personal Financial Services, Kanchana Karunagama, Prime Group Co-Chairperson, Sandamini Perera, and Prime Group Director Nalinda Heenatigala were present at the occasion.

As one of the largest private sector banks in the country, HNB has always worked towards offering customers the best possible deals to achieve their dreams. As such, we believe the partnership with

the Prime group has offered us the opportunity to provide our loyal customer base with the ability to own their dream home," HNB Deputy General Manager-Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne said.

HNB will offer the most flexible and competitive loans in the market to suit the requirements of any prospective homeowner, for land, property, and apartments provided by Prime Group. Dedicated agents will assist customers with comprehensive support for legal and documentation requirements, in addition to offering doorstep mortgage advisory services.

The bank will offer special interest rates during the promotional period spanning September to October, which will also be backed by HNB's state-of-the-art back-end processes to ensure a remarkable 3-day loan approval period; ideal for customers relying on a speedy response to their loan

applications. "Partnerships of this nature provide us with the opportunity to offer our customers convenient payment solutions necessary to purchase their dream homes."

"As such, we are delighted to be partnering with HNB to facilitate the dreams of prospective homeowners across our extensive portfolio of land, houses, and apartments," Prime Group Co-Chairperson Sandamini Perera said.

Prime Group will offer prospective homeowners of Prime Residences at Kynsey Road, Rajagiriya, Borella, Colombo 5, and Kadawatha exclusive discounts of up to Rs.1 million when investing in an apartment.

Additionally, the company will fully waive off the legal fee for the transaction as well as the management corporation fee for six months.

Nokia 2.4 launched

The next generation Nokia 2.4 brings advanced AI imaging features including Night mode and Portrait mode. Nokia 2.4 comes with a large 6.5" HD+ screen and a two-day battery life. The phone brings modern essentials like fingerprint and face unlock. The Nokia 2.4 comes with our Android promise, giving you three years of monthly security updates and two years of OS updates, meaning it's ready for Android 11 and 12.

Juho Sarvikas, Chief Product Officer and Vice President of North America, HMD Global, "The Nokia 2.4 continues to exceed expectations when it comes to what a phone within this segment can provide. We've included high-end features like the AI camera with Night mode and Portrait mode. All of this wrapped up in a timeless Finnish design that's reflected in the Nokia 2.4 colour palette -

introducing Dusk to the range - a light, dusty shade of purple that is inspired by Nordic nature."

True to its Finnish roots, the Nokia 2.4 comes wrapped in a durable design. The 3D nano-textured cover sits securely in your hand and has a stunning finish available in Nordic-inspired colours.

Plus, the die-cast metal chassis with polycarbonate shell gives the phone rigidity combined with the comfortable feel expected from a Nokia phone.



TIC

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

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TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY

Empires do not fall because of external foes. They fall because of weak links within. Perfect Prefects features Head Boy of St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10, Shenal Goonewardena who has found peace of mind. As a result, he is able to give 100 percent to what he intends on doing.

Sadhguru once said - 'Do not try to fix whatever comes in your life. Fix yourself in such a way, that whatever comes, you will be fine'

You are not above criticism points out Goonewardena. There will always be those who may have different opinions about you and that is something you cannot prevent. They might try and put you down. It is up to you to decide whether you move forward or whether you yield, he says. This understanding has given him peace of mind. With peace of mind there is nothing to hold him back. As a result, it is not a question of how. It is question of when he is going to realize his dreams.

"One of the keys to success in life is being dedicated. You also need 100 percent commitment. It may be sports, studies or co-curricular activities, you need to give 100 percent. Being on the path to success doesn't mean that you will be problem free," said Goonewardena.

Through participating in SLMUN, it has broadened his horizons. SLMUN is an excellent way of creating statesmen in Sri Lanka. It is important that the youth engage in politics. For that the current leadership in Sri Lanka needs to create a platform for the youth to come up with their own ideas. Senior citizens in society must not be arrogant. A young person having a dream is something to be happy about.

"I feel that in society attitudes need to change. One day I saw with my own eyes, an old gent with a walking stick fall down to the ground. I saw a number of people passing by who did not even look at him. That is not what should happen. We must always be helpful. I was raised in a family that values kindness. My family members always tried to help. I see the way the current society is moving and I don't like it! We need to change the thinking patterns of the current society," he explained.

SLMUN is about gathering of facts, figures, data and evidence. But all the facts in the world are useless if you do not have passion.

"I have every intention of joining the UN. It is the ideal place for a young person to make a difference. SLMUN taught me how to be straightforward, because you can be straightforward if you are fact based. If you are fact based then you can walk into any room and be comfortable. I also learnt public speaking. You need to be very thorough when you are speaking. You need to get to the point without being a windbag. The exposure I got was excellent. You get an excellent knowledge when it comes to current topics through SLMUN. Young people are able to come up with their solutions. We are also able to come up with ideas when it comes to preventing problems," explained Goonewardena.

When he looks at the world around him, he says that he is very concerned about poverty. Poverty can even drive someone mad. Goonewardena recalls the Covid19 lockdown. He says most of the students in the Western Province, they had access to technology such as computers. But there were certain students who did

Feat of dedication

St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10



Addressing the audience at Sports Meet 2020

not have access to such technology. They faced a huge problem. Being at home for over four months in that condition that can really break a person. That is just one example. There is a gap between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' in our society. This gap must be addressed.

"At, St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10, the Prefect body organizes Community Service Projects. We want to provide water facilities to a rural school. We can do so much for people, we just need to be passionate about it," pointed out Goonewardena

Being able taking spontaneous decisions while being calm is certainly an achievement. This applies to the CEO of a company or to a Head Boy or Girl. He added that communication is essential when you are a Head



Taking part in the Felicitation Ceremony - Advance Level 2019



Prize Giving Ceremony - 2020

and goals," pointed out Goonewardena.

He has done well at his A/Ls and has applied to some local universities and is focused on the IT sector. The goal is to become a software engineer. His passion is social work - helping others. The idea of joining the UN and working with them is something he is very keen about. The tremendous work they do, greatly appeals to him. Being in the Choir from Grade 9, he was into music and it is still something that strikes a chord with him. Music is a great part of his life and it always will be, because he has been taught by the best.

"Barack Obama former President of the United States is someone I admire because of his good qualities. He was the first African American president of the USA. That itself was a great achievement. When taking decisions he was very calm. He was also very genial. His communication skills were excellent and he was someone who won the hearts of people. When it came to his followers' he made sure that they did not involve themselves in situations that got out of hand," added Goonewardena.

He finally wanted to thank everyone who has helped him through his life such as his parents and teachers. He also wanted to thank his Rector and Vice Rector. They have been a source of guidance for him through all these years. He also wished to thank the TIC of the Prefects body for all the support given to him. Last but not least he wanted to thank his friends.

Pictures by Sarath Peiris

Prefect. It is so important to communicate your vision as a leader. Those who you lead must know what to accomplish and how to do it. Unity is also important. You have to polish your unit until the glare of their achievements blinds everybody. Your presence at their side must be a guarantee of victory. Then those who you lead will feel safe.

He has been an Oarsman, even though for only a short period. It was something that really thrilled him. Goonewardena adds that it really changes one's personality and makes you a better person. It is a different life pattern. Sports can change a man but there is something about rowing he says that is different. You fall in love with it.

"Being a leader is not easy. Just because you are handed a leadership position that doesn't mean you can be a great leader. There are those who would make great leaders but who are not given such a position. There will be a lot of barriers. It is all about hard work. You should try to always excel in whatever you do. I was recognized by the school community because I excelled in both studies and sports. I was in the choir and I was an Oarsman. I made my mark. It is not going to be an easy journey and it will be hard. But you should always pursue your dreams



Prize Giving Ceremony - 2019



Head Boy of St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10, Shenal Goonewardena

'World's fastest human calculator'

Olympic gold medal winner pledges to eradicate math phobia in Sri Lanka

You could say Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash is to maths what Usain Bolt is to running. - BBC

At the age of 20 he's won India's first ever gold in the mental calculation world championship. He says maths is a "big mental sport" and his ultimate mission is to "eradicate maths phobia." Bhanu - as he's known - "thinks about numbers all the time" and is now the fastest human calculator in the world.

Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash a 20-year old, won GOLD medal for India at the Mind Sports Olympics (MSO), London 2020 in establishing that he is the 'fastest human calculator in the world' (This is the first time, a non-European won a Gold Medal, ever.). Neelakantha holds four World Records for being the Fastest Human Calculator in the World, breaking records which were once held by famous Scott Flansburg and Shakuntala Devi. The MSO is the most prestigious international competition for games of mental skill and mind sports held every year in London since 1997.

"The Mental Calculation World Championship 2020" had 29 competitors from 13 countries, aged up to 57 years old took part, with very high levels of ability demonstrated! After multiple rounds, in the finals Neelakantha won with a clear margin of 65 points. The judges were so surprised that they required him to perform a few extra questions to verify that this was done properly (which in fact it was!)

At the age of 20, he stands with not only a plethora of accolades but a vision to eradicate math phobia which is a prevalent problem across the globe, establish math as an artform which can be learned and performed and has been doing his bits of work with the government to change the math-education landscape of the world.

Q: This wizardry in Maths is it all thanks to that learning or you were born with a genius streak?

In 2005, an accident rendered me bedridden for a year, with doctors speculating over whether I would have any long-term effects. However, my parents refused to believe them. They encouraged me to solve puzzles in an at-



Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash

tempt to boost my brain. And contrary to the doctor's predictions, ten years later I went on to break a World Record held by Scott Flansburg to become the World's fastest human calculator. All thanks to learning hence!

Q: What are your future plans- how do you wish to go about eradicating math phobia?

"Vision Math" is a global movement. I called out for promoting the view that the global definitions of mathematical education have TO change.

Our researches across the world, say that three out of every four students across the world are math-phobic. Four out of every seven people, in the working age group, say that they would have done better had they been good at math.

Numeracy establishment, hence is the first step towards improving a country's mathematical competence. With this movement and my start-up Exploring Infinities, I wish to promote and nurture math education in students through experiential narratives to learn math as not only a subject but as a sport and an art form. My firm, Exploring Infinities is venturing out as a serious start-up with an objective - making math fun and accessible to all.

