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CHIEF PRELATES DENY STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THEM ON 20A

ASELA KURULUWANSA

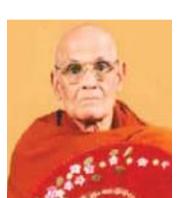
The Chief Prelates of Amarapura Nikaya and Ramanna Nikaya yesterday stressed that they did not hold any official discussion on the 20th Amendment to the Constitution nor were they aware of the media statements issued on Monday with regard to that matter.

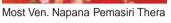
Sri Lanka Amarapura Sangha Council President and Udarata Amarapura Nikaya acting Chief Prelate Most Ven. Ganthune Assaji Thera and Ramanna

separate statements, said that their Sects had not arrived at any official stance with regard to the proposed 20th Amend-

"Many inquired about our opinion on the 20th Amendor Executive Council has not Amendment Clause by Clause if that person wants to speak it is now. TO PAGE 02

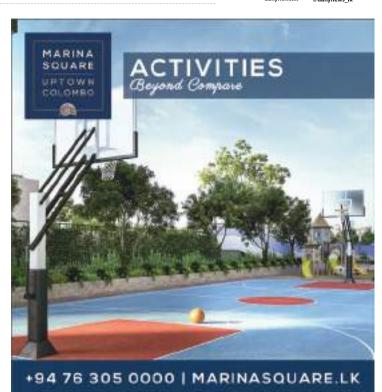
Nikaya Chief Prelate Most Ven. Napana Pemasiri Thera, in two its good and bad. The Government has stated that it intends to reconsider certain Sections of the Bill at the Committee Stage debate. We are not aware what those amendments are. We are also not aware of the Court's decision on the petitions challenging the 20th ment, but our Sangha Council Amendment. One has to take them also in to account when held any discussion on that expressing an opinion. I permatter. One has to analyse the sonally believe the Executive should be strengthened than







Most Ven. Ganthune Assaji Thera



Minuwangoda **COVID** cluster under

control - Minister

- **24,778 PCR tests done so far,** 10,281 already quarantined
- Committee to report on allegations against factory

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Labour Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva has appointed a committee headed by the Labour Commissioner General to look into allegations levelled against the apparel factory in Minuwangoda. The factory



recorded the highest number COVID-19 positive cases reported

Farewell for SLNS Weeraya and Jagatha



Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne presided over the ceremonial decommissioning to bid farewell to Sri Lanka Navy Ship (SLNS) Weeraya and Jagatha at the Naval Dockyard Trincomalee. The duo of ships of the Third Fast Gun Boat Squadron had rendered an invaluable service to the Sri Lanka Navy for over four decades with the resolve to ensure the security of the Sri Lankan waters. Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, Flag Officer Commanding Naval Fleet, Rear Admiral Y.M.G.B. Jayathilake (centre) and Commanding Officer SLNS Jagatha, Lt. Commander KS Ranasinghe take the salute at the decommissioning. The two vessels will be sunk at a later date. (Pictures by Navy Media).

Taxes on four commodities removed

The Government has taken a decision to exempt essential commodities such as lentils, sugar, canned fish

and big onions from taxes. The President's Media Division stated that as a result of the tax exemption,

a big tin of canned fish could

be purchased at Rs.200, a kg of big onions at Rs.100 and a kg of sugar at Rs.85.

Consumers purchasing items valued at over Rs. 500, including the above items, would be able to purchase a kg of dhal at

'MT New Diamond' captain's case in HC today

DILSHAN THARAKA

The case filed against the captain of the crude oil tanker 'MT New Diamond' will be taken up before the Colombo High Court today. TOPAGE 02

on Fresh Vegetables and Fruits

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Cabinet approves State run **Expressway Investment Company**

approved a proposal made by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Finance Minister to set up a state-run Expressway Investment Company to own and self-finance expressways.

