

## CHINA PLEDGES CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



A high-powered Chinese delegation led by former Chinese Foreign Minister and the current Communist Party Political Bureau Member Yang Jiechi met President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday. Picture courtesy President's Media Division

- RELATIONS WITH SL, A KEY PRIORITY OF PRESIDENT XI
- PORT CITY WILL BE COMPLETED EXPEDITIOUSLY
- ASSIST US TO REDUCE TRADE DEFICIT
- CHINA WILL STAND WITH SRI LANKA AT INTERNATIONAL FORA

MY OBJECTIVE IS TO ACHIEVE DEVELOPMENT SIMILAR TO THAT OF CHINA - PRESIDENT

The head of the high-level delegation from the People's Republic of China, who is currently visiting Sri Lanka assures President Gotabaya Rajapaksa China's continued assistance to Sri Lanka for the success of the country's development drive.

The present status of bilateral relations between China and Sri Lanka is highly satisfactory. Maintaining and promoting this

friendship is a key priority of President Xi Jinping. The head of the delegation said that China will firmly stand with Sri Lanka to protect the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity at international fora including the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The 7- member delegation led by Yang Jiechi, Politburo member of the Communist

Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee called on President Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat last morning (9).

Holding several high-level positions at China's Foreign Ministry Mr. Jiechi served as Chinese Ambassador to the United States of America from 2001-2005 and Foreign Minister of China from 2007-2013. His current position in the Chinese administrations is equivalent to Vice Premier level.

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## Sri Lanka, China will face common challenges together - PM

Sri Lanka hopes to work closely with the Chinese government to find collective solutions to the common challenges posed by the COVID-19 epidemic, including the fight to end the global epidemic and reviving economic ties, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa told

a visiting high level Chinese delegation yesterday. A high level Chinese delegation led by former Chinese Foreign Minister and current member of the Communist Party Political Bureau Yang Jiechi called on Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees yesterday. ▶ TO PAGE 02



Former Chinese Foreign Minister and the current Communist Party Political Bureau Member Yang Jiechi paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in Colombo yesterday. Picture courtesy Prime Minister's Media Division

## No cannabis exports will be allowed- Chamal

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI



Irrigation Minister and Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management State Minister Chamal Rajapaksa told Parliament yesterday that he would not allow any proposal to earn foreign exchange by exporting cannabis.

He made this observation in response to a query by Samagi Jana Balawegaya MP Heshu Withanage. Minister Rajapaksa said that anyone could make such a proposal but he would not allow any such move.

MP Withanage said one of the Cabinet ministers had been reported by the media having stated that ganja should be legalized and Sri Lanka could earn foreign exchange by exporting cannabis. He said one Minister supported this view and queried if the ▶ TO PAGE 02

## Over 100 Govt. MPs request full investigation into release of Rishad's brother

A group of more than 100 Government MPs have requested a full investigation into the release of former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen's brother who was arrested by the CID on suspicion of aiding and abetting the terrorists who carried out the Easter attack.

A letter signed by 100 members of the Government claiming that Riyad Bathiudeen was released by the CID without

following proper legal procedure was handed over to the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees yesterday, the Prime Minister's media division in statement said.

The MP's state that despite strong evidence Riyad Bathiudeen was released by the CID on September 30 without presenting him in court and without any legal permission. ▶ TO PAGE 02

## A/L and Scholarship exam candidates asked to submit details

The Ministry of Education has made arrangements to obtain relevant information including details of the health status of all students who are scheduled to sit for the GCE Advanced Level Examination and the Grade Five Scholarship Examination as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic.

The Grade five scholarship examination is to be held on October 11 and the Advanced Level Examination will start on October 12.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Education states that all students should include their information in the information sheet submitted on the website of the Ministry of Education before conducting the relevant examinations.

Students or parents can access this information via the link <https://info.moe.gov.lk>

Students who are unable to provide the information for the above examinations online should submit the information at the center where they are appearing for the examination.

"The relevant form (Sinhala/Tamil/English) in the language will be sub-

mitted to the Head of the Examination Department by the Department of Examinations in the Zonal/Provincial Referral to Directors of Education. ▶ TO PAGE 02

## EXAMINATION ADMISSION CARDS CAN BE USED AS CURFEW PASSES

Admission cards can be used as curfew passes during the GCE Advanced Level and Grade 5 scholarship examinations, SSP Ruwan Gunasekera said yesterday while addressing the media in Colombo.

He said a parent or a guardian can accompany the students if needed and admission cards could be presented as curfew passes.

Gunasekera said that students in the curfew areas but are from schools situated outside the curfew ▶ TO PAGE 02

## Sri Lanka Army, Pride of the Nation turns 71 today



The Sri Lanka Army, the protective shield behind which our country pursues unhampered and arduous struggle toward economic growth and social development, matures into its 71st birthday today

(10) as the finest and most trusted service-provider whose scope of dedication, courage, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice has commanded the admiration of the Nation more than ever before.

Founded on 10 October 1949 as the Ceylon Army after forming its first regular ▶ TO PAGE 02

## PCoI probing Easter Sunday attacks

## Namal Kumara was hired and paid by then Presidential Secretariat - Pujith

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE AND DILSHAN THARAKA

Former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Pujith Jayasundara testifying before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) probing the Easter Sunday attacks, yesterday said that Namal Kumara who exposed an alleged assassination attempt on former President Maithripala Sirisena and the former Defence Secretary and present President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, was a person who was hired and paid by the then Presidential Secretariat.

Jayasundara said that Namal Kumara had given lectures to the Narcotics Task Force of the Presidential Secretary and he had

taken money through vouchers. "I came to know this information by its Directors Dr. Samantha Kithalaarachchi," Jaysundara added.

He said that he was ready to reveal the names of the people like Namal Kumara who created the crisis in the country with special privileges as well as those who governed with privileges and served as Presidential Advisors.

Jayasundara has claimed that Namal Kumara was involved in the Kandy incident as an informant and that he was given a reward of Rs.500,000 from the Police fund. He also requested from the Commission to look into those behind the Namal Kumara's involvement as well as the intelligence officer ▶ TO PAGE 02

## Sixteen more test positive for COVID-19 from Minuwangoda factory cluster

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Sixteen more people tested positive for COVID-19 related to the Minuwangoda factory cluster bringing the total number of infected persons to 1069, National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOPCO), Head Army Commander Lt. General Shavendra Silva said.

Two COVID-19 positive cases detected yesterday were staffers of the Minuwangoda garment factory, 11 were close contacts of factory workers and three of them suspected as close contacts of factory workers.

Accordingly, total COVID-19 infections confirmed so far in Sri Lanka now stands at 4504. ▶ TO PAGE 02

## Infant at LRH tests positive for COVID-19

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

A 10-month-old infant at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital (LRH) for Children in Colombo tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday, Hospital Director Dr. G. Wijesuriya confirmed. ▶ TO PAGE 02

## Podi Lesi further remanded

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE, GALLE CENTRAL SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

We are not prepared to allow 'Mock Heroes' to dominate society and shall initiate all possible steps to eradicate the dominance of gangsters' in contemporary society, ASP Meril Ranjan Lamaheewa of the Criminal Investigation Department said before Galle Chief Magistrate Harshan ▶ TO PAGE 02

## WFP wins Nobel Peace Prize



**NORWAY:** The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the World Food Programme (WFP) yesterday for feeding millions of people from Yemen to North Korea, with the coronavirus pandemic seen pushing millions more into hunger.

The WFP was honoured for "its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict," Nobel committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said on unveiling the winner in Oslo. "With this year's award, the Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to turn the eyes of the

world towards the millions of people who suffer from or face the threat of hunger," Reiss-Andersen said.

Founded in 1961, the UN organisation helped 97 million people last year, distributing 15 billion rations to people in 88 countries last year.

The award consists of a gold medal, a diploma and a cheque for 10 million Swedish kronor (950,000 euros, \$1.1 million).

- AFP

## BOOK FAIR ATTENDEE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

A 36-year-old man from Chilaw who had visited the Colombo International Book Fair and the Colombo Central Bus Stand on September 23 has tested positive for COVID-19, the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak said. The patient had also gone to Nuwara Eliya on September 30.

## NINETY-ONE ARRESTED FOR VIOLATING QUARANTINE CURFEW



DILSHAN THARAKA

Ninety-one individuals have been arrested for violating the quarantine curfew so far, DIG Ajith Rohana said.

He further said that 19 motorbikes, three three-wheelers and a lorry also were seized.

Quarantine curfew is currently in effect in 18 Police divisions in the Gampaha district until further notice.

DIG Rohana requested residents in the quarantine curfew affected areas to support the Police and other health authorities to control this pandemic situation while adhering to the COVID-19 health guidelines.





## Army Commander's message on Sri Lanka Army's 71st anniversary

# 'Army has been frontier force in safeguarding Motherland'

The Sri Lanka Army; the 'Defender of the Nation and its People' today, passes the 71st milestone of its victorious journey in safeguarding the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our motherland. In this historical moment, I, as the 23rd Commander of the Army, take pride in passing this congratulatory message with best wishes.

"I pay my respect for the past Army Commanders, serving and retired. All Ranks and Civil Staff for their relentless contribution during the legendary journey of the Army since October 10, 1949. In addition, my tribute goes to their beloved family members for the great sacrifice at the home fronts.

In this memorable moment, I extend my profound gratitude to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the 7th Executive President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces, Mahinda Rajapaksa, the 5th Executive President of the Democratic Socialist

Republic of Sri Lanka and the present Prime Minister, and Major General (Retd) G.D.H. Kamal Gunaratne WWV RSP USP ndc psc MPhil, the Secretary Defence, for the leadership, direction and insight rendered for the advancement of the Army.

Since its inception, the Army has been the frontier force in safeguarding the motherland from multifaceted threats, challenges, and vulnerabilities.

"I place my gratitude upon the commitment of the Army during the recent mishaps, especially during the novel threat COVID 19 pandemic. The selfless contributions made by the Army personnel in the face of danger to their own lives are valued by the entire nation as well as the Sri Lankans abroad. Our great people who endured the difficulties in support of the Army to curb the deadly pandemic also deserve sincere appreciation.

"The Army personnel need to acquire further tactical and technical competencies in every relevant field and develop a positive attitude



in the future journey. In order to abreast with modern technologies, necessary transformations in systems, concepts, and training are underway to make the members effective, efficient, and competent. "As a responsible Armed Force, it is our prime duty to partner for enabling a conducive environment for economic, social and cultural advancement as a nation. Therefore, I expect all members of the Sri Lanka Army will actively and effectively contribute to the Army initiated projects and programmes including 'Thuru Mithuru Nawa

Ratak' which is aimed at prospering the nation through agriculture.

"The Army has been a legend in the field of sports with the victories achieved during the past 71 years, and new initiatives are underway to uplift the sports facilities and provide necessary backing by sharing sports facilities of the Army with all sportsmen and women including civilians and school children.

"As at today, the Sri Lanka Army has taken a new approach focusing on 'Protection and Development of the Country, Protection of Citizenship of the Country, Development of Sri Lanka Army and wellbeing of the Member Community.' Further, under the direction of His Excellency the President and abreast with the government's policies, programmes and initiatives are in place to uplift the basic needs of the serving members and to ensure the well-being of the differently-abled war heroes, retired members and families of Fallen War Heroes. Further, coinciding with the 71st Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Army, 514 Officers and 14140

Other Ranks have received their promotions. Accordingly, 1984 Officers and 41910 Other Ranks have been promoted to their subsequent ranks since I assumed the office as the Commander of the Army.

"I pray for all Great Fallen War Heroes of the Army may attain the supreme bliss of Nibbana and wish a quick recovery for the members injured during the tour of duty. I extend my best wishes to the serving and retired All Ranks, troops deployed in UN Peacekeeping Missions and Civil Staff, and may all their family members prosper with good health, wealth, and happiness in future.

"Finally, I once again pay my profound gratitude for the exemplary efforts taken by all members to promote coexistence and harmony among the communities, with an earnest aspiration that All Ranks and Civil Staff of the Army would continue to render their service as the 'Defender of the Nation and its People' in future endeavours.

## Temporary suspension of Consular Services at Foreign Ministry

The Foreign Ministry has decided to suspend all services offered by the Consular Affairs Division of the Ministry until further notice, to restrict the congregation of the general public and thereby to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 Virus.

Accordingly, the Consular Affairs Division situated at the Ceylino Building in Colombo will remain closed for visitors until further notice, and will only accept queries related to attestation of 'Export Document', strictly on prior appointment basis. Appointments may be obtained at the following emergency line:

Attestation of Export Documents: Tel: +94 (011)2338812

For queries related to death cases of Sri Lankans overseas and death-related documentation assistance please contact the followings: Telephone number: 0112323015, Email: cypher@mfa.gov.lk, Fax number: 0112446091/0112333450

### Infant at LRH tests ... From page1

The Director further confirmed that none of the staff of the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children are at risk of contracting the virus since the infant had been isolated on admission to the hospital as a precaution, as the infant was a resident of Minuwangoda and showed symptoms of the virus. The infant was immediately transferred to the IDH for treatment.

Meanwhile, the father of another five months old infant who is currently receiving treatments at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children had also tested positive for the coronavirus.

Hospital Director Dr. Wijesuriya confirmed that the child and the mother have not tested positive for the virus and PCR tests are being carried out on the hospital staff as a precaution.

### Over 100 Govt. MPs request ... From page1

A group of more than 100 ruling party parliamentarians have called on the President and the Prime Minister to order a full investigation into this act by the CID and to re-arrest Riyad Bathiudeen and enforce the law in a proper manner, the statement said.

Riyad Bathiudeen, brother of former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen was arrested by the CID on April 14 on suspicion of aiding and abetting the terrorists who carried out the Easter attack on April 21, 2019.

### No cannabis... From page1

government shared the same view. He queried if the government was planning to strengthen the economy by exporting cannabis.

When Minister Rajapaksa queried the name of the Minister MP Withanage denied. However Minister Rajapaksa said he thought it would be better if Withanage asked the question from the Trade Minister. He added that he would not allow such a move under his watch.

### A/L and Scholarship... From page1

Students who have not submitted the information online should complete and submit this form (in one medium) and all Provincial/Zonal Directors of Education and Examination Center Officers have been informed to follow the instructions of the health authorities in the relevant area regarding the health issues reported there," the Education Ministry in a statement said.

The Ministry of Education will protect the confidentiality of the information completed by the candidates.

It is mandatory for all students appearing for the GCE Advanced Level examination to enter their details and this information should be completed by the parents of the Grade 5 students.

If there is any problem with the candidate's health or his or her family's health after entering the information in the first instance, the information should be re-submitted in those instances.

### Sri Lanka Army,... From page1

force under the command of Brigadier R. Sinclair, the establishment of its own Military Academy in Diyatalawa afterwards saw Brigadier Anton Muthukumar assume the mantle of office as the first Sri Lankan Commander of the then Ceylon Army.

Blossomed into a full-fledged professional Army during its life-span of the past 71 years, the Sri Lanka Army today has been effectively commanded by 23 Commanders, elevating the much-sought organization to impressive heights.

Needless to place on record, its expansion with 24 Regiments across the country as the most prominent security provider to all at the expense of their own lives, has won the hearts and minds of all ethnicities.

### Examination.... From page1

areas, can sit for the exams in the special examinations centres to be established in the areas under curfew.

He said that plans were underway to establish several special examination centers in these areas.

Gunasekera also said that public transport operating through the areas under curfew, will be allowed to stop in the curfew areas on the days of the examinations, only to provide transportation facilities to GCE Advanced Level and Grade 5 scholarship examination students and their guardians.

He urged parents or guardians waiting outside examination centres for their children to strictly maintain social distancing.

### Tuition class closed down for defying health instructions

#### ASELA KURULUWANSA

Police yesterday closed down a tuition class in the Bogawantalawa area which was conducted in defiance of instructions issued by the health authorities to suspend tuition classes due to the risk of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The tuition class was conducted by a group of school teachers and was attended by nearly 30 students sitting for this year's Grade 05 Scholarship examination.

The Provincial Corona Control Committee headed by Central Province Governor Lalith Gamage recently issued instructions to suspend the conduct of all tuition classes in the Central Province. Police had warned the teachers and also made the students aware of the existing threat and had shut down the tuition class.

### Sixteen more test positive for COVID-19 from.... From page1

Director of the Epidemiology Unit Dr. Sudath Samaraweera yesterday stated that the direction of the disease could be determined in the next few days based on the PCR tests.

He further said that the speed of identification of COVID 19 patients determines the extent to which the disease can be controlled before the spread of disease in the community.

He was speaking at a special media

briefing held yesterday at the Health Promotion Bureau. Dr. Samaraweera further said that the number of COVID 19 patients reported on Thursday (8) was very low when compared to previous days.

At present, the associates of Minuwangoda garment factory staffers have already been identified and PCR investigations are being carried out on a regular basis.

### Sri Lanka, China will face... From page1

This is the first visit by a Chinese diplomat to the South Asian region since the global COVID-19 epidemic.

While thanking the Chinese government for donating safety equipment and medical supplies to protect Sri Lankan citizens in the face of the epidemic the Premier had said much need to be done to recover from the economic impact of the country after the COVID-19 epidemic, the Prime Minister's media division in a statement yesterday.

"I hope that we will be able to use our long standing friendship between the Chinese government to rebuild confidence among investors in efforts to build our economy".

The Prime Minister said in the aftermath of the epidemic, the government was interested in attracting investments from all over the world, with the priority being the port city of Colombo.

Prime Minister Rajapaksa said he hoped that the Chinese government would be able to encourage Chinese companies to come and invest in Sri Lanka, adding that it would help generate export earnings as well as create employment opportunities for Sri Lankans, especially young people.

"I am pleased that Sri Lanka and China have been able to re-establish strong bilateral ties through this visit. I thank the Chinese Government for its generous support to Sri Lanka in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic".

The Prime Minister pointed out that the tourism sector has been severely impacted globally and that Sri Lanka is keen to rebuild Sri Lanka's tourism industry and provide a safe haven for tourists from around the world, inline

with the advice of health authorities. Former Chinese Foreign Minister and current member of the Communist Party Political Bureau Yang Jiechi expressing his views said there is a historically strong friendship between China and Sri Lanka. Yang Jiechi noted that the friendship between the two countries is still growing and recalled that the two countries are working together to defeat the COVID-19 epidemic.

He said China would continue to support the World Health Organization (WHO) in defeating the epidemic and that Sri Lanka had done well to control the disease. Yang Jiechi pointed out that the Chinese government has always encouraged Chinese companies to invest in Sri Lanka. China has already contributed to the development process related to the Colombo Port City and other projects.

"The tourism sector is very important for the relationship between the two countries. We hope that those relations will continue as soon as the COVID-19 situation is brought under control"

He also pointed out that China has increased imports of Sri Lankan products.

We hope that our visit will further expand relations between the two countries, he said.

Ministers Dinesh Gunawardena, Namal Rajapaksa, Wimal Weerawansa, Bandula Gunawardena, Johnston Fernando, Prof. GL Peiris Pavithri Wanniarachchi, Minister of State Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Secretary to the Prime Minister Gamini Senarath, Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs Admiral Jayanath Colombage, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance SR Attygalle, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to China Dr. Palitha Kohona and others.

### Namal Kumara was.... From page1

who met suicide bomber Mohamed Jameel before the bomb blast at the Dehiwala Tropical Inn Hotel.

The former IGP said that he did not drink a single glass of water from the house of former President Maithripala Sirisena on New Year's Day on April 14, 2019 when he went with his Director of Security Rohan Silva to offering betel leaves and taking blessings from the former President Sirisena.

We left the house about 10 minutes after offering betel leaves and his wife refused to go there, he said.

The commission asked, "Are you saying that the former President is lying?"

Responding to a query made by the commission he said that "former President has a habit of lying. He has also lied to me.

"On Police New Year Celebrations's Day, I testified before the Commission that I boarded the plane while the former President left the country. When the President left the country I participated on duty. I am the IGP of the Country. He was the first citizen of the country. As a

subordinate I participated on that occasion. Just saluted for him but did not get on the plane. I know his reaction to me and the way he looks at me. He always looked at me with apprehension as if he was an enemy. 'Why?' that's the way he asked from me."

He added that he rarely met the former President and he met him through the Secretary to the President or Secretary of Defense during his official duties.

"The stress I suffered was immense. This is a very unusual situation. I do not know if there was such a political culture. I always had the confidence that my hands were clean and I had done nothing wrong. Not everyone can be an IGP. Many people lost hope at the last minute. The situation is the same. It is a position that nature gives to a fair balance. I had the physical and mental strength to endure all of this," he said.

The former IGP also told the Commission that he would reveal to the commission everything that he endured alone without telling anyone exactly how these things happened.

### Podi Lesi further.... From page1

Kekunawela when case against notorious gangster Arumahandi Janith Madusanka alias Podi Lesie was taken up in the Magistrate's Court yesterday.

ASP Lamaheva said so making a further submission on the case regarding the death threats against the President, Defence Secretary and several high ranking prison officials at the Boossa Prisons in which "Podi Lesie" is the second respondent.

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic threat the suspect was not produced before the Magistrate and the Galle Chief Magistrate who rejected the application for bail and remanded the suspect until October 16.

ASP Maril Ranjan Lamaheva prosecuted assisted by CI Buddhika Jayasekara, SI Anuruddha Polwatta and PS Sandaruwan (40660) while PC Tirantha Walaliyadda with lawyers Harishka Samaranyake, Sasika Shiran and Ama Jayaweera appeared for the suspect.

The ASP further submitted that they had recorded statements regarding the incident from the suspect on court's order and the investigations into the alleged incident of obtaining favours from Makandure Madush, another criminal in Dubai by a Prison Commissioner had been completed following which it was revealed that such an incident had not occurred.

Responding to the prosecution, the defence lawyer argued that there was no evidence to prove that his client made death threats to the President and as the suspect was summoned to the Balapitiya Magistrate's Court to read out bail conditions to him with regard to a fabricated case of heroin posses-

### China pledges... From page1

Extending President Xi's congratulations to President Rajapaksa over landslide victories at recent elections, Mr. Yang recalled that he visited Sri Lanka 35 years ago as an interpreter assisting a visiting Chinese delegation. He noted that Sri Lanka is the first country in his four-nation tour of Asia adding that the President of China gives high priority to the enhancement of bilateral relations with Sri Lanka.

President Rajapaksa commenced the discussion by expressing satisfaction over the current state of Sino-Sri Lanka relations and said China has been a long-standing friend who supported Sri Lanka irrespective of the government in power. China extensively supported us to defeat terrorism. Bilateral relations reached a higher level following the end of the armed conflict. He especially recalled the contribution of China for the development of the country's infrastructure facilities.

"China has contributed to a number of large-scale infrastructure development projects. Hambantota Port, the Port City project, Southern Expressway are some of them. Constructing a port in Hambantota is an idea of Sri Lanka and not China's. We were convinced that it would be a project with a vast potential for generating income and employment opportunities. China offered to fund it. Many geo-political analysis interprets this project as a 'debt trap' set up by China to gain control over Sri Lankan affairs. I want to prove that it is not the case and that this large-scale project will help improve the living standards of the people. Assist us in this endeavour," President told the Chinese delegation.

The President said that he had toured China 13 times prior to the assumption of Presidency and said he had seen firsthand the development progress that China had achieved. "I have seen massive development especially in rural areas. My target is to bring about similar development especially in rural areas in Sri Lanka and to raise the living conditions of the people in this country, especially that of the poor. I look forward to seeing visible progress in the Port City project over the next four years", President stressed.

President Rajapaksa pointed out that Sri Lanka's trade deficit with China is

sion against him, the Criminal Investigation Department had submitted a 'B' report accusing him of the said alleged charges of making death threats to the President.

The suspect is detained in a small cell of 3ftX 3ft and it is very hot to be inside. So the suspect had requested for a relief form the Prison authorities and if they could not provide any relief he had asked to call Kamal Gunarathna to come over to the prison and look into the issue. His statement of saying that he was not afraid of the President cannot be regarded as a death threat, the defence lawyer further told the court.

The defence lawyer pleaded the release of the suspect on bail as the charge against the suspect was a bailable offence.

The prosecuting ASP in response to the defence appeal said that the excerpts of the investigations carried out on the incident have been referred to the Attorney General and some other investigations into several charges against the suspect on alleged offences of possession of drugs and firearms were being investigated.

So we can't allow the "Card Board heroes" to dominate the society. We object to the application for bail for the suspect, ASP Maril Ranjan stated.

The ASP also told the court that on the next calling date Deputy Solicitor General Dileepa Peiris will submit a further report on the progress of the investigations and would serve indictments against the suspect. "If the gangster will be bailed out he would make death threats upon me also," ASP pointed out.

high and called on the leader of the delegation to increase the volume of goods purchased from Sri Lanka to bring it down.

"Sri Lanka has a strong private sector. They manufacture various products. Open the Chinese market for these items. Encourage Chinese investors to invest in Sri Lanka. Promote Chinese people to visit Sri Lanka. If China can participate in the Sri Lanka's tea auction, it will be a major boost to economic stability", President remarked. Explaining the limited tertiary educational opportunities available to Sri Lanka youth who pass GCE Advanced Level, President said establishing a University of Technology for them will be an area where China can invest in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Jiechi said that China's assistance will not be just lip service but concrete action to achieve the development goals contained in "Saubhagayee Dekma" policy statement.

China has identified several areas conducive for the development of bilateral relations with Sri Lanka. In addition to completing large-scale projects already underway, these include agriculture, education, tourism, water supply, healthcare, medical supplies, modern technology, digital economy, Blue Economy and labour training. Plans afoot to recommence discussions on China - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement and to complete the Hambantota Industrial Scheme expeditiously.

We are eagerly waiting for President Rajapaksa to undertake an official visit to China, once the COVID - 19 pandemic is successfully contained globally, Mr. Jiechi said.

Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency Mr. Wang Xiaotao, Assistant Foreign Minister of China Mr. Deng Lee, Hu Wei, Chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka, Chen Song, Deputy Director General of Department of Asian Affairs at the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, Secretary to the President P.B. Jayasundera, Principal Advisor to the President Lalith Weeraratna, Foreign Secretary Admiral Jayanath Colombage and Sri Lanka's Ambassador Designate to China Dr. Palitha Kohona was also present at the discussion.



## Ocean University to provide more educational opportunities - PM

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Thursday instructed officials to expand vocational and educational opportunities in the fields of Fisheries, Marine and Naval Engineering at the Ocean University.

This was stated by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at a meeting held at Temple Trees regarding the physical and human resource development of the



Ocean University, the Prime Minister's Media Unit said in a statement.

He gave instructions to establish and develop Sri Lanka Ocean University in the Kalametiya area in the Hambantota District and emphasized that steps should be taken to develop the Faculty of Technology in the Mattakuliya area where it is currently being maintained.