With Vision Math, I see myself touring across the world being an Indian Ambassador promoting "#visionmath" as a Global Movement to 30+ countries, driving reforms in local math educa-



Aspiring to eradicate math phobia

tion and developing cognitive abilities through arithmetic. Doing shows across the country to inspire a generation to take up mathematics, and learn from the indigenous Indian knowledge, would be the way ahead. With this I want to Initiate and carry Global dialogues and head Training initiatives and impact every single state in the country, thus working on increasing the numeracy across the Globe.

OBJECTIVES

1. Promote Vision Math as a National and Global Movement to get students excited about math through shows and keynotes.
2. To eradicate Math Phobia across the world, to increase the numeracy level through our public interventions - digital and physical workshops. Improve Cognitive Abilities in students through arithmetic learning, across all age groups.
3. Redefining the objectives of math education, by bringing a systemic change which effectively will curb the gap left behind by lack of arithmetic learning and make math fun - and a class which students look forward to, a skill which every professional develops!

MY VISION

1. Eradicate Math Phobia, across ages and walks of life, and impact the future generation.
2. Improve Cognitive Abilities in students through arithmetic learning.
3. Make Math fun.

4. Promote Brain Games as a structured sport.

Q: Growing up maths scares students. It is boring. Can this be changed? Can maths be for all?

Math is for all. A two-year-old would go towards a bowl which has two chocolates ignoring the bowl with 1. 2>1, is an. Inherent knowledge. The reason why it does get boring and scary for a lot of people is that we start learning mathematics in an extremely different way, something which seeds math phobia. When we learn language, we start with poems, stories, morals and then go to grammar. In math, we start with the grammar instruction (metaphorically), in comparison, how many of us would love language if we were taught about "to infinitives" and "gerunds" in grade 1. I believe that learning the world around you with mathematics is the way forward and with my firm Exploring Infinities, we wish to bring that experiential learning of math into the picture.

Q: Who would you attribute your success to - any personal story?

I was inspired by multiple people here are a few - my parents - the amount of belief they had in me when it came to whatever I wanted to pursue. Srinivasa Ramanujan, for his world-famous works in mathematics which put India on the global map for mathematics. Sachin Tendulkar and the sheer brilliance, from being a child prodigy to becoming a legend.

Q: You have a philanthropic side and are now helping students during this Covid crisis with free classes? Who influenced you in this regard?

My parents both studied in Zilla Parishad Government Schools and have always stressed the fact of how there is a huge economic divide in access to quality education and hence helping students overcome math phobia has been my way of helping students. 3 out of every 4 students who study in the Government schools of India have trouble understanding basic Mathematics. And, the phobia caused by math and demotivation hence, is the number two cause for kids opting out of the rural schools in India. With a recent tie-up as the Math

Education partner with the TSAT Network and Govt. Of Telangana, our classes, under Exploring Infinities - Project Math in Lockdown are now reaching out to lakhs of students, through Satellite TV Broadcast in Telugu, Hindi, English and other languages. I see that this is just the beginning of #visionmath

Q: Many children who are extraordinarily intelligent find it difficult to study with other average students in a class. How was your experience in this regard?

I personally don't consider myself a prodigy of any sort. And, I was doing good in a few classes, not so much in the other because I believe that intelligence isn't an intrinsic trait and has so many edges to it which we don't usually talk about.

Q: How was your victory at the Mind Sports Olympics recognized in India?

It was a humbling experience to get an official call and letter from the President of India - His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind ("attaching the letter") and the Vice-President of India - Shri Venkaiah Naidu. Several Chief ministers and respective Governors of States sent in their congratulations and the entire nation celebrated the success. This was a great experience because the entire nation, for that matter, the entire world was discussing MATH - which I think is a very good sign.

Q: What do you know of Sri Lanka?

Ah, Sri Lanka! I have a very profound connection with Sri Lanka, because my great grandfather - J Jagannath Rao worked at Imperial Bank of India, on behalf of the British Government, in the 1930s in Colombo, Jafna, Trincomalee and Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. In fact, I even have a series of photographs and signed letter cards from my great-grandfather from the Victoria Hotel, opposite

Fort Railway Station, Colombo.

Even my grandfather - J Surya Prakash Rao lived in Colombo for quite some time before moving back to India, and hence I hear a lot about our sister country - Sri Lanka, and the culture there.

Q: What kind of programs do you wish to do in Sri Lanka?

Not doing well in math, is the number one demotivator for students of all age groups across countries in South Asia which lead students to leave schools, colleges and universities. Lack in numerical understanding affects not only students, but professionals, adults in turn the human capital of the country.

Numeracy (ability to do math) is as important as literacy, be it in an individual of any age. I believe that a strong tour across Sri Lanka, doing shows and inspiring kids into taking up math - proving a point that math can be fun, will set things in motion.

Interacting with schools, colleges, universities, teachers, principals and other education stake holders across Sri Lanka, by carrying the ideologies of how math education has to be reformed and how a change in math education has to be brought would be a good beginning. I see myself coming down soon, to mark the beginning of eradication of math phobia in Sri Lanka, and work towards a day where every single student - loves and is good at maths! On the lines of my work in India, I see how sustainable a "Vision Math Movement" can change the numeracy levels of the country.



Working with youngsters

MARMADUKE

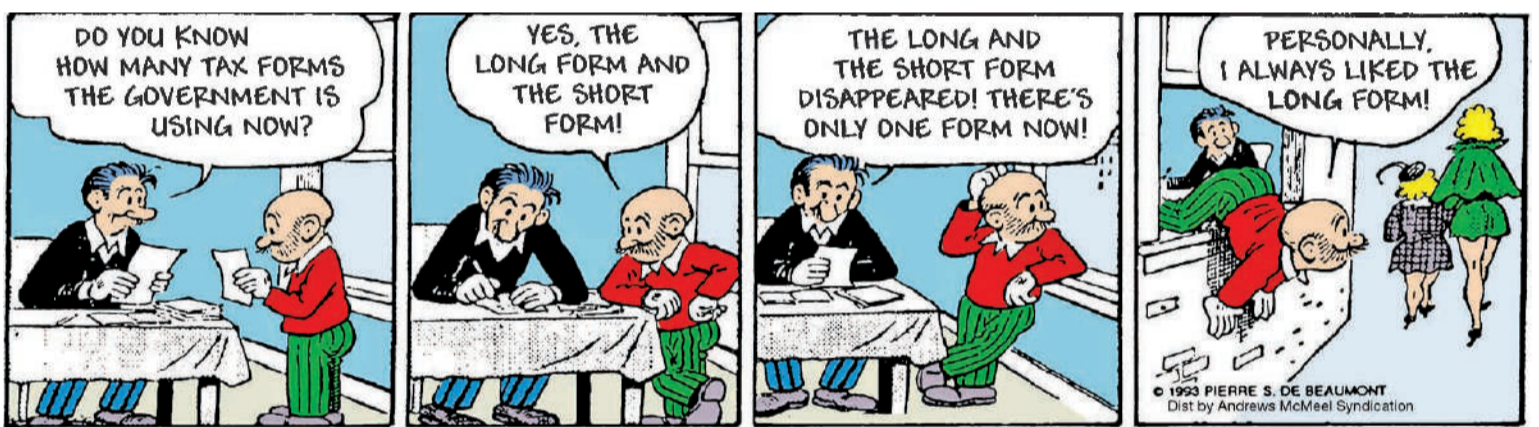


"Maybe next time you won't filch the spicy hot wings from the table."

Wait, Are You Messing With Me?



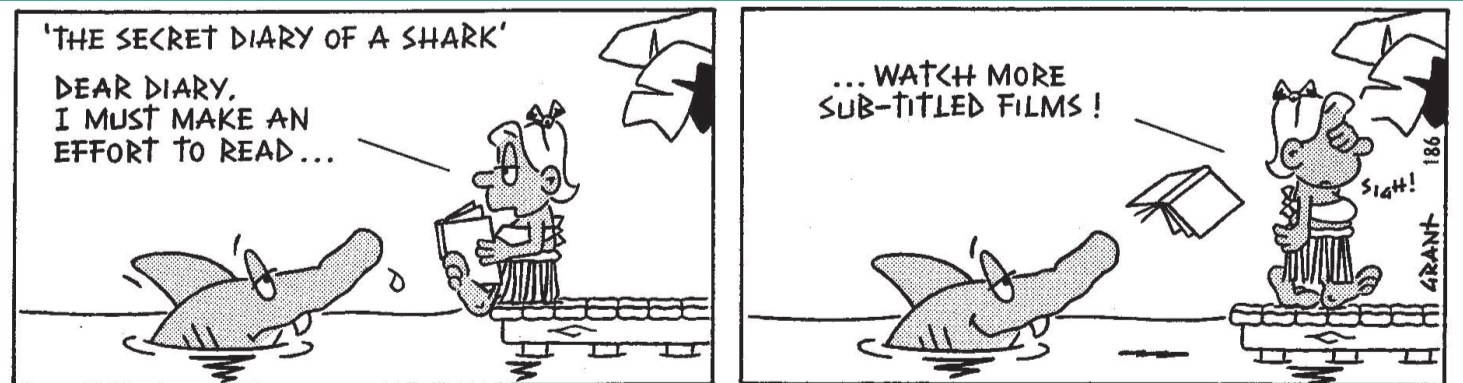
MUTT AND JEFF



ARCHIE



FISH TALES



UP & RUNNING





MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Text and pictures by
SUNIL GUNAWARDHANA,
Kundasale Group Corr

The 22nd anniversary of Colombo International, Kandy, was celebrated recently at the school premises. The principal R Herathge, teachers, students and parents were present.

Head of school Yohan Silva and Deputy Head of School Abirami Sundaramoorthy cut the anniversary cake. Students presented an eye-catching cultural show.



Enrich your English



Presenting the first copy of her book

Sharing secrets

Shenara Dimandi Vidanage

Shenara Dimandi Vidanage, a grade three student of Sujatha Vidyalaya, Nugegoda, has written an English childrens novel titled 'The Secret Land'. The book was launched at the BMICH on September 23 at 3 pm. Sujatha Vidyalaya Principal Ranmali Perera was the Chief Guest.

Shenara has always nurtured a passion for reading from a young age. She has also excelled in studies. She said that she wishes to pen a short story book next.



Speakers at the event



Text and pictures by
ASHRAFF A SAMAD

The Royal Institute, Nugegoda, English academic staff member Shehara Kanaka Halaldeen authored seven English books especially for children. Two books were released at the National Library auditorium on September 26. Her book are titled as 'New Student's Guide Care English Grammar Essentials' and 'My First English Activity Book Supplementary Edition'.