Co-cabinet Spokesman Mass The Cabinet of Ministers Media Minister Keheliva Rambukwella told the media at the Government Information Department to inform the decisions taken at this week's Cabinet meeting that the proposed company will be solely owned by the Treasury Secretary. TO PAGE 02



Former President faults **Defence Secretaries for** not holding ICMs

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Defence Secretaries who served between 2015-2019 had cheated and misled then President Maithripala Sirisena by pretending that the weekly Intelligence Coordination Meetings (ICMs) were being held regularly, it was revealed before the

Presidential Commission of Inquiry probing the Easter Sunday Attacks on Monday. TO PAGE 02

Magistrate rejects CID request for warrant to arrest Bathiudeen

SHAVINI MADHARA

Colombo Fort Magistrate Priyantha Liyanage yesterday rejected a request made by the Criminal Investigation Department to issue a warrant to arrest MP Rishad Bathiudeen and two others.

The Magistrate observed that it was not necessary to obtain a warrant from a court in order to arrest MP Bathiudeen and two others based on the nature of the charges filed against them. TO PAGE **02**

Riyaj Bathiudeen files writ petition against re-arrest

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen's brother Riyaj Bathiudeen yesterday filed a writ petition in the Court of Appeal seeking an Interim Order preventing police from arresting him in relation to the investigations connected with Easter Sunday attacks. TO PAGE 02



Moving forward with trust DFCC Bank celebrates 65 years



FASTEST INTERNET



Government overlooked looming COVID threat - JVP

The Government has to take the blame for resurgence of COVID-19 cases as it repeatedly overlooked the looming danger and made the public think that the epidemic was over, JVP Propoganda Secretary MP Vijitha Herath said.

Addressing a press conference at the JVP headquarters in Battaramulla, the MP said the current situation in the country, especially in the Gampaha District, was very risky as the virus was spreading fast. TO PAGE 02

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Sri Lanka will be self-sufficient in turmeric by 2021

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Sri Lanka will be selfsufficient in turmeric by 2021, Plantation Minister Dr. Ramesh Pathirana said. Sri Lanka produced

2,500 metric tonnes of turmeric a year, and the country will be able to increase its annual turmeric production to 6,000 metric tonnes in the future, he said. The Minister made this observation responding a question by a journalist at the weekly Cabinet media briefing held yesterday at the Government Information Department.

The Minister said that the importation of turmeric ed so far by local farmers was banned from November last year to encourage local farmers to cultivate ric tonnes of raw turmeric crops that can be easily by February 2021.

culture sector.

tics of the Department of Export Agriculture, the annual consumption of turmeric in the country is around 7500 metric tonnes and the amount of turmeric produced in the country in 2019 was only 1200 metric tonnes. The amount of turmeric imported in that year to meet the remaining requirement was 5,382 metric tonnes and it cost Rs.1.5 billion.

Over 1,500 hectares of turmeric has been cultivatand they would yield a harvest of around 22,500 met-

Minuwangoda COVID... From page 01

Co-cabinet Spokesman Plantation Minister Dr. Ramesh Pathirana told the weekly Cabinet media briefing held yesterday at the Government Information Department, that the government fully confident in controlling Minuwangoda COVID-19 cluster and curbing the virus from spreading further.

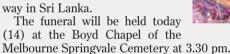
Minister Pathirana said that out of the total COVID-19 patients identified up to now, the security forces have identified that the majority of them have had some contact with the Minuwangoda cluster.

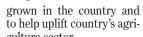
He said that 24,778 PCR tests have been done so far among people who have had contacts with patients in the cluster and 10,281 people who had contacts are quarantined. He further added that the people do not need to unnecessary fear as the government is greatly dedicated to controlling the situation by doing about 7000 PCR tests per day while providing medical facilities to the infected in 26 hospitals.

"We are monitoring the curfew situation on a daily basis. The President has indicated that out of 18 police areas where quarantine curfew has already imposed, there are two or three areas where a few COVID-19 positive cases reported. So measures will be taken to lift curfew in those areas. Lifting of curfew in other areas will depend on the strength of the spreading of virus," the Minister said.

Mrs. P.C.Tissera Katugampola passes away

Mrs. P.C. Tissera Katugampola passed away in Melbourne. She was the mother of attorney Susantha Katugampola, a well-known immigration lawyer and Chairman of Fairfield Lawyers law firm in Australia and the Australia Gateway in Sri Lanka.





According to the statis-

It is also my view that the constitutional makers should listen to constructive criticism," Ven. Assaji Thera said in a let-

Thera in his statement reminded the Sangha of his Sect that they should not meddle in political affairs.