The Ocean University of Sri Lanka was established on a concept of Mahinda Rajapaksa when he was President.

The National Institute of Fisheries and Marine Engineering, which he started, was officially declared a University by Act No. 31 of 2014.

At the same time, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa pointed out that although he had given a plot of land in the Kalamatiya area for the construction of the Sri Lanka Ocean University during his tenure as the Fisheries Minis-

ter, the development of the Ocean University had come to a complete standstill due to attempts by previous fisheries ministers to move the Ocean University to their electorates.

Prof. Nalin Ratnayake, Vice Chancellor of Ocean University pointed out to the Prime Minister that there is a need for laboratories, lecture halls, workshops, sports halls as well as human resources to conduct degree courses and vocational training courses.

Focusing on the vocational and degree

courses being conducted under limited space, the Prime Minister instructed the relevant Ministers and the authorities to take immediate steps to alleviate such difficulties.

The Prime Minister said these efforts should supplement the vision of the government aimed at supplying skilled workers and professionals in the fields of fisheries, marine engineering, marine engineering and marine science to the local and foreign markets.

## UDA kick starts 400 units of urban middle class housing project in Borella

State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness Dr. Nalaka Godahewa inaugurated construction of 400 units of housing at Elliot Place Borella.

Speaking at the inauguration, Minister Dr. Nalaka Godahewa highlighted the urgency of initiating such vital projects in order to serve the masses amidst the emerging threat of a COVID-19 second wave.

"Today everybody is scared about the COVID-19 threat. The entire Gampaha district, which is also my electorate, is locked down and curfew has been imposed. However, we can't afford to postpone or delay our work as we are engaged in a race against time. Our ministry works day and night to ensure that we fulfill our promise to the people of this country. We will try our best to continue our work in the coming weeks ensuring the compliance to the guidelines of health authorities. I take this opportunity to thank all who extend their support for our endeavours despite prevailing challenges due to a threat of a second wave," the Minister said.

Minister Dr. Godahewa further said, "Today we are initiating a very important part of our ministry's mandate, namely housing development. The Government and the relevant line ministry have the responsibility of planning and implementing housing development in a proper manner when the country's population increases. A national housing development strategy has to be in place to achieve this. Even rural housing might have to be condominiums when country develops and space constraints become inevitable. As we are aware, there are about 5 million housing units in the country".

"However 60% to 70% of those units are not fully completed. Some families don't have a house at all. It is imperative that we formulate a systematic plan to solve the housing problems of our country. Several previous governments made various attempts to solve urban housing problem. It was President Gotabaya Rajapaksa who devised the most effective solution for this problem during



State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness Dr. Nalaka Godahewa at the inauguration ceremony to construct 400 housing units at Elliot Place Borella.

his tenure as the Secretary of Urban Development Ministry." Particularly, he was able to figure out a smart way to find land for housing development in the city. He identified about 1,500 urban settlements, which was mentioned by our secretary in his speech too. These settlements housed more than 68,000 inhabitant families and occupied more than 900 acres of land extent. It was possible to provide decent housing to the inhabitant families while getting more land released for other development projects.

"It was under this initiative, a 16,000 housing units project was initiated between 2011 and 2015. Out of 16,000 units 4,000 units were completed by end 2014. The balance was conveniently distributed by the last government on completion".

"It is unfortunate that the project was not carried forward by the then new government which was elected in 2015. Only 450 housing units were completed. However, now we have revived the initiative after we came to power again and construction of 2,000 units have been initiated. We intend to continue this drive aggressively and increase the number of projects".

He said the Prime Minister has given a target of building 100,000 housing units to Urban Develop-

ment Authority under my ministry. Before end of the President's tenure, we are aspiring to complete construction of 36,000 units. It is this endeavour we are pursuing from today onwards. We want to offer decent housing options to low, middle income and upper middle income earning families in cities".

"While we find solutions to housing problems, we also extend opportunities for construction companies in the private sector. It is the responsibility of the government to look into the interest of both citizens as well as the business community and entrepreneurs.

We leverage this housing construction drive to revive the local construction industry and intend to extend more opportunities to the entire industry ecosystem. When we synergize with the private sector, we would be able to exceed the 100,000 houses target by manifolds," State Minister Godahewa said.

"However, our ministry's responsibility is not limited to housing. Ministry scope is much broader and includes urban planning, city beautification, waste management, coast conservation and urban flood control.

A significant amount of work has already been started by my ministry. I am very happy that offi-

cial of my ministry have taken the ownership to move fast providing an efficient service to the public while eradicating corruption completely. We will take stern action for any violations of good governance and intend to leverage technology to minimize the room for corruption.

"One of the key requirements of the industry is to minimize the time duration to grant approvals for construction projects. This cannot be achieved instantaneously. Because we have to abide by the existing laws and work with multiple agencies.

However, we have set a target to minimize this period to three weeks and we want to achieve this as soon as possible. I can re-assure to the public that my committed ministry officials are doing their best to achieve these objectives. I would like to reassure that we would do our best to accomplish President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's vision of Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour while paying highest attention to the guidance of our clergy," the State Minister concluded. Ministry Secretary Sirinimal Perera, Urban Development Authority Chairman Harshan De Silva, Urban Development Authority Director General Prasad Ranaweera, Chairman Access Group and many others graced the occasion.

## Former Army Commander tells PCoI probing Easter Sunday attacks

### 'Former Minister's brother helped Zaharan flee to India'

SHAVINI MADHARA

The Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI) informed that a brother of former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen, helped National Thowheed Jama'ath (NTJ) Leader Zaharan Hashim to flee to India by boat, former Army Commander Lt.Gen.(Rtd) Mahesh Senanayake stated.

Testifying before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks on October 7 via Skype technology, the former Army Commander also revealed to the Commission that he came to know about the main suicide bomber Zaharan when he was the Security Forces Commander for Jaffna.

He also stated that DMI had mentioned Zahran's name during meetings of the Security Council and at the intelligence coordination meetings in connection with the damage to the Mawanella Buddha statues and the discovery of the Wanathavilluwa explosives.

"The DMI also informed the National Intelligence Service head about information received by them that a brother of former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen had assisted Zaharan Hashim to flee to India by boat," Senanayake added.

Replying to a question raised by the State Counsel, Senanayake stated that there was a competition between State Intelligence Service and the Military Intelligence Service due to the lack of proper communication and that led him to testify before the Commission in this way.

The State Counsel questioned whether he informed this to his supervisors? In response, Senanayake pointed out that he had informed them Defence Secretaries Kapila Waidyaratne and Hemasiri Fernando that the intelligence services were not



cooperating. Then they had not given any answer for it. "During the investigations into extremist activities, issues had existed between the Special Bureau under the Police Department and army intelligence. It was the Criminal Investiga-

tions Department (CID) and Terrorists Investigation Division (TID) that created such problems. Although we shared the information on the discovery of Explosives in Wanathavilluwa with them. But, they did not allow the Army to participate in the investigation thereafter. The Army has the right expertise to carry out these investigations. I even asked former Defense Secretary Hemasiri Fernando to permit them to be involved with the investigations. However, we did not get a chance. Even statues were vandalized in Mawanella, a team of our officers went to assist in the investigations but the Gampaha Police stated that our assistance was not required. One of the reasons we found out ourselves in such a situation now is because we were not allowed to conduct such investigations," the former Army Commander added.

He further highlighted that they have no power to arrest. "We provided information continuously. Former Inspector General of Police Pujith Jayasundara, Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police of the CID Ravi Seneviratne, Deputy Inspector General of the Terrorist Investigation Division Nilaka de Silva, DIG of the TID Waruna Jayasundara, State Intelligence Service Director SDIG Nilantha Jayawardena and the former Chief of National Intelligence Sisira Mendis did not give priority to the information that we provided. The main reason for this attack is that priority was not given to the information that we provided," he further said.

## All shops, pharmacies open during quarantine curfew

DILSHAN THARAKA

All shops, supermarkets, pharmacies and mother outlets selling essential products were permitted to be opened in the 18 Police Divisions in the Gampaha District during the quarantine curfew, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Ajith Rohana said.

"The quarantine curfew is currently in effect in the following of the Gampaha, Ganemulla, Kirindiwela, Dompe, Malwathuhiripitiya, Meerigama, Nittambuwa, Pugoda, Weyangoda, Minuwangoda, Weeragala, Weliveriya, Pallewela, Yakkala, Ja-ela, Kadana, Divlapitiya and Seeduwa Police Divisions until further notice," the DIG said.

"All pharmacies, supermarkets including Sathosa, Co-operative shops, animals' products and distribution shops, shops owned by the Fisheries Corporation, Government and Semi-Government agencies producing food and beverages



have been permitted to open during the quarantine curfew effective areas until 8.00 p.m.," DIG Ajith Rohana said.

DIG Ajith Rohana highlighted that only those with a prescription or a hospital clinic card issued by a doctor will be allowed to visit pharmacies during the quarantine curfew and the nearest outlet within walking distance will allow visit-

ing. DIG Ajith Rohana further said that it is imperative that the public visiting supermarkets and other outlets which are open during the quarantine curfew should adhere to the COVID-19 health guidelines such as wearing face masks and social distancing.

"One person from each family will be allowed to visit pharmacies and other outlets and legal action will be taken against those who violate the regulations," he said.

## Two arrested with heroin

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Police Narcotics Unit acting on a tip-off took into custody a suspect from the Wattala area with 100.1 grams of heroin in his possession yesterday. The 49-year-old suspect is a resident of Mabola, Wattala.

He was produced before the Welisara Magistrate's court yesterday and the Police Narcotics unit are continuing investigations.

Meanwhile, a 55-year-old woman was arrested with 5.21 grams of heroin from Pagnanada Avenue in Negombo Police Division by the

Negombo Crime Division yesterday. The suspect along with the seized heroin was handed over to the Negombo Police for further investigations.

She was produced before the Negombo Magistrate's Court yesterday and Negombo Police are investigating.

## A/L student tests positive for COVID-19

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

An Advanced Level student in Chilaw has tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday, Chilaw Police confirmed.

According to the police, the student is a resident of Arachchikattuwa and was scheduled to sit the upcoming Advanced Level Examination.

The student has been admitted to the Chilaw General Hospital and all close associates of the student have been quarantined and will be undergoing PCR testing.

## Seminar on "Quality Infrastructure" to mark "International Cooperation Day" of Japan

The Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka on October 6, 2020 organised a seminar on "Quality Infrastructure" in commemoration of the "International Cooperation Day" of Japan with limited number of participants in Colombo. The "International Cooperation Day" marks the day when Japan joined the Colombo Plan on October 6, 1954, which had set a new course for Japan to redefine her role as a major development partner in the international community.

Central Bank Governor Prof. W.D. Lakshman, Prof. H.D. Karunaratne, Chairman, Institute of Policy Studies and Senior Professor of the University of Colombo, and Dr. D.D.P.M. Dunusinghe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Colombo, the leading econo-



mists who are all profoundly versed in the subject of Japanese economic development and the history of Japanese ODA, graced the occasion as main speakers.

In his remarks, Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Akira Sugiyama touched upon the concept of "Quality Infrastructure" which, in Japan's view, leads to resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth of developing countries, and which 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, while relating to the gaining currency of the concept in the international community, including G7 Ise-Shima Summit, hosted by Japan in 2016, where the G7 leaders agreed upon the "G7 Ise-Shima

Principles of Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment" and G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, where G20 countries including emerging donors, under Japan's leadership, endorsed "G20 Principles of Quality Infrastructure Investment".

Ambassador Sugiyama also stated that the founding principles of the Colombo Plan, which are deeply rooted in the spirit of mutual cooperation and compassion, and to which the origin of the "International Cooperation Day" is inseparably connected, "will guide us a long way into the future as we witness the centre of gravity shifts towards the Indo-Pacific region most tellingly where the greater majority of the member states of the Colombo Plan are the stakeholders."

Governor W.D. Lakshman spoke on the overview of the longtime economic partnership between Sri Lanka and Japan as "the Distant Neighbours" - the term he coined to express the closeness and neighbourliness despite the geographical distance that separate the two countries - while Prof. Karunaratne and Dr. Dunusinghe shed light on the significant role that quality infrastructure played in the Japanese postwar economic recovery and development as well as characteristics and positive impacts of Japanese Official Development Assistance on the economic growth and development in Sri Lanka, respectively.

The seminar was attended by government officials, academics and journalists, among others.



# Daily News



The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited,  
LAKE HOUSE  
P. O. Box 1217 No. 35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha,  
Colombo 10, Sri Lanka  
Telephone : (011) 242 9211 Fax: (011) 234 3694  
E-mail : editor.dailynews@lakehouse.lk  
news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk  
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## A challenging task

**W**ith the number of Coronavirus cases on the rise not just in the Minuwangoda epicentre but also outside the "danger zone", the Government no doubt will have to reassess its options to control the further spread of the contagion before it assumes more serious proportions.

Needless to say, extreme measures are called for if the spread of Pandemic is to be managed let alone brought under control even if they are unpopular and seemingly look harsh. Perhaps it is with this view in mind that the authorities have decided to come down hard on those treating the worst health emergency to hit the country in living memory in a casual and flippant manner without giving due regard to the seriousness of the situation.

According to Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana, strict action would be taken against those apparel workers who continue to avoid submitting themselves for quarantine including seizure of their movable and immovable assets including of those who harbour such absconders in their homes. All Brandix employees had been accounted for, barring a very few, according to Army Commander Lt. General Shavendra Silva. But the question remains that over 500 employees failed to respond to immediate calls for quarantine until October 8, while the female supervisor who was the first to test COVID-19 positive is believed to have been carrying the virus for as far back as September 22, according to Epidemiologist Dr. Sudath Samaraweera.

What could have happened in the intervening period is certainly not difficult to picture. It will now be the thankless task of Intelligence authorities to track down the contacts of these 500 plus employees who may have caused irreparable damage by their callous disregard for summons for quarantine. Already the signs are ominous. Yesterday it was reported that a 10-month-old infant at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital had been declared a Coronavirus victim while others such as the parent of a student of leading boys' school and member of Colombo Royal Golf Club who tested positive could not have had a link to the Brandix cluster.

This raises the possibility of the virus running out of control though an assurance was given by Dr. Samaraweera that there was no danger yet of a community spread. He also discounted the need for a countrywide lockdown given the fallout on the economy and community life as experienced during the early days of the outbreak of COVID-19. Already certain owners of factories in the Gampaha District are planning a return to the status quo by paying half wages to their employees - a move that was being resisted by Labour Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva. But there will be little option in the face of a deteriorating situation. Hence, the need for all concerned to trace the original carrier with utmost urgency and prevent the country receding to the days of the first outbreak.

The Government, understandably, is in a Catch-22 situation, not being able to afford another total lockdown on the one hand and the dire need for preventing the spread to unmanageable proportions. The curfew is still in force in the 18 Police divisions in the Gampaha District with the Police Spokesman ruling out an islandwide curfew during the weekend reminiscent of the practice during the initial outbreak.

Besides, a lockdown would mean a paralysis of economic activity, which will prove to be difficult to revive in a hurry. This the government is not unmindful of and hence will be continuing to monitor the situation round the clock. On the other hand, like the health authorities keep continually asserting, the Coronavirus is far from being conquered, though the initial clusters may have been neutralized. It needs only one careless carrier to set back the whole process. They cite the examples of certain countries in the West which, similarly, to inject life into the economy, lifted restrictions, only to bitterly rue their decisions made in haste, when these countries reverted to square one. A second wave, therefore, was always hanging like a Sword of Damocles.

Into the bargain the country is also in the grip of another health crisis in the form of mosquito-borne dengue. No doubt the health sector is stretched to its full capacity to cope with the novel Coronavirus crisis. But this is no reason to bypass an equally potential crisis which if allowed to get out of hand could surpass the casualties that would make even the Coronavirus pale into insignificance. We say this because, while the Coronavirus in this country has claimed only 13 lives, dengue, as has been our experience, counts its fatalities in the hundreds countrywide. Hence, the Health Ministry should get cracking without delay in devising emergency measures to combat the dengue epidemic too with the same commitment and resourcefulness its staff is displaying to fight the Coronavirus.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

He who has health, has hope; and he who has hope, has everything.  
- Thomas Carlyle



# Despite a celebrated case, issues regarding medical negligence remain 'unresolved'

**C**ovid and negligence has become the focal point of global press coverage what with the alleged negligence by US President Donald Trump in endangering his White House staff and invitees, even though there was—allegedly again—a Covid threat at the time he organised a meeting in the South Lawn.

In Sri Lanka Covid related negligence has as far as this writer knows, not been the subject of any litigation, but due to the sensitive nature of issues involving the pandemic, such legal suits are possible in the future. Will anybody sue Trump?

It is not likely, as the White House invitees were by and large members of his one support base—in fact, his own inner circle. But litigation involving medical negligence or negligence with regard to the wanton disregard for maintaining elementary health precautions in the midst of a contagion, is not necessarily a specter of persons. In the most celebrated such case, a former Deputy Solicitor General sued his daughter's pediatrician, who was a physician with almost venerated credentials. This was the landmark case of *Rienzie Arsecularatne vs. Priyani Soysa*.

In a case of a baby girl warded at the Kethumathi hospital in Panadura, who had her hand amputated, the hospital staffer that applied a cannula to the baby girl's arm took the matter right up to the Supreme Court when it was held in the High Court (Western Province) that she had breached a duty of care in the matter of ensuring that the procedure was properly carried out—and was guilty of willful negligence.

The District Judge had held that the assistance of the doctor or a nurse had not been sought, even though they were available at the ward. The Respondent who appealed all the way up to the apex Court held that the amputation of the infant's arm was as a result of medical misadventure.

### TRAINING

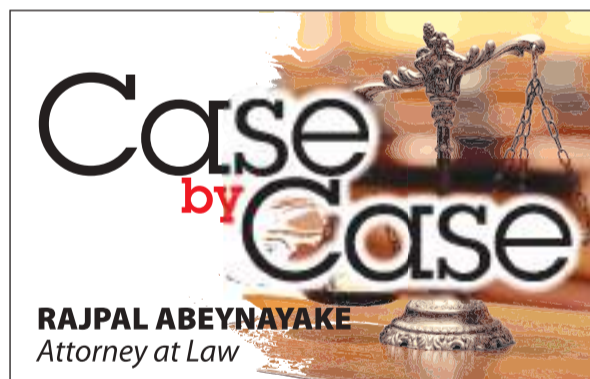
Sometimes, the medical staff of hospitals evade civil suits on the grounds that the patient did not follow orders, and as a result contributed to a medical misadventure. Obviously this would not have worked in the case of the fifteen day infant who was warded at the Kethumathi Hospital, and tragically had her arm amputated.

Research in Sri Lanka suggests that system errors dominate the medical negligence landscape. Shorn of all the frills, what that means is that if the hospital has botched the processes or the training of personnel, no one nurse or other staffer can be held responsible.

But here too, systemic issues could be ascribed to the matters dealing with the granting of consent in the practice of surgery for instance, where patients are required to grant consent expressly in the form of a signed document when they are to undergo invasive surgery.

Despite this, as Dr. Avanthi Perera points out in a paper written on the subject, the issues of language and semi literacy could impede a person's ability to grant informed consent.

But this report from a Sri Lankan newspaper is pertinent while on the subject: Former Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) Chairman Prof. Colvin Gooneratne called for sweeping legal reforms to protect patients against doctors committing malprac-



**In the landmark decision in Arsecularatne vs Priyani Soysa, the Supreme Court Bench noted in Judgement: "Doctors have been thriving in the medical market where demand is greater than supply ... Knowing that they are in a privileged position they have been riding roughshod over the under privileged. Even if this judgement fails to rouse the conscience of doctors it should at least make them aware that society is now ready to condemn their arrogance, unethical behaviour and inhuman attitude towards the poor patients".**

tice, insisting existing regulations fail to hold physicians accountable as inquires are dominated by the medical practitioners themselves. (*Daily Mirror*)

Prof. Gooneratne, speaking to reporters after stepping down as SLMC Chairman following a controversial nine-month stint, highlighted major administrative problems in the SLMC Constitution. He noted that the present legal structure under the Medical Ordinance Section 105, prevents the Council from making independent decisions regarding complaints of doctors who have made professional blunders in treating patients. Unquote.

### CONSCIENCE

So it's not as if the medical profession is beyond reproach in a Sri Lankan context.

Besides, to the best of the knowledge of the writer, there is still no developed corpus of law to follow with regard to medical negligence cases in Court.

In the landmark decision in Arsecularatne vs Priyani Soysa, the Supreme Court Bench noted in Judgement:

"Doctors have been thriving in the medical market where demand is greater than supply ... Knowing that they are in a privileged position they have been riding roughshod over the under privileged. Even if this judgement fails to rouse the conscience of doctors it should at least make them aware that society is now ready to condemn their arrogance, unethical behaviour and inhuman attitude towards the poor patients".

However, noted forensic expert Dr. Ravindra Fernando in a review of the circumstances of the case,

stated that a dedicated professional had to pay for not doing the impossible which was to save the life of the mortally ill child.

The fact remains that the Supreme Court reversed the judgements of the lower Courts in this case.

### CONJECTURE

Though the Supreme Court had harsh words over the fact that Dr. Soysa failed to maintain a proper bed-head ticket it was held that on a balance of probability, such remissness did not have a nexus with the non-diagnosis of the malady.

Court held:  
This quality of life the child would have led, if surgery was done under those imaginary circumstances (had the right diagnosis been made) and conditions was considered. Dr. Dias, a medical expert, was rightly not cross-examined on those matters, and the evidence if any on causation, rested purely in the realm of conjecture. This is in all probability, why the Court of Appeal observed 'If treated in time, the medical evidence confirmed that there was a possibility of the child living for some more time'.

In view of this unsatisfactory evidence on causation, learned President's Counsel for the appellant submitted, that the defendant's liability for negligence should not be based on a mere possibility as distinct from probability and that allegation has to be established upon a preponderance of probability and not on a mere speculative theory. He is correct in that submission. 'I hold that the plaintiff has failed to prove on a balance of probabilities, that the negligence of the defendant just prior to 20th May 1992, caused or materially contributed to the death of Suhani on 19th June 1992 and thereby caused patrimonial loss to him,' held Justice Dheeraratne in judgement.

Was there negligence? Yes and no, seems to be what the Court opined, even though the death of the child could not be directly ascribed to such negligence. Seems to have been the right call. But is the law forceful enough to consider genuine instances of medical negligence? Patients will say no, and they will probably have a good ally in Colvin Gooneratne in this regard.



# Covid strikes US Prez Poll campaigns

## ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

With just three weeks to the US Presidential Election, global interest was raised after President Donald Trump was infected with Covid 19, and its related impact on US politics. After the first debate between the two presidential candidates - Donald Trump and Joe Biden - last week, this week saw the only Vice Presidential candidate debate between - Mike Pence and Kamala Harris.

It was a much less openly hostile debate than last week's Donald Trump - Joe Biden, which was seen by many as a debacle, with President Trump continuing to interrupt and disturb the rival candidate, and not giving way to the coordinator.

Kamala Harris and Mike Pence were separated by Plexiglass barriers as a protection against coronavirus, and seeking to advance their leader's cases.

The presidential election politics has rising interest to President Trump's move to appoint a new justice to the US Supreme Court before the presidential election. This is against the plea by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, that her replacement be done after the coming presidential election. President Trump has already named Appeal Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court, which will lead to a strongly conservative majority in the SC. It is also a matter of concern among Democrats as the new Justice may rule on the government's move to remove President Barack Obama's Affordable Care health law, which brings much relief to lower income Americans, now worse affected by the Covid crisis.

Republican leaders are concerned that if they lose their majority in the Senate in the November election, and if Trump loses the White House, it will be harder to confirm a conservative nominee to the SC, during the lame-duck session before former Vice President Joe Biden could enter office in January 2021.

In the Pence - Harris debate the first question was about coronavirus in a debate dominated by the pandemic. Harris kept her point simple. She focused on the numbers dead, and the millions of people affected. Harris called Trump's coronavirus response 'greatest failure' of any administration "Here are the facts: 210,000 dead people in our country in just the last seven months. Over 7 million who have contracted this disease," she said. "We're looking at over 30 million people who in the last seven months had to file for unemployment."

"The American people have witnessed what is the greatest failure of any presidential administration in the history of our country," Harris said. "This administration has forfeited their right to re-election."

Harris also issued a stark warning about the Trump administration's intentions, to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare, which prevents health companies turning away patients with pre-existing conditions.

Pence responded by claiming the Trump administration has a plan to protect people with pre-existing conditions.

Joe Biden's advantage over President Trump has expanded and the former vice president now holds his widest lead of the cycle with less than a month remaining before Election Day - November 3. Among likely voters, 57% say they back Biden and 41% Trump in the poll that was conducted entirely after the first debate and mostly after the President's coronavirus infection was made public.

Regardless of Biden's national lead, the race for the White House will ultimately come down to a handful of swing states that will drive the outcome in the Electoral College. The former vice president leads in several of those critical battlegrounds, but by more narrow margins than his national advantage.

### KYRGYZSTAN PROTESTS

This week saw Kyrgyzstan's prime minister resign after widespread post-election protests, which plunged the country into political chaos, after last Sunday's election.

Kyrgyz authorities on Tuesday agreed to the demands of opposition demonstrators, annulling the results of the disputed parliamentary elections.

It followed a dramatic night of



US Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Kamala Harris (L) and US Vice President Mike Pence applaud at the end of the Vice Presidential debate at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City on October 7, 2020. AFP



A man walks in rubble inside the Ghazanchetsots (Holy Saviour) Cathedral in the historic city of Shusha in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh province's capital Stepanakert as fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces intensify. - AFP

stone-throwing, tear gas and water cannon - one that left the revolutionary-inclined former Soviet republic without any clear political leadership.

The protests saw opposition forces against the government, whom they accused of fixing the election. By morning, the momentum had clearly switched to the streets, with demonstrators seizing the seat of government and securing the release from prison of key figures including former President Almazbek Atambayev.

At least one person died, more than 600 people were injured, and 13 people were put into intensive care during the clashes.

The run-up to Sunday's elections had been mired in accusations of mass vote-rigging and bribery. In the event, the official count handed a parliamentary majority to parties connected to the ruling elite on just under 50 per cent of the vote. It left opposition forces with ties to influential oligarchs without parliamentary representation.

Kyrgyzstan remains one of the more democratic nations of the former Soviet Union. However, it has not been able to free itself from a cycle of violent protest, weak government and political chaos.

This week's events are the third time that the republic has witnessed violent revolutionary upheaval in the space of 15 years. In 2005, during events that became known as the Tulip revolution, Kyrgyzstan's first President, Askar Akayev, was ousted and forced to seek refuge in Moscow. In 2010, Kyrgyzstan's second President, Kurmanbek Bakiyev, made an escape to Minsk.