Chief Guest International Lion Mahinda Amarsooriya took part in the event. The first copy of the two books were presented to Tower Hall Foundation Director Board Member Hassim Omar. Malasiyan High Commission Office in Colombo First Secretary Khairee Shalidin Aman also graced the event. Marshard Barry commented



that the author has penned five books especially suited for pre-school and primary school. The book 'New Student's Guide' is so unique and rare in many different ways. It focuses on the learners of different disciplines for instances the use of vocabulary and general knowledge related to subjects like science, geography, tourism etc. Learning such terms are extremely useful for the English users.

Shehara related that although she had written a few books

for children aged 3 to 5years, this is her first attempt at writing a book of Basic English Grammar. She felt that such a publication would undoubtedly be an invaluable tool of knowledge to a wide age group of students: from grade 6 to university level. She also thanked the former principal of her school Colombo Muslim Ladies College, Deshabndu Jazeema Ismail for the guidance she had given her.

JAFFNA EDUCATION FAIR 2020

"Jaffna Education Fair 2020", the Higher Education & Career Guidance Exhibition will be held on November 28 and 29 at the Valampuri Hotel Jaffna. This significant event is the first stand alone higher education exhibition to be held in the Northern Province and is held with a focused objective of taking world class higher education to Jaffna and providing the opportunity to students of Northern Province to access and explore the various higher education options and career pathways available in Sri Lanka.

Organized by the Evolution

Events who specialize in event management in the North & East of Sri Lanka. This event will serve as an important platform for Sri Lankan Higher education institutes, Local & Foreign Universities, Professional Educational Institutions, overseas study consultants to expand and explore the potential for higher education in Jaffna and penetrate into the Northern region of Sri Lanka.

This JEF 2020 Exhibition organized will include many organizations from the higher education sector who will participate as exhibitors and will consist of 25 exhibition stalls, career counseling area, and

two career guidance seminars conducted by industry specific consultants and is expected to attract over 3000 senior students, school leavers, young executives and parents during the two days of the exhibition.

Speaking further on this trade mark event, Director & Head of Marketing at Evolution Events Meshach Reuben Stated " This is a significant event for the Higher education sector in Sri Lanka where it opens the doors to a great platform for Education Institutions to explore the potential in Northern Sri Lanka. We are working closely with leading

schools in Jaffna to invite the GCE A/L students to the exhibition and we have also drawn out a comprehensive Promotional plan to attract targeted visitors to the Exhibition. We intend to organize this exhibition to the highest standards and all health guidelines set forth by the Health Authorities will be strictly adhered to during the two days of the Exhibition"

The Exhibition will provide students from Jaffna the opportunity to explore the higher educational options available in multiple disciplines of study as well as options available for overseas studies, migration etc. furthermore two sessions of special career guidance seminars will also be conducted by professional career consultants providing guidance for students in areas such as selection of career pathways, self motivation, corporate etiquette and personal grooming.

The event is being held at one of the most popular and most conveniently located venues "The Valampuri Hotel, Jaffna and will commence at 10 am and end at 5 pm on both days. Further information on the event can be obtained through the website of the organizer www.evolutionecs.com



IN THE DARK



Lyric writers meet again

SURESHNI PILAPITIYA
The latest music video done by Sajitha Anuththara Anthony, son of veteran actor Jackson Anthony, was released amid a large number of artists and guests, which created a new platform for music lovers who endorse powerful music with meaningful lyrics where it conveys a message to the society.

It was an evening full of entertainment, music and important discussions. Chief Guest Dr Somaratne Dissanayake graced the event along with many other celebrity guests, including Sajitha's family, friends and well-wishers. This is his maiden song release and is expected to gain maximum popularity based on the controversial lyrics of the song. Up to now, the song has attracted many reviews, comments and high praise from the audience, confirming its quality content and music. This is the first music video which Sajitha has released.

'Kaluwara' is based on the traditional folklore related to the 'Kalukumarayaya', where he is known as the spirit of a young man who committed suicide who could not tolerate and keep up with the sexual desires of the king's royal harem.

Kalukumarayaya is known to harass women and make them dislike men, and preventing them from marrying, when it comes to a marriageable age.

After he committed suicide, he became a spirit in the form of a man who took advantage of young girls and harassed them as revenge for his plight. This of course though its main extracts are taken from some traditional folklore is based on a controversial theme, applying to both men and women. It gives us something to think about, and creates an intellectual platform to discuss about the society nowadays, where there are women all over the world who are the victims of sexual abuse and harassment, from 'Kalukumarayaya' across the country. It further discusses about the human emotions and feelings of people, and human emotions being used with other ulterior motives.

We sat down for a chat with Sajitha Anuththara to know more about his latest release and its purposes, his future projects and aspirations rolled up on his sleeve.

Speaking about the music video, this was a result of a research which Sajitha had done. For four years for his music degree, where they had to do a song based on a theme. This was his idea of finding out how the 'Kalukumarayaya' concept will be applicable to the modern society, and making a song out of it. According to him, this song is based on a young man who was abandoned by his mother when he was a baby and a woman volunteers to adopt him. A doctor treats him and he loves her unconditionally, but he sees her with another patient. From there things take a different turn, and he loses all trust in women and the entire humankind, and attempts to take revenge. This indirectly brings out the demon in him, and in a way, he also becomes a 'Kalukumarayaya' in the modern context.

Sajitha further says that the mentality to hurt people physically and mentally is in every human, which is considered to be some mental illness. But when things go into extremes

such as inappropriate touching, start relationships with younger people, is all part and parcel of an abnormal behavior which has reached extremes.

We mostly hear women being physically and verbally abused by men, but it can happen the other way round too, says Sajitha. In fact, he has taken a theme which can be controversial and important at the same time.

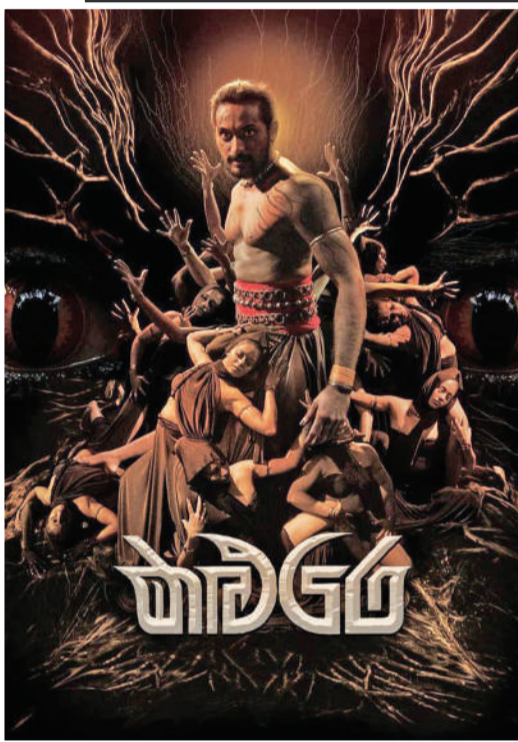
Sajitha is the son of veteran artist and musician Jackson Anthony, and his passion for arts began at the age of 13. He first entered the Film and theater industry in 2004 and is well known as an actor, dancer and singer. He studied at St. Josephs College, Colombo, Ananda College, Colombo, and University of Kelaniya. He made his first debut by acting in the film 'Sooriya Arana' in 2004, which became the highest earning Sri Lankan film of all time. Later on he went on to win the Jury Award Performance in 2005 at the Presidential Awards for the film 'Sooriya Arana'. He also starred in films such as 'Kurulu Pihatu', 'Aba' and 'Gaadi' (which has not been premiered).

Not only in music, he excels in dancing skills too. In 2013, Sajitha participated at Sri Lanka's most majestic dancing reality show, Derana City of Dance - Season 4, winning 1st place in the contest. He was able to learn various dancing techniques from the island's leading choreographers including techniques such as, Traditional Sri Lankan Dance, Modern Contemporary and the basics in Latin-American, Ballet and Hip-hop. Using the best of techniques and content in creating music, Sajitha released his first debut single "Swarnapaliye" in 2016, featuring Sanuka Wickramasinghe. The song was taken from the movie "Aba" and embedded the style EDM (Electro-Dance Music) with Sri Lankan folk music. This song hit 2 million views in less than one-year trending number 1 on YouTube. Early January 2019, he released his second song "Mihirawa Awa", which reached trending number 1 on the second day after its release.

'Kaluwara' is his first music direction, suggests that audio and visual music direction should be taken towards a new dimension. The lyrics had been written by Jackson Anthony. Music and melody has been created by Sajitha. Along with this music video, he has introduced 'Saj Creations' his latest production agency. 'Kaluwara' will indeed take the modern music industry to a new dimension, where traditional concepts, folklore will be brought to life, and create good music out of them, and apply them to the modern society as well, to convey an important message.



Behind the scenes of 'Kaluwara'

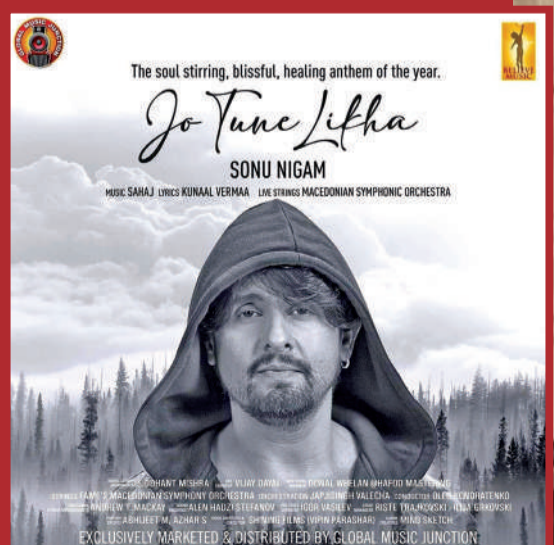


Singing on stage



Sajitha Anuththara Anthony

Sonu to release his new single SOON



Good news for Sonu Nigam's fans! The singer is going to release his new single, Jo Tune Likha soon. According to Sonu Nigam, who is in Mumbai after spending a large part of the year in Dubai, "The music that you create or listen or give out to the world, depends upon the state of mind you are in. This song, Jo Tune Likha, is a track that captures my wavelength, and is all about absolute surrender to the universe, in a very contemporary, cool and non-imposing manner".

The song celebrates the life and its myriad forms, besides celebrating being alive in these times and reinforces the importance of having faith in the Almighty and surrendering to his powers.