"Ramanna Kathikawatha explicitly states that it is inappropriate for Buddhist monks to participate in political activities. It is important to

The Buddhist monks ate between politics and the Government affairs. The Buddhist monks should always work for the betterment of the society. Due to physical much. However I should have been informed of any meeting of the Sect. The Lekakadhikari monks and others should know that it is inapprowithout the knowledge of

he commented.

'MT New Diamond'... From page 01

The case was ordered to be taken up in the High Court today following a motion filed by the Attorneys of the vessel's captain yesterday and the attorneys of the captain had informed court that his client expects the case to be concluded

The Attorney General had filed an indictment in

the Colombo High Court against the Greek Captain of the crude oil tanker 'Mt New Diamond' with two charges for marine pollution caused by the oil spill from the vessel and the failure to report in violation of section 26 and 38 of the Marine Pollution Prevention Act. No 35 of

Magistrate rejects... From page 01

The Attorney General had instructed the acting Inspector General of Police to obtain a warrant to arrest MP Rishad Bathiudeen on charges of criminal misappropriation of public funds and viola-

tion of election laws over transporting internally displaced persons in Transport Board buses to vote at the 2019 Presidential election. The Magistrate fixed further inquiries for October 27.

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Public Information Office, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. (on all days except public holidays)

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Arrest Rishad, two others on warrants - AG

DILSHAN THARAKA

Attorney General Dappula De Livera PC has instructed the acting IGP to obtain a warrant from the relevant Magistrate's court to arrest MP Rishad Bathiudeen and two others.

ing officer, State Counsel Nishara Javaratne said the Attorney General directed to the acting IGP to obtain warrants against former Minister Rishad Bathuideen, IDP Resettlement Project

Attorney General's Coordinat- Director Samsudeen Mohamed Criminal Misappropriation of Yaseen and its accountant Algarathnam Manoranjan over the incident and produce them before the relevant Magistrate's Court.

They are to be charged of Presidential election.

Rs.9.5 million public funds and the transporting IDPs using 222 Silawathura to vote at the 2019

The Attorney observed that there is reasona-Violation of Election Laws for ble suspicion to name them as suspects over the incident and CTB buses from Puttalam to file charges under Section 82 (1) of Presidential Election Act, No 15 of 1981, she said.

Chief Prelates..... From page 01 **LAHIRU FERNANDO**

Ven. Napana Pemasiri

honour that tradition.

must be able to differenticonstraints I do not travel priate to make statements

Sunday Attacks yesterday. He said then SIS Director Nilantha Jayawardena had phone conversations

with the President 10 to 15 the Maha Nayaka Thera," times a day, therefore he thought that Jayawardena should have informed the President in this regard.

> " The SIS Director was the only person who had the April 4 foreign intelligence in hand even by April 8, when the President met the senior police officers for the weekly meeting.

Former President Maithripala Sirisena should

have been aware that there

attack in the coming days

when he left for Singapore

on April 16, 2019, former

Defence Secretary Hemasi-

ri Fernando told the Presi-

Inquiry Probing the Easter

dential Commission of

If Jayawardena had not informed the President in this regard at that meeting, it is a serious offence," he stressed.

was a possibility of a terror He also said the absence of the President and an acting Defence Minister in the country between April 16 to 21 were major reasons for the bombings on Easter Sunday not being avoided.

The witness further said the former President did not give him adequate time to arrange the National Security Council (NSC) meetings and used to call them suddenly, which in return resulted in some problems.

Fernando said former President Maithripala Sirisena had not instructed to arrest the leader of the National Thowheed Jamaat, Zahran Hashim in January 2019.



This was contradictory to what Sirisena said on a previous occasion that he had instructed to take extremist leader Zahran into custody at the National Security Council (NSC) in January 2019.

President's Counsel Shamil Perera who appeared on behalf of Archbishop Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, cross-examining witness Fernando asked as to why the NSC did not convene after February 2019 until the next meet-

ing held on April 22, the following day of the attacks.

In response, the former Defence Secretary said he did not know the reason. It was upto the President to decide on convening the

When asked about his failure to convey the message on a possible attack to the President before April 21, Fernando said informing the President on intelligence information was usually carried out by the then Director of the SIS.