### AZERBAIJAN

The fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh continued this week, with the European Union calling for cessation of hostilities, and increased involvement of Turkey in the hostilities, supporting Azerbaijan.

French President Emmanuel Macron has demanded that Turkey explains what he said was the arrival of jihadist fighters in Azerbaijan - and urged NATO to face up to its ally's actions.

"A red line has been crossed, which

is unacceptable," Macron said. "I urge all NATO partners to face up to the behaviour of a NATO member."

France's response is to ask Turkey for an explanation on this point," he said.

Macron was speaking after a summit in Brussels at which EU leaders agreed to threaten Turkey with sanctions over its gas drilling in Cypriot waters.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies in Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia for more than a quarter-century.

Armenian Defence Ministry spokesman said Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, was being targeted once again by Azerbaijan along with other settlements. Nagorno-Karabakh officials said that non-military facilities in Stepanakert have been hit with missiles and drones.

Russian state RIA Novosti news agency reported Wednesday that some of the overnight shelling has hit people's houses, causing significant damage.

Azerbaijan has rejected claims of targeting civilian infrastructure in Stepanakert, and that Azerbaijani forces only targeted military objects in and around Stepanakert, acknowledging, however, that "some collateral damage" was possible.

The fighting in the region - involving heavy artillery, warplanes and drones - has continued despite numerous international calls for a cease-fire. Both sides have accused each other of expanding the hostilities beyond Nagorno-Karabakh and of targeting civilians.

The EU expressing concern about the flare-up of violence said: "We have seen extremely worrying reports of attacks on populated areas which is taking a deadly toll on civilians. We strongly urge the sides to fully observe their international obligations to protect civilian populations."

There is increasing concern about the role of Turkey in this dispute, supporting Azerbaijan, with reports of its supply of weapons to the Azerbaijani forces, to take over the Nagorno-Karabakh.

This is a Muslim - Christian con-



Kyrgyzstan protests.



Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko

rus officials, but not Mr. Lukashenko himself.

Russia's interior ministry did not give details of the charge against Ms. Tikhonovskaya. But Russia's Tass news agency reported that she was on the wanted list in Belarus and the Belarusian warrant against her would also be carried out in Russia according to agreements between the two countries.

Ms. Tikhonovskaya was forced to go into exile in Lithuania after receiving threats following the disputed vote. She stepped in to challenge Mr. Lukashenko for the presidency after her husband, a popular blogger, was barred from running and sent to jail. She has repeatedly appealed to the international community to put pressure on Mr. Lukashenko so that a democratic transition can be launched by negotiation.

### INDIA: RAPE PROTESTS

The cremation by the police of a 19-year-old Dalit - untouchable, low caste - woman who had alleged gang rape and died a day later, is a major political issue in India.

It is about a young woman - who was allegedly raped by four upper-caste men and had fought for her life for two weeks - and was treated as shabbily in death as in life.

The police in Hathras district in Uttar Pradesh state, where the attack took place, said the family had consented to her cremation. But her family and local journalists, who were present in the village when her funeral pyre was lit at around 2:30am, have contested the claim in interviews with the BBC and other media. There are key issues of a deep night cremation, and the absence of any religious and other rituals at the cremation.

The hasty cremation has caused outrage in India and abroad. Opposition parties have called it "a gross violation of human rights", "illegal" and "immoral". Protests have been held across India and by Indians in several American cities. The UN, too, has weighed in, expressing "profound sadness and concern at the continuing cases of sexual violence against women and girls in India".

On Tuesday, the Uttar Pradesh government told the Supreme Court that they had cremated the body at night due to "extraordinary circumstances and a sequence of unlawful incidents". They said there was an "international plot" to cause caste and religious riots in the state and

tackle the government of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, one of India's most controversial right-wing politicians.

They also claimed that the victim's family was present for the cremation and had "agreed to attend to avoid further violence". But the family told the BBC and other media that those in the video shown by police were neighbours and distant relatives, and the authorities were trying to pass them off as immediate family.

A forensic report on the young Dalit woman from Uttar Pradesh's Hathras, who died days after being assaulted by a group of men, says there were "no signs suggestive of intercourse", backing the state police's version that she was not raped or gang raped.

However, experts question the report as it is based on samples collected 11 days after the assault. The woman's samples were sent to the forensic lab in Agra 11 days after the incident, and experts point that sperms would not be present by that time.

The woman had been assaulted by four men from the so-called upper caste community from her village on September 14. She was found by her family in the fields, allegedly naked, bleeding, with multiple fractures and a gash in her tongue. The police claimed her tongue was cut because she bit it while her attackers were trying to strangle her.

The UP police, facing allegations of lapses in handling the woman's complaint, has been accused of being invested in proving that there was no gang rape, that the woman and her family had lied. The family alleges that they have been threatened and intimidated by the administration.

Amid national outrage and opposition attacks, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath last week suspended three cops and handed over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The new Superintendent of Police of Hathras said security arrangements have been made for the woman's family, after Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad, who met the family on Sunday, said they were feeling unsafe and that they wanted to move out of the village.

Yogi Adityanath's government has been facing huge criticism over the case since the woman's death.

### COVID-19 SPREAD

Coronavirus is continuing to spread across the world, with more than 36 million confirmed cases in 188 countries, and more than one million deaths. It is surging in many regions and some countries that had apparent success in suppressing initial outbreaks are also seeing infections rise again.

The US has the highest recorded with more than 211,000 deaths from the virus, and more than 7.3 million infected, continuing to rise. The patients include President Donald Trump and a large number of persons from the President's Office and political activists in the current presidential poll campaign.

Covid 19 keeps rising in several regions, and the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned the global death toll could hit two million before an effective vaccine is widely used. Several countries - the US, UK, Russia, China, Japan and India are working on the production of one or more vaccines. WHO head of emergencies, Michael Ryan, has said roughly one-in-ten people worldwide may have been infected, and that "the vast majority of the world remains at risk".

India has the largest increase of infections in Asia, with the official total of confirmed infections in the country, passing 6.8 million, the second-highest in the world, after the US. However, India has maintained a relatively low death rate of 105,522, given the size of the population, and there are indications that cases and deaths may have begun to decline.

In Latin America, newly confirmed cases in Brazil remain highest with 5 million plus infections, and 148,228 deaths. In the Middle East too, there is a steady rise in infections, with Iran having 453,644 infections and 27,658 deaths.

Several European countries, including the UK, France and Spain, have seen record daily numbers of new cases in recent days. Many European countries have re-imposed lockdowns and other restrictions in their worst-affected regions, and there have been fresh appeals for people to wear face coverings and follow social distancing rules. Israel too has imposed a new national lockdown after recording a record number of daily cases in recent weeks. Other countries that have seen a resurgence of the virus include Peru, Canada and Russia.





The Sri Lankan Embassy in Washington D.C. organised a Buddha Pooja and Dhamma Sermon on October 1 at the Embassy premises in view of Adhi Vap Poya day. This is the first such Dhamma Sermon organised by the Embassy, following the unveiling of the Buddha Statue at the Embassy premises on September 1, 2020. The Dhamma Sermon was delivered by Ven. Ranwala Gnanawasa Thera under the guidance of Most Ven. Maharagama Dhammasiri Nayaka Thera, the Chief Incumbent of the Washington Buddhist Vihara. Ven. Ranwala Gnanawasa Thera acknowledged the initiative by Ambassador Rodney Perera to conduct Dharma Sermons at the Embassy premises on Poya Days and invoked blessings on the Government and people of Sri Lanka. The Dhamma Sermon was attended by Ambassador Perera and the Mission officials.

## Water interruption

DILSHAN THARAKA

Water supply to certain areas in Colombo will be either low or interrupted for eight hours between 10:00 p.m. today (10) and 6:00 a.m. tomorrow (11), due to renovation work under the Greater Colombo Water and Wastewater Improvement Investment Program, the National Water Supply and Drainage Board

(NWSDB) stated. The affected areas are Colombo 1, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Accordingly, Colombo 12, 13, 14 and 15 will experience a total interruption of water supply, while Colombo 1 and 11 will have a low-pressure supply. The NWSDB has requested the public to call the Hotline '1939' for further information.

## Hacked to death

DILSHAN THARAKA

A man was hacked to death by two other people over a personal dispute at the Kelanimulla Junction in the Pannala Police Division yesterday.

The deceased was identified as a 29-year-old resident of

Thelabugammana in the Yakwila area.

His body lies at the Kuliyaipitiya Hospital following the post mortem.

"The suspects who have been identified are on the run," police said. Pannala Police are investigating.

## PCol probing Easter Sunday terror attacks

# Pujith did not get due recognition from Maithri - Former Army Commander

SHAVINI MADHARA

Former Inspector General of Police Pujith Jayasundara did not get due recognition from former President Maithripala Sirisena and former IGP Pujith Jayasundara? In reply, he stated by the middle of 2018 that he noticed a rift between the two of them. At that time a rumour was spread that the life of the former President was under threat.

Former Army Commander Mahesh Senanayake father said at the same time, people we had never heard of came out and started putting on shows through the media. "I use

what kind of official relationship did you observe between former President Maithripala Sirisena and former IGP Pujith Jayasundara?" he added. Chairman of the Commission questioned the witness as to whether he was aware of the person or institution behind Namal Kumara. Senanayake stated that Terrorism Investigation Division was the institution behind Namal Kumara.

Meanwhile, the State Counsel then asked how he

the word show for those kinds of things. It was with the arrival of Namal Kumara that a rift was observed between former President Maithripala Sirisena and IGP Pujith Jayasundara," he added.

Chairman of the Commission questioned the witness as to whether he was aware of the person or institution behind Namal Kumara. Senanayake stated that Terrorism Investigation Division was the institution behind Namal Kumara.

Meanwhile, the State Counsel then asked how he

first came to know about the series of terrorist attacks that took place on April 21 last year. Responding to this, the former Army Commander said that he immediately came to know of the explosion at the Shangri-La Hotel, which is located on the border with the Army Headquarters, and later became aware of the explosion at the Kingsbury Hotel.

"A shortwhile after the blasts, he had confirmed that the attacks were carried out by an extremist group including Zaharan

based on the information available with the Intelligence Unit. Intelligence officers were allowed to make arrests even though the emergency law had not been enforced", former Army Commander Mahesh Senanayake added.

He further said that he had heard that a special meeting would be convened under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister after the blast, then President Maithripala Sirisena had allegedly informed him through Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando not to attend the meeting.

## UNDP, VTA ink MoU on skill enhancement programmes for young people

ASHRAFF.A.SAMAD

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka (VTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on October 7 to develop and expand work towards building a future-fit young generation through proposed programmatic interventions.

The MoU will serve to establish and implement joint efforts to bridge the gap between future projects and entrepreneurship and youth capacity build-

ing. The objective of the MoU is to jointly design and implement capacity and skill enhancement programmes for young people enrolled with the VTA. The programmes will focus on Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship skills and will be carried out through UNDP Sri Lanka's Hack-a-Dev Academy of Skills and Learning.

Further they will collaborate on the institutional strengthening of VTA including the teaching capacity of VTA programme officers, and

improving the digital infrastructure of the institution.

This initiative is part of UNDP's long-term partnerships with the TVET sector institutions in Sri Lanka.

The MoU was signed by Resident Representative of the UNDP in Sri Lanka Robert Juhkam and VTA Chairman Damitha Wickramasinghe. VTA Vice Chairman Sanjaya Jayamanna and Director-Career Guidance and Promotion Saman Kulasuriya were present on the occasion.



UNDP Resident Representative in Sri Lanka Robert Juhkam and VTA Chairman Damitha Wickramasinghe exchanging documents at the MoU signing ceremony.

## All school sports events cancelled

S.M. WIJAYARATNE.

Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Director of Sports attached to the Education Ministry Daya Bandara has instructed all school Principals and Heads of National Colleges of Education in a circular that all sports meets, sports programmes and sports festivals that were previously scheduled to be held this year (2020) be cancelled with immediate effect due to the existing

COVID-19 pandemic situation.

"We have to seek the permission of the Health authorities prior to the conducting of sports events. Hence, we have left with no time by now to start any sports programmes during this year. That is why the Ministry of Education took this decision to cancel all the proposed sports events in schools," Bandara has informed all school heads in his circular.

## Minuwangoda Police Station reopens

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Minuwangoda Police Station which was temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 spread has been reopened from yesterday evening.

The Minuwangoda Police Station was temporarily closed following

its canteen owner testing positive for the virus.

DIG Ajith Rohana said that the Minuwangoda Police station resumed operations after fully disinfecting the station.

Eighty Police officers from the surrounding

Police stations of Gampaha District and officers of Police Training Schools of Kalutara, Nikaweratiya, Pahalagama, Boralanda, Kundsale and Elpitiya are deploying to perform the duties of the station, DIG Ajith Rohana said.

## Worker at Mannar Bishop's house tests positive for COVID-19

A construction worker at the Mannar Bishop's house tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday (9), Mannar Bishop's

House sources said. According to sources, the individual, who tested positive is a resident of Wen-

napuwa engaged in building construction when he tested positive for COVID-19. All close associates have

been placed under quarantine, PCR tests for them were scheduled to be carried out by yesterday evening.

## Minor export crops to be promoted

P.P.G. SUGATHADASA

-Thihagoda group correspondent.

The Export Agriculture Department has initiated measures to promote the cultivation of minor export crops in Sri Lanka.

According to project instructors, cinnamon, pepper, cardamom, nutmeg, cloves, cocoa, ensal, coffee and several other minor agricultural crops are to be expanded at district level. The total number of hectares to be brought under these new cultivation projects would be over 2,000. These crops are successfully being cultivated in over 14 districts in Sri Lanka. Cinnamon is mainly cultivated in the Southern region and some parts of the Kalutara, Ratnapura and Badulla districts while pepper, cocoa, cloves, cardamom and nutmeg are grown in selected areas in the districts of Kandy, Matale, Nuwara-Eliya, Kurunegala and Monaragala.

"The export of over 60,000 metric tons of the capacity of yield productions of export agricultural crops by the year 2021 would be anticipated," officials added.

## Declaration of Defence and Buddha Sasana Ministries under President

# Petition fixed for January 18

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A Fundamental Rights petition filed seeking a declaration that the President should retain both the Defence and Buddha Sasana Ministry under his purview was yesterday fixed for January 18 by the Supreme Court.

Attorney-at-Law Aruna Laksiri had filed this petition naming the President and the Attorney General as respondents.

The petitioner, Aruna Laksiri yesterday sought further time to inform his stance regarding the petition since the Supreme Court is yet to announce its determination pertaining to 20th Amendment to the constitution.

Laksiri told the court that the 20th Amendment to the Constitution has proposed several changes regarding the powers of

the President and the Cabinet of Ministers. He said his decision on whether to proceed with this petition to be taken following the Supreme Court's determination regarding the 20th Amendment to the constitution.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court two-judge-Bench comprising Justice Murdu Fernando and Justice S. Thuraireja fixed the petition to be mentioned on January 18.

The petitioner argued that in terms of Article 4(b), 30, 33 and Article 9, 105.4 of the constitution, the President cannot appoint any Parliamentarians to function as the Minister of Defence and Minister of Buddha Sasana respectively.

The petitioner alleged that the President had

acted contrary to the Article 9, 30 and 105.4 of the Constitution by handing over the Ministry of Buddha Sasana to a Parliamentarian.

The petitioner argued that the President cannot hand over the Ministry of Buddha Sasana to a Parliamentarian since Article 9 of the constitution has recognised that Sri Lanka shall give Buddhism the foremost place.

The petitioner is also seeking a declaration that rights guaranteed under Article 9, 10 and 12.1 of the constitution had been violated by the President due to handing over the Ministry of Buddha Sasana to a Parliamentarian.

Senior Deputy Solicitor General Nerin Palle appeared for the Attorney General.

## Refrain from calling on Public Officers in quarantine curfew areas - AG

DILSHAN THARAKA

Attorney General Dappula de Livera has directed all Officers of the Attorney General's Department to refrain from

calling on Public Officers and Police Officers from areas under quarantine curfew for consultations.

Coordinating Officer to the

Attorney General State Counsel Nishara Jayaratne told the news media that this decision was taken due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation.

## Immigration Dept. closed next week

MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

The Department of Immigration and Emigration yesterday (9) stated the divisions such as the head office and the regional offices will be closed in the coming week to the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The department statement adds that the relevant divisions will be closed from Monday, October 12 until October

16 and the public are requested to contact the relevant divisions for services.

The public can contact the following various divisions on the following numbers: Travel Division 0707101060, 0707101070, Citizenship Division 0707101030, Overseas Missions Division 0115329233, 0115329235, Visa Division 0707101050 and Ports Division

077778250.e-mail addresses dcvisa@immigration.gov.lk acvisa1@immigration.gov.lk and acvisa2@immigration.gov.lk for information during working hours (8.00 a.m.-4.30p.m).

Several government departments have been closed since the beginning of the week to prevent the spread of the second wave of the COVID-19 virus.

## Trains to have special sanitized compartments

General Manager of Railways Dilantha Fernando yesterday said several special sanitized compartments will be added to ordinary trains running on the main routes to transport students sitting for the Grade 5 Scholarship and GCE

Advanced Level examinations. Accordingly, the trains will stop at stations between Gampaha and Veyangoda where a quarantine curfew is in place.

The General Manager said that in areas where curfew is in place, train securi-

ty guards and police personnel will be deployed to prevent other passengers boarding the specialized compartments to ensure the safety of children, according to a statement by the government information department.

## Obituaries

**SHAKUNTALATHEVI** of Manipay. Passed away peacefully in her home. Beloved wife of K.C. Logeswaran, loving mother of Suhanthan, Sakthy and Kumaran, mother-in-law of Ganeshkumar Wijayarathnam and Patrecia, grandmother of Sachin and Patrick. Funeral will take place at the General Cemetery, Borella at 10.30 am on Sunday, the 11th October. The remains lie at **A.F. Raymonds Funerary Parlour** on Saturday the 10th October from 8.30 am to 8.00 pm. For viewing, Hindu Funeral Rites will take place on Sunday 11th, 2020 at the Parlour prior to cremation. (New Crematorium).



# Indigenous medicines introduced to prevent COVID-19

State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development and Community Health Sisira Jayakody said the Ministry of Indigenous Medicine has developed several drugs targeting those infected with the COVID-19 virus and those who are at risk of contracting the virus.

The State Minister said that the Department of Ayurveda and the Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation have jointly introduced an immunity-enhancing drink and a powder for those infected with the COVID-19 virus. He said that all these medicines are manufactured using 100 per cent local herbs and have been named as *Sadanga Panaya* and *Suwadharani Immunizing Drink*.

State Minister Jayakody further stated that these



State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development and Community Health Sisira Jayakody presenting newly-introduced Ayurvedic drugs to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena.

drugs presented to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena in Parliament today, will be launched on October 12. He also pointed out that

Western medicine has not yet been able to find a cure for the COVID-19 virus, and therefore those developed countries have suffered a seri-

ous setback today. However, he said that the Ministry of Indigenous Medicine has the ability to produce drugs that can overcome this challenge.

# Minuwangoda Police officers sent for quarantine

M.P. KUMARA  
Kotadeniyawa Group

Ninety-five officials attached to the Minuwangoda Police were directed to quarantine centres yesterday (9) morning, Gampaha Superintendent of Police's office said.

The action was taken following the owner of the Minuwangoda Police canteen has tested positive for COVID-19, Police

said. Accordingly, the police officers were sent to the quarantine centres in Habaraduwa, Kalutara and Kundasale.

Among them are a number of police officers who have been referred for PCR tests and are not infected with the virus and steps have been taken to obtain PCR tests of other police officers at the quarantine centres, Police said.

Officers attached to the Minuwangoda

Police Station as well as officers who had reported for duty to the Minuwangoda Police from other police stations due to the curfew have been directed to the quarantine process, a Senior Gampaha Police Officer said.

Although most of the police officers have been quarantined, steps have been taken to perform their duties in the interest of the people, he added.

# Lankan and Omani boat-building companies to collaborate

A B2B webinar between prominent Sri Lankan and Omani boat-building companies was held on October 8 with a view of promoting collaboration between the boat-building industries of the two countries. The Sri Lanka Embassy in the Sultanate of Oman and the Export Development Board (EDB) of Sri Lanka jointly organized this

B2B webinar, a media release by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Muscat said.

The B2B meetings were held between Executive Director Yasser Al Fairuz together with Chief Executive Officer, Salem Al Touqi of popular Omani boat manufacturing company of Al Fairuz Group and the representatives of Sri Lankan companies,

Neil Fernando & Co. (Pvt) Ltd, Danusha Group of Companies and Northwest Marine (Pvt) Ltd.

Opening the B2B meetings, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Sultanate of Oman Ameer Ajwad highlighted that as the two nations sharing the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka and Oman are well placed to collaborate each other in this sector. He also pointed out that both countries have synergies in the areas such as fisheries and nautical tourism and that the boat-building industry of both countries has a huge potential for collaboration in these areas.

During the B2B meetings, the representatives from the boat-building companies of both countries exchanged a range of ideas for cooperation and agreed to collaborate in identified areas for win-win benefits. The companies also agreed to exchange prospective proposals to kick start the process.

Director of Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) Anoma Premathilake, Deputy Director of the EDB Prasanna Jayasinghe and First Secretary of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Muscat W.D.N.M. Abeysekera participated in the webinar.



During the B2B meeting.

# Five granted bail over defrauding racket

MAHINDA P.LIYANAGE  
Galle Central Special Correspondent

Five suspects, including a manager of a finance company, who had been remanded for an alleged racket of defrauding Rs. 20.5 million from another finance institution of Karapitiya, Galle were released on a cash bail of Rs. 25,000 and a surety of Rs. 500,000 each by Galle Chief Magistrate Harshan Kekunawela.

The Magistrate further ordered the suspects to report to the Galle Headquarter Police Station on last Sunday of every month and imposed an overseas travel ban on the suspects.

The suspects had been prosecuted for defrauding a sum of Rs. 20.5 million from the said finance firm on made-up lease agreements by producing forged Certificates of Registration of Motor Vehicles, fake documents on bank accounts and vehicle import documents. They had obtained the said sum of money on five occasions from February to May 2019.

The suspects were identified as Laththuwahandi Dinusha Lakmal, Weersinghe Pathirana Gamachchi Anjula Dilshan, Aluthduwa Hewage Nuwan sanjeewa (Manager) Kaluarachchi Wimansa Chamod Samathapala, and Weerasinghe Gamchchige Manuja Kavinga.

The fraud was revealed when the respective finance firm investigated into the default of payment of due leasing installments.

The case was postponed to December 10. SI Udaya Kantha, Police Sergeants Bandara and Gamage and PC Isuru prosecuted on instructions of the Galle Police Crime Branch OIC C.I.A.S.L. Narangoda.

# Former Secretary of State for Law and Order Ministry Jayamanne tells PCoI

## 'National Security Council was not up to standard'

SHAVINI MADHARA

Former Secretary of State for Law and Order Ministry Padmasiri Jayamanne said although he was of the opinion that the National Security Council was an important decision-maker at a high level, the meetings of the previous Security Council were not up to standard.

Testifying before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks on October 8, he said even the reports submitted to the National Security Council by the State Intelligence Service were not up to standard.

"I observed that the intelligence reports which I received were not up to standard and I realized that I could not take necessary steps according to those intelligence reports. At one point, it was reported that Zahran Hashim was hiding in his wife's house in Kekunagolla when a warrant had been issued against him. Those are normal incidents which should be reported to take necessary action," he said.

Jayamanne stated that he had participated in National Security Council meetings for 10 months during which the Security Council had realized that

Zahran was propagating the Islamic State (IS) ideology and creating Islamic extremists in the country.

When asked whether anyone in the Security Council proposed to ban IS in this country in order to solve this problem, Former Secretary pointed out that no such thing was discussed. In the case of Islamic extremism, such discussions in the Security Council were largely limited because the previous government was on the side of the minority parties.

Even the officials were not prepared to take any risk.

Despite all these minority political influences, the political authorities should have taken all possible steps within the remaining 16 days after receiving foreign intelligence information on April 4, 2019.

The commissioners inquired the witness what kind of internal conflicts they had at the Police Department. Responding to it, Jayamanne stated that at that time IGP Pujith Jayasundara went on a rampage in various media. Even the Minister told the IGP not to make such statements. "We did not decide to remove him, but we summoned the IGP and warned him."

# Over 4,400 COVID-19 positive cases

Over 49,600 sent back from quarantine

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

A total of 29 COVID-19 positive cases have been detected in the country on Thursday (8), the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) said yesterday.

Accordingly, total COVID-19 infections confirmed so far in Sri Lanka now stand at 4,488.

Among them 19 individuals are linked to the Minuwangoda COVID-19 cluster and the rest (10) were expatriates including five from UAE, two from Ethiopia, two from Iran and one from Sudan, the NOCPCO stated.

By yesterday morning, the total number of

COVID-19 positive cases reported from the Minuwangoda garment factory was 1,053.

The NOCPCO further stated that the flight UL504 from London with nine persons arrived yesterday morning (9) and all of them were to be sent to quarantine centres for necessary quarantine process.

Around 136 persons who completed their quarantine left quarantine centres yesterday. Accordingly, 49,689 individuals have been sent back home so far after being quarantined.

Within yesterday, around 2,600 PCR tests were carried out across the country and the total number of PCR tests conducted so far stands at 313,813.

# One drowns in Wemedilla Reservoir

A.A.L.DIAS

Matale District Group Corr.

One person of a group of five who had gone to have a bath in the Wemedilla Reservoir in the Naula Police Division on Thursday evening (8), drowned. The onlookers rescued another.

The lifeguards of the Dambulla Police found the body of the missing person on Friday at

around 8 am. The deceased has been identified as 23-year-old Aswedagedara Duminda Sadharath Bandara, a resident of Medabedda Galewela.

The other victim has been admitted to the Galewela Divisional Hospital. The autopsy will be conducted at the same hospital. Naula Police are conducting further investigations.

# Farmers in Vellaveli receive fertilizer

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN  
Batticaloa Special Correspondent

The cultivators of Vellaveli in the Porathivu Pattu Secretariat Division were given fertilizer subsidies on Thursday (8).

This is the first time in Sri Lanka that the Maha Season cultivators are being given this subsidy. Under the instructions of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the cultivators were given necessary support even during the Coronavirus outbreak.