'Jo Tune Likha' is the third song presented by new-age music label I Believe Music after Rudrashtakam and Kushal Chapalgati Nachtati Ganpati. According to Sonu, "The music that we intend to bring out through I Believe Music, is for sure going to be of the highest standards so that when years later people look back at the overall catalogue we created, they will appreciate our efforts".

'Jo Tune Likha', penned by Kunaal Vermaa and composed by Sahaj, had its score recorded at the Macedonian Symphony Orchestra.

Over the last few months, despite being stationed in Dubai, Sonu has kept himself busy by working on new songs, doing a series of virtual concerts and entraining his fans with his vlogs. In fact, he was one of the few artists across the globe who did a live concert in Dubai during times like this.

"It has been a gratifying experience to work on this song and I hope it touches the hearts of people," tells Sahaj.

The New Indian Express

BTS to become multi-millionaires

All seven members of South Korean K-pop group BTS are set to become multi-millionaires, when their label Big Hit Entertainment goes public in October.

Soaring demand for shares in Big Hit has given it a market valuation of \$3.2bn (\$4.1bn), with shares priced at the top of the expected price range. Big Hit boss Bang Si-hyuk, who owns 43 percent of the management label, will become a billionaire.

In August, he gave each BTS member 68,385 shares, worth \$6.2m in total. Currently priced at between 105,000-135,000 won (£70.03-£88.70) per share, Big Hit expects to raise about \$638.3m with the sale of 7.13 million new shares when it is listed on Korea's Stock Exchange, the KOSPI, on October 15.

BTS set a new record on Monday when it took just hours for underwriters to find investors to take a stake in the firm when order books opened, with demand 1,000 times higher than the available stock.

According to CNBC, die-hard BTS fans in South Korea are hoping to buy at least one share in the management label to support their favourite members.

What is even more striking is that this is South Korea's largest IPO in three years. It's a sign that BTS' popularity has not waned, despite the group being forced to cancel their world tour due to the coronavirus pandemic, and the risk that some of the members may soon have to do two years of compulsory military service.

"One of the top reasons for going public now is related to the company's effort to diversify its business and stream of revenue," says Damiyoung Hong, who reports on K-pop news for the Korea Herald. She told me that the coronavirus pandemic has hardly affected Big Hit's success: "Despite the cancelled tours, Big Hit managed to achieve record sales from strong digital and physical album sales, as well as BTS' paid online concert in June. Considering such growth momentum, Big Hit would have considered now as the right time to go public."

In 2019, BTS generated 97% of Big Hit's sales last year, and 88% this year. BTS has repeatedly broken records in their seven-year history. In August, its single Dynamite became the most viewed YouTube video in 24 hours, amassing 101.1 million views in a day.

The K-pop band also became the first Korean artists to top the Billboard Hot 100 chart with that single, drawing praise from South Korea's President Moon Jae-in, who said were writing a "new chapter in K-pop history".

And an online concert held in June set another Guinness World record for the most viewed music concert live stream, with 756,000 fans joining from over 100 countries.

The group is made up of Kim Tae-hyung (known as V), Jung Ho-seok (J-Hope), Kim Nam-joon (RM), Kim Seok-jin (Jin), Park Ji-min, Jeon Jung-kook and Min Yoon-gi (Suga).

They have credited much of their success to their loyal international fan base, known as ARMY, who have helped make BTS the most tweeted-about music group from March to September this year.

"I believe the group will be in the limelight as long as they keep making good music. Even if a few of its members halt their career due to military service, the bandmates have already proven their solo prowess," Ms Hong says.

"The scale of BTS's fandom and the world-building empire tightly built around them are so powerful," she adds.

Fans are now eagerly awaiting the upcoming release of BE, BTS' second album of the year, on November 20. BBC News



PEOPLE'S BANK- GAMPAHA REGION

AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED PAWNED ARTICLES - 2020

Articles pawned up to 28.02.2019 at the undermentioned branches and services centers of the Gampaha Region of People's Bank and unredeemed up to dates indicated below will be sold by Public Auction at 9.00 a.m. each day at places as stated below.

Branch	Pawning Centre	Unredeemed Articles as at	Date of Auction and place
Malwana Pugoda Delgoda	Dompe Weliweriya	16.10.2020	17.10.2020 Delgoda
Nittambuwa	Thihariya Pasyala Wathupitiwala Naiwala		17.10.2020 Nittambuwa
Veyangoda Gampaha	Ja-ela Road Udugampala Mudungoda Urapola		17.10.2020 Gampaha
Yakkala Kirindiwela	Diulapitiya Demanhandiya Pallewela Kotadeniyawa		17.10.2020 Mirigama
Minuwangoda Katunayake Seeduwa	Andiambalama Ewariyawaththa Raddolugama	17.10.2020	17.10.2020 Minuwangoda
Negombo	Main Street Pitipana-Fisheries Centre Katana		18.10.2020 Negombo
Kochchikade Ja-ela	Dehiyagatha Ekala - Madama Junction Weligampitiya Elakanda Welisara		18.10.2020 Ja-ela
Waththala			
Pamunugama Kandana	Mahabage Batuwaththa Welipillewa Kirillawala Kadawatha Town	18.10.2020	Ragama
Ragama			
Ganemulla Kadawatha			
Mahara Kiribathgoda Kelaniya	Ederamulla Mawaramandiya Sinhamamulla Peliyagoda		18.10.2020 Kiribathgoda

The Bank reserves the right to cancel, amalgamate, re-auction or postpone these auctions without further notice to the public.

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www.peoplesbank.lk AA+ (Ika) Fitch Rating, AA - Brand Finance Rating

PEOPLE'S BANK

AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED PAWNED ARTICLES

Articles pawned up to 28.02.2019 at the undermentioned Branches and Service Centers of the Hambantota Region of People's Bank and unredeemed up to the dates indicated below will be sold by public auction at 9.00 a.m. each day at the places as stated below.

Branch / Service Centre	Articles unredeemed up to	Date of Auction	Place of Auction / Branch
Tangalle - 067 Tangalle S.C. Witharandeniya S.C. Ambalantota - 072 Hungama S.C. Walasmulla - 120 Angunakolapelessa - 205 Beliatta - 244 Middeniya - 265 Katuwana S.C.	16.10.2020	17.10.2020	Tangalle Service Centre (Urban Council Building - Tangalle)
Hambantota - 007 Weerawila S.C. Administrative Complex Sayurupaya S.C. Tissamaharama - 061 Lunugamwehera S.C. Sooriyawewa - 264 Kudawella - 288 Ranna - 345 Weeraketiya - 350	16.10.2020	18.10.2020	Tangalle Service Centre (Urban Council Building - Tangalle)

The Bank reserves the right to cancel, amalgamate, re-auction or postpone these auctions.

Regional Manager,
People's Bank
Regional Head Office,
Tangalle Branch (2nd Floor),
No. 146 A, Matara Road,
Tangalle.

www.peoplesbank.lk AA+ (Ika) Fitch Rating, AA - Brand Finance Rating

PEOPLE'S BANK

AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED PAWNED ARTICLES

Articles pawned up to 28.02.2019 at the undermentioned Branches of the People's Bank & Service Centres in Kandy Region will be sold by Public Auction on the dates and premises given below.

The Auction will commence at 9.00 a.m. each day.

	Name of the Branches & Service Centres	Articles unredeemed up to	Auction Date & Place					
1	Kandy Branch Court Premises S.C. Kundasale S.C. Lawyers Complex S.C. Pallekelle S.C.	16.10.2020	17.10.2020 18.10.2020	Kandy Branch Premises				
	2		Kandy City Centre Senkadagala Thalathuoya S.C. Marassana S.C.		23.10.2020 24.10.2020 25.10.2020	Senkadagala Branch Premises		
			4		Gampola Geliyo S.C. Gampola S.C. Kurunduwatta S.C.		16.10.2020 17.10.2020 18.10.2020	Gampola Branch Premises
					5		Teldeniya Meda Mahanuwaru S.C. Udadumbara S.C.	
6	Panwila Huluganga S.C.	23.10.2020 24.10.2020 25.10.2020		Panwila Branch Premises				
	7	Peradeniya Muruthalawa S.C. University S.C.	16.10.2020 17.10.2020 18.10.2020			Peradeniya Branch Premises		
8		Daulagala Welamboda S.C.	23.10.2020 24.10.2020 25.10.2020	Daulagala Branch Premises				
	9	Nawalapitiya Wattegama	16.10.2020 17.10.2020 18.10.2020		Nawalapitiya Branch Premises			
10		Wattegama Madawala Bazaar S.C.	23.10.2020 24.10.2020 25.10.2020	Wattegama Branch Premises				
	11	Hasalaka Kolongoda S.C.	23.10.2020 24.10.2020 25.10.2020		Hasalaka Branch Premises			
12		Deltota Galaha S.C. Pattiyagama - Pallegama S.C.	23.10.2020 24.10.2020 25.10.2020	Deltota Branch Premises				
	13	Pussellawa Katugastota	23.10.2020 24.10.2020 25.10.2020		Pussellawa Branch Premises			
14		Katugastota Hedeniya S.C. Polgolla S.C.	16.10.2020 17.10.2020 18.10.2020	Katugastota Branch Premises				
	15	Menikhinna Digana S.C.	16.10.2020 17.10.2020 18.10.2020		Menikhinna Branch Premises			
16		Galagedera Ankumbura	16.10.2020 17.10.2020 18.10.2020	Galagedera Branch Premises				
	17	Ankumbura Poojapitiya	23.10.2020 24.10.2020 25.10.2020		Ankumbura Branch Premises			
18		Poojapitiya Bokkawala S.C.	23.10.2020 24.10.2020 25.10.2020	Poojapitiya Branch Premises				
	19	Alawathugoda Hataraliyadda	23.10.2020 24.10.2020 25.10.2020		Alawathugoda Branch Premises			
20		Hataraliyadda Pilimathalawa	16.10.2020 17.10.2020 18.10.2020	Hataraliyadda Branch Premises				
	21	Pilimathalawa Poththapitiya S.C.	16.10.2020 17.10.2020 18.10.2020		Pilimathalawa Branch Premises			
22		Kadugannawa Akurana	16.10.2020 17.10.2020 18.10.2020	Kadugannawa Branch Premises				
	23	Akurana Ambatenna S.C.	16.10.2020 17.10.2020 18.10.2020		Akurana Branch Premises			

The Bank reserves the right to change the place, cancel, amalgamate or postpone these auctions without further notice to the public.