According to law, the Secretary to the Ministry should inform the Minister about certain matters. But, the then SIS Director and I came to an agreement that he would provide intelligence information to the President, Fernando fur-

Former President... From page 01

Former President Maithripala Sirisena testifying before the Commission on Monday said five Defence Secretaries who served under him had informed at the National Security Council meetings that the ICMs were being held continuously on every Tuesday but when scrutinising the reports, it was now clear that it was not so.

The Commission drew Sirisena's attention to several reports containing the details of the ICMs held between 2015-2019 period. According to hese reports no weekly meetings had been conducted consecutively other than in August 2016 and May 2017.

These Secretaries had neglected the basics of the National Security by not holding the ICMs properly, Sirisena said.

The PCoI also questioned the witness as to why he had to make several appointments to the positions of Secretary to the President and Secretary to the Ministry of Defense. There were three Secretaries to the President and five Defence Secretaries served from time to time between 2015 and 2019.

The former President said P.B. Abeykoon,who was his first Secretary wanted to get retired while in service. Next appointee Austin Fernando later expressed his preference to be an Ambassador. Accordingly, he was appointed Ambassador to India and was replaced by Udaya R. Seneviratne.

He said the Defence Secretaries who served under him were B. M. U. D. Basnayake, Engineer Karunasena Hettiarachchi, President's Counsel Kapila Waidyaratne, Hemasiri Fernando and Gen.Shantha Kottegoda. They all had suitable qualifications for the position.

However, he was hesitant to reveal the specific reasons behind the appointment and and removal of each of these Defense Secretaries in the presence of media and accordingly handed over them in writing to the Commission.

"The Defence Secretary is one of the most important positions in the country, which includes the supervi-



sion of the Tri-Forces, the Chief of Defence Staff and the Department of Civil Defence. But, I have studied that when those officers and institutions come under the control of the Defence Secretary, these Secretaries lose their humanity and then causes problems,"he added.

He also said that there were grievances from the Tri-Forces commanders regularly and the Defence Secretaries were removed due to such matters. Some others resigned due to health reasons and some resigned due to various institutional

When the ASG asked if the witness would agree with what previous witnesses told the Commission that constant removals and appointments of the Defence Secretaries caused issues with regard to National Security, the former President replied such problems did not and do not arise through the appointment of secretaries. "As far as I know

the ICM was held every Tuesday. Everything related to National Security was discussed there. In addition to the NSC, as the President, I called the Defence Secretary at least once in every two weeks to discuss issues related to the matter", he added. However when the Commission drew his attention to the aforementioned reports of the conduct of ICMs by the Defense Secretaries, the witness said "This shows that I am correct in removing the Defence Secretaries from time to time. Not conducting the ICM seems to be a failure to take basic steps that needed to be taken regarding

National Security". The former President will continue his testimony for the third day today (14).

Riyaj Bathiudeen ... From page 01

The petitioner had named acting IGP C.D. Wickremaratne, former DIG attached to Criminal **Investigations Department** Nuwan Wedasinghe, CID director Prasanna de Alwis, the Attorney General and several others as respondents in the petition.

Riyaj Bathiudeen stated that he was arrested by CID on April 14, 2020 and kept under detention custody over a period fiveand-a-half-months for interrogation. The petitioner said his arrest was politically motivated and made

solely with a view to tarnish the image of his brother Rishad Bathiu-

The petitioner said he was released by CID last September 29 following the conclusion of investigations, on the basis of lack of evidence against him.

Riyaj Bathiudeen further said that certain parliamentarians and individuals are trying to arrest him again and tarnish his brother's image. This petition had been filed through **Attorney Gowry Shangary**

Taxes on four... From page 01

The Coconut Development Board, Kurunegala Plantaincreased the supply of coconuts to Colombo and as a result consumers will be able to purchase coconuts from Sathosa outlets at concessionary rates.