ADA KOTIPATHI - SATURDAY  
Draw No.: 1067 Colour: YELLOW  
Date: 10.10.2020

Today's Jackpot  
**Rs. 76,908,365/-**

Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.  
Development Lotteries Board  
356, De. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2  
Tel: 2 333 546-47 Fax: 2 333 545 Website: www.dlb.lk  
Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

Date: 08-10-2020  
Draw Number: 373 Colour: Blue

Super Jackpot  
**Rs. 12,553,720/-**

English Letter: O Winning Numbers: 29 45 59 Fate Number: 8

Total Value of Prizes  
**Rs. 3,681,420/-**

Next Super Jackpot  
**Rs. 12,703,328/-**

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Date: 08-10-2020  
Draw Number: 2946 Colour: Brown

SUPER JACKPOT  
**Rs. 2,388,060/-**

Winning Numbers: 17 22 43 47

Cancer

For Rs. 500 prizes: 4 2 4 6  
For Rs. 100 prizes: 5 4 1

Double Chance SPECIAL NUMBERS

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES  
**Rs. 9,442,720/-**

Draw Number: 1239 Colour: Green  
Draw Date: 08.10.2020 Date: Thursday

Winning English Letter and Numbers  
**D 08 10 40 71**

Total Value of Prizes  
**Rs. 3,485,280/-**

SUPER 500 SPECIAL NUMBER: 3 7 9 6

THURSDAY  
Date: 08.10.2020  
Draw No.: 1065 Colour: BLUE

Winning Numbers: 06 36 58 68 English Letter: C

Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: 7916  
Winning number for Rs. 100/- cash prizes: 221

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

THURSDAY  
Date: 08.10.2020  
Draw No.: 3395 Colour: RED

Winning Numbers: 24 41 69 70 English Letter: K

Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: 9051

Winning tickets are valid only for six months



# 470,206 persons arrested over narcotics crimes between January/September: Chamal

Irrigation Minister Chamal Rajapaksa told Parliament yesterday that law enforcement agencies had arrested 470,206 people from 2015 until September 18, this year, on charges of selling and using illicit drugs.

He said 73,444 persons were arrested in 2015, 75,304 persons in 2016, 81,156 persons in 2017, 96,489 persons in 2018, 89,308 persons in 2019, and 54,505 persons from January 1 to September 18, this year, on charges of selling and using illicit drugs.

Responding to questions raised by SJB Badulla District MP Chaminda Wijesiri and SJB Ratnapura District MP Hisha Withanage, the Minister said that a joint task force comprising personnel from the police, Tri-Forces, Special Task Force, State Intelligence Service, Prisons, Excise Department, and Customs has been set up to expedite the government's anti-narcotic operations.

He said, "During the period from January 1, 2015 to September 18, this year, police had seized 40,851,903 kilograms of narcotics and 1,540,000 of narcotic pills,



while Customs had seized 197,254 kilograms of narcotics and 328,745 pills. The Navy had seized 5,107,709 kilograms of narcotics and 17 pills during that same period, while prisons had seized 279 kilograms of narcotics and 24 pills. The Excise Department had seized 10 kilograms of narcotics and the Army had seized 775 kilograms of narcotics during that same timeline."

MP Withanage said the most amount of drugs had been apprehended during the past five years. However, he said that there is pub-

lic belief that there is a close connection between law enforcement heads and drug lords. Therefore, he suggested that as a way to deter such connections, it would be advisable to "rotate" these officials from time-to-time. In this manner, they would not remain in a single place to learn the loopholes of the system.

Minister Rajapaksa responded, "So, your proposal is not to allow officials of these institutions to remain in one place for extended time periods and to change them periodically. This is a good idea and we appreciate it. If you have more suggestions, you can forward them to us so that we could make our campaign more efficient and effective."

Responding to MP Wijesiri, the minister said that law enforcement had conducted a total of 475,985 raids between January 1, 2015 and September 18, this year; 46,824 kilograms of narcotics had been seized during that period.

The minister said that there were reports saying that illicit drugs seized in raids had been handed back to drug smugglers

through the Police Narcotics Bureau. Following those reports, 18 PNB personnel, one STF officer, and six civilians had been taken into custody; 13 PNB members are currently in remand custody, while the other 12 persons are being interrogated under detention orders, he added.

During the raids on PNB officials, police had found two T56 automatic rifles, five magazines containing 81 live rounds of ammunition, three pistols, 40 rounds of 9mm bullets, 11 grams of heroin, two electronic scales, Rs.34,017,130 in cash, 32 counterfeit notes of Rs.5,000 denomination, and 380 milligrams cocaine. Action had been taken to confiscate vehicles and property to the tune of Rs.190 million earned through the narcotics trade by PNB officers.

SJB MP Tissa Attanayake asked Minister Rajapaksa whether the contraband seized from the offenders would be destroyed without delay. The minister said that destroying the contraband would have to be delayed until the cases are done.



## PARLIAMENT

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

### COVID-19 Second Wave

## Pavithra rebuffs Kiriella's claims that government let its guard down

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi yesterday requested the Opposition not to waste the time of the House by selectively quoting her statements regarding the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Wanniarachchi pointed out that she did not make any irresponsible statements and asked the Opposition to listen to her entire statement without listening to it partially. Wanniarachchi also said that Sri Lanka has not yet hit the fourth stage of the pandemic, where randomly selected persons test positive for the virus.

Minister Wanniarachchi made these observations when SJB MPs yesterday alleged that the government is letting its guard down and is ignoring COVID-19 precautions, resulting in the public losing its fear of the virus and the pandemic spreading at a faster rate in its second wave.

"None other than the Health Minister made statements that COVID-19 was eradicated from society. She boasted that Sri Lanka was the world's first country that removed the coronavirus from its territory. Such statements resulted in people losing their fear and letting their guard down. That is the reason for the second



wave of COVID-19 that is prevailing right now," Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella said.

Kiriella tabled two statements made by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi: one on September 3, that the virus had successfully been eradicated; another on April 22, stating that Sri Lanka was the first country in the world that eradicated the virus from its public.

"In her second statement, Wanniarachchi, in the capacity of Minister of Health, assured the public that there was no way for the coronavirus to spread among people in this country, and people trusted those statements; that was the reason they did not adhere to the guidelines. There had been warnings from the Government Medical Officers' Association and the Medical Research Institute that the threat was still there, and that another breakout of the virus was possible;

but the minister went on assuring that they won the battle against the virus and asked people not to fear. We want the minister to admit that she made those statements."

In reply, Health Minister Wanniarachchi said, "I would kindly request Opposition MPs to go through my statements in full. You have listened only to a section of the statement that I made. They take a section out of context and try to create the wrong impression. In every one of my statements, I have clearly specified that as a country, we had curtailed the pandemic situation. However, I also said that concerning the nature of the virus, we were not fully recovered from it.

"I specifically mentioned that there are different stages of the pandemic and highlighted where Sri Lanka was in that spectrum."

"During elections, you and the leader of the Opposition campaigned without wearing face-masks. That was one reason people thought that there was no threat from COVID-19. My statements emphasised that we could win the battle against the virus if people supported the government's initiatives," Wanniarachchi added.

### COVID-19 situation in Gampaha District

## Discussions under way on providing facilities to Grade 5 Scholarship Examination candidates

Discussions are under way between the Education Ministry, Health Ministry, Transport Ministry, and the police to provide the necessary facilities to Grade 5 students from the Gampaha District who are studying in Colombo to sit for the Scholarship Examination, Education Reforms, Open Universities, and Distance Learning Promotion State Minister Susil Premajayantha said in Parliament, yesterday.

He made this observation in response to a query made by Samagi Jana Balawegaya Parliamentarian Lakshman Kiriella, who asked whether the government would provide facilities to Grade 5 students in Gampaha who are currently studying at Colombo schools to sit for the Scholarship Examination in the Gampaha District, itself, tomorrow. He added that due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the principals of those

schools have indirectly told those students not to attend their schools for the examination. Minister Premajayantha said only students in the Gampaha District face such a situation, and that there are 800 such students in Gampaha who are studying in Colombo. The Education Ministry Secretary currently holding discussions with health, transport, and police officers to provide facilities to those students, he added.



## Indigenous Medicine Ministry to introduce drugs for COVID-19: Sisira



Indigenous Medicine Ministry experts have developed several drugs for those who have contracted COVID-19, as well as those who are at risk of contracting it, Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development, and Community Health State Minister Sisira Jayakody said yesterday. The medicine would be presented to Parliament staff to be introduced to the MPs on October 12, he added.

Minister Jayakody, speaking to the media after presenting samples of medicine to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said that the Department of Ayurveda and the Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation have jointly introduced an "immunizing drink" and a powder for those infected with COVID-19.

He added that all these medicines are manufactured using 100% local herbs and have been named as "Sad-

anga Panaya" and "Suwadharani Immunizing Drink".

The minister said that Western medicine has not yet been able to find a cure for the COVID-19 virus, and therefore, developed countries have suffered a serious setback today.

However, he said that the Ministry of Indigenous Medicine has the ability to produce drugs that can overcome this challenge.

## Arrested with fake driver's licence applications, heroin

RAJA WAIDYASEKERA,  
Tissamaharama Special Corr.

A man was arrested with 15 fake driver's licence applications and 78 milligrams of heroin by Udawalawa Police, recently. The arrest was made following a raid conducted at the suspect's house in Karametiara.

Among the items seized were also

two fake seals bearing the name of the Ratnapura District Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, as well as two fake National Identity Cards (NICs).

Police said that the suspect is a bus conductor. They added that he is also a drug addict. Police believe that he is in the counterfeit document business to find money for drugs.

Investigations are continuing.

## 'Local farmers can cultivate country's turmeric requirement'

S.M. WIJAYARATNE,  
Kurunegala Corr.

Sri Lankan farmers are capable of cultivating the country's total turmeric requirement, which is around 7,000 metric tonnes, Agricultural Exports Department Director-General A.P. Heenkenda said.

Speaking to the *Daily News*

recently, Heenkenda said that previously, around 5,000 metric tonnes of turmeric was imported to the country from countries such as India.

"By now, about 1,500 hectares of land are being cultivated with turmeric, countrywide. The harvest of this crop is to be reaped mid-January. A quantity of 22,500 metric tonnes of turmeric could be reaped

then. That means a stock of 3,800 metric tonnes of dried turmeric could be produced," Heenkenda said.

"About 4,000 metric tonnes of turmeric will be re-utilised as seed turmeric for growing the crop once again. Through this, our country will be self-sufficient in turmeric by 2022," he added.

## Navy bids farewell to Rear Admiral Lalith Dissanayake

After completion of nearly 34 years of distinguished career, Rear Admiral Lalith Dissanayake retired from naval service yesterday.

The retiring senior officer, who celebrated his 55th birthday yesterday, received warm wishes from Commander of the Navy, Vice-Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, as well as the Director-Generals of the Navy. Subsequently, Rear Admiral Dissanayake was accorded a Guard of Honour in compliance with Naval traditions before fellow naval officers, gathered at the portal of the Navy

Headquarters, extending best wishes to the outgoing senior officer.

Thereupon, Rear Admiral Dissanayake was sent off from the Navy Headquarters.

Rear Admiral Lalith Dissanayake joined the Sri Lanka Navy in 1986 and held key appointments such as the Director Naval Welfare, Deputy Area Commander Southern Naval Area, Director Naval Weapons, Chief Instructor Defence Services Command and Staff College, Director General Administration, and Commander North Central Naval Area during his naval career.



Navy Commander Vice-Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne with Rear Admiral Lalith Dissanayake.

## Road-cleaning project launched in Pottuvil

M.A. PHAKURDEEN,  
Addalachenai Group Corr.

A road-cleaning project was launched under the instructions of East Security Forces Commander Major General Chinthaka Gamage at the Pottuvil Divisional Secretariat, recently. The project is being carried out under the theme 'Keep Roads Clean and Make the City Beautiful'.

The event was organised by Commanding Officer (Sengamam) Lt. Colonel A.M.M.P. Kuma Medegegedera, with the support of Pottuvil Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman M.S. Waseeth, Arugam Bay Tourists Association M.H.A. Raheem, and former YMMA President N.M. Naphiel.

The project is organised in three different groups: one group worked from Pottuvil to Panama, while the other two groups cleared roads leading to Urani and Sengamam.

Volunteers from the Pradeshiya Sabha, Chamber of Tourism Industry of Sri Lanka, Arugam Bay Tourism Association, social welfare associations, women development



Volunteers cleaning a road. Picture by M.A. Phakurdeen, Addalachenai Group Corr.

organisations, and sports clubs, along with Army personnel, Grama Niladhari officers, and Samurdhi Officers, took part in the cleaning activities by collecting waste such as plastic bottles, polythene bags, and other garbage dumped along roadsides.

Stagnant water in drains were also cleaned under the project. Tractors and heavy vehicles belonging to Pradeshiya Sabhas were deployed to collect wastes at dumpsites.

Addressing the volunteers just before the commencement of the project, Lt. Colonel Kuma Medegegedera stressed the importance of keeping roads and the environment clean, so as to make the city clean. "This paves the way for our area to be free of dengue and other diseases," he said. He advised everyone to take greater care in keeping roads and home gardens clean in order to prevent the spread of diseases such as dengue.

## Navy arrests seven persons with narcotics

A number of special search operations conducted by the Navy and Police in the Northwestern, Southern, and Eastern Naval Commands from September 30 to October 6 saw the arrests of seven suspects possessing narcotics.

The Northwestern Naval Command, in coordination with the Puttalam Police, nabbed a suspect with 80mg of crystal methamphetamine and another person with 1.3g of her-

oin during search operations in Karambe and Palaviya. Similarly, the Southern Naval Command, together with Hambantota Police Anti-Corruption Unit, apprehended three suspects possessing 1.599g of heroin during a coordinated search carried out in the Suchi village of Hambantota.

In another combined operation conducted near the Muthur bus stand, the Eastern Naval Command

and Muthur Police arrested a suspect with 1g of heroin. Meanwhile, another person possessing 10g of Kerala cannabis was apprehended during a search carried out with the assistance of Kalawanchikudi STF personnel in Valaichchenai.

The accused are between the ages of 21 and 43. Both them and the seized narcotics were handed over to the respective police stations for further investigations.



# Mannar Wind Power Plant Power transmission to India possible - State Minister Dissanayake

**NIMAL WIJESINGHE**  
Anuradhapura Additional District Corr.

Solar, Wind, Grid Power Generation Projects Development State Minister Duminda Dissanayake recently inspected the sand bed which is known as the Adam's Bridge in Talaimannar and said if the wind power-based electricity generation capacity in Mannar could be increased, there is a possibility of providing surplus electricity to India via Dhanushkodi.

At present, the largest renewable electricity genera-

tion plant of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) is under construction in the Mannar District. It is envisaged to use wind power for adding around 500 MW to the National Grid through this project. It is planned to establish 33 wind turbines along a selected coastline in Mannar for the implementation of the proposed wind power project.

There had been discussions between the governments of India and Sri Lanka with regard to the generation and supply of electricity.



State Minister Duminda Dissanayake during the inspection tour at the Adam's Bridge in Talaimannar.

## Support to combat COVID-19 expected - Ampara District Secretary

**M.A. PHAKURDEEN**  
Addalaichenai Group Correspondent

Ampara District Secretary D.M.L. Bandaranayake said it is the prime responsibility of all officers to extend their fullest support and co-operation to fight the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

He was addressing a meeting at the Ampara District Secretariat auditorium, which was held to discuss all preventive measures that should be followed to combat COVID-19 virus in the Ampara District.

This meeting convened by the District Secretary Bandaranayake was attended by Additional District Secretary V. Jegatheesan, District Disaster Management Centre Assistant Director M.A.C.M. Riyas, Regional Directors of Health Services, Divisional Secretaries, Heads of Pradeshya Sabhas, Urban Council, Religious heads and rep-



During the meeting

representatives of the Security Forces.

District Secretary Bandaranayake said we cannot ignore the second wave of the pandemic since this time it is worse than the earlier. Each and everyone should be determined to work sincerely and with the sense of responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID-19. He also stressed the importance of wearing masks, maintaining social distance and washing hands always.

"Heads of departments, co-operations and other institutions must

provide all facilities to the public. Passengers who use the public transport should strictly follow the health guidelines issued by the Government. Those who ignore or breach these instructions should be severely dealt with," he said.

He instructed all divisional secretaries to be very cautious over the strangers coming to their areas. They were asked to inform the public to be vigilant and inform them.

Various other suggestions and ideas were also taken into consideration.

## Munneswaram Temple, Dedimunda Devalaya closed

**S.M. WIJAYARATNE**  
Kurunegala Corr.

The historic Munneswaram Temple in Chilaw has been closed for devotees for a week as a COVID-19 positive patient was identified at its premises on Thursday. The Dedimunda

Devalaya in Mawanella in the Kegalle District has also been closed for devotees for a week since yesterday (9) due to the identification of another COVID-19 positive patient at its premises, Kurunegala District senior Divisional Secretary W.E. Jay-

athilake told the *Daily News* yesterday in Kurunegala.

Meanwhile, the Bud-dhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs Ministry has informed all heads of religious places countrywide in a special circular that they should limit

the participation of devotees to 50 percent in religious places with effect from yesterday (9) due to the prevailing threat of COVID-19 pandemic. Devotees also have to follow all health guidelines given to prevent the spread of the disease.

## Construction of school building suspended Parents oppose decision

**VAJIRA POOJITHA GUNAWARDENA**  
Thelijjawila Group

Construction work of a four-storied building at the St. Thomas' College, Matara, which was initiated with the decentralized financial allocation of the Government

due to its 175th anniversary has been suspended by the Education Ministry under the letter dated 23/09/2020.

Parents and old boys are of the opinion that this construction is essential for the learning activities of stu-

dents. Matara District Parliamentarian Weerasumana Weerasinghe who is also an old boy of the College, has already made arrangements to inform Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris in writing.

## Teen drowns in Beliatta

**RAJA WAIDYASEKERA**  
Tissamaharama Special Corr.

A 17-year-old child drowned in the Palapotha mini waterfall in Beliatta. The victim was identified as Garusinhaarach-chilage Didula Pehe-sara, a resident of Lunmadalawa, Palapotha.

Sadasiri Ranasinha held the inquiry while Judicial Medical Officer (JMO) of the Tangalle Base Hospital D.D. Samaraweera held the postmortem and declared that the death was due to suffocation after being drowned.

Tangalle Headquarters police officials assisted the postmortem.

## Held for issuing fake driving licences

**RAJA WAIDYASEKERA**  
Tissamaharama Special Corr.

Udawalawa Police raided a house at Karame-tiara which was used to issue fake driving licences at exorbitant rates. The Police said they found two bogus rubber stamps bearing the name

of the Ratnapura District Commissioner of Motor Traffic and a date stamp, two National Identity Cards (NICs), two bogus driving licences, 15 applications for driving licences and 78 milligrammes of heroin at the house. The suspect who is the

owner of the house is also a bus conductor. He has been taken into police custody. The Police said he is a drug addict and he had run this illegal business to find money to buy drugs. Udawalawa Police are investigating.

## Mahaweli-H Zone to benefit by mid-November

**NAVARATNA BANDARA**  
Mahaweli Systems Group corr.

Farmers around the reservoir of Kala Wewa in the Mahaweli-H Zone will be able to receive water from the Mahaweli irrigation system for their fields by mid-November. The Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL) is renovating a sluice

gate to control the flow of water from the reservoir to the major irrigation canal. The twin reservoir complex having a capacity of 100,000-acre-feet built by King Dhatusena during the 5th century to provide water to crop fields around Kala Wewa, Anuradhapura is the current major water resource of the Mahaweli H Zone.

## Fire in shopping complex in Pallepola

**A.A.L. DIAS**  
Matale District Group Corr.

A fire erupted in the co-operative co-op city building complex of Pallepola town in the Matale District on Thursday (8) and the room where the generator was placed, completely burned down.

Its employees immediately removed the gas cylinders stored in a shop adjacent to

the co-op city complex and the fire has been controlled. This shopping complex constructed by the Pallepola Pradeshiya Sabha at a cost Rs. 90 million has recently been vested with the public.

The fire is suspected to have been caused by an electricity leakage. Mahawela Police are conducting investigations.



The building which caught fire.

**08.10.2020 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 638,262**  
**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 27,456,370.00**  
**Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 | Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 | Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 25**

**Govisetha**  
OFFICIAL RESULTS  
DRAW NUMBER: 2564 | DRAW DATE: 08.10.2020  
ENGLISH LETTER: **K** | WINNING NUMBERS: **07 22 23 70**  
COMBINATION: **K 07 22 23 70**  
PRIZES:  
1st PRZ: IF ALL 4 NUMBERS CORRECT: Rs. 1,000,000.00  
2nd PRZ: IF LETTER & ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT: Rs. 100,000.00  
3rd PRZ: IF ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT: Rs. 2,000.00  
4th PRZ: IF LETTER & ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT: Rs. 1,000.00  
5th PRZ: IF ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT: Rs. 100.00  
6th PRZ: IF LETTER & ANY NUMBER CORRECT: Rs. 40.00  
7th PRZ: IF ANY NUMBER CORRECT: Rs. 20.00  
8th PRZ: IF ONLY THE LETTER IS CORRECT: Rs. 20.00  
TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW: **199,746**  
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW: **Rs. 6,380,580.00**  
SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW: **Rs. 62,787,465.20**

**Vasana Sampatha**  
OFFICIAL RESULTS  
Draw No. 1620 | Date 2020.10.08  
English Letter: **U** | WINNING NUMBERS: **33 54 67 69**  
PRIZES:  
01 Prize: If only four numbers are correct: Rs. 1,000,000.00  
02 Prize: If three numbers and English Letter are correct: Rs. 100,000.00  
03 Prize: If only three numbers are correct: Rs. 2,000.00  
04 Prize: If two numbers and English Letter are correct: Rs. 500.00  
05 Prize: If only two numbers are correct: Rs. 100.00  
06 Prize: If one number and English Letter are correct: Rs. 40.00  
07 Prize: If only one number is correct: Rs. 20.00  
08 Prize: If only English Letter is correct: Rs. 20.00  
Total prize money won in this Draw: **Rs. 3,087,220.00**  
Next Super Prize: **Rs. 24,216,550.40**

**MAHAJANA SAMPATHA**  
DATE: 08-10-2020  
DRAW NUMBER: 4299 | OFFICIAL RESULTS  
WINNING LETTER: **G** | WINNING NUMBERS: **2 0 5 6 1 0**  
PRIZE STRUCTURE - from right to left:  
1st Prize: 2 0 5 6 1 0 (Rs. 2,000,000.00) - 02  
2nd Prize: 0 5 6 1 0 (Rs. 100,000.00) - 11  
3rd Prize: 5 6 1 0 (Rs. 10,000.00) - 108  
4th Prize: 6 1 0 (Rs. 1,000.00) - 1,073  
5th Prize: 1 0 (Rs. 100.00) - 10,658  
6th Prize: 0 (Rs. 20.00) - 105,482  
PRIZE STRUCTURE - from left to right:  
7th Prize: 2 0 5 6 1 0 (Rs. 10,000.00) - 09  
8th Prize: 2 0 5 6 (Rs. 1,000.00) - 107  
9th Prize: 2 0 5 (Rs. 100.00) - 1,086  
10th Prize: 2 0 (Rs. 50.00) - 10,501  
11th Prize: G (Rs. 20.00) - 42,341  
Value of prizes won in this draw - **Rs. 12,110,910.00**  
The Super Prize of next draw: **Rs. 23,491,900.00**

**MEGA POWER**  
DRAW NUMBER: 636 | OFFICIAL RESULTS  
DATE: 2020.10.08  
WINNING LETTER: **P** | WINNING NUMBERS: **01 27 39 44 77**  
PRIZE STRUCTURE:  
1st PRZ: If all 4 Numbers are correct: Rs. 1,000,000.00  
2nd PRZ: If only 3 Numbers with English Letter is correct: Rs. 100,000.00  
3rd PRZ: If all 3 Numbers are correct: Rs. 1,000.00  
4th PRZ: If only 2 Numbers with English Letter is correct: Rs. 100.00  
5th PRZ: Only 2 Numbers are correct: Rs. 100.00  
6th PRZ: If only 1 Number with English Letter is correct: Rs. 40.00  
7th PRZ: Only 1 Number are correct: Rs. 20.00  
8th PRZ: Only English Letter are correct: Rs. 20.00  
NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE: **Rs. 52,597,256.00**  
NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE: **Rs. 11,867,695.60**  
NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE: **Rs. 19,328,817.20**  
Total Prizes Won In This Draw: **Rs. 3,908,220.00**

**සම්ප්‍රදාය**  
தஞ் திரி சம்புத **DARU DIRI SAMPATHA**  
DRAW DATE: 2020/10/08  
DRAW NUMBER: 022  
English Letter: **P** | WINNING NUMBER: **07 19 26 32**  
PRIZES:  
1st Prize: If all 4 numbers are correct: Rs. 1,000,000.00  
2nd Prize: If English Letter and 1 numbers are correct: Rs. 50,000.00  
3rd Prize: If any 3 numbers are correct: Rs. 1,000.00  
4th Prize: If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct: Rs. 500.00  
5th Prize: If any 2 numbers are correct: Rs. 100.00  
6th Prize: If English Letter and 1 number is correct: Rs. 40.00  
7th Prize: If 1 number is correct: Rs. 20.00  
8th Prize: If only English letter is correct: Rs. 20.00  
Total prize money won in this draw: **Rs. 1,969,440.00**  
Super Prize for the next Draw: **Rs. 6,885,143.60**



Army Commandos.



71st anniversary of SL Army today

# SRI LANKA ARMY: With us, for us forever

DISHAN JOSEPH

The Sri Lanka Army has dedicatedly served the nation for 70 years and enters a new year today. Over these past seven decades, the Army has consistently transformed itself to become a fully-fledged capacity based fighting force infused with the state-of-the-art combat technology.

In addition, the Army has made a massive contribution in humanitarian and disaster relief operations. The nation owes its deep gratitude to the Army for its dynamic role in containing the spread of COVID-19, alongside the medical authorities. The officers and soldiers have also assisted in many nation-building endeavours.

The history of our great nation is filled with episodes of invasions, battles and insurgencies. A few of our valiant kings who excelled in combat leadership were King Dutugemunu, King Gajabahu, King Dhatusena and King Vijayabahu. Historical records indicate how the legendary ruler, King Parakramabahu I mounted a major military seaborne offensive against Myanmar, using a division of elephant mounted troops. These ancient forces relied on cavalry and skilled archers.

The Portuguese, Dutch and the British forcibly landed here with their naval fleets and managed to gain the upper hand by the use of cannon fire, and gradually captured our maritime provinces through cunning treaties, espionage and broken promises. However, the Portuguese, Dutch and the British faced stiff resistance, as our ancient troops

counter attacked inflicting heavy casualties on the invading forces, in many battles across the island. Chroniclers describe the ambush tactics of Ceylon's ancient fighters who displayed their fieldcraft and combat strategies. The Dutch later fortified their coastal defences by erecting forts in Colombo, Matara, Jaffna, Galle, Trincomalee, Negombo and Batticaloa. Later, the British established a military garrison in Trincomalee with a naval fleet taking advantage of the natural harbour.