Regional Manager
People's Bank, Regional Head Office,
No. 17, Dalada Veediya,
Kandy.

Telephone : 081-2234283 / 081-2228383

www.peoplesbank.lk AA+ (Ika) Fitch Rating, AA - Brand Finance Rating

PEOPLE'S BANK

AUCTION SALE OF PAWNED ARTICLES

Articles pawned up to 31.08.2019 (pawned for 01 year) at the undermentioned People's Bank Branches and Service Centers in Kurunegala Region and not redeemed up to the dates indicated in the schedule given below will be sold by Public Auction at 9.00 a.m. on the dates and the places stated below.

Branch	Service Centre	Articles unredeemed up to	Date of Auction	Place of Auction
Kurunegala	Hospital Unit M.C. Unit	20.11.2020	21.11.2020 & 22.11.2020	Kurunegala
Polgahawela	Godawela			Polgahawela
Makandura	Pannala			Makandura
Ridigama	Panagamuwa Dodamgaslanda			Ridigama
Ethugalpura	Hiripitiya Mallawapitiya	27.11.2020	28.11.2020 & 29.11.2020	Ethugalpura
Melsiripura	-			Melsiripura
Kuliyapitiya	Dummalasuriya Udubaddawa Bihalpola Kandanegedera			Kuliyapitiya
Maho	Nagollagama			Maho
Narammala	Katupotha	04.12.2020	05.12.2020 & 06.12.2020	Narammala
Giriulla	Bammana Dambadeniya			Giriulla
Nikaweratiya	Nikaweratiya Rasnayakapura Giriulla			Nikaweratiya
Hettipola	Bandarakoswatta			Hettipola
Alawwa	Boyawalana	11.12.2020	12.12.2020 & 13.12.2020	Alawwa
Wariyapola	Maspotha			Wariyapola
Bingiriya	Weerapokuna			Bingiriya
Galgamuwa	Ambanpola			Galgamuwa
Mawathagama	Paragahadeniya	11.12.2020	12.12.2020 & 13.12.2020	Mawathagama
Ibbagamuwa	Kumbukgate			Ibbagamuwa
Polpithigama				
Maliyadewa	Maliyadewa St. Piduruwella			Maliyadewa
Pothuhera	Mathawa	11.12.2020	12.12.2020 & 13.12.2020	Pothuhera
Kobeigane	Boraluwewa			Kobeigane

The Bank reserves the right to cancel, amalgamate or postpone these auctions without further notice.

Regional Manager,
People's Bank,
Regional Head Office,
No. 03, Waththimi Rd.,
Kurunegala.

www.peoplesbank.lk AA+ (Ika) Fitch Rating, AA - Brand Finance Rating

For classified advertisements and for replies

received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please Contact

MANAGER FRONT OFFICE

Hotline: 1949





Municipal Council - Kaduwela

REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS AND CONTRACTORS - YEAR 2021

Applications will be received by me up to 06.11.2020 from the Suppliers and Contractors who wish to register themselves, with Municipal Council, Kaduwela, for the Supply of Goods and Services described in the Schedule below.

SCHEDULE

1) SUPPLIES :-

- 1) All kinds of Office Stationery.
- 2) Office equipment, wooden and steel furniture, (Racks, almirahs, tables, chairs, filing cabinets, etc).
- 3) Computers, Photocopiers, Fax Machines, Duplo Machines, Printers, and related accessories.
- 4) Supply of Building Materials, (Metal, Earth, Soil, Clay, Bricks, Sand, Cement etc)
- 5) Accessories for Supply of Electricity Services (electrical equipment such as wires, switches, bulbs, plugs, street lamps)
- 6) Health related safety equipment, and materials (Plastic Baskets, Gloves, Soap, Phenol, Vim, Harpic, Dust Bins, Waste Baskets, Tent Materials, Door Mats, Foot Rugs, Gum Boots, Raincoats, etc.)
- 7) Tyres, Tubes and Tyre Rebuilding.
- 8) Vehicle Spare Parts, (Three Wheelers, Tractors, J.C.B., Double Cabs, Lorries)
- 9) Supply of Drugs and related Equipment
- 10) Supply of Ayurvedic Drugs (Ayurvedic Pills, Herbal Wines, Oils and related drugs)
- 11) Pesticides, Insecticides, Germicides and Chemicals.
- 12) General Hardware Materials (Iron, GI Pipes, Nail Varieties and Paint Varieties, etc)
- 13) Sewing / Stitching of Uniforms and Supply of relevant clothing Materials
- 14) Purchase of Fire Extinguishers and Servicing.
- 15) Supply of Sports Goods and Body Building Equipment
- 16) Purchase of Generators, Grass Cutters, Air conditioners and Water Motors, etc.
- 17) Office Electrical Equipment (Calculators, Electric Fans, Electric Kettles, Heaters, etc).
- 18) Printing works and related services (Forms and Documents).
- 19) Preparation of Name Boards, Monumental Plaques, Banners and Road Name Boards.
- 20) Making Date Stamps and Rubber seals.
- 21) Book-Binding and related services
- 22) Supply of Fuel and Gas
- 23) Provision of Food and Beverages.
- 24) Supply of Toners and Printer Ribbons.
- 25) Supply of Hume Pipes, Concrete posts, Corner Stones, Boundary Stones, Cement Blocks, Concrete related goods and concrete compost barrels.
- 26) Supply of Timber (planks, rafters, Reefers and Kempas wood timber).
- 27) Supply of Plumbing equipment, (PVC equipment, DI, GI, plumbing equipment, accessories and fittings, water pumps / motors, water meters).
- 28) Glass and Glassware.
- 29) Supply of Polythene, Polythene Bags and Fertilizer Bags (Polysack Bags).
- 30) Ekel and Coir Products.
- 31) Supply of Batteries.
- 32) Supply of Colas and Tar

2) SERVICES

- 1) Repairs to Three Wheelers
- 2) Repairs to Tractors and Trailers
- 3) Repairs to JCB / Motor Graders / Bobcat Machinery
- 4) Repairs to Double Cabs / Motor Cars.
- 5) Repairs to Lorries and Tipppers.
- 6) Repairs to Generators
- 7) Servicing of Vehicles (Three Wheelers, Tractors, JCB, Double Cabs, Lorries)
- 8) Repairing and Servicing of Crematoriums
- 9) Repairs to Water Pumps (Motors)
- 10) Repairs to Electrical Equipment
- 11) Repairing and Servicing of Computers, Printers, Fax Machines
- 12) Cushioning and Repairing of Chairs
- 13) Supply of Vehicles and Machinery on Hire basis. (Tractors, Vans, Passenger Vehicles, Tipppers, J.C.B., Compactors, Tree Cutting Machines and Emergency (Disaster) Machinery and equipment).
- 14) Legal Consultancy Services and related services.
- 15) Provision of Consultancy Services on Civil Engineering Works.
- 16) Provision of Surveying Services
- 17) Provision of Maintenance services to Tyres and Tubes
- 18) Sale of Food Waste (Animal Feed)
- 19) Provision of Architecture Services
- 20) Loudspeakers, Amplifiers and Electrical lightings
- 21) Supply of Festival Items (canopies, huts, chairs, plates, crockery and cutlery, glassware, etc.)
- 22) Supply of Skilled / unskilled labour
- 23) Repairing and servicing of Air conditioners
- 24) Cutting of Trees and Branches of Trees.
- 25) Welding works.
- 26) Blacksmith works
- 27) Civil works contractors - up to 2 million (20 lakhs).

3) CONDITIONS:

1. Requests upon payments made on cheques, receipts etc. obtained after the closing date of applications, will be rejected.
 2. Separate applications should be submitted in respect of each category of supply or service, mentioned above, and separate payment should also be paid for each of them.
- Applications for Registration should be self prepared by the applicants themselves and submitted along with the registration fee of Rs. 1,000/=, paid in cash to the head office from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days and a cash receipt for same should be obtained or be paid by a cheque drawn in favour of the **Municipal Commissioner, Kaduwela Municipal Council, Kaduwela**. The cheques should be drawn in favour of the **Municipal Commissioner, Kaduwela Municipal Council**, and the caption to the effect "Registration of Suppliers and Contractors - 2021" should be clearly written on the top left hand corner of the envelope containing applications.
3. Any supplier, having qualifications could apply for the registration and quotations submitted should stay intact, unchanged, normally for a period of (06) months.
 4. **Kaduwela Municipal Council**, reserves the right to call for quotations and effect supplies of goods and services, from sources other than the registered suppliers when and where it deems necessary and the suppliers should agree to make supplies of goods and services, under credit bills, for a period of 60 days.
 5. Further details, in this regard may be obtained during office hours either by calling over at the Council or by calling on telephone No. 011-2539562, of the Council.

Criteria required for Registration of Suppliers with Kaduwela Municipal Council:

1. Registration should be separately for each supply of goods or services.
2. In case, a supplier needs to be registered for more than one item of supply of goods or services, registration fees should be paid separately for each item of supply or service.
3. Suppliers registered with the Council have no rights to claim that supplies and services should be effected only from registered suppliers.
4. On the occasions of publishing of advertisements, to obtain supplies of goods or services required for the Council, action will be taken only to notify the registered suppliers, in the relevant field by ordinary post / mail or by telephone messages and to draw the attention of the relevant Suppliers to the public notice published.
5. If a corporation, certificate of incorporation as a corporation.
6. If a sole proprietor, business registration certificate.
7. If a company, registration certificate according to the Companies Act.

Sanjeeva Bandukeerthi
Municipal Commissioner
Kaduwela Municipal Council

at the Office of the Kaduwela Municipal Council
02.10.2020



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING

The Chairman, Procurement Committee, Department of Government Printing, hereby notifies that the notice for bids dated 15.09.2020 for the supply of following items has been modified and extended as follows:

1. Large Format Digital Printing Machine for Sticker Printing

Closing Date of Bid :- 16.10.2020 - 2.00 p.m.

Bid Reference No. :- SCP05/D.P. Machine/ NCB05/2020-14

Document Fee (Non Refundable) :- R. 3,500.00

2. Digital Machine for Texture Paper Printing

Closing Date of Bid :- 16.10.2020 - 2.00 p.m.