Cabinet approves... From page 01

framework of "The Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" clearly recognises the vitality of the existence of an inter - connected highway network as a major factor for economic development strategies. Therefore, the rural byways project covering 100,000 kms is being implemented while the Government has given priority to complete the construction work of the central expressway, the inauguration of Ruwanpura expressway construction

The national policy



of construction activities of the Kelaniya to Athurugiriya expressway that

totally runs on columns. It has been found that about 0.5% to 1% of the GDP will have to be invested through the Budget to finance the proposed highways and the highways currently under construc-

Government... From page 01

Observing that the lab reports of PCR tests were taking 4-5 days, he asked the Government to increase the facilities for PCR testing within the Gamapaha District.

work as well as completion

"There is no clear evidence to say how the Minuwangoda apparel factory cluster started. There are various opinions even among the workers. It has been revealed that the workers had been asked to work though they were not feeling well. The Government should investigate the various claims and find out the truth in order to safeguard the people.Otherwise, more such clusters may come up," he commented.

He also requested the Government to look into the needs of the people in the curfew imposed areas as many informal sector workers have been deprived of their daily

"We have to face the

current situation as one country and the Government must take the lead role. The public should strictly adhere to health guidelines for their own safety," he added.

Meanwhile responding to a question by a journalist, MP Herath accused that there is a political hand behind the recent set of transfers of Police personnel.

Commenting on the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, he expressed the JVP's strong objection to it, adding that it drags the country backwards.

"We request the Government members to listen to their conscience and not to vote for the Bill. Think about the country's future. Your vote to this Amendment will boomerang on you very soon," he said, making an open request from the Government mem-

ADA KOTIPATHI - WEDNESDAY

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days - Police Media Spokesperson **CAMELIA NATHANIEL**

The Police have requested the heads of public and private institutions to update the employees' personal files in next three days, Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said.

He said that a significant factor was that the Brandix employees' personal files had not been updated. "The telephone numbers in their personal files were not in use, and they were using

other phone numbers. The addresses in their personal files at the time of recruitment are not where these workers are residing now, and they had also changed their temporary residences. This made it harder to trace these employees," he said.

Update employees' personal files in three

The Police Spokesman said that the danger of the virus spreading is in all parts of the country and therefore, all employees of state or private institutions

should update their personal files.

"Especially, temporary employees and casual workers should provide details of their permanent, temporary addresses, and telephone numbers to their work plac-

They are also required to provide an alternative contact number of a relative or close associate to obtain their details in am emergen-

Presidential Commission of Inquiry Probing the Easter Sunday Attacks

Appointing family of dead LTTE cadre to HRCSL caused many issues – former President

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Appointing a family member of a deceased Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) cadre to the Human Rights Commission of Sri (HRCSL) caused Lanka numerous issues during the previous government, former President Maithripala Sirisena told the Presidential Commission of Inquiry Probing the Easter Sunday Attacks on Monday.

He said due to this situation he had to summon the then Chairperson of the HRCSL and question her too.

According to the witness, the HRCSL had informed the United Nations' Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva that human rights violations were taking place in Sri Lanka during his ten-

The former President also said that due to the com-

plaints lodged by the HRCSL, Sri Lankan military and Police officers had lost the opportunity to join the UN Peacekeeping Forces, which was a major source of earning

After summoning the then Chairperson, I came to know about the family member of deceased LTTE cadre, and he was the one who involved in doing such activities, he said.

foreign exchange.

No student or staff tested for COVID-19 – Ruhuna Uni.

MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

The Ruhuna University in a statement yesterday said that no student or staff has contracted COVID-19.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena said in the statement that a student's father, an employee at Brandix had tested positive for the virus, and he had no contact with the father since he arrived at the university on September 27. The student's had visited the hostel on October 4. Several PCR tests were conducted for the hostellers and the student, he

said. He said that the university will be functioning as normal adhering to the Health Ministry and University Grants Commission guidelines.

'A/L Exam proceeding without any issues'

DHARMA SRI ABEYRATNE

The Advanced Level Exam that started on October 12 is being conducted satisfactorily without reporting any major issue, an Examination Department sources told.

The Exam started October 12 is conducted until November 6 at 2,649 centres 362,824 students face the exam this year.

Examination Department sources said that every possible measure has already been taken to ensure the safety of candidates. Disinfecting the examination centres is being carried out daily with the assistance of health and security sectors. Therefore, getting affected with the COVID-19 at the centres is minimal, he said.