In 1802, a rifle regiment, the First Ceylon Regiment, was formed with Ceylonese, African and Malay soldiers. In 1861, the colony of Ceylon was empowered with her first Volunteer Corps. This formation was referred to as the Ceylon Light Infantry Volunteers. Slowly but steadily, the Army enriched its troop capacity to raise units such as, the Ceylon Garrison Artillery, Mounted Infantry, Medical Corps, Engineer Corps and Supply and Transport Corps. In 1910, the force was subject to effective combat readiness and renamed, Ceylon Defence Force. The men were deployed for active duty in England. With the advent of the Second World War, the Ceylon Defence Force raised some new units including, Military Police Corps, Signal Corps and Colombo Town Guard. These pioneer officers and soldiers laid the foundation of a rich military tradition on which their regiments grew in size and capacity.

In 1949, the Army Act was passed in Parliament establishing the Ceylon Army. A regular force was formed on October 10, 1949, under the command

In 1949, the Army Act was passed in Parliament establishing the Ceylon Army. A regular force was formed on October 10, 1949, under the command of Brigadier Roderick Sinclair. In 1950, the first batch of Ceylonese cadets was sent for their training to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, England. After realizing the importance of a facility and syllabus to train future officer cadets locally, the Sri Lanka Army set up its own training school in the salubrious hills of Diyatalawa

of Brigadier Roderick Sinclair. In 1950, the first batch of Ceylonese cadets was sent for their training to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, England. After realizing the importance of a facility and syllabus to train future officer cadets locally, the Sri Lanka Army set up its own training school in the salubrious hills of Diyatalawa. The Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA) has blossomed into a degree-awarding institution and has proudly produced many Generals since then.

Brigadier Anton Muthukumar became the first Sri Lankan Commander of the Army. He was a dynamic visionary who initiated the establishment of the Army cantonment in Panagoda, which houses many regiments today. The Women's Corps was formed in 1979. Since its formation, the Women's Corps has made a significant contribution to the Army with female officers serving in many professional roles as doctors, engineers, lawyers and accountants. During the early 1970s and mid-1980s, Sri Lanka was subject to home-grown insurgencies and domestic terrorism, which compelled the Army to establish area headquarters. Today, there are seven Security Force Headquarters for smooth command and administrative purposes.

The threat of growing

subversive activity demanded the formation of specialized fighting units within the Army. Hence, the first commando course was conducted in February 1978, and the commando squadron was formed in 1980. The Commando Regiments with its distinct maroon colour beret have made a significant contribution during the war. In the recent past, they have upgraded their combat kennels with many dog breeds selected and trained for various tasks. Within this spectrum, they have formed the first Cadaver Search Unit, using the Beagle breed of dog. The kennels are located in Ganemulla. These intelligent dogs are capable of sniffing and locating human bodies buried in mud or the slippery banks of a river. Sri Lanka is the first South East Asian nation to have this military capability.

During the prolonged 30-year conflict, the Army adopted and adjusted to various levels of threats incorporating technology and enhanced training. The Special Forces (SF) Regiment is another vital component of the military strike capability. These strategic combatants have rendered a great service infiltrating and fighting behind enemy lines. The feared Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) is the apex element of Special Forces covert opera-



Encouraging a young artist.



Army officers performing religious rituals at a kovil.



Team building.



Army Commander Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva with a War Hero

tions. The SF Regiment is also empowered with Anti-Hijack Units. In the final stages of the humanitarian operations in 2009, the Infantry Regiments, Special Forces, Armoured Corps, Air Mobile Brigade, Artillery and Mechanized Infantry Units collectively contributed to the war effort. Hundreds of officers and soldiers laid down their lives in the line of duty. Many young men remain disabled and dependent for life. In this backdrop of sacrifice, it is of paramount importance that all politicians and stakeholders in governance sustain this hard-won peace, and work towards embracing our diversity whereby we create a bountiful nation for all Sri Lankans.

In this era of sustained peace, the Army, under the prudent vision of its pre-

sent Commander Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva is taking the dimension of a capacity-based force, with emphasis on nation-building. In the recent past when the country was afflicted by natural disasters, it was the soldiers who actively engaged in rescue operations as first responders. Whether it was the relentless rains which unleashed floods and landslides or a collapsed high rise building, the Sri Lankan soldier was again willing to display his spirit of altruism, in saving others. It was the Army soldier who reached out with assurance and friendship to people who were in need of rescue. The Army actively engaged in a massive tree planting exercise, increasing our forest cover making its contribution to enhancing a greener environment.

Security Force Headquarters Jaffna (SFJ) is an important and sensitive military command. Over the past decade, in the Northern Province, the Sri Lanka Army has played a pivotal role in helping the public in many areas. This is a genuine effort of reaching out and changing lives. The silent contributions made by the Army include humanitarian demining operations, facilitating the return of people to their ancestral lands, repairing schools, hospitals and places of religious worship, organizing sports events for youth, providing books and computers to selected schools and celebrating local religious festivals with communities.

Fishing jetties have been duly repaired and fishing communities returned to their ancestral trade. Former LTTE combatants who were often rejected by society have been successfully rehabilitated by the Army, giving them a second chance to integrate with civil society. They are gainfully employed at the large Army Farm established in Palaly. Here these young men and women engage in agricultural pursuits. The Army operated Thal Sevana hotel in Kankesanthurai (KKS) has become a preferred choice for hundreds of Tamil-speaking foreigners domiciled overseas when on holiday in the North.

In the area of regional security and inter-operability of Forces, the Army has conducted the Colombo Defence Seminar, with the participation of many foreign military analysts

and commanders, where current security issues were deliberated. The theatre of future battles in any nation will be swift and digitally dominated. In keeping our Forces primed and ready, the annual field training exercise "Cormorant Strike" has been successfully conducted in the Eastern Province using members of the Commando and Special Forces along with the Sri Lanka Air Force and the Sri Lanka Navy over the past few years. These mock training missions also had foreign troops as observers. The military played an important role in the fight against COVID-19.

The incumbent Army Commander was appointed to head the prevention task force. The Army undertook to operate many quarantine centres within short notice. They displayed their prowess in building new medically-endorsed quarantine units in a matter of days, to the surprise of the nation. They took the lead role of systematically doing contact tracing assisting the medical frontline workers.

The Army rose to the occasion and shouldered this vital responsibility which other Armies in the South Asian Region have not done in this magnitude. In the past few months, soldiers engaged in operations with the police to eradicate dangerous narcotics. The Sri Lanka Army has confronted trials and triumphs. They will continue to play an important role as defenders of our resplendent nation.



Caring for elders



During a school project



A tree-planting campaign by the Army



A beach clean-up programme



# CHINA PLEDGES TO DISTRIBUTE COVID-19 VACCINE TO POORER NATIONS



A booth displaying a COVID-19 vaccine candidate is seen at the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services, in Beijing on September 4, 2020.

**CHINA:** China has signed up to a deal to ensure future Covid-19 vaccines are distributed to developing countries, the biggest economy yet to join the World Health Organization-led bid to control the pandemic.

The COVAX pledge to get vaccines to poorer nations as soon as they are developed aims to head off fears rich countries will limit distribution of game-changing medicines made by their pharmaceutical companies.

The deal gives China, the country where the virus first emerged, a prominent role in the global effort to

share vaccines with less-developed countries.

China joined COVAX to "honour its commitment to turn COVID-19 vaccines into a global public good," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Friday of the October 8 agreement.

She gave no details on how much money China would commit to the deal, which has a fundraising goal of \$2 billion and aims to provide 92 low and middle-income countries with a future vaccine.

Chinese vaccines "will be provided to developing countries as a priori-

ty", Hua said, adding Beijing hopes "more capable countries will also join and support COVAX".

Superpower rival the US has not signed up to the deal.

China is racing to find a vaccine, with Beijing making bold predictions on its rollout before the end of the year.

Hundreds of thousands of Chinese soldiers, emergency staff and overseas workers have already been injected with vaccines - although the leading contenders are yet to complete clinical trials.

Beijing is facing a storm of foreign

criticism over its early handling of the pandemic and has been trying to reframe perceptions of its role in COVID-19, which emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

China has paraded its success in controlling the pandemic inside its borders.

Tens of millions of people returned to work on Friday after a long "Golden Week" domestic holiday seen as a test of consumer confidence, cutting a stark contrast to many Western nations afflicted by rolling lockdowns and travel restrictions. - AFP



Across Europe, bars and restaurants are being forced to shut their doors again to fight the virus - AFP

## SPANISH CAPITAL REJECTS LOCKDOWN AS EUROPE FACES VIRUS SURGE

**SPAIN:** Madrid's top court on Thursday struck down virus restrictions on millions in the Spanish capital, as European governments battle to control a sustained surge in virus cases.

While people across France and Belgium face closed bars and cafes, countries including Austria and Poland are toughening their rules on mask wearing and other measures.

Records for the number of daily infections are tumbling across the continent, even Germany - widely praised for its handling of the crisis - which logged more than 4,000 new cases in a day for the first time since April.

"It's possible that the virus will spread uncontrollably," said Lothar Wieler, the head of Germany's Robert Koch Institute for disease control.

Spain's anti-virus strategy was thrown into confusion on Thursday when judges refused to approve a lockdown order, arguing that the central health ministry had acted beyond its powers in imposing the measures because health policy is devolved to local governments.

Officials scrambled to get back on track, pleading with residents not to leave the city despite the court ruling, but police have no legal grounds for issuing fines for non-compliance and the order is in effect void.

Germany's Health Minister Jens Spahn sought to explain his country's upsurge in cases by pointing the finger at young people.

They are "partying, travelling, think-

ing they are invincible", said Spahn, "but they're not". He urged young people to think of the potential harm they were doing to older relatives.

The IMF on Thursday joined the debate, warning that lifting restrictions was no guarantee of an economic rebound, and that voluntary measures could be just as damaging to the economy as enforced restrictions.

No European country has yet taken the plunge into a second national lockdown, most governments choosing instead to impose local restrictions or target particular sectors.

Crowded bars and cafes in Belgium's capital Brussels have been ordered to close for a month in a return to the stricter protocols imposed at the height of the epidemic in March and April. In neighbouring France, officials were set to apply tighter restrictions in several major cities, two days after a maximum alert protocol went into force in Paris.

Bars and restaurants in the French capital were ordered to close on Tuesday for two weeks, as the daily tally of new cases creeps towards 20,000.

Scotland imposed a two-week ban on pubs in its main cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh on Wednesday, increasing pressure on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's UK government to take similar steps in England.

The novel coronavirus has killed more than a million people and infected more than 36 million since the outbreak emerged in China late last year. - AFP

## Virus starves UK shops of customers



A woman waits for a bus on a deserted Oxford Street in London during the lockdown.

**UK:** The squeeze on Britain's beleaguered retail sector from tighter coronavirus restrictions reducing numbers of shoppers on the high street clung on into September, data showed Friday.

Latest figures from industry body the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and analytics company ShopperTrack showed that UK retail footfall was down by 30.1 percent in September compared with a year earlier.

The data did show a slight month-on-month improvement in September from August - although local lockdown restrictions weighed on sentiment.

"As the second wave of the pandemic sweeps the UK and additional restrictions come into force, footfall has steadily dropped during the month as many shoppers

chose to stay at home," said BRC chief executive Helen Dickinson.

She added: "It is likely that rising case numbers and future restrictions may see footfall decline in the coming months.

"Sales at upcoming holidays, including Halloween and Bonfire Night, are also likely to remain muted." Britain began emerging in June from a nationwide lockdown that lasted almost three months.

The lockdown sparked a surge in online shopping as people shunned high streets and switched to computer screens and smartphones.

Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey meanwhile warned Thursday that recession-mired Britain faced the prospect of an "uneven" recovery, as the government battles a second wave of rising infections with tighter

restrictions and localised lockdowns.

"When you look at areas of activity in the economy that require more close social interaction, it's no surprise that they have been the weakest to recover," he said at an online conference.

Bailey also warned that the risks were skewed to the downside - and noted Britons had been "cautious" in response to grim news of resurgent infections.

"There is an unprecedented level of uncertainty at the moment - and the risks I am afraid are still very much to the downside.

"Of course, that reflects both firstly the pattern of returning evidence of COVID, and secondly - unsurprisingly - the natural caution of people's re-engagement with (economic) activity in view of that." - AFP

## 'Ghost island' Phuket ravaged by COVID-19

**THAILAND:** Phuket's go-go dancers sit playing on their phones in empty bars lining deserted streets as the Thai tourist island reels from the ravages of the pandemic with little sign of any recovery soon.

Swimming pools are empty, chairs are stacked high in deserted restaurants and normally packed beaches are so quiet they are even seeing rare species of sea turtle arriving to nest.

Last year, more than nine million tourists visited Phuket, the kingdom's second most popular destination after Bangkok.

Today, nearly all the island's 3,000 hotels are closed and the main town of Patong has become a "ghost town", says local tycoon Preechawut Keesin, who owns five nightclubs and around 600 hotel rooms.

Thailand has so far remained relatively unscathed from the global outbreak with around 3,600 confirmed cases and just a few dozen deaths.

But the kingdom's decision to concentrate on beating the virus has dealt a brutal blow to the economy, which is expected to contract 7-9 percent this year and leave millions unemployed.

"My boss wants to help the staff keep their jobs, but I don't think we can survive after the end of the year," sighs Jantima Tongrijern, manager of Pum Pui bar.

In normal times, 80 percent of the island's profits come from tourism, a sector that employs more than 300,000 people.

Tens of thousands of those who have lost their jobs have returned to their home provinces.

Life is hard for those sticking it out. Some have accepted huge pay cuts, while others have little choice but to join the long lines at the food distribution centres or scrape together an income where they can. Bar owner Orathai Sidel says she used to make 100,000 baht (\$3,200) a month in high season.

With her business a victim of the pandemic, she now sells desserts from a street-side cart, making just \$3 a day to try to cover her children's school fees.

"We're just fighting to survive," says fellow street vendor Poi, fired in June from the restaurant where she used to work.

Phuket has been due to welcome Thailand's first foreign tourists since April in a cautious experiment by the kingdom, but their arrival keeps being pushed back.

And the two-week compulsory quarantine and high price tag - several thousand dollars a person - will mean this is a niche mar-



In this aerial file photo taken on October 01, 2020 shows empty swimming pools at a hotel on Patong beach in Phuket. - AFP



A man walks along an empty Patong beach in Thailand's Phuket which has seen a lack of tourists due to ongoing restrictions relating to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus. - AFP

ket. "We will have to focus on developing local customers and individual travellers rather than mass tourism," says Preechawut Keesin.

Before the pandemic, domestic holidaymakers only made up 30 percent of visitors to Phuket, prompting the local tourism industry to rethink its business model. Trial packages are already being offered to domestic tour-

ists for as low as \$30 for two nights, flights included from Bangkok - but the rock-bottom prices mean hotels will likely not even recover their costs.

"We don't expect a return to normal for three years," forecasts Kongsak Khoopongsakorn.

"The situation is much worse than after the tsunami in 2004." - AFP



# TRUMP SAYS "NO" TO VIRTUAL DEBATE

US HOUSE SPEAKER QUESTIONS TRUMP'S FITNESS FOR OFFICE



The first Trump-Biden Presidential debate.



US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi speaking at a press conference on Thursday.

**US:** US President Donald Trump on Thursday pulled out of next week's Presidential debate after organizers decided to go virtual due to his bout with COVID-19, throwing the US election into new turmoil with only 26 days to go.

Confusion reigned over the calendar of debates – usually a set piece series of three that rival candidates arrange well in advance.

After back and forth between Trump and Democrat Joe Biden's campaign, it appeared likely that only two debates will take place in total, with the next being October 22 and the one scheduled for Miami on October 15 now scrapped.

The upheaval, which began when Trump rejected the debate commission's decision to go online over fears of his recent coronavirus infection, reflected wider discord in the bitter last stretch to election day on November 3.

With Biden surging in opinion

polls and able to travel – Arizona being his latest campaign stop Thursday – these are anxious times for the quarantined Trump.

He is still recovering from his three-night hospital stint, while the White House itself has become a viral hotspot, with dozens of people close to Trump testing positive.

Held back from the campaign trail, Trump raged on Fox Business television, calling Biden's Vice Presidential running mate Kamala Harris a "monster," illegal immigrants "rapists," and urging indictments of former President Barack Obama and Biden.

Across Washington, the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, questioned Trump's claim to be rapidly recovering from COVID-19 and she announced coming legislation on evaluating whether Presidents retain capacity to perform their duties – or need removal under the Constitution's 25th Amendment.

Trump, who has fully recovered

his prolific Twitter habit since he got back from the hospital on Monday, responded: "Crazy Nancy is the one who should be under observation. They don't call her Crazy for nothing!"

Trump's decision to boycott next week's debate, which would have been in town hall format with audience members asking questions, will mean missing a rare opportunity to try and best Biden in a direct televised confrontation.

Trump told Fox Business that the bipartisan debate commission's decision to make the debate a virtual affair, citing the need for safety after his infection with Covid-19, was "not acceptable."

He accused organizers of trying to "protect" Biden after their angry first debate in Cleveland on September 29. Campaign manager Bill Stepien called organizers "pathetic" and announced that a rally would be held instead.

At the Biden campaign, spokeswoman Kate Bedingfield accused

Trump of not wanting "to face questions from the voters about his failures on Covid and the economy."

Biden announced he will do his own televised Q&A town hall with voters on ABC News instead.

Both camps agreed the next and probably final debate, on October 22 in Nashville, should be done in the town hall style.

Trump's campaign called for a third debate taking place right before the election but Biden's side rejected this, saying "Trump's erratic behaviour does not allow him to rewrite the calendar."

While Trump said that he beat Biden "easily" in their first debate, opinion polls following the combative encounter in Cleveland showed the president in a lopsided loss.

Biden is currently forecast to beat Trump in several vital swing states, even threatening him in Republican strongholds like Texas.

And Trump's personal fight with COVID-19 has thrown the spotlight back on an issue where polls find a big majority of voters see him as having failed.

Trump is trying to make a virtue of the calamity by boasting that he has personally defeated the virus.

"I'm back because I'm a perfect physical specimen and I'm extremely young," Trump, 74, joked on Fox Business.

But the drama has made it almost impossible for Trump to shift the narrative of the campaign back onto what he sees as the more favorable territory of the economy, which was doing strongly before the coronavirus hit early this year.

On Wednesday night, Harris debated with Vice President Mike Pence and spent much of her time hammering Trump for "the greatest failure of any Presidential administration in the history of our country" over COVID-19. - AFP



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says Ottawa is preparing for "any outcomes" of the US Presidential election.

## Justin Trudeau fears 'disruptions' in event of tight US vote result

**CANADA:** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Thursday his government feared "some disruptions" if the result of the US presidential election is close, and that Ottawa is preparing for "any outcomes." "We view all the polarization in the United States with some concern," Trudeau said in French, referring to the country's political discord less than a month until the November 3 election between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden.

"We're all watching the US election with close attention because of its potential impact on the Canadian economy and on Canadians," Trudeau said at a news conference.

"We're certainly all hoping for a smooth transition or a clear result" in the vote, he said.

"If it is less clear, there may be some disruptions and we need to be ready for any outcomes," he said, without elaborating.

Trump has questioned the integrity of mail-in ballots, which are popular this election due to the Covid pandemic, and he has refused to commit to a peaceful transition of power if he loses the vote.

Trudeau, who has an often stormy relationship with Trump, generally refrains from commenting on political happenings in Canada's powerful neighbor.

"We will not be interfering or engaging in any way in their electoral processes and that includes commenting on their electoral processes," he said.

The United States is Canada's largest trading partner, with Can\$2.4 billion (US\$1.8 billion) flowing across the border each day. - AFP

## 13 charged in plot to kidnap US Governor



Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer (L) addressing a recent press conference.

**US:** Thirteen men, including members of two right-wing militias, have been arrested for plotting to kidnap the Democratic Governor of the US state of Michigan and "instigate a civil war", officials said Thursday.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer thanked law enforcement for thwarting the kidnap plot and rebuked President Donald Trump for failing to condemn hate groups.

Announcing the arrests, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel described the conspiracy to kidnap the 49-year-old Whitmer as a "serious and credible threat." Andrew Birge, US attorney for the western district of Michigan, said six men were facing federal charges for conspiring to kidnap Whitmer from her vacation home. Birge said they had conducted surveillance of her residence and even tested a home-made bomb they intended to use to divert law enforcement away from her home.

FBI agents and Michigan police arrested them on Wednesday as they met to "pool funds for explosives and exchange tactical gear," the Justice Department said.

Trump has repeatedly attacked Whitmer over her tough coronavirus lockdown, and armed right-wing groups have staged protests against her in the state capital Lansing.

"LIBERATE MICHIGAN!" Trump tweeted in April.

Late Thursday Trump showed little sympathy when he commented via Twitter.

"Rather than say thank you" for the FBI action, Trump said, "she calls me a White Supremacist." Without explicitly condemning the plotters, Trump said: "I do not tolerate ANY extreme violence. Defending ALL Americans, even those who oppose and attack me, is what I will always do as your President!" Whitmer said that when she took the oath of office "I knew this job would be hard," but "never could have imagined anything like this." She added: "We are not one another's enemy. This virus is our enemy." Whitmer pointed to Trump's refusal at the recent debate with Democrat Joe Biden to condemn white supremacists and "hate groups" like the two Michigan militias that allegedly targeted her.

"Stand back and stand by, he told them," she said.

"Hate groups heard the president's words not as a rebuke but as a rallying cry, as a call to action," she added.

"When our leaders meet with, encourage, or fraternize with domestic terrorists they legitimize their actions, they are complicit." Biden also sought to pin some blame on the Republican president.

Biden said in a statement that he spoke with Whitmer – who was on the shortlist to become his vice presidential candidate – and commended the FBI and law enforcement "for their work to prevent this deranged act by emboldened domestic terrorists." He said that Trump "is giving oxygen to the bigotry and hate we see on the march in our country. We have to stop it." - AFP

## Karabakh fighting turns residents into 'vagabond' refugees

**ARMENIA:** "We've become vagabonds," says Knarik Movsisyan, one among the tens of thousands forced to flee fighting between Armenian separatists and the Azerbaijani army in the breakaway territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The worst fighting since an all-out war in the early 1990s has seen hundreds of families escape across the border into Armenia.

It has already cost hundreds of lives, and authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh say half the population – some 70,000 people – have fled, mostly women and children.

Many are in Tegh, a peaceful scene of cows and rural hills, though distant explosions can now be heard from over the frontier.

"There are around 800 refugees in the village. Children, women, grandparents. The young are still back there, fighting in the war," said one local resident.

Gyulvart, 49, came with her two youngest children, but most of the family stayed behind. She is desperate to return as soon as possible.



These two children put on a brave face in spite of the heavy fighting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"My son, my husband, all my close relatives, all the young people are still there," she said.

"I'm afraid that I'm raising my children for a war that will not end," she said with tears in her eyes.

For Knarik, a nurse at a rural clinic in southern Karabakh, it is the second time she has had to flee in her life.

The first was when she lost her home and her parents to the

earthquake that devastated northern Armenia in 1988.

"We want peace, we want our army to win and it will win," she told AFP.

An Armenian-majority enclave within Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh declared independence from Azerbaijan after the breakup of the Soviet Union, triggering a brutal conflict that ended in a 1994 ceasefire but has never been fully resolved. The

latest fighting came suddenly, leaving many without time to prepare.

"We left in bare feet – we were wearing slippers – can you imagine?" said Maro Hagopi Petrosyan, 67, now in the town of Dilijan, around 100 kilometres (60 miles) from the Armenian capital Yerevan.

"It's terrible... the house, the roads are in ruins. Even if we wanted to go back, we can't." Kristina, who fled the town of Martuni, said she saw a bomb fall on her neighbour's house, killing him and his child.

She hid in her mother-in-law's cellar for hours before feeling safe to run.

Zabella Bejanyan, 53, stayed in the forest for three days, sleeping in her car with her six children.

She is determined to make it home as soon as possible, "even if there is nothing left, no house, it doesn't matter," she said.

"The important thing is that the children are safe and we are alive. We will return to our land," she vowed. - AFP

## Prince William launches Earthshot Prize

**UK:** Britain's Prince William on Thursday launched a "prestigious" environmental prize aimed at turning "pessimism into optimism" by rewarding innovative solutions to the planet's biggest problems.

The Earthshot Prize will present five 1 million (\$1.3-million, 1.1-million-euro) awards each year for the next 10 years, to "incentivise change and help to repair our planet," said his office in London.

The jury will include a host of high-profile global figures, including Queen Rania of Jordan, Australian actress Cate Blanchett, British naturalist David Attenborough

and the Colombian singer Shakira.

Kensington Palace described it as the "most prestigious global environmental prize in history" and said it was inspired by US president John F. Kennedy's "Moonshot" project in the 1960s to put a man on the moon.

"We need to find solutions to be able to live our lives and enjoy our lives and not feel guilty and bad about some of the things we do," the prince, who is second in line to the throne, told BBC Radio 4 in an interview aired Thursday.

"That ultimately has to change, because I also worry



This October 16, 2019 file photo of William and Kate during a Royal tour of the Chiatibo glacier in the Hindu Kush mountain range in Pakistan.

from a mental health point of view, the anxiety and the worry that many of these younger generations are going to have."

He said he hopes the prize

will "galvanise and bring together the best minds, the best possible solutions, to fixing and tackling some of the world's greatest environmental challenges". "The

next 10 years are a critical decade for change. Time is of the essence, which is why we believe that this very ambitious global prize is the only way forward." The project is centred around five "simple but ambitious" aims to be met by 2030: "protect and restore nature", "clean our air", "revive our oceans", "build a waste-free world", and "fix our climate".

The prize is supported by a coalition of individuals, organisations and businesses with the winners to be announced each year at a ceremony in a different city around the globe, starting with London in 2021.

- AFP



# Transforming local economies for an inclusive and sustainable recovery

**C**OVID-19 is having a severe economic impact on local economies and communities. Overall, this crisis could push millions of people into extreme poverty and food insecurity, while millions of existing poor experience even deeper deprivation.

Based upon initial World Bank baseline projections, 73 million more people could be living in extreme poverty in 2020 than was forecast before the crisis. Importantly, extreme poverty is likely to persist at higher levels in 2021 and potentially beyond. The pandemic has disrupted supply chains and has led to reverse migration, stagnant rural non-farm economies, and devastating consequences for community groups, youth, and informal workers.