Bid Reference No. :- SCP03/D.M.TP./NCB27/2019-29

Document Fee (Non Refundable) :- Rs. 3,500.00

Further particulars could be obtained from the office during working days from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

Gangani Liyanage,
Chairman, Procurement Committee,
Department of Government Printing,
118, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 08.
Telephone/Fax:- 011-2698653
website: www.documents.gov.lk

PEOPLE'S BANK

AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED PAWNED ARTICLES

Articles pawned up to 31.03.2019 at the undermentioned branches and not redeemed up to date given against will be sold by Public Auction at 9.00 a.m. on the dates and the places stated below.

Branch	Service Center	Unredeemed up to	Date of Auction	Place of Auction
Hatton Ginigathhena Maskeliya Bogawantalawa Talawakelle Pundaluoya	Dickoya Kotagala Watawala Upcot Agarapatana Hapugastalawa Thawalantenna	25.10.2020	26.10.2020	Hatton Branch
Hanguranketha Rikillagaskada Nildandahinna	Hewaheta Padiyapelella Adikarigama Walapane	26.10.2020	27.10.2020	Hanguranketha Branch
Ragala Udapussallawa Nuwara Eliya	Ragala Kandapola Nanuoya	27.10.2020	28.10.2020	Ragala Branch

The Bank reserves the right to cancel, postpone or merge these auctions without further notice to the public.

Regional Manager,
Regional Head Office, People's Bank
Nuwara-Eliya.



Apeksha Hospital - Maharagama

Procurement Notice

Appointment of a new contractor for electrical maintenance services and air-conditioning maintenance services for the year - 2020/2021

Quotations are invited to reach an agreement for the carrying out electrical maintenance services and air-conditioning maintenance services for the year - 2020/2021.

Qualifications required:

❖ For electrical maintenance services

01. Should have the registration as an electrical maintenance service contractor under ICTAD grade EM-04 or above.
02. Experience of not less than 05 years as an Electrical Maintenance Contractor in another hospital or similar institute with a capacity equal to this hospital.
03. Should be bound to provide residential service throughout the 24 hours
04. Should possess the necessary equipment and transport facilities

❖ For air-conditioning maintenance services

01. Should have the registration as an air-conditioning maintenance contractor under ICTAD Grade EM-05 or above
02. Experience of not less than 05 years as an air-conditioning maintenance service contractor
03. Should be bound to provide residential service throughout the 24 hours.
04. Should have a mobile air-conditioning system to be used in emergencies.
05. Should possess other necessary equipment and transport facilities.

Procurement forms could be obtained up to 2.00 p.m. on 23.10.2020 from the Administrative Division of the Hospital upon payment of a sum of Rs. 1,500/=.

- ❖ The Bid Security for electrical maintenance service is 2% of the value of the tender.
- ❖ The Bid Security for air-conditioning maintenance services.

Procurement Forms in duplicate (02 copies) with the original should be duly perfected and sent by registered post or inserted in the tender box provided in the Accounts Division before 10.00 a.m. on 26.10.2020.

Telephone No. 011-2840233.

- The decision of the Procurement Committee will be final.

Director,
Apeksha Hospital,
Maharagama.

PEOPLE'S BANK

Extension of Tender

Dual Interface Debit Cards (In Master Card form) - 600,000 Nos.

Tender No. - P-073/2020

It is informed although the above mentioned tender was to be opened on 06.10.2020 according to the paper notice published on 14.09.2020 it is now re-scheduled to open on 13.10.2020 at 2.00 p.m. due to unavoidable circumstances.

Further the last date of issuing of tender documents has been extended up to 12.10.2020.

Further details could be obtained from Chief Manager (Supplies), People's Bank, Supplies Department, on the Telephone Nos. given below.

Chief Manager (Supplies)
People's Bank, Supplies Dept,
No. 30/101, Kew Road,
Colombo 02.

Tele. Nos: 2439577/8, 2307326

Fax No. : 2439576

Web : www.peoplesbank.lk



NOTICE

This is to notify that, I, Dr. N.A.D.S. Neunehella misplaced my degree certificate (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery), bearing No. 0763 issued to me in August 2018 by the USTC, (University of Science & Technology Chittagong).

If found, please contact 0722956740 / neunehella@gmail.com

NOTICE OF THE CANCELLATION/ REVOCATION OF THE SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, **Sellathurai Vivekanandan** (NIC No. 197314703820) of No. 35-5/6, Boswell Place, Colombo 6 and presently in Switzerland do hereby inform the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and General Public that I do hereby revoke and cancel the Special Power of Attorney No. 5207 dated 22nd February, 2019 attested by Veeriah Vivekanandan, Notary Public and I had nominated and appointed Kanagalingam Akilan (NIC No. 198419301769) of No. 93, Maha Vidyalaya Mawatha, Colombo 13, Sri Lanka to be my true and Lawful Attorney to attend to the matters and affairs stipulated in the said Special Power of Attorney.

VEERIAH VIVEKANANDAN,
Attorney-at-Law,
On behalf of Sellathurai Vivekanandan
19th August, 2020

SALE OF TODDY RENT MONERAGALA - YEAR 2021 BADALKUMBURA DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT

Bidders are hereby invited for the purchase of exclusive privilege of calling fermented Toddy retailed at the tavern No. 01 Palle Wradola at Gamewela in Moneragala District during the 1st January to 31st December in year 2021.

Bids must reach the Divisional Secretariat, Badalkumbura at or before 10.00 a.m. on 8th October 2020. For further particulars see the Gazette No. 2195 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka dated 25th September 2020.

N.G.M.S. Kumara,
Divisional Secretary,
Badalkumbura.
28.09.2020

Auction Sale of Unredeemed Pawned Articles

Gold articles pawned with Citizens Development Business Finance PLC at the under mentioned branches / service centers and not redeemed, will be sold at No.123, Orabipasha Mw. Colombo 10 at 9.30 a.m each day under mentioned.

Pawned upto	Not Redeemed prior to	Auction Date
01/03/2020	31/03/2020	22/10/2020

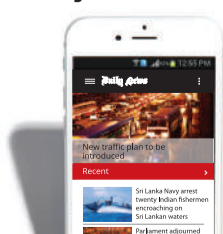
Branches / Service Centers - Aluthgama, Ambalangoda, Ampara, Anuradhapura, Avissawella, Badulla, Bandarawela, Battaramulla, Batticaloa, Boralesgamuwa, Chilaw, Dambulla, Dehiwala, Eheliyagoda, Elakanda, Embilipitiya, Galle, Gampaha, Giriulla, Head Office, Horana, Ja-ela, Jaffna, Kaduruwela, Kaduwela, Kalutara, Kandana, Kandy, Katugastota, Kegalle, Kelaniya, Kochchikade, Kotahena, Kottawa, Kuliyaipitiya, Kurunegala, Kuruvita, Mahara, Maharagama, Mahiyanganaya, Malabe, Marawila, Matale, Matara, Matugama, Mawathagama, Minuwangoda, Moratuwa, Narammala, Negombo, Nikaweratiya, Nittambuwa, Nugegoda, Nuwara Eliya, Panadura, Pelmadulla, Piliyandala, Ragama, Rajagiriya, Rathmalana, Ratnapura, Thalawatuwoda, Tissamaharamaya, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Warakapola, Wariyapola, Wattala, Wellawatta, Wenuappuwa

Citizens Development Business Finance Plc reserves the rights to cancel, postpone and/or amalgamate the auctions or change the venue of the above auction without any further notice.

Piyaratne Muthukumarana
Court Commissioner, Valuer & Auctioneer
No 156 - 1/13, Hulftsdorp Street, Colombo 12.
Tel 0117 388 388 / 0777701821

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given as per Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.
Name of the Company: LAN.I.S. Products (Private) Limited
Registration No. PV 00227559
Registered Address: No. 100/34/3, Devatagaha Mawatha, Wennappuwa.
Registered Date: 17th September, 2020
T.G.V. Ratnayake
Company Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

Incorporation of a Company is hereby notified pursuant to Section 9 of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, as follows:

TROTIC INTERNATIONAL (PVT) LTD
PV00226004
65/5, HAMPDEN LANE, COLOMBO 06

THIMAL MARITIME SERVICES (PVT) LTD
PV00225148
NO.224/4, 1ST LANE, KALAPALUWAWA, RAJAGIRIYA

S P J INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
PV00223318
NO.224/4, 1ST LANE, KALAPALUWAWA, RAJAGIRIYA

A K CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PVT) LTD
PV00227090
NO.224/4, 1ST LANE, KALAPALUWAWA, RAJAGIRIYA

GLOBAL EDUCATION & MIGRATION SOLUTIONS (PVT) LTD
PV00225041
451/3A, HAVELOCK ROAD, COLOMBO 06

J C AYAAN (PVT) LTD
PV00225940
73, CHURCH ROAD, AVERIWIWATTA, WATTALA

NEXTDEV (PVT) LTD
PV00226519
NO. 365, SUHADA MAWATHA, HALAGAMA, UDUBADDAWA.

G F C ENERGY SOLUTIONS (PVT) LTD
PV00221757
NO. 170, AMBATHALE ROAD, SEDAWATTA.

TORRO FORMS (PVT) LTD
PV00221778
46/13A, DAMBUGAHAWATTA ROAD, KALAGODA, PANNIPITTA

GAMEROAR TECHNOLOGIES (PVT) LTD
PV00223143
NO.18/152A CENTRAL ROAD, EVERGREEN PARK, COLOMBO 05

N B AUTO SPA SERVICES (PVT) LTD
PV00223045
15/6/6, KINGS COURT, HAVELOCK ROAD, COLOMBO 05

FLASH HEALTH (PVT) LTD
PV00222010
NO.45, SCHOOL LANE, NAWALA

Ananda Sirisena & Co (Pvt) Ltd.
Registered Corporate Secretaries
WWW.ANANDASIRISENA.LK
0768208118 | 0112684309

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)****INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
CEYLON PETROLEUM STORAGE TERMINALS LIMITED****SUPPLY OF FLEXIBLE HOSES AND DOUBLE TIED EXPANSION JOINTS
BID REF NO: KPR/46A/2019**

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited (CPSTL), Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya, Sri Lanka hereby invites sealed bids from Manufacturers or their Accredited Export Agents abroad or Qualified companies in Sri Lanka or Accredited Local Agents in Sri Lanka for the "Supply of Flexible Hoses and Double Tied Expansion Joints".