He added that candidates are eagerly supportive of the measures implemented for improving their safety.

The students are advised to leave examination centres no sooner they finish their exam.

'PCRs on prison officials, inmates today'

MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

The Colombo Prison Hospital will conduct PCR tests on prison officials and prisoners who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Prisons Rehabilitation Commissioner Chandana Ekanayake said

that those who want to undergo the test can do so today. "Over150 PCR tests will be conducted today on prison officials and prisoners," he said.

On Sunday (4), a decision was reached to halt visits to the Mahara and Negombo Prisons since a woman tested positive for COVID-19 from Divulapitiya, Minuwangoda.



CEAT

PUBLIC NOTICE

CEAT Kelani Holdings hereby notifies the public and all stakeholders that the company's administrative offices will reopen on Thursday 15" October 2020 following sanitization after two members of the staff were erroneously reported as COVID-19 positive by a leading private hospital that was commissioned by the company to test employees on a proactively ongoing basis, following the emergence of the Minuwangoda cluster.

The hospital concerned subsequently informed us that it had made a mistake on the test results and that the two employees were in fact COVID-19 negative.

Nevertheless, we went ahead with the sanitization protocols for additional assurance and peace of mind.

Batches of staff at our manufacturing plants, which are completely detached from our administrative and sales offices, have also undergone PCR testing and been cleared as negative. This procedure will continue as an ongoing process.

Our manufacturing operations have continued to operate during the office closure along with the departments that handle invoicing and logistics to ensure that our supply commitments are met.

The safety and well-being of our employees and the community is a top priority for us and will never be compromised.

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Over 500 people from 123 families in N'Eliya isolated

NUWARAELIYA THINAKARAN CORR.

About 517 persons from 123 families have been isolated in the Nuwara Eliya District. The PCR tests have been conducted on 204 of them. Nuwara Eliya District Secretary M.P.R. Pushpakumara said that PCR tests are carried out on another 313 people.

High level discussion on protection measures in the District was held yesterday morning at the Nuwara Eliya District Secretariat under the Chairmanship of the District Secre-

Many including Nuwara Eliya District Divi-

sional Secretaries, doctors Senior Police Officers, Health Department Heads and Education Officers participated.

Nine persons in Ambagamuwa 80 of 15 families in Bogawantalawa, 100 of 26 families in Anguranketta and four of four families in Kotagala.40 in Kotmale, 14 from two families in Maskelia, 10 from five families in Maduratta and 200 from 47 families in New Thispana, 30 of 13 families in the Nuwara Eliya Municipal Council boundary, four of two families in Iragala and 26 of nine families in Valappana have been isolated, he said.

Bank of Ceylon

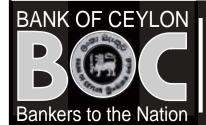
Requires suitable buildings on lease to relocate following Branches

KARAWANELLA and GODAKAWELA

Proposed buildings should conform to the following specifications:

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- available in the upper floor (It should not be a narrow strip) Minimum road frontage should be at least 30 feet facing a main road and should be within the town limits.
- Should have an easy access way and should have adequate parking space.
- Three (3) phase electricity (60 Amp), Sri Lanka Telecom telephone connection, separate toilet facilities for males and females, emergency exit and other infrastructure facilities
- Floor of the building should be tiled with 2' x 2' floor tiles and a ceiling should have been fixed. There should be a Generator Room of 10' x 10' size in the rear of the building with good ventilation. (That room should be covered using iron grills)
- Should have a Water Tank of 1000 Litre capacity to store water
- Security grills should have been fixed to the rear doors and windows.

Interested building owners are requested to send relevant details mentioning the expected monthly rental along with copies of the approved building plan, survey plan, title deed and the Certificate of Conformity (COC) to reach the following address within 14 days of this advertisement. Please mention "Suitable Building for Karawanella Branch / Godakawela Branch" as the case may be on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the auotation.



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--THIS IS

129th Birth Anniversary of C.W.W. Kannangara

Bold pioneer of free education

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

Cristopher William Wijekoon Kannangara (October 13, 1884

– September 23, 1969) was a Sri Lankan lawyer and a popular politician. Being a not so very distant relation of Sri Lanka