The pandemic has created significant risks for the most vulnerable, including women, youth and informal workers. Women often rely on tenuous forms of employment and are more likely to experience income and job loss. Under normal circumstances, women carry much more of the care-giver burden. Now, women also need to care for children displaced from school and face a heightened risk of gender-based violence, resulting from stay-at-home orders.

This crisis has also jeopardized the employment of millions of vulnerable youth and workers in the informal sector. Among the most impacted are those who may have



lost their main source of income; often small roadside stalls or markets. The economic vulnerability exposed by COVID-19 calls for a more resilient economy and local economic development is a critical cornerstone of this. Poverty and conflict

According to the report, more than forty per cent of the poor live in conflict-affected countries as the effects of conflicts especially in its extreme forms – the destruction of assets, households and natural resources – often leaves a legacy which is often difficult to recover from.

For example, conflicts in Syria and Yemen nearly doubled the poverty rates in the Middle East and North Africa between 2015 and 2018. Poverty and climate change

The World Bank reports high concentrations of poor people in regions facing the major challenge of climate change, including Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. This is largely due to the increase in food prices, exposure to disasters and poor health conditions that affect those populations.

The report projects that climate change will drive 68 million to 135 million people into poverty by 2030. Poverty and Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic further compounds the effects of other long-existing causes of extreme poverty. According to the report, its impact could drastically increase the number of extremely poor people by 88 to 115 million, due to its disruption to international trade and travel, among others.

Besides, the pandemic's effects have spread and affect populations that were previously spared. The "new poor", the World Bank notes, are likely to be more urban and educated than the "chronic poor" who are more engaged in informal services and manufacturing. Middle-income countries like India and Nigeria may be home to approximately 75 percent of the new poor.

## Supporting Vulnerable Groups

In response to COVID-19, the World Bank has leveraged many of its community-driven development (CDD) and livelihood projects. This work has focused on providing income support to the existing and new poor, small and micro enterprises, and informal sector workers in addition to ensuring food security and essential services.

For example, India is leveraging women's self-help groups (SHGs) through the World Bank supported National Rural Livelihoods Mission for the production of masks and hand sanitizer, dissemination of vital public health information, and preparation of food for distribution in community kitchens. In the Horn of Africa, Uganda, Djibouti, Kenya,



and Ethiopia are also leveraging community based livelihood groups comprised mostly of women through the World Bank's Development Response to Displacement Impacts Projects (DRDIP).

These governments are increasing funding to support livestock trading, cage fish farming, and grinding mills for women and youth. While initial efforts have rightly focused on mitigating immediate impacts, there is now a need to focus on comprehensive support to transform local economies during and after COVID-19 for longer-term economic recovery and resilience.

## Toward a Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery

Transforming local economies in the COVID and post-COVID world involves engaging in multiple ways to promote local economic development (LED). The LED approach in the rural context can have three focus areas: a territorial focus to capitalize on the strengths of a specific region or area, linking poor people to value chains with potential, and investments that promote the

local business environment with improvements in internet access, electricity, and core infrastructure.

Supporting inclusive local economic development, especially for the vulnerable and marginalized groups, requires a robust CDD approach with communities at the core of the process and an LED approach with critical stakeholders, including governments and public, business, financial institutions, and non-governmental sector working collectively to create better conditions and an enabling ecosystem for income generation and job creation.

Local economic development is the most critical determinant to improve the quality of economic growth both in terms of offering inclusion as well as resilience and sustainability.

By focusing on investing in LED ecosystems, we can ensure longer-term local economic recovery. Such approaches entail investing in improving the quality of the community investment climate, linking community institutions to value chains, investing in productive infrastructure, supporting financial institutions, and developing public-private partnerships. Improving access to

digital technologies can also provide a huge boost to the business environment and livelihoods, as well as improving access to education, health and leadership training.

For example, digital technologies can hasten economic growth by linking buyers with private sector investors through online marketplaces or improving access to financial services. A joint research initiative between the World Bank and Alibaba Group, one of the world's largest retailer and e-commerce companies, finds that e-commerce is associated with increased growth, income, and employment in rural communities in China.

Local economic development in a post-COVID context requires fresh, bold ideas to support women, youth, informal sector workers and micro and small enterprises on a more sustainable basis. In view of this, the CDD Global Solutions Groups (GSG); Rural Livelihoods and Agriculture Employment GSG, and Solutions for Youth Employment (S4YE) at the Bank are jointly hosting a compelling LED series. It is important to crowd source and harness the tremendous knowledge and experience that is out there and try to learn together through this series.

-The World Bank

**Based upon initial World Bank baseline projections, 73 million more people could be living in extreme poverty in 2020 than was forecast before the crisis. Importantly, extreme poverty is likely to persist at higher levels in 2021 and potentially beyond.**



## 'COVID-19 pandemic to push additional 88 mn people to extreme poverty'

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to push an additional 88 million to 115 million people into extreme poverty this year, with the total rising to as many as 150 million by 2021, depending on the severity of the economic contraction according to World Bank.

Extreme poverty, defined as living on less than \$1.90 a day, is likely to affect between 9.1% and 9.4% of the world's population in 2020, according to the biennial Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report. This would represent a regression to the rate of 9.2% in 2017. Had the pandemic not convulsed the globe, the poverty rate

was expected to drop to 7.9% in 2020.

"The pandemic and global recession may cause over 1.4% of the world's population to fall into extreme poverty," said World Bank Group President David Malpass. "In order to reverse this serious setback to development progress and poverty reduction, countries will need to prepare for a different economy post-COVID, by allowing capital, labor, skills, and innovation to move into new businesses and sectors. World Bank Group support—across IBRD, IDA, IFC and MIGA—will help developing countries resume growth and respond to the health, social, and economic impacts of

COVID-19 as they work toward a sustainable and inclusive recovery."

Increasing numbers of urban dwellers are expected to fall into extreme poverty, which has traditionally affected people in rural areas.

Progress was slowing even before the COVID-19 crisis. New global poverty data for 2017 show that 52 million people rose out of poverty between 2015 and 2017. Yet despite this progress, the rate of reduction slowed to less than half a percentage point per year between 2015 and 2017. Global poverty had dropped at the rate of around 1 percentage point per year between 1990 and

2015. In addition to the \$1.90-per-day international poverty line, the World Bank measures poverty lines of \$3.20 and \$5.50, reflecting national poverty lines in lower-middle-income and upper-middle-income countries.

The report further measures poverty across a multidimensional spectrum that includes access to education and basic infrastructure.

While less than a tenth of the world's population lives on less than \$1.90 a day, close to a quarter of the world's population lives below the \$3.20 line and more than 40% of the world's population – almost 3.3 billion people – live below the \$5.50 line.



World Bank Group President David Malpass



# Lanka yet to tap export potential of South Korea - Ambassador Dr. Saj Mendis

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in the Republic of Korea in close coordination with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC), Korea Importers Association (KOIMA), Korea Business Council and of course Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Colombo conducted a Webinar, with particular focus on business opportunities and vistas, strategies to enhance bilateral trade particularly exports of goods and services of Sri Lanka to South Korea, investment and commercial opportunities and tourism, amongst others.

The key speakers were the Ambassador of South Korea in Colombo Amb. Jeong Woonjin, Chairman & CEO of KOIMA, Kwang-hee Hong and Senior International Director of KOIMA, Joong-hyun Jough, Chief Economist of CCC, Shiran Fernando, President of Sri Lanka-Korea Business Council, Priyanka Mendis and Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Seoul Dr. A. Saj U. Mendis respectively. Lilakshini De Mel, Senior Assistant Secretary General of the CCC, coordinated, orchestrated and publicized all spheres of this high-profile Webinar along with the two Embassies and KOIMA.

This Webinar focused, primarily, on enhancement and augmentation of exports of goods and services from Sri Lanka to South Korea, amongst others, and was attended and participated by a



Meeting with Chairman of KOIMA Kwang Hong and Dr. Mendis at the Corporate Head Office of KOIMA mapping out the issues to be focused on the Webinar as well as to enhance exports and (seated) from left to right are J. Kwak, Director International Cooperation; Vice Chairperson, Simon S. Park; and Rekha Mallikarachchi, Counsellor of the Embassy respectively

large number of audiences from both the countries.

A number of noted corporates, entrepreneurs, business houses, senior bureaucrats and technocrats and academics mostly from Sri Lanka as well as from South Korea participated at this Webinar. The President of Sri Lanka-Korea Business Council made the opening welcome remarks, whilst Shiran Fernando of CCC, introduced the respective speakers of the Webinar as the moderator.

Ambassador Jeong Woonjin stated that being in Sri Lanka for only two

months, he could witness on first-hand basis the potential and vistas of the country, particularly in the context of the manner in which the General Elections were conducted on August 5, 2020 as well as efficacious containment of COVID-19.

He accentuated two key factors, which were trust and confidence of the peoples of Sri Lanka and of the international community vis-à-vis Sri Lanka.

He further enunciated a very positive and sanguine message of Sri Lanka, particularly to Korean corporate leaders and entrepreneurs to be engaged with

Sri Lanka. The Chairman of KOIMA expounded the goods and services imported to the RoK and ways and means to enhance and aggrandize the exports of Sri Lanka to the RoK, in particular.

It may further be noted that the KOIMA is the focal Institution in the entire country with regard to imports to the RoK similar to the BOI of Sri Lanka with regard to FDI and FII. The Senior Director of International Affairs of KOIMA made a comprehensive presentation which encompassed opportunities in the import sector of South Korea.

Ambassador Dr. A. Saj U. Mendis stated the courses of action Sri Lankan corporates and entrepreneurs should implement and execute in order to capture and penetrate the highly competitive Korean market, thus enhancing the exports to South Korea.

He added that today South Korea is the ninth largest economy in the world and in 1960's was one of the poorest nations in the world. He added that the imports of South Korea in 2018 were in the vicinity of USD 530 billion and if Sri Lanka could capture, only 0.1%, it would amount to USD 530 million.

This would be an increase of over 700% compared to the exports from Sri Lanka to the RoK in 2019. Dr. Mendis also added that 50% of Sri Lanka's exports to the RoK comprised of apparels, coconut and rubber products and tea and accentuated the vitality and terminality to diversify the export basket.

He added that a couple of largest corporate/banks in the RoK have expressed keen interest and the largest commercial bank of the RoK had committed an investment of over USD 600 million on an entity owned by Sri Lankan "Blue chip" company, LOLC, in Cambodia. With regard to tourism, Dr. Mendis added that if Sri Lanka could tap only 0.5% of the Korean tourists and travellers travelling abroad, it would be in the vicinity of 140,000. This is given the fact that 28 million Korean nationals travelled abroad in 2019.

Both the Ambassadors and Chairman of KOIMA made parallels to "Miracle on Han River" referring to the unprecedented economic advancement and evolution of the RoK and "Miracle on Rhine River" referring to the rise of the then West Germany after the WWII and added that Sri Lanka too is well poised and positioned to be the next "Miracle on Kelani River". The Webinar concluded with a Q & A Session, which included a number of questions and clarifications from the audience.

## Sell-X rewards Hikvision CCTV camera sales agents

Sell-X, a premier distributor of computers and CCTV cameras in Southern Province, felicitated over 90 Hikvision CCTV camera sales agents and partners recently with financial promotions. The sales agents who had excelled with records in sales, were rewarded to strengthen their motivation to achieve further heights in performance results.

Hikvision introduced in the last quarter of 2019, a programme to share its dividends with its sales agents in grassroots where they engaged in selling and offering services to promote CCTV cameras.

Sell-X too contributed for the programme to recognize the path-breaking initiatives and services of the sales agents and partners. In addition to the financial awards, a car was presented to the agent of the year - the sales agent who set the top record



Managing Director of Sell-X, Sameera Bopage presenting an award.

of making sales for Hikvision products from Sell-X private company, in addition to the financial awards, a car was presented to the agent of the year - the sales agent who set the top record

Managing Director of

Sell-X, Sameera Bopage said that the zonal sales agents who achieved their sales targets were endowed with financial dividends. "Since the last quarter of the last year, a mechanism is rolling

forward to expand the receiving base of those dividends including sales agents in grassroots. The sales agents and partners have been felicitated in recognition of their excellence in performance."

Sell-X takes the service of providing accurate technical support on Hikvision products seriously. Many times foreign experts too had been brought down to share their technical know-how on providing precise support.

Sell-X leads the Southern region with records in distributing Hikvision brands for years and the national level for the past three years it holds the crown of the top place.

Sell-X excels in the Southern Province not only in sales of CCTV cameras but also leads there with world renowned IT and computer brands such as Dell, ASUS, HP, Acer and Lenovo.

## SL Telecom commemorates 'World's Elders Day' with HelpAge

ANANDA KANNANGARA

Sri Lanka Telecom PLC (SLT), the national telecommunication service provider recently organized a seminar jointly with HelpAge Sri Lanka (HASL) to coincide with the 'World's Elders Day' which fell October 1.

The seminar was conducted under the theme "Caring for elders and to create an environment for them to live with dignity". About 80 HR executives and SLT trainees attended.

SLT decided to hold this seminar with Sri Lanka's one of the oldest social service providers, HelpAge to create the awareness of SLT staff members on the importance of helping elderly population without making indiscriminate to this needy sector.

SLT Chairman Rohan Fernando highlighted the invaluable service rendered by HelpAge by organizing such seminars to create the society on the importance of this needy sector considering the pathetic living situation of some elders who are completely isolated and neglected by people in the society.

HelpAge, Youth Education Programme, Director G.C. Mendis



HelpAge, Youth Education Programme, Director, G.C. Mendis addressing the seminar.

emphasized children should realize that one day they too will become elders. "Elders like to spend their retired life with their families and not in 'Elders Homes'."

He also mentioned the responsible service rendered by people in the caliber of former American President Barack Obama, the late British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the late Indian Prime Minister Sri Javaharlal Neru who did not isolate their parents and grandparents.

He further said especially children should know the value of elders.

Commenting on this programme HASL Executive Director Samantha Liyanawaduge said statistics have revealed that 99% of the elderly population in Sri Lanka are living within their family circle and not in Elders Homes. He said that HASL also maintain an Elder Day Centre at Borupona Road, Ratmalana.

"HelpAge conducts free cataract surgeries to senior Citizens at HelpAge Eye Hospital, Wellawatta."

He said in addition HelpAge provides them with free spectacles and disabled equipment.

## 'Daraz turns 4' with amazing offers

Over 2 million products from 35,000 sellers available to the 1 million active users and 1.6 million packages delivered island wide, within just four years is definitely a reason to celebrate.

Inviting all online shoppers to join the celebration, Daraz will be hosting 'Daraz Turns 4', a five-day online promotion that offers up to 70% off over a variety of products ranging from electronics, fashion, lifestyle and grocery with the lowest prices available, from 10th to October 15th 2020.

Daraz Mall, the premium platform with over 450 trusted brands that sell 100% genuine products will be offering a host of exciting deals, together with a 14-day return policy. These include 40% off on GoPro bundles with the camera, memory card, battery and camera suite, and a chance to win Rs. 25,000 worth products from Vantage and Laveena sarees.

Purchasing Coca Cola or diapers from selected brands will also entitle shoppers to a chance in winning the products for a full year's worth. Showcasing that anything can be bought on Daraz, a purchase of a Demak motorbike can get a discount with free registration and 5 free vehicle



services along with a free fashionable jacket. Daraz Easy Bills, enables users to pay their electricity bills with a 5% off on applied terms and conditions.

The popular One Rupee Game will allow shoppers to win products for just Rs. 1, while they also have an engaging shopping experience playing Daraz First Games and redeeming points and vouchers that they win. Completing 10 missions on the Mission 10 game enables you

to win a Samsung Galaxy Note 20, Daraz vouchers and other incredible prizes.

Daraz users can also add items from a special selected list to their cart and stand a chance to win it for free. In addition, shopping for selected products from 8 am to 10 am throughout the promotion period gives an opportunity to win a free Samsung Galaxy M31.

Commercial Bank, Sampath Bank, HSBC, HNB, Seylan Bank, DFCC, Standard Char-

tered Bank, and Bank of Ceylon will be offering 10% off on credit cards, and MasterCard will add 12% off on all credit and debit cards on applied terms and conditions, making shopping on Daraz quite easy on your wallet.

'Daraz Turns 4' will bring a wide range of brands on to a single platform, where shoppers can browse and choose the best deals for all their requirements. Leading brands like Samsung, Unilever, Brown and Company PLC, Huawei, Vantage and Reckitt Benckiser join the promotion as co-sponsors. The brand partners this year include Oppo, GoPro, Laveena Sarees, Lenovo, Asus, Laksela Trade Centre, Marvel, Moose Clothing, Quantum Fitness, Remax, Revlon, Signature, Tecroot, The Concept Store, Yamaha Music Centre, Avirate, Coca Cola, Decathlon, EKEN, Homelux (Pvt) Ltd., Janet, Krnova, LICC, Maliban, MammyPoco, TOFO, Tomahawk & Kenstar Bicycles, Toyota Lanka, United Motors Lanka PLC, Wiresto, Arpico, Cables N Things by Ontrend, CELCIUS, Hasbro, Layleys Mattresses, Hemas, Iris Garden, IT Galaxy, Lexus Trading Company, MIIKA, Nilkin, Sawy Care, SKMEI and Vtec Home.

## ESOFT Metro Campus opens Premier Learning Centre at One Galle Face

ESOFT Metro Campus has introduced a unique learning paradigm in Sri Lanka, the ESOFT Premier Learning Centre. The opening was graced by ESOFT Group of Companies, Chairman and Managing Director, Dr. Dayan Rajapakse, ESOFT Group, Director, Manuja De Silva and ESOFT Metro Campus, Chief Executive Officer, Nishan Sembacuttiaratchy along with distinguished dignitaries representing foreign and local universities, banks and other corporate bodies.

Located at the One Galle Face Mall, the Premier Learning Centre features a luxurious atmosphere, and gives access to world class trainers and mentors in a wide range of areas and expertise. ESOFT is unique in being the first educational establishment to be located at One Galle Face. The mix of retail shops, service providers, cafes and restaurants, the cinema, and the apartment and hotel complex draws in a unique cus-



The opening of the Premier Learning Centre at One Galle Face.

tomers, who would value the opportunity provided here. ESOFT Metro Campus is Sri Lanka's largest private sector higher education network with a history of 20 years and a footprint that covers 40 locations island-wide. Each year, 35,000 students pass through our doors, learning for a variety of programmes including short courses, higher national diplomas, undergraduate degrees, masters' degrees, and doctoral degrees. The year 2020 is special, as ESOFT celebrates her 20th anniversary of serving the nation.

The Premier Learning Centre gives you the flexibility of choosing your own schedule for face to face coaching and mentoring, in a more comfortable environment than a normal classroom. The programmes and coaching available at the Premier Centre will go beyond what is offered at the ESOFT Metro Campus facilities. Professionals and students will be able to obtain one on one coaching in different subject areas of your choice, or training on corporate strategy, wealth management and investing, personality development,

etc and they can also select training programmes in various technical areas such as programming and software engineering as well. The ESOFT Premier Learning Centre is also a student placement office, allowing you to register for a wide range of programmes and courses both at ESOFT and at our partner Universities and Colleges all over the world, in a range of disciplines ranging from Management, Information Technology, Engineering, Telecommunications, Fashion and Design, Medicine and more.



# Rajakaruna - excellent ruggerite, athlete and boxer

## ALTHAF NAWAZ

Sriyantha Rajakaruna was another fine player produced by Isipathana College, Colombo who excelled in many sports for College, Club and at International arena bringing fame and honour to the school and country.

Sriyantha is from Moragalla, Beruwala and was only child of late Dr. Hubert Rajakaruna and Tilaka Abeygunawardana. He completed his Primary and Secondary Education at Isipathana College, Colombo.

He was well known as an all-round sportsman in school and had a pet name 'Raja', by which most people call him in the Rugby fraternity. During his younger days he started Playing Rugby at Bambalapitiya Grounds adjoining the flats and one of his friends late Ray de Silva, who Played Rugby and Cricket for Royal persuaded him to play rugby for Isipathana College, through his Father late H.T. de Silva who was the Vice Principal of Isipathana at that time. Sriyantha was coached by Ken de Joodt, Mike Davies, Frankie David in school while Harry Gunathilaka and Eddie Buell in the Air Force Summa Navaratnam

Mahesh Rodrigo, Ajith Abeyratne at CR and FC. and Late Denzil Kobekaduwa coached him He has the highest regard for his former Sri Lanka Rugby Captain Indrajith Coomaraswamy under whom he played as a wing three

quarter representing the national team against Japan in 1974. In 1975 he played against the visiting Indonesian National rugby team. From 1971 to 1980 also represented Presidents XV team against visiting foreign teams and was an automatic choice for the National pool

He launched his illustrious rugby career in 1967 under Gunasena Wijeratne as Captain where he went on to play just three Games. Next year he managed to secure a permanent place in the first line up under Juraghan Savanghan and had a very successful season. The turning point of his career was when he donned the jersey under Thajoen Savanghan leadership in 1969, where

Isipathana remained unbeaten in their ten outings scoring a total of 164 points with an average of 16.4 per game. They defeated St. Marys, Dehiwala, St. Peters, S. Thomas, Mount Lavinia, Ananda, Zahira, St.

Joseph's, St. Benedicts, St. Anthony's, Katugastota, Thurstan, Vidyaratna, Kandy where only Royal and Trinity refused to play them due to unknown reasons. In 1970 under Hafiz Abdeen Isipathana had a memorable season losing to St. Peters 11-9.

As an all round sportsman in School he was appointed as captain of the College Rugby team in 1971. This team also remained unbeaten and went on to overcome both Royal and St.Thomas by 11-3, drew with St.Peters five all, beat Zahira 14-8, beat St. Josephs 27-0, beat Thurstan 14-5, beat St. Mary's 20-0, beat St Benedicts, Ananda and St. Anthony's, Kandy which led them to

become the unbeaten unofficial School Champions. That team comprised late Jagath Dharmasiri, Late Hiran Fernando, Kumar Jayaratne(Tomba), Late Manilal de Silva, Nalin de Silva, Nimal Karunatilaka, Gamini Chandrasekera, Sarath Wijesuriya, Upali Vidanage, Latif Mantara, Rezano Rajap, Upali Wettewa, Faiz Ismail, Sriyantha Rajakaruna and Mahinda Jayawardena He represented Colombo Schools and Ceylon Schools Rugby teams respec-

tively. This enabled him to grab the College Colours for Rugby and Athletics. He was a very active member of the College Old Boys Union and served as a member of the College Rugby Development Committee on an invitation of Hassan Sinhawansa' in 2012 and 2013.

He captained the College Athletic Team in 1969 and was a member of the College relay team, which won the 'Jefferson Cup' relays at Public Schools meet competing with some prominent athletes such as Faiz Ismail, Gunalan and Sarath Salgado. While being in school he was invited to represent Havelock's Sports Club 'A' division Rugby team for a limited period.

After leaving school he joined the Air Force. He stole the limelight in the Rugby Circle in 1970's. With Air Force defence Services, he was complimented with the Rugby colours in his first year

which is a rare achievement which he continued until he left them. He went on to represent Air Force, Presidents Fifteen, Defence Services, and Sri Lanka in Rugby where most of the

matches were against Foreign Teams which toured here. Finally, he Cap-



Sriyantha Rajakaruna

tained the Air Force and Combined Services Rugby Teams. He also boxed as a part timer and won the Inter Unit Novices Boxing Championships in Welter Weight.

After leaving the Air Force he joined John Keells limited and was a member of the John Keells Seven-A-Side Rugby Team which won the Championship several times at Mercantile Sevens Tournament. He also represented

Havelocks while in School and Played for CR and FC in "A" Division in 1978 and 1979

When playing for Air Force his first Captain was Late Charles Wijewardena. Other Players were Viper Gunaratne(Senior),Late Lofty Perera, Tikiri Marambe, T.A. Omerdeen, Hazari Dole,Tissa Nanayakkara, S.U.Mendis,Kumar and Dr.Sunanda Jayaratne, Athula Wickramasinghe, Ronald Rodrigo,Late Hiran Fernando, Mohan Balasuriya,Late Senaka Bowala,Late Channa Gunaratne,Late D.S.Wickramasinghe and Nalin De Silva

At CR and FC he had the honour of playing with Indrajith Coomaraswamy Dr. Maiya Gunasekara, Dr.Tony de Sylva, Late Haji Omar, Late Didacas de Almeida, Malik Samarawickrama, Late Shiraz Fernando, C.P. Abeygunawardena, Iqbal Musafar,Michael Muller, John Rudra, Roy Balasuriya, Dushantha Samarasinghe, and Sukumar

While in College he was a Member of Junior and Senior Cadet Platoons and Member of the Tug-of-War Team which won the All Island Championship. His wife is Kamanie de Silva who is a JPUM - Attorney - At-Law and Notary Public.

## Mahamaya going great guns in women's cricket

### UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

Kandy Sports Special Corr.

Mahamaya Girls School, Kandy is a name that has been established over the years as a School in Kandy famous for its sports activities - Netball, Athletics, Hockey and Swimming are high up on the list of priorities. The School is still very active in those four sports and the School authorities have added one more sport-Cricket too on the list thus giving the young and

energetic Girls a wonderful opportunity to widen their sporting capabilities.

The Cricket team of Mahamaya did extremely well in the year 2018 when they became one of the best eight teams selected from the Girls Cricket tournament organized by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association.

In the mid-nineties they became Mayor's Cup Champions at the Cricket Tournament held by the Kandy Municipality and in the year 2000 Mahamaya was the only Girls School that participated in the Cricket Tournament organized by the Women's Cricket Association led by Ms. Gwen Herat and Mahamaya became third after Anuradhap-

ura and Kegalle District teams. For any sport to thrive specially at School level the sport must have the backing of the School authorities, likewise the sports loving Principal of the School Lalitha Egodawela, Prefect-of-Games Nilu Wijekoon and Teacher-in-charge Nirosha Erandathie Jayakody were very supportive.

The School started Cricket practices three weeks ago after the Corona Epidemic and among the senior girls who attended the practice sessions were Dharani Bandara, Aloka Thilakarane, Sayuni Premaratne, Meedum Hansanie, and others.



The present Mahamaya Girls School Cricket team with the Teacher-in-charge N.E. Jayakody (Picture. by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl.Corr.)

## Ranjan Lasantha de Silva cricket coach par excellence

### DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Former Devapathiraja College, Ratgama Cricketer, Athlete, left hand middle order bat, right arm off spinner, Daily News and Donovan Andree Trophy Cricketer Kalinga Ranjan Lasantha de Silva is the present cricket coach of his Alma Mater.

He commenced his schooling at Vijaya Junior School, Boossa and from there he joined Sri Sumangala Vidyalaya, Ratgama and finally ended up at Devapathiraja College, Ratgama.Devapathiraja commenced participating in the under 13, 15 and 17 division three tournaments conducted by Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association in 1999.