Bidding will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding procedure. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Manager Procurement of the Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited, (Telephone + 94 1 12572 156, 5750764 and Tel/Fax: + 94 112572 155 and Email: procure@cpstl.lk) and inspect the bidding documents free of charge during any working day from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs. at the address given below. However, the bidders can inspect the bidding document (excluding drawings) from CPSTL website; <http://www.cpstl.lk/cpstl/tenders>.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language (*only for viewing purpose*) may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below from **06.10.2020 until 16.11.2020** from 0900 hrs. to 1430 hrs. on any working day upon cash payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 3000.00 or remittance of USD 20.00 directly deposit to the CPSTL bank account given below. All bank charges (Foreign & Local) shall be borne by the bidder and proof of remittance (copy of TT) is required along with a written request before 14 days to the bid closing date to issue the bidding documents by courier service. No liability will be borne by CPSTL on loss or late delivery. Bidding Document (excluding drawings) available in the web is only for viewing purpose and Bids shall be submitted using Hard Copy of the Bidding Document purchased from CPSTL.

A/C Holder : Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited, Oil Installation, Kolonnawa, Sri Lanka.

A/C No. : 004-1-001-9-0208672

SWIFT : PSBKLKX
People's Bank,
Corporate Banking Division,
ANCL (Lake House) Building,
No. 35, D. R. Wijewardene Mw., Colombo 10.
Sri Lanka.

Duly filled bid documents may be sent by registered post or sealed cover to reach the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, C/o Manager Procurement, Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited, Procurement Function, 01st Floor, New Building, Oil Installation, Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya, Sri Lanka or could be deposited in the tender box kept at the above address, on or before **1400 hrs. Sri Lanka local time (GMT + 5.30) on 17.11.2020** Late bids will be rejected.

Bids will be closed at 1400 hrs. Sri Lanka local time (GMT+ 5.30) on 17.11.2020 and will be opened immediately thereafter at the office of Manager Procurement, in the presence of the authorized representatives of the bidders who choose to attend.

Bid shall be valid until 02.02.2021.

All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security of Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred Thousand (LKR 100,000) or United States Dollars Five Hundred Sixty (USD 560.00), which shall be valid until **02.03.2021**.

Any of the following parties who wishes to submit a bid, shall register himself at the Department of Registrar of Companies www.drc.gov.lk (e-ROC) as per the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 for every public contract value exceeding Sri Lankan Rupees Five Million (LKR 5,000,000).

- An agent, sub-agent, representative or nominee must be registered prior to the closing of the Bid/Tender.
- If the tender applicant and the bidder is the same party he must be registered prior to the award of the tender.

Clarifications (if any) shall be sought from the Manager Procurement on Tel: +94-11-2572156/ +94-11-5750764, Fax: +94-11-2572155, Email: procure@cpstl.lk.

**The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
C/o Manager Procurement
Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited
Procurement Function
01st Floor, New Building
Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya
Sri Lanka.**

LANKA ELECTRICITY COMPANY (PVT) LIMITED

INVITATION FOR BIDS**Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited**

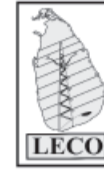
(Ref. ERD/SDD/PROC/2020/094/T016)

Sealed Bids are invited from the prospective suppliers for supply & delivery of

Reinforced Concrete Poles 9m - 3,460 Nos.

Bidding documents could be obtained from the Procurement and Supplies Department, Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited, 4th Floor, No. 411, E.H. Cooray Building, Galle Road, Colombo 03, from **9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days**, on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 10,000.00. Bidding documents will be issued from **06th October to 02nd November, 2020**.

Completed Bid documents shall be addressed to General Manager, Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited under sealed cover. Bid documents shall be placed in the Tender Box at the 3rd Floor of the address below, not later than **2.00 p.m. on 03rd November, 2020**. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time in the presence of the Bidders who wish to attend.



**General Manager,
Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited,
411, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.**

Tel: 011 2371640 / 2371636

State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulations of Pharmaceuticals**MEDICAL SUPPLIES DIVISION****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

Sealed bids are hereby invited under the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure, from contractors, willing to carry out the following subject of work at the **Medical Supplies Division of the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals**.

02. Bids should be submitted in duplicate (two copies) for the following construction works.

Serial No.	Name of the Subject of Work	Required Grade of Registration	Non refundable bidding document fee (Rs.)
01	Proposed plant room sound proofing and other improvements needed for CEA regulatory compliance for the whole air conditioning system of Medical Supplies Division Central Stores at Colombo 10.	C 07 or above	Rs. 3,500.00

03. Quotations should be submitted only on bidding documents / forms issued by the Administration Office of the Medical Supplies Division (MSD) only.

04. Bidding documents could be purchased from the Administration Office of the Medical Supplies Division (MSD), from **06.10.2020 to 20.10.2020** on **working days** of the week from **9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.**, upon production of the receipt for the payment of the relevant non refundable document fee made to the Shroff of the Division.

05. Tenders will be opened at **2.00 p.m. on 21.10.2020** and duly perfected tenders should either be sent by registered post, to the following address, or deposited in the tender box (if hand delivered), kept at the office of the Accountant (Supplies) of the Medical Supplies Division, at following address, to be received on or before the closing time and date.

06. Pre-bid meeting and site visit will be held at the Medical Supplies Division (MSD), at **2.00 p.m. on 19.10.2020**.

07. Duly completed, sealed tenders in duplicate, (two copies) marked as 'Original' and 'Duplicate', enclosed in two (02) separate covers, and both covers again enclosed in single, envelope and name of Tender and opening date and the time of tender, clearly indicated on the top left hand corner of the said envelope, sealed and should be sent / deposited as mentioned above. Tenderer or his / her authorized representative could be present on the occasion of opening of bids. Further details could be had from the **Administrative Officer - Medical Supplies**, over contacting **Tele No. 011-2694113**.

08. The procurement committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Medical Supplies Division (MSD),
No. 357, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,
Colombo 10.**

INVITATION FOR BIDS**SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY****SOIL INVESTIGATION FOR
PROPOSED FIVE BUILDINGS
IN PORT OF COLOMBO**

1. The Chairman, Minor Procurement Committee - A Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), on behalf of the Chairman, SLPA invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the "Soil Investigation for Proposed Five Buildings in Port of Colombo (Contract No. SLPA/CD/CMCS/INV)".

2. An eligible bidder shall be a registered company having successfully completed at least 03 projects of borehole investigation for building projects within last 5 years. The value of one of those borehole investigation projects shall be of at least Rs. 6 Mn net worth whereas others shall also exceed minimum of Rs.2 Mn net worth.

(a) A valid certificate of registration issued under Section 8 of **Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987**, which shall be obtained by the bidder applying online from the website: eroc.drc.gov.lk

3. Pre Bid meeting followed by a site visit will be held at **10.30 hrs on 14.10.2020** at Technical Library, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01.

4. Bids shall be valid up to **120 days** and bid security shall be valid up to **17.03.2021**. Amount of Bid Security shall be **Rs. 75,000.00** and shall be an unconditional guarantee issued by a bank operating in Sri Lanka and approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

5. Bidding Documents will be issued between **09.30 hrs & 14.00 hrs** on working days from **06.10.2020 till 12.00 noon of 20.10.2020** (bothdays inclusive) by the Chief Engineer (Contracts & Designs). Contracts & Designs Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No: 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo - 01 on payment of a non-refundable tender fee of **Rs. 2,500.00** (inclusive VAT). Bidding Documents may be inspected free of charge at the same office.

6. Bidding Document enclosed in a securely sealed cover and marked "Soil Investigation for Proposed Five Buildings in Port of Colombo (Contract No. SLPA/CD/CMCS/INV)" on the top left-hand corner, shall be sent by registered post addressed to the Chairman - Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, C/o Chief Engineer (Contracts & Designs), Contracts and Designs Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No.45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 or placed in the Tender Box kept in the office of the Chief Engineer (Contracts & Designs) on the above address.

7. Bids in duplicate shall be submitted by **14.00 hrs. on 21.10.2020** and Bids will be opened immediately after closing of Bids. Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of the tender.

8. Any further particulars may be obtained from Chief Engineer (Contracts & Designs) on the above address. (T. P. 011 - 2380517)

All above have been published online in the website: eroc.drc.gov.lk

**Chairman,
Minor Procurement Committee - A (Sri Lanka Ports Authority)
C/o Chief Engineer (Contracts and Designs)
Sri Lanka Ports Authority
No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road,
Colombo 01.**

**SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY****INVITATION FOR BIDS**

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the items given below.

Tender No.	Name of the Tender	Bid Security Amount (Rs.)	Document fee (Inclusive of VAT)	Closing Date & time
CMS/LP/20/PT/09/052	Purchasing of Designing and Printing of Note Books, Slim Diaries, Calendars and Greeting Cards for the Year 2021	112,200.00	3,500.00	16/10/2020 13.30 hrs Pre bid Meeting Date & Time 12/10/2020 10.00 hrs

2. Bidders are hereby informed that the provisions of Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987 are applicable for tenders exceeding Rs. 5 million. Accordingly all parties involved in each aforementioned tenders are required to strictly abide by the said Act throughout the duration of contract. Furthermore any bidder who wishes to act as an agent, sub-agent, a representative or a nominee for and on behalf of any foreign manufacturer or a supplier is required to register himself with the Registrar of Public Contracts and submit the duly completed registration certificate along with his bid documents.

3. The bidders should have been in the business of supplying similar goods given above at least during the last three (3) year.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from The Chief Manager (Supplies & Material Management) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee, Indicated in Column 04 from 06th October 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 03.00 p.m. on working days, up to day prior to the closing date. The method of payment will be by cash.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before closing time. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at closing time. All bids must be accompanied by the amount of above mentioned bid Security.

**Chief Manager (Supplies & Material Management),
Supplies Division,
Sri Lanka Ports Authority,
No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01.**

**Telephone Nos.:- 2482231, 2483338, 2482499,2482832,2482409, 2482652 ,2482638
Fax Nos:- 2381652,2470443**

SRI LANKA TELECOM TENDER NOTICE

CALLING TENDERS TO MAINTAIN 1ST FLOOR, 2ND FLOOR & FOOD COURT CANTEENS IN SRI LANKA TELECOM HEAD QUARTERS PREMISES FOR ONE YEAR.

Tender No: L/0468/2020

Quotations Are Called From Experienced And Capable Service Suppliers To Carry On 1st Floor, 2nd Floor & Food Court Canteens At Sri Lanka Telecom Headquarters Premises Where More Than 3000 Personnel are Working Daily.