During this period Ranjan was playing for Combined Cricket Club Ratgama in the division three Daily News Tournament and volunteered to do coaching in 2000 at his Alma Mater free of charge for under 13 and 15 teams and the under 17 team was coached by Mr. Krishan. In the same year he passed the Coaching Level One Examination and in 2002 he coached under 13, 15, 17 and 19 teams in the division three tournaments.

Ranjan was able to win three championships and four runner ups in all these formats and from 2015 Devapathiraja were playing in Division One tournaments in all these formats and his assistant is another Devapathirajan Mahesh Sandaru-

wan. During the last two decades he was able to produce top cricketers in various formats.

Their first ever test and limited over player was Tharindu Kaushal who played in the 2015 World Cup and Virwantha Thisila de Silva represented Sri Lanka in a Twenty20 game in South Africa. In the under 19 Sri Lanka level Umesh Maduranga, Tharindu Kaushal and Dilshan Kanchana too represented.

In the under 15 level Umesh Mayurakantha, Raveen Yasas and Pathum Madusanka toured MalaysiaDilshan Kanchana became the first ever player from Devapathiraja to score a triple century when he notched up 319 runs against President's College,



Maharagama and Dilshan Kanchana, Raveen Yasas, Jeewaka Shasheen hit up double centuries while Tharindu Kaushal claimed 100 wickets for a season in three successive years.

## Air Force shooters emerge champions

### SHERIFDEEN AMATH

Sri Lanka Air Force Shooting team emerged Champions at the IPSC Sharp Shooter Championship 2020 organized by the Hill Country Sports Shooting Club, Kandy worked off at the Hill Country Sports Shooting Range, Hantana, Kandy on October 2 and 3.

IPSC Sharp Shooter Championships-2020 is an internationally recognized Level III competition and trial to select National level shooters to represent Sri Lanka in International encounters for the year 2021. More than 183 top Shooters from 16 Shooting Clubs in the country including Army,

Navy and Police participated at this major event.

The SLAF shooters were adjudged 'champions' with an unreachably lead by winning 11 Golds, 09 Silver and 07 Bronze medals.

The Awards ceremony was held on October 4 at Hill Country Sports Shooting Range, Kandy under the patronage of the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Namal Rajapaksa. Further, Cabinet Minister of Road Development Johnston Fernando, Chairman of National Rifle Association and Chairman of SLAF Shooting Air Commodore Janaka Amerasinghe graced the occasion as guest of honors.



The victorious SLAF shooting team is seen here with Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Namal Rajapaksa. The Officer In-Charge of SLAF Shooting Team Flight Lieutenant Ipalawatta (second from left), Chairman of National Rifle Association and Chairman of SLAF Shooting Air Commodore Janaka Amerasinghe (third from right) are also in the picture.

## Maurice led Kandy SC to victory in 1992 Clifford Cup final



HAFIZ MARIKAR

Maurice Joachim led Kandy SC to victory in the 1992 Clifford Cup final by beating Police 22-9. That year Kandy SC team came up to the semi finals under the leadership of Ananda Kasthuriarachchi who led the side in the A Division league to take the second place. In the knock-outs the Kandy SC authorities tried to bring in two new players, who had not come for practices, Ananda Kasthuriarachchi a Kingswoodian had said how can they be included without attending practices. But the then president late Dr.Sarath Kapuwatte, had overruled him and decided to 'rest him', from the cup final which paved the way for Maurice to lead them in the knockout final. Maurice had said, it is not

done, how can I lead, but the Kandy SC President had said we have decided to, do so.

Kandy SC first entered the cup final in 1954, the side was led by S.B.Pilapitiya and went down to CR and FC. Then in 1955 Jeff MacPerson led the side and this time too went down to CR and FC. The next final was in 1969 under the captaincy of Denzil Kobekaduwa that too they lost to CR and FC 6-12 Then in 1978 under Irwin Howie lost to Havelock SC by 4-10 in the Cup final.

It was Maurice who had played 102 games, who led the club to win the first cup. That was history for Kandy Sports Club rugby. Maurice, as he is known by his friends, was one of the top three quarters to come out of the Katugastota school. At school he was coached by two top ruggerites Kalu Perera, a well known figure in the coaching arena and Ajith Fernando.



Maurice Joachim

Soon after the schools season, Nihal Viper Gunaratne, dragged him to Kandy Sports Club and Maurice got the 'break' to lead the Kandy SC in 1988 and 1989. Maurice played for the Nittawela Club from 1985 to 1993. When he led them to win the Clifford Cup in

1992, he was coached by Alex Lazarus and the players who were his team mates were - L.V. Ekanayake, Shyam Sideek, Kitti Ratudrada Priyantha Ekanayake, Palitha Wijesuriya, Edward Wijesuriya, Leroy Fonseka, K.Ratnayake, Indrajith Bandaranayake, Imthi Marikar, Bati Penaia, Saman Kotelawala,Kapila Samarakoon, Pubudu Fernando, Jayson Gauthrie, Rizvi Suhaib, Sabri Razak.

Maurice helped Kandy Sports Club rugby in a big way, and also he made valuable contribution to improve rugby in Kandy. During his playing days, he was one of the best three quarters and he was marked at every game, if he got the ball, he was sure to begin a good move. He was famous for his scissor passes and dummies, and his long strides made it difficult for the opponents to bring him down. He was one of the finest ruggerites who donned the Kandy SC jersey.

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Cricketers from schools competing in Division one, two and three of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association Under 19 Inter-School Tournament 2019/20 are eligible to be voted.

### Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer 2020

Schoolgirl Cricketers from schools competing in all Island school's of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association Under 19 Inter-School Tournament 2019/20 are eligible to be voted.

Nominee  
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Vote online now: [vote.schoolcricketer.lk](http://vote.schoolcricketer.lk)

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The 42<sup>nd</sup> 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.

In all matters connected with the contest, the decision of the Sports Editor, SUNDAY OBSERVER is final.

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# Kenin downs Kvitova to set up French Open final with teen Swiatek

**PARIS, THURSDAY:** Sofia Kenin defeated Petra Kvitova 6-4, 7-5 to reach the French Open final on Thursday and will attempt to capture a second Grand Slam of the year following her Australian Open triumph.

Fourth seed Kenin will meet 19-year-old Iga Swiatek of Poland in Saturday's title decider after denying two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova in her bid for a third major.

Swiatek became the first Polish woman in 81 years to reach the Roland Garros final as she demolished Argentine qualifier Nadia Podoroska 6-2, 6-1.

"I knew I had to be at my best. I am super happy and proud of myself," said Kenin.

The American faltered when serving for the match at 5-4 but broke Kvitova in the following game before closing out the victory over the Czech seventh seed.

Kenin, 21, will try to become the first woman to win two Slams in the same season since Angelique Kerber claimed the Australian and US Open titles in 2016.

"I have won in Australia and had really tough matches this week so that gives me confidence," said Kenin.

"I am going to enjoy this moment and then start to prepare for the final tomorrow."

Before this season, Kenin had never gone as far as the quarter-finals on clay. She



Sofia Kenin of the US returns the ball to Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova during their women's singles semi-final tennis match of The Roland Garros 2020 French Open tennis tournament in Paris on Thursday. - AFP

lost her only match on the surface this year prior to Roland Garros, 6-0, 6-0 to Victoria Azarenka in Rome. Kenin, who was taken to three sets in four of her five matches leading up to the semi-finals here, surged 4-1 ahead in the first set against Kvitova with a double break.

The Czech immediately clawed one back and created another opening to level on serve, but Kenin held steady and wrapped up the set when Kvitova smacked a backhand long.

Kenin again struck with a break in game five of the second set, fending off four break points in the ensuing game to keep Kvitova at arm's length.

Her frustration was clear as she blew her first chance to secure victory, but the tenacious Kenin earned a second opportunity and sealed her spot in the final with a gritty service hold.

The championship match will be the first at the majors to feature two players aged 21 or under since Maria Sharapova beat fellow 20-year-old Ana Ivanovic at the 2008 Australian Open.

### Great Polish hope

The 54th-ranked Swiatek has yet to drop a set at the tournament, conceding just 23 games through six matches.

The last woman to capture the French Open title

without losing a set was Justine Henin in 2007.

"It seems unreal," said Swiatek. "I never thought at the start I would play so good here but I always knew that if I was going to be in the final of a Grand Slam it would be at the French Open."

"It's amazing for me," she added. "It's a dream come true."

Swiatek has matched the run of compatriot Jadwiga Jedzejowska who finished runner-up at Roland Garros in 1939. She is only the second Polish woman to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era after Agnieszka Radwanska at Wimbledon in 2012.

Swiatek becomes the sev-

enth unseeded women's finalist at Roland Garros. Of the previous six, only Jelena Ostapenko in 2017 went on to lift the trophy.

"Basically I wanted to play this match as if it was the first round. I didn't want to think I was in the semi-finals because it would stress me," said Swiatek.

She has not faced Kenin at tour level but defeated her in straight sets in the girls' singles at Roland Garros in 2016.

"I will need to be on a different level, the higher level, even though I'm winning easily right now," added Swiatek.

"Really I have no expectations. I don't care if I'm going to lose or win. I'm going to just play my best tennis."

World number 131 Podoroska was the lowest-ranked semi-finalist in Paris in the modern era, and the first women's qualifier to reach the last four of the French Open.

She will rise to a career a best of 48th after the tournament, having arrived without a single Grand Slam main draw win to her name.

"Of course my ranking is going to change, and the tournaments that I'm going to play. But not my life," said Podoroska.

"I'm going to be the same person. I'm going to try to improve my game, like I've been doing the past few years." - AFP



## Bairstow, Warner score fast and furious to give Hyderabad key IPL win

**DUBAI, THURSDAY:** David Warner hit his 50th Indian Premier League half century on Thursday as he plundered runs with Jonny Bairstow off a hapless Punjab Kings XI attack to give Sunrisers Hyderabad a key win.

Even the fastest IPL 50 of the year by Nicholas Pooran - from 17 balls - failed to inspire Punjab who were beaten by 69 runs.

The victory boosted Hyderabad to third in the eight-team table while Punjab are stuck at the bottom with just one success from six games.

Bairstow came agonisingly close to his first century of the season, smashing 97 off 55 balls with six sixes and seven fours.

He put on 160 for the first wicket with Warner

who made 52. His ninth straight half century against Punjab took him past the landmark in the 13 year old tournament.

Rising Indian spinner Ravi Bishnoi claimed both openers in his second over as he impressed with three wickets in three overs. And Hyderabad then struggled to reach 201 for six of their 20 overs.

Punjab lost early wickets. Captain K.L. Rahul said it was a "disaster" when opening partner Mayank Agarwal was run out after facing just nine balls.

The struggling side maintained hopes while Pooran was still firing.

The West Indies star hit four sixes and a four off Abdul Samad's only over. But Pooran ran out of reliable partners and was out for 77 off 37 balls. Punjab were finished off for 132. "I was getting a bit nervous when Nicholas was hitting them over the stands," said Hyderabad skipper Warner. "When he is hitting them that clean you have always got to worry."

But the Australian also praised his English fellow opener. "I don't know why people think there's so much hatred between the two countries," he joked. "We love batting with each other. We pride ourselves on running hard between the wickets."

"It was just one of those days when everything you hit went into the fielder's hands," said dejected Punjab captain Rahul. "Everyone knows what is going wrong and we have just got to keep going." - AFP

## SLC postpones October schedule

### ALTHAF NAWAZ

All tournaments conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) for the month of October have been postponed indefinitely due to the prevailing situation in the country.

The SLC Tournament Committee initially cancelled the ongoing Major Youth Under-23 cricket semi-finals last Tuesday, which was scheduled to be held on October 7 at two venues in Colombo. They have further decided to cancel the listed events for this month. After consultation with the health authorities, they were compelled to take this decision.

SLC was set to conduct the Major Tier T-20 tournament from October 23 soon after the completion of the Under-23 tournament. Bandula Dissanayake, Chairman of the SLC Tournament



Nipun Dananjaya plays a shot during a Major Youth Tournament match.

things return to normal, then it will proceed as scheduled."

Committee, said, "The prevailing situation is not very conducive to engage in sports. When there is an alert and the whole country is striving hard to fight against this pandemic, we as a responsible body, should support the Government in their endeavor. Hence, we will monitor the situation closely and come to a decision next week on the plight of the tournament listed for this month."

When inquired about the status of the Lanka Premier League (LPL), he said, "We have scheduled it for end of next month. There is no change in the dates up to now. Once again, it is too early to make a prediction, but for sure it will also be taken into consideration in the upcoming weeks. If things return to normal, then it will proceed as scheduled."



Wrestlers from four Asian countries will participate in this tournament.

## Invitation Beach Wrestling Meet in Negombo

### CHANDRIKA FERNANDO

The Wrestling Federation of Sri Lanka (WFSL) is planning to stage an Invitation Beach Wrestling event in the beaches of Negombo in December.

This will be the first time a Beach Wrestling event is held in Sri Lanka. Apart from the hosts Sri Lanka, the WFSL hopes to invite wrestlers from four Asian countries for this competition.

India, Bangladesh and Thailand have already shown their interest in participating in this tournament.

The competition would be held under strict health regulations because of the prevailing Coronavirus pandemic situation.

This competition was to be a prelude to the Asian Beach Games, which was scheduled to be held in China in November and December, but was postponed to next year.

Meanwhile, the WFSL hopes to select a National Pool based on the performance at the Negombo Beach Wrestling event to prepare for next year's Asian Beach Games.

## LPL Player Draft pushed to Oct. 19

Sri Lanka cricket (SLC) has postponed the Lanka Premier League (LPL) Player

Draft, scheduled on Friday, to October 19 owing to the current health situation.

# Dhananjaya, highest run-getter and Lakshan leading wicket-taker in Under 23 tourney

### INDIKA WELAGEDARA

SSC opening batsman Nipun Dhananjaya topped the list as the highest run-getter with 376 runs, having struck a century and three half-centuries averaging 75.2 from six matches in the Sri Lanka Cricket Major Club Under-23, 50-Over Tournament. Dhananjaya scored a cracking century on his way to becoming the leading run-scorer in the tournament scoring 100 against Bloomfield, on the final day of the first round of the tourna-

ment. Malindu Maduranga the Mahanama College right-hand batsman cum CCC skipper placed second with 273 runs after scoring an unbeaten 73 off 45 balls inclusive of 7 sixes and 3 boundaries against Kandy Customs CC. He scored three fifties, averaging 54.60 from six matches.

Tamil Union player cum right-hander Ravindu Fernando came in third with 253 runs inclusive of one century and one fifty. In six

matches, he averages 84.33.

Former Sri Lanka under 19 captain - Left-hander Kaminu Mendis is placed fourth with 249 runs while turning out for Chilaw Marians, scoring a superb century and one half-century. He averages a stunning 83.00 in just four games.

While Left-hander Sakuna Liyanage of Nugegoda SC came in fifth scoring 243 runs with two fine fifties averaging 60.75.



Nipun Dhananjaya (Left)



Nipun Lakshan (Right)

Meanwhile, Nugegoda SC right-arm fast-medium

bowler Nipun Lakshan tops the list as the highest

wicket-taker with 15 wickets averaging a superb 17.0 from six matches in the Sri Lanka Cricket Major Club Under-23, 50-Over Tournament. He has an economy rate of 6.07 per over.

Sebastians SC right arm leg spinner Tharusha Fernando came in second with 14 wickets with a fantastic average of 11.93 from six matches. He has a superb economy rate of just 3.47 per over.

Amshi De Silva, the CCC right arm pacie,

came in third with 14 wickets. He has a superb average of 11.57 in six matches. The right-arm fast bowler Lasindu Arosha placed fourth with 14 wickets while turning out for Kalutara Town Club. He averages a stunning 9.71, with an economy rate of 5.23 in just five games.

While Sachindu Kolambage the right-arm off-break bowler of Tamil Union CC came in fifth taking 12 wickets with an

average of 14.08 and a fine economy rate of just 3.55.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced yesterday that the scheduled semi-finals of the Under 23 Inter-Club Tournament 2020/21 has been postponed until further notice due to the current COVID-19 situation prevailed in the country. After the completion of the first-round games, the semi-finals line up is between defending champions Colts CC VS Badureliya CC and SSC VS Lankan CC.





WORLD BANK GROUP

# MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

## CLIMATE SMART IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE PROJECT

### RECRUITMENT OF PROJECT STAFF

The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project with US\$ 110 Million financial support of the World Bank to improve the productivity and climate resilience of smallholder agriculture in selected hotspot area in Sri Lanka. The project implementation period is 6 years (2019-2024) and the estimated total cost of the project is US\$ 125 Million. The project implementation districts are Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Killinochchi, Kurunegala, Moneragala, Mullaitivu, Puttalam, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Ampara. The Project Management Unit (PMU) is located in Rajagiriya.

For more information please visit - <http://www.csiap.lk/>

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka with below mentioned qualifications and experience to fill the following positions to serve on full time basis as follows:

#### 01. Agriculture Specialist (PS 3) - 01 Position (Northern Province, Killinochchi)

1. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture which is recognized by the University Grants Commission

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field.

or

An Associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.

with

At least 12 years post qualifying experience at Managerial Level with Agriculture Extension.

2. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field.

or

An Associate membership/ a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.

and

A postgraduate Degree in the relevant field or corporate / chartered membership or a professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.

with

At least 9 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level with Agriculture Extension.

3. Class 1 Officer of a Government All Island Service or a similar status in the relevant field.

with

At least 04 years of experience in the Class 1 Posts.

#### 02. Senior Engineer (Water Management) PMU, Rajagiriya (PS 03) - 01 Position

1. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commissions as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field of Civil Engineering.

or

An Associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field of Civil Engineer.

with

At least 12 years post qualifying experience at Managerial level as an Engineer.

2. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the Civil Engineering, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as a equivalent qualification to the degree field of Civil Engineering.

or

An Associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the field of Civil Engineering

and

A postgraduate Degree in the relevant field or corporate / chartered membership or a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the field of Civil Engineering.

with

At least 9 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level as an Engineer.

3. Class I Officer of a Government All Island Service or a similar status in the field of Civil Engineering.

with

At least 04 years of experience in the Class 1 Post as an Engineer.

#### 03. Hydrologist - DPD Irrigation Division (PMU, Rajagiriya) (PS 03) - 01 Position

1. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in (Hydrology or Water Resources Engineering or Water Resources Management equivalent) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field of Hydrology or Water Resources Engineering or Water Resources Management.

or

An Associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field of Hydrology or Water Resources Engineering or Water Resources Management.

with

At least 12 years post qualifying experience at Managerial Level as an Engineer.

2. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the Hydrology or Water Resources Engineering or Water Resources Management which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree field of Hydrology or Water Resources Engineering or Water Resources Management

or

An Associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the field of Hydrology or Water Resources Engineering or Water Resources Management.

and

A postgraduate Degree in the relevant field or corporate / chartered membership or a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the field or Hydrology or Water Resources Engineering or Water Resources Management

with

At least 9 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level as an Engineer.

3. Class 1 Officer of a Government All Island Service or a similar status in the field of Hydrology or Water Resources Engineering or Water Resources Management

with

At least 04 years of experience in the Class / Post as an Engineer.

#### 04. Social Development Officer (PS 6A) - 01 Position (PMU Rajagiriya)

1. A Bachelor's degree in Social Science (Sociology, Social Work) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field.

or

An Associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.

or

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 7) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At least 03 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

2. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 6) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At Last 08 years of experience in the required area of Specialization.

3. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 5 issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At least 13 years of experience in the resurgence in the required area of specialization

and

Preference will be given to report writing skills and fluency of English language.

#### 05. Gender Development Officer (PS 6A)

##### Northern Province, Killinochchi - (01 Position) Southern Province, Hambantota - (01 Position)

1. A Bachelor's degree in Social Science (Sociology, Social Work & Gender Studies) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field.

or

An Associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.

or

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 7) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At least 03 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

2. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 6) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At Last 08 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

3. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 5) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At least 13 years of experience in the resurgence in the required area of specialization.

and

Preference will be given to report writing skills and fluency of English language.

#### 06. Environmental Safeguard Officer (PS 6A) - 01 Position North Western Province, Kurunegala

1. A Bachelor's degree in Science (Environment Natural Science & Geography) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission,

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field.

or

An Associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.

or

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 7) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At least 03 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

2. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 6) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At least 08 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

3. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 5) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At least 13 years of experience in the resurgence in the required area of specialization.

and

Preference will be given to report writing skills and fluency of English language.

#### 07. Category A Procurement Officer (PS 6A) - 01 Position, PMU, Rajagiriya

1. A Bachelor's degree in Science (Environment, Natural Geography Science) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission,

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field,

or

An Associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.

or

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 7) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At least 03 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

2. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 6 issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for post related to Technical field.

and

At least 08 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

3. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 5 issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At least 13 years of experience in the resurgence in the required area of specialization.

and

Preference will be given to report writing skills and fluency of English language.

#### 08. Development Officer (Finance) - (PS 6A) - 01 Position, PMU, Rajagiriya

1. A Bachelor's degree in Finance Management which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field.

or

An Associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field. (The Association Membership of the AAT also considered as a professional qualification)

or

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 7) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At least 03 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

2. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 6) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for post related to technical field.

and

At least 08 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

3. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (Level 5) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

and

At least 13 years of experience in the resurgence in the required area of specialization.

and

Preference will be given to report writing skills and fluency of English language.

#### 09. Management Assistant

##### Project Management Unit (PMU), Rajagiriya (03 Positions) Southern Province, Hambantota (02 Positions) North Central Province, Anuradhapura (01 Position) Eastern Province, Trincomalee (01 Position) Uva Province, Moneragala (01 Position)

1. Having Passed all Subjects in G.C.E (A/L) Examination at one sitting (except the General Paper)

and

Six (6) passes at the G.C.E. (O/L) examination with four (4) Credit passes including Sinhala/Tamil/English and Mathematics at one sitting.

with

At least 03 years of work experience in English Speaking, and Multicultural Working Environment a Computer Literacy (MS Package, Word, Excel, Power Point), handling Internet, e-mail communication. Documentary evidence is required to prove the competency of computer literacy & report writing skills in English Medium.

#### 10. Office Assistant - 01 Position (Deputy Project Director Irrigation Division - PMU, Rajagiriya)

Having passed all subjects in G.C.E. (O/L) examination in six subjects with credit passes for at least two subjects including Sinhala/Tamil at not more than two sittings.

Experience in Graphics, Video Editing, Videoring, Typing and Writing skills will be an added qualification.

#### GENERAL CONDITIONS:

##### a. Age Limit:

Candidates above 64 years of the age on the Closing date of application are not eligible to apply.

##### b. Conditions of Employment:

Officers belonging to government services will be recruited on secondment basis and persons outside the Government Service will be recruited on contract basis. All appointments will be initially for a period of one year and extension of service will be based on successful performance.

##### c. Salary:

Salary for each position will be based on the Management Services Circular No: 01/2019 dated 05.03.2019.

##### d. Interview:

Short-listed applicants based on qualifications and experience will be called for the interview.

#### APPLICATIONS:

All applicants are requested to forward their applications together with Curriculum Vitae along with non-related referees and Copies of the certificates under registered post on or before 31st of October 2020 to reach the address given below.

Applicants currently in government/ semi government services should forward their applications through the Heads of Departments.

Applied post, Location and name of the project should be clearly stated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the application.

Applicants of provincial staff are required to mention the Province clearly on the envelope.

Separate applications enclosed in separate envelopes should be forwarded if applying- for more than one post.

The decision of the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture/Chief Secretary of respective province is final and conclusive on the above recruitments.

**Project Director**  
**Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project**  
**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**288, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha,**  
**Rajagiriya.**

#### Correction of the paper notice on 13.07.2020 Page No. 29 regarding the advertisement of recruitment of the Project Director (PS 01) - 01 Position

The clause under the conditions of Employment;

"Officers Currently working in donor funded projects under the purview of the Ministry of Mahaweli, Agriculture, litigation and Rural Development with above qualifications are required to complete a minimum of two years of successful service in the particular project to be eligible to apply." is excluded.

The closing date for the post of Project Director is extended from 31st of July 2020 up to 24th of October 2020 and the particular application should be sent to:

**Secretary,**  
**Ministry of Agriculture,**  
**Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project,**  
**80/5, "Govijana Mandiraya", Rajamalwatta Lane,**  
**Battaramulla.**



Looking for a well qualified & well experienced

### Kitchen Equipment Technician

with experience of 15 to 20 years in star Hotels, Restaurants or Catering Companies. Essential to have previous working experience in the Gulf.

Contact Person - M.Z.R. Faizeen  
0764960280

### NEW D.G. FASHION GARMENT (PRIVATE) LIMITED

COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. PV 3841  
NOTICE OF WINDING-UP ORDER AND  
OUR APPOINTMENT AS JOINT LIQUIDATORS  
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ACT NO. 07 OF 2007

Name of Company : NEW D.G. FASHION GARMENT (PRIVATE) LIMITED  
Address of Registered Office : Asokurama Road, Koondeniya, Dickwella  
Court : Commercial High Court of the Western Province  
Number of Matter : HC(CIVIL) 76/2019/CO  
Date of Order : 29th January, 2020  
Date of Presentation of Petition : 25th September, 2019  
Names of Joint Liquidators : Pinchabudage Eksiri Aruna Jayewickreme & Gerard Jeevananthan David  
Address : Joint Liquidators, Level 03, No. 11, Castle Lane, Colombo 04.  
Date of Appointment : 29th January, 2020



## Chilaw Plantations Ltd.

(Ministry of Plantations/State Ministry of Coconut, Fishtail, Palmyra and Rubber Cultivation Promotion and Related Industrial Product Manufacturing & Export Diversification)



Calling Expressions of Interest for leasing out 25-acre block of land from Imbulgawadiya Estate / one acre block of land from Lankarani Estate / 20-acre block of land from Unamoona Estate & 20-acre block of land from Kasamadu Estate

### Extension of Closing Date

This refers to the advertisements published on 11.08.2020 & 24.09.2020 and the closing date for the submission of expressions of interest has been extended till 31.10.2020

The Chairman/Chief Executive Officer,  
Chilaw Plantations Ltd.,  
165, Puttalam Road,  
Chilaw 61000.

### The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

#### Ministry of Tourism

## Department of National Botanical Gardens

### Bid Invitation

#### Constructions, Repairs and Maintenance Work - 2020

- (1) Sealed bids will be received from institutes registered as a business to attend to the contracts for the construction, repairs and maintenance work stated below belonging to the Department of National Botanical Gardens.

| S/No. | Name of Construction Work  | Contract No.                           | Minimum ICTAD Registration   | Bid Security Value - Rs. - | Non-Refundable Form Fee - Rs. - |
|-------|--|--|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1.    | Construction of Gabion Walls and Drain System in the Royal Botanical Gardens | DNBG/F6/Pro/RB/G/Gabion Wall / 2020-37 | C7 Irrigation Land Development, Sand breaking and Stone ridges development | 80,000.00                  | 3,000.00                        |

- (2) Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure. The Bid Security should be valid up to 90 days from the bid opening date.
- (3) Relevant bid forms can be obtained by interested bidders from **12.10.2020** up to **02.11.2020** on office days, between **9.00 a.m.** and **3.00 p.m.** from the Accounts Section of the Head Office of the Department of National Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya. The ICTAD/CIDA Registration Book (original) and a request letter on a letter head of the institution should be compulsorily submitted to obtain Bid documents.
- (4) The above bid security should be submitted from a government approved commercial bank or else it can be paid by cash to the Department of National Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya. Bids without a Bid Security will be rejected.
- (5) Bids completed in two copies and formally sealed (as the original and duplicate) could either be sent by registered post addressed to Chairman, Department Major Procurement Committee, Department of National Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya or placed in the major bid box kept at the Finance Section for the purpose. Late bids will be rejected. Bids received will be opened immediately after closing of acceptance of bids and bidder or one of his authorized representatives can be present at the opening. The cover containing the bid shall be marked the name of contract at the left-side top corner and also the name of the contracting institution.
- (6) The Department Procurement Board retains the full right to the final decision with regard to this bid and the Director General of the Department of National Botanical Gardens retains the right to taking decisions with regard to any matter relevant to this bid process which may or not contain in this notice or the bid documents. Further details can be obtained on Telephone No. 081-2388293 from the Chief Accountant of this Department.

Chairman,  
Department Major Procurement Committee,  
Department of National Botanical Gardens,  
Peradeniya.

07.10.2020



## SRI LANKA NAVY

### PROCUREMENT NOTICE

#### INVITATION OF BIDS FROM MANUFACTURERS / SUPPLIERS / IMPORTERS/ CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY OF MEDICAL ITEMS TO SRI LANKA NAVY FROM 01<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER IN THE YEAR 2021 ON RATE RUNNING CONTRACT BASIS

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Sri Lanka Navy (SLN), invites bids from Manufacturers, Suppliers, Importers and Contractors to supply one or more of the following separated tenders of Medical Items to Sri Lanka Navy for the period from 01st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 on rate running contract basis. The validity of the submitted rate of the bids should be from 01st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.

- (a) Selected contractors should transport all the items ordered by SLN to Medical Stores at Naval Headquarters, P.O Box 593, Colombo 01.
- (b) The suppliers who are interested should submit their bidding forms obtainable from the Director General Logistics at Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01 during working days between 0900 hrs & 1400 hrs from 13th October 2020 to 09th November 2020 on payment of a non-refundable application fee of Rs. 2000.00 in cash for each category of medical Items to the Director Finance, Naval Headquarters, P.O. Box 593, Colombo 01.

2. The detailed information of Medical Items and approximate quantities required for the 01st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 for each tender will be issued with the bidding forms.

#### CATEGORY OF ITEMS AND NUMBERS

| Tender Category No. | Category of Items                                  | Closing/ Opening Date and Time of Bids |
|---------------------|--|--|
| SLN/CMS/01/RC/2021  | Drugs For Infections                               | 10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/02/RC/2021  | Drugs For Cardiovascular Diseases                  | 10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/03/RC/2021  | Drugs For Central Nervous Diseases                 | 10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/04/RC/2021  | Drugs For Nutrition and Blood Diseases             | 10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/05/RC/2021  | Drugs For Respiratory Diseases                     | 10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/06/RC/2021  | Drugs For Gastrointestinal Diseases                | 10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/07/RC/2021  | Drugs For Eye, Ear, Nose, and Oropharynx Diseases  | 10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/08/RC/2021  | Drugs For Skin Diseases                            | 10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/09/RC/2021  | Drugs For Endocrine Diseases                       | 10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/10/RC/2021  | Drugs For Musculoskeletal and Joint Diseases       | 10th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/11/RC/2021  | Reagents for Semi Automated Bio Chemistry Analyzer | 11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/12/RC/2021  | Test Tubes   | 11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/13/RC/2021  | Strips and Reagents for Agglutination Test         | 11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/14/RC/2021  | Syringe & Needles                                  | 11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/15/RC/2021  | Dressing Items                                     | 11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/16/RC/2021  | Cannula and Catheter                               | 11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/17/RC/2021  | Surgical Appliances Consumable                     | 11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/18/RC/2021  | Other Surgical Consumable                          | 11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/19/RC/2021  | Suture   | 11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |
| SLN/CMS/20/RC/2021  | Chemical for Pest Control                          | 11th November 2020 at 1000 hrs         |

3. The bidders shall possess the following requirements to be eligible for submission of bids. (Will be considered under the process of the evaluation of bids)

- Two years experience in supplying of Medical Items to public/private organizations in similar capacity with satisfactory performance records.
- Copy of CDDA Certificate.
- Sound financial capability.
- Satisfactory Tax payment records.
- Adequate communication facilities. (Telephone/s, Mobile Phone/s, Fax/es, E- mail)
- Adequate storage facilities. (Warehouses)
- Adequate Staff, Personnel and Office facilities.
- Adequate transport facilities.
- Copy of Business Registration or Incorporation Certificate with an operational record of last three years.

4. The declaration of VAT registration number along with the bidding document is a mandatory requirement. The bidders who are exempted from VAT should produce a letter from the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue Department certifying that the company has been exempted from VAT. Any bid which does not fulfill above requirements shall be rejected.

5. The bids duly signed by the applicant should be submitted after placing the official seal there under as a compulsory requirement. The envelope containing the tender should be marked **"BID FOR THE SUPPLY OF (Category of Items) FOR THE YEAR 2021, Category No. (SLN/CMS/...../RC/2021) and date/ time of opening of bids"** on top left-hand corner and should be posted to the following address under registered post or to be deposited in the tender box at Naval Headquarters;

The Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee,  
Sri Lanka Navy,  
Naval Headquarters,  
P.O. Box 593,  
Colombo 01.

6. The bids will be opened immediately after the closing time. The bidding forms received after the closing time of bids will be rejected and returned without opening. The bidders or their duly authorized representatives can attend the bid opening meeting.

7. The bidding documents which are incomplete and not accompanied with required documentary evidence shall be rejected. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid application.

8. Selected bidders will be notified by registered post for signing of agreement.

9. The bidding forms can be inspected free of charge at the office of the Director General Logistics, at Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01.

10. For further information, please contact the Staff Officer (Medical Suppliers) T.P. 0117195541, 0117195543.

11. Details of this tender invitation are available in Sri Lanka Navy website [www.navy.lk](http://www.navy.lk).

The Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee,  
Sri Lanka Navy,  
Colombo 01.

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**Classifieds**

**Real Estate**

**House & Property**  
**COLOMBO**  
District  
For sale

**Colombo 6** Manning Place close to road house with 4 bedrooms on 6 perches for sale. 0777-768013. 061759

**House & Property**  
**KALUTARA**  
District  
For sale

**Panadura - Gorakapola** (Old Colombo Panadura Road) 20.95 perches residential and commercial three storied road frontage building for immediate sale. Ground floor with three shop units including five bedrooms, three bathrooms lobby, balcony & pantry 3350 sq.ft. Situated within a good residential area. Tel. 0773930800 / 0777634791. 061309

**Repeat Your Ad For Better Offers**

Pursuant to Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, we wish to inform that the undermentioned company was incorporated.  
**Best Lands (Private) Limited**  
No. of the Company: PV 124377  
Registered Office: No. 305/5, Weboda East, Weboda.  
Date of Incorporation: 01 August, 2017

**CORRECTION NOTICE**

**UVA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**  
**Office of the Deputy Chief Secretary (Engineering Services)**

**PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

This refers to the above titled advertisement published on page No. 36 of Daily News on 2nd October 2020. Please note that the following correction relevant to the above advertisement were made.  
Heading in the last column of the table should be read as "Office Issuing Bid Documents" and in column 05 of the table the word minimum should be omitted.  
Under paragraph 03 - the word "minimum" should be omitted.  
In paragraph 05 "which the Civil Works" should be read as "Which the total Bid Amount"  
In paragraph 09 "Duplicate should be a photocopy" should be corrected as a "Duplicate should be a certified photocopy"  
The other contents remain unchanged.  
Chairman - Procurement Board  
Office of the Deputy Chief Secretary (Engineering Services)  
Pinaraawa, Badulla  
Tel. No./Fax No. 055-2222218.

**SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA GENERAL HOSPITAL**

**TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF MEDICAL & LABORATORY EQUIPMENT**

01. Sealed tenders are invited by the Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Sri Jayawardanepura General Hospital, Thalapatthitiya, Nugegoda for the following MEDICAL & LABORATORY EQUIPMENT up to 10.00 a.m. on 29.10.2020.

| Tender No. | Item  | Qty.   | Non-refundable Fee (Rs.) |
|------------|---|--------|--------------------------|
| Q 687/20   | Microtome Machine   | 01 No. | 3,000.00                 |
| Q 688/20   | Tympanometer  | 01 No. | 3,000.00                 |
| Q 689/20   | Ambulatory E.P. Monitoring System with 3 Recorder for Holter Monitor Unit | 01 No. | 3,000.00                 |
| Q 690/20   | Rigid Cystoscopy with Telescope   | 01 No. | 3,000.00                 |

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.  
Bidders may be Manufacturers / Agents / Companies who have previous experience to supply similar equipment.  
A complete set of bidding documents in duplicate purchased on submission of:  
(i) A written application to the Director, Sri Jayawardanepura General Hospital.  
(ii) On payment of a non-refundable fee as stated above to the Accountant SJGH.  
(iii) A photocopy of the Certificate of Business Registration.  
02. Bids should be made on the forms provided by the Hospital only. Tenders submitted on forms other than the forms provided by the Hospital will be rejected.  
03. Tender documents could be inspected free of charge at the Supplies Office of the Hospital.  
04. Tender documents can be obtained from the Supplies Office till 28.10.2020 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on working days.  
05. Tenders will be closed and opened at 10.00 a.m. on 29.10.2020 at the Lecture Hall of Sri Jayawardanepura General Hospital. A representative of the tenderer can be present at the time of opening of the bid.  
06. Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee reserves himself the right of rejecting any or all tenders / and the right of accepting any portion of the tender.

**Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Sri Jayawardanepura General Hospital, Thalapatthitiya, Nugegoda.**



**SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA GENERAL HOSPITAL**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**TENDER FOR THE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE OF WEBSITE FOR SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Tender No: Q 692/20

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sri Jayawardanepura General Hospital now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Design, Development, Implementation, Training and Maintenance of Website for Sri Jayawardanepura General Hospital up to 10.00 a.m. on 29.10.2020.

Bidding will be conducted through National competitive bidding procedure.  
Bidder should have 5 years experience in similar projects.  
Bid Documents can be obtained from 12.10.2020 to 28.10.2020 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. during normal working days from the Supplies Division of this hospital. Bidders should furnish a written request and a receipt issued by the Accountant of Sri Jayawardanepura General Hospital for the payment of non-refundable document fee of Rs. 3,000.00.

Duly completed bidding documents in duplicate marked "Original" and "Duplicate" relevantly in two sealed envelopes and closed both in one sealed envelope marked "Tender for the Design, Development, Implementation, Training and Maintenance of Website for Sri Jayawardanepura General Hospital" Q 692/20 Closing on 29.10.2020 on the top left hand corner of the envelope. Bids to be sent by registered post to the following address or can be deposited to the tender box kept at the Chairman's Office at or before 10.00 a.m. on 29.10.2020. Late bid submissions are not accepted.

Bidders should furnish a bid security with an amount of Rs. 30,000.00 along with the bid.

Bids received will be opened immediately after closing at the conference hall of the hospital and the bidder or their representatives will be permitted to be present at the occasion.

Further details, please contact Supplies Officer Tel: 011-2778624. Bid documents can be inspected free of charge. Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject the whole or part of the bid.

**Chairman Department Procurement Committee, Sri Jayawardanepura General Hospital, Thalapatthitiya, Nugegoda.**



**PEOPLE'S BANK REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**Establishing an online knowledge Assessment and E-Learning System for the Bank**

RFP No.08/2020

People's Bank invites Request for Proposals from reputed, experienced, leading companies to obtain the service for establishing an online knowledge Assessment and E-Learning System for Bank.

- Relevant RFP Document could be obtained from People's Bank, Supplies Department, 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02 depositing Rs. 1,500/- for each tender document to the Account No. 204100120011913 maintained at Head Quarters Branch. Deposits could be made from any People's Bank branch to the named account. Issuance of tender documents will be made on producing the duplicate of the cash paying in slip / request letter between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m from 12.10.2020 to 22.10.2020 as indicated above on working days of the Bank.
- Each perfected tender document should be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee / Bid Bond for 2% of the estimated value from a Commercial Bank (Other than People's Bank) acceptable to the People's Bank valid for a minimum period of 180 calendar days from the date of opening the tender. Bank Pay Orders/ Bank Drafts are also acceptable in lieu of Bid Bonds (Valid for a minimum period of 180 calendar days). Cheques drawn by the tenderer will not be accepted.
- Sealed Covers of RFP proposals in duplicate addressed to Chief Manager (Supplies) may be sent by registered post or be deposited in the Tender Box kept at this Department at No. 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo — 02 during working days of the Bank.
- The Proposals will be opened at 02.00 p.m. on 23.10.2020. Any proposal received after closing date & time will be rejected and returned unopened.
- Any clarifications on this tender could be directed to the Supplies Department via e-mail [supplies@peoplesbank.lk](mailto:supplies@peoplesbank.lk) on or before 22.10.2020. Any requests for clarifications received after 22.10.2020 will not be entertained.
- The Bank reserves itself the right of rejecting any or all RFP cancelling the whole proposal and or the right of accepting any portion of a proposal without assigning any reason.

**Chief Manager — Supplies Department**  
**People's Bank,**  
No. 30/101, Kew Road,  
Colombo 02.  
Tele. No : 2439577 / 8,  
Fax No : 2439576  
Web : [www.peoplesbank.lk](http://www.peoplesbank.lk)



**PEOPLE'S BANK REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**Conducting an External Security Vulnerability Assessment through a Reputed Cyber Security Expert Organization for People's Bank**

RFP No.10/2020

People's Bank invites Request for Proposals from reputed, experienced, leading companies to obtain the service for Conducting an External Security Vulnerability Assessment through a Reputed Cyber Security Expert Organization for People's Bank.

- Relevant RFP Document could be obtained from People's Bank, Supplies Department, 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02 depositing Rs. 1,500/- for each tender document to the Account No. 204100120011913 maintained at Head Quarters Branch. Deposits could be made from any People's Bank branch to the named account. Issuance of tender documents will be made on producing the duplicate of the cash paying in slip and a request letter from the bidding company between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m from 12.10.2020 to 22.10.2020 on working days of the Bank.
- Each perfected tender document should be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee / Bid Bond for 2% of the estimated value from a Commercial Bank (Other than People's Bank) acceptable to the People's Bank valid for a minimum period of 180 calendar days from the date of opening the tender. Bank Pay Orders/ Bank Drafts are also acceptable in lieu of Bid Bonds (Valid for a minimum period of 180 calendar days). Cheques drawn by the tenderer will not be accepted.
- Sealed Covers of RFP proposals in duplicate addressed to Chief Manager (Supplies) may be sent by registered post or be deposited in the Tender Box kept at this Department at No. 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo — 02 during working days of the Bank.
- The Proposals will be opened at 02.00 p.m. on 23.10.2020. Any proposal received after closing date & time will be rejected and returned unopened.
- Any clarifications on this tender could be directed to the Supplies Department via e-mail [supplies@peoplesbank.lk](mailto:supplies@peoplesbank.lk). Any requests for clarifications received after 22.10.2020 will not be entertained.
- The Bank reserves itself the right of rejecting any or all RFP submissions or the right of accepting any portion of a proposal without assigning any reason.

**Chief Manager — Supplies Department**  
**People's Bank,**  
No. 30/101, Kew Road,  
Colombo 02.  
Tele. No : 2439577 / 8,  
Fax No : 2439576  
Web : [www.peoplesbank.lk](http://www.peoplesbank.lk)



**AUCTION SALE UNDER SECTION 09 OF THE RECOVERY OF LOANS BY BANKS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ACT NO. 04 OF 1990**

**PRADESHIYA SANWARDANA BANK**

**AUCTION SALE OF A VALUABLE PROPERTY**

All that divided and defined allotment of Land Marked Lot No. 03 depicted in Plan No. 2017/145 dated 18.03.2017 made by A.M.L. Koliha Bandara Licensed Surveyor of the Land Called "Pahalapitiyewaththa" situated in the Village of Kahawitiya, Grama Niladhari Division of Palavitiya within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Panduwasnuwara in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Panduwasnuwara (East) Thissawa Korale of Dewamede Hathpaththuwa in the District of Kurunegala, North Western Province.

**Containing In Extent: A00 - R01 - P00**  
Together with everything standing thereon.  
UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO US BY PRADESHIYA SANWARDANA BANK  
**WE SHALL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

To be held at the Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank Panduwasnuwara Branch Premises Commencing at 11.00 a.m.  
The auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, adhering to COVID 19 protocol

**For notice of resolution:** Please refer the Government Gazette of 15.02.2019  
**ACCESS TO PROPERTY:** From Hettipola town proceed along Wariyapola road for about 11 kilometers and turn right from Bandarakoswatta Junction to Seelarathana Mawatha, Proceed about 2.5 kilometers on this road and just before reaching the end of the paddy field turn left to (Harvest Grocery) road and proceed about 450 meters to reach the subject property.

**MODE OF PAYMENT:**  
The successful Purchaser will have to pay the following amount in cash at the fall of the hammer.  
(1) 25% of the purchased Price  
(2) 1% Local Authority Tax payable to the local authority  
(3) Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2% (Two and a half percent only) on the purchased price plus applicable taxes.  
(4) Clerk's & Crier's Fee of Rs. 1,500/=   
(5) Cost of sale and any other charges, if any.  
(6) Stamp duty for the Certificate of Sale

The balance 75% of the purchased price will have to be paid within 30 days from the date of sale to the Manager, Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank, Paduwasnuwara Branch, Kurunegala Road, Paduwasnuwara. Telephone: 037-2291195.  
If the balance amount of the purchased price is not paid within 30 days as stipulated above, the Bank shall have the right to forfeit (25%) of the purchased price already paid and resell the property.

The Title deeds and any other reference may be obtained from the aforesaid address:  
\*The Bank has the right to stay/cancel the above auction without prior notice

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E-mail: [schokman@samera1892.com](mailto:schokman@samera1892.com)

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**in the Sunday Observer**



# WFP chief says 'deeply humbled' by Nobel prize



World Food Programme (WFP) employees spray the hands of a displaced Yemeni man with disinfectant as prevention from the COVID-19 novel coronavirus in the capital Sanaa. - AFP



In this file photo taken on February 06, 2020 Children collect grain spilt on the field from gunny bags that ruptured upon ground impact following a food drop from a plane at a village in Ayod county, South Sudan, where World Food Programme (WFP) have just carried out a food drop of grain and supplementary aid. - AFP



## Rajarata University of Sri Lanka - Mihintale

### Invitation for Quotations for Maintaining of the Photocopy Servies - 2020/2021

Sealed quotations will be received for maintaining of the Photocopy Service at the undermentioned places of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

- 01) Mihintale Premises - Main Library and the Applied Science Faculty Library
- 02) Puliyankulama Agriculture Faculty
- 03) Saliyapura Medical and Allied Science Faculty
- 04) Anuradhapura General Hospital Professorial Unit

Relevant application and detailed leaflet containing conditions can be obtained from 09.10.2020 up to 27.10.2020 on office hours on submission to the Senior Assistant Registrar/Admin of the Receipt received for the payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000.00 made to the Shroff of this University. Completed applications could either be sent by registered post addressed to Senior Assistant Registrar (Admin), Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale or placed in the Tender Box kept at the office of the Registrar to be received at or before 2.00 p.m. on 27.10.2020. The cover containing the application should be marked "Quotation for the Photocopy Service" at the left side top corner. Late bids will be rejected. Bids received will be opened at 2.15 p.m. on 27.10.2020. Bidder or one of his representatives can be present at the bid opening. Further details required can be obtained from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Admin) on Telephone No. 025-2266781.

The decision of the University Procurement Committee shall be the final.

Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee,  
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka,  
Mihintale.

09.10.2020

**ITALY, SWITZERLAND:** World Food Programme chief David Beasley said Friday the UN agency was "deeply humbled" by winning the Nobel Peace Prize, adding it had rendered him "speechless".

"We are deeply humbled to receive the #NobelPeacePrize. This is an incredible recognition of the dedication of the @WFP family, working to end hunger everyday in 80+ countries," he said on Twitter.

Meanwhile, The World Food Programme said Friday that winning the Nobel Peace Prize was a "powerful reminder" that ending global hunger was inextricably linked to ending wars and conflict.

"This is a powerful reminder to the world that peace and #ZeroHunger go hand-in-hand," the Rome-based WFP said on Twitter.

Spokesman Tomson Phiri, who had been on the podium at the UN in Geneva for a regular press briefing when the announcement landed, described the win as "humbling" and a "proud moment" for the UN organisation.

"One of the beauties of WFP activities is that not only do we provide food for today and tomorrow, but we also are equipping people with the knowledge, the means to sustain themselves for the next day and the days after," he said.

Phiri, who only recently became WFP's spokesman in Geneva but who has worked for the organisation for nine years most recently in South Sudan, said he had "seen the extent to



The Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee, Berit Reiss-Andersen poses with a tablet to announce the laureate of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize "World Food Programme" in the Nobel Institute in Oslo on Friday. - AFP

which people are dedicated across the globe to go the extra mile".

WFP, which in addition to providing food aid to millions worldwide handles logistics for the overall UN organisation, had especially in the midst of the coronavirus crisis gone "over and above the call of duty", he said.

"At one point we were the biggest airline in the world," he said, pointing out that, "when most if not all commercial airlines ground to a halt, we were able to move assistance." He stressed the clear link between working for peace and ensuring people don't go hungry.

"What we have seen happening in countries such as South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan, is that where you have conflict, assistance become irregular," he said.

"It becomes inadequate, assistance also sometimes is delayed and in some cases is even suspended." Billions of dollars have been spent providing desperately needed aid to countries that have descended into conflict.

But even when aid goes in, Phiri said, you still "need peace".

"You also need stability in those countries, and that is the bedrock. Everything else become less daunting when you have peace."

The WFP is the latest in a string of UN bodies and officials to have won the prestigious prize since the organisation's creation in 1945.

In 2001, the United Nations itself won the award together with then-secretary general Kofi Annan.

Here is a list of UN bodies and officials who have won the Nobel Peace Prize: 2020: World Food Programme (WFP) 2007: Al Gore (US) and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2005: UN International Atomic Energy Agency and Mohamed ElBaradei (Egypt) 2001: Kofi Annan (Ghana) and the United Nations 1988: UN Peacekeeping Forces 1981: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 1969: International Labour Organization 1965: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 1961: Dag Hammarskjöld (Sweden), UN secretary general 1954: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees 1950: Ralph Bunche (US), UN mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict. - AFP

## BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

#### Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Auto Coupling Type Wet Well Electrically Driven Submersible Pumps & Accessories for Sea Outfall pump Station At Koggala Export Processing Zone

Contract No: BOI/SR/TS/KgEPZ/2020-03/03.024

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of auto coupling type wet well electrically driven submersible pumps & accessories for sea outfall pump station at Koggala Export Processing Zone (KgEPZ).
2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
3. To be eligible for contract award, the bidder shall be a Pump Manufacturer or an authorized local agent of a pump manufacturer.
4. Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the Technical Services Department of BOI at KgEPZ between 0930 hrs and 1530 hrs on normal working days. Further details shall be obtained from the Director (Zone-KgEPZ) of the BOI on Telephone Nos: 091-2283372 or 077-3140200.
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 Director (Zone-KgEPZ) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka at KgEPZ from 05.10.2020 until 19.10.2020 between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 2,500.00 plus VAT in cash to the Finance Department of BOI at KgEPZ. Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the Chairman (Department Procurement Committee), C/o Director (Zone-KgEPZ), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Export Processing Zone, Koggala on or before 1400 hrs on 20.10.2020. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
6. Bids shall be valid up to 17.02.2021.
7. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs. 50,000.00. Bid security shall be valid up to 17.02.2021.
8. Pre bid meeting will be held at 1030 hrs on 09.10.2020 at the office of the Director (Zone), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Export Processing Zone, Koggala.

Chairman,  
BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA.

## PEOPLE'S BANK

### AUCTION OF UNREDEEMED PAWNEED ARTICLES

Articles pawned up to 31.03.2019 and remain unredeemed as at the day of auction at the undermentioned Branches and Service Centers of the People's Bank, will be sold by Public Auction on 24.10.2020 (Saturday) & 25.10.2020 (Sunday) at 8.30 a.m. at People's Bank, Jaffna Stanley Road Branch, and Jaffna.

| Name of Branch | Service Centre         | Final date to redeem | Date & Place of Auction   |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|---|
| J/Stanley Road | Manipay                | 23.10.2020           | Jaffna Stanley Road Branch on 24.10.2020 (Saturday) & 25.10.2020 (Sunday) |
|                | Kokuvil (Navalar Road) |                      |   |
| Thellipalai    | Mallakam               |                      |   |
|                | Kankesanthurai         |                      |   |
| J/Main Street  | Urumpirai              |                      |   |
| Kayts          | -                      |                      |   |
| Nelliady       | -                      |                      |   |
| Atchuvvely     | Puttur                 |                      |   |
| Chankanai      | Pandatherippu          |                      |   |
| Chunnakam      | Kopay                  |                      |   |
|                | Alaveddy               |                      |   |
| Chavakachcheri | Kaithady               |                      |   |
|                | Udupiddy               |                      |   |
| J/University   | Thirunelvely           |                      |   |
|                | Kalviyankady           |                      |   |
| J/Kannathiddy  | Inuvil                 |                      |   |
| Point Pedro    | Puloly                 |                      |   |
| Kodikamam      | -                      |                      |   |

The Bank reserves the right to cancel or postpone or change the date and the place of auction without further notice to the public.

Regional Manager,  
People's Bank  
Regional Head Office,  
No. 82, Kannathiddy Road, Jaffna.  
Tel: 021-2222601/021-2228602  
Fax: 021-2222602  
e-mail: jafrho@peoplesbank.lk



The portrait of Alfred Nobel is seen at the desk prior to the announcement of the laureates of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize in the Nobel Institute in Oslo on Friday. - AFP