Basic Service Conditions -

- The 1st floor, 2nd floor & Food court canteens should be open from 6.30 am to 8.30 pm every day, including weekends, all Government holidays and Sinhala & Tamil New Year days.
- Kitchen facilities will be provided to the supplier of the 1st floor canteen to prepare all food within the premises and meals should be sold at a subsidized price agreed by SLT.
- Limited kitchen facilities will be provided to the supplier of the 02nd floor canteen. Buffet meals/fried rice and short eats can be sold at a price agreed by SLT and these can be prepared and brought from outside.
- No Kitchen facilities, heating & fry facilities to the supplier of the Food court. Buffet meals/fried rice, high quality short eats & cake can be sold at a price agreed by SLT and these can be prepared and brought from outside.
- SLT will provide free electricity, water facilities, and limited quantities of necessary utensils/cutlery and furniture.
- The selected applicant should deposit (as security), a sum of Rs. 100,000/- for 1st floor canteen, a sum of Rs.50,000/- for 2nd floor canteen and a sum of Rs. 100,000/- for food court which is refundable at the end of the contract period after deducting any due to SLT (if any).

The intended applicants can obtain tender application from Procurement Division of Sri Lanka Telecom during office hours on week days by producing the receipt obtained after payment of non-refundable tender fee of Rs. 1000/- to the TELESOP, Sri Lanka Telecom, Lotus Rd. Colombo-01. Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the place of issuing documents during normal working hours. Apply each canteen separately. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Bids in sealed envelopes with tender no. clearly mentioned on top corner of the envelope shall be sent by registered post to **The General Manager/ Procurement Division, 9th Floor, HQ Building, Sri Lanka Telecom PLC, Lotus Road, Colombo-01** or deposited in the Tender Box placed at his office on or before **10:00 hrs on 16th October 2020.**

For more information 011-3090654

Deputy General Manager/ Employee Relations
Sri Lanka Telecom PLC



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)



STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS
SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CONTRACT FOR PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT OF THE LOBBY AREA OF HEAD OFFICE BUILDING – SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AT RAJAGIRIYA

The Chairman of Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLLDC) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the item mentioned listed below.

Procurement No.	Item Descriptions	Closing Date and Time	Documents Fee (Non-refundable)	Bid Security
S/624/20	Contract for Proposed Refurbishment of The Lobby Area of Head Office Building – Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation at Rajagiriya	29 th October, 2020 at 13.30 hrs.	Rs. 1,000.00	Rs. 60,000.00

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in Sinhala language could be inspected free of charge and purchased upon submission of a written request and paying non-refundable document fee as above mentioned to the Deputy General Manager (Supplies & Stores), Supplies Division, Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation, No. 3, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya during 09.00 Hrs. to 15.30 Hrs. from **07th October, 2020** Up to **28th October, 2020** (Working days). The method of payment will be only by cash to the cashier at Accounts Division, (3rd Floor New Building).
- Bid shall be delivered to the address given below and submitted on or before **29th October, 2020 at 13:30 hrs.** Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time, in the presence of Bidder or their representatives who choose to attend.
- Procurement No. and the subject should be clearly mentioned on the top left-hand corner of the envelop and should be sent under registered post or deposited to the specified Tender Box kept in Supplies Division of Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation. (1st Floor New Building).
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be conducted on **19th October, 2020 at 10.00 a.m** at SLLDC Board Room.
- Interested bidders may obtain further clarifications from Deputy General Manager (Construction). Tel: +9411 2 862438, Fax: +9411 2 867516

Chairman
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation
No.03, Sri Jayawardenepura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya.
Head office Tel: 0112889485-7 Web: www.landdevelopment.lk

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Automotive



Jeeps & Pickups For sale

32-8013 Toyota Land Cruiser, 1989, for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No.310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0714 542958, 0714 515236. 060055



M/Cycles & T/Wheelers For sale

WP YX-5918 Bajaj, 2012, three wheel for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No.310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711 210810. 060062

Employment



Positions Vacant Marketing

Multinational company is looking young, energetic talent for a business opportunity. Part time full time online can do. Entrepreneur in 5 years with one million income. Email your CV applicationwp.35@yahoo.com - 0705952282. 061436 061169

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Positions Vacant Drivers/Chauffeurs

Wanted an active Driver who could serve for a company cum residence in Colombo. Accommodation will be provided. Should have driving experience abroad, age 35-45 years. Strictly non Alcoholic. Salary Rs. 45,000/= and above, Rs. 10,000/= food allowance. Also National Identity Card and Grama Sevaka Certificate are essential, Police Certificate will be an additional qualification. Contact : Roshan 077-0169070.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Provincial Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation, Fisheries, Animal Production & Health and Agrarian Development - (W.P.)

WESTERN PROVINCE

Sealed bids will be entertained by the Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee of the Western Provincial Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation, Fisheries, Animal Production and Health and Agrarian Development, Western Province, for the following special projects of renovation and construction works, to be implemented under the said Ministry of Agriculture (W.P.).

Name of the Project	Non refundable Tender fee (Rs.)	ICTAD Registration (CIDA)	value of the Bid Security (Rs.)
(a) Renovation of Fertilizer Laboratory of the Pitipana Aquatic Resources Centre, Pitipana.	Rs. 1,000.00	C9 or above	Rs. 13,000.00
(b) Renovation of fertilizer Production / manufacturing unit of the Pitipana Aquatic Resources Centre, Pitipana.	Rs. 1,000.00	C9 or above	Rs. 19,000.00
(c) Construction of a Building in the premises of the Homagama Agriculture Training Institute, Homagama for the production / manufacturing of organic Fertilizer, related to Salvinia ("Japanjabari").	Rs. 4,000.00	C6 or above	Rs. 160,000.00

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- The above given projects of (a), (b) and (c) are implemented separately and hence, bids should have to be submitted separately, in respect of each project, purchasing the bidding documents, as above.
- A complete set of bidding documents could be obtained / purchased by interested bidders from the Establishment Division of the Western Provincial Ministry of Agriculture of the following address from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on public working days **from 06.10.2020 to 19.10.2020** on submission of a written request to the Secretary of the Ministry and upon payment of the non-refundable bidding document fee as given in the table above
- Duly completed bids should either be sent by registered post to the following address or deposited in the tender box kept at the Accounts Division of the Ministry to be received on or before the specific (the date) closing time as given below **on or before 20.10.2020.**

Project	Closing Time
Project (a)	10.00 a.m.
Project (b)	10.45 a.m.
Project (c)	11.30 a.m.

- Bidder or his / her authorized agent could be present on the occasion of opening of bids. Late bids will be rejected.
- All bids should be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned in the table above, obtained from a registered financial institution, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, drawn in favour of the "Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation, Fisheries Animal Production & Health and Agrarian Development (Western Province).
- The decision of the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Western Provincial Ministry of Agriculture is the final with regard to the matters, pertaining to the procurement.
- Further details, if required, could be had from the Assistant Secretary, Western Provincial Ministry of Agriculture over Telephone No. 011-2092660.

Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee,
Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation, Fisheries, Animal Production & Health and Agrarian Development - Western Province,
7th Floor, 204, Western Provincial Council,
Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha,
Battaramulla.

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Construction of Faculty Building and related infrastructure for the proposed Faculty of Health Science, Faculty of Social Science and Faculty of Law at the proposed Phase 2 of NSBM Green University Town Project of National School of Business Management Ltd, Pitipana, Homagama

- The Chairman, Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor of National School of Business Management Ltd (NSBM) invite prospective Construction firms (the Bidders) to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for Construction, Testing & Commissioning and remedying defects of proposed Faculty Building and related infrastructure at Phase 2 of NSBM Green University Town Project of National School of Business Management Ltd, Pitipana, Homagama.
- The key objective of this project is to provide infrastructure and academic facilities required for students and staff in the proposed Faculty of Health Science, Faculty of Social Science and Faculty of Law at Phase 2 of NSBM Green University Town Project of National School of Business Management Ltd.
- The scope of work covers construction of complete architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, data and plumbing services, external work, utility services, including piling work for a proposed twelve storied faculty building that consists of three dean offices with staff facilities, ten laboratories, twelve lecture halls & tutorial rooms with a total seating capacity of 1,600 seats along with computer labs, law chamber, multi-purpose area, cafeteria with an estimated construction floor area of 20,775 m².
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure and source of funding will be from NSBM
- The following criteria shall be considered for selecting and shortlisting of prospective Bidders.
 - The bidder should not have been blacklisted.
 - The main bidder and joint venture parties (if any) shall be Sri Lankan domestic bidder(s) and their registered office(s) shall be in Sri Lanka
 - Construction work shall be carried out by a contractor who shall register in CIDA grade C1 and above for building construction.
 - The average annual volume of construction work performed in the last three years shall be at least Rs. 2.5 billion
 - Experience as the main contractor in two building construction projects with similar nature and complexity of construction of twelve storied or more RCC building, at a cost not less than Rs. 2 billion excluding VAT during the last five years and at least one of these should be completed.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities, after setting apart for the other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payments which may be made under the contract, shall be not less than Rs. 500 million.
- If the bidder fails to comply with any of the criteria given in Item 5 as above, a bidder shall be treated as a non-responsive bidder and rejected.
- EOI application form can be obtained upon a payment of Rs. 5,000/- in cash, from 6th October 2020 during office hours from the office of Manager Procurement, National School of Business Management Ltd, NSBM Green University Town, Mahenwatta, Pitipana, Homagama. Interested parties may obtain further information at this address from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm on working days. You may contact us on 011 544 5036, 071 672 6012 or projects@nsbm.lk for more details.
- NSBM shall not be responsible for any expenses or losses which may be incurred by the bidder related to preparation, submission and participation in this EOI. Cabinet appointed procurement committee reserves the right to accept or reject any Expression of Interests (EOI) proposal at any time prior to issue the bidding document.
- Expression of Interests (EOI Proposals) shall be prepared in the English Language delivered or deposited in the Tender Box which will be kept in the Office of Procurement Division of the below address in ORIGINAL and two COPIES addressed to the **Chairman, Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee, State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovations, No. 354/2, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05** on or before **03.00 pm on 27th October 2020.**
- EOIs will close on the date and time mentioned above and EOI Applications will be opened immediately after the closing of the EOIs. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present during the opening of EOI.

Chairman,
Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee,
State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation,
No. 354/2, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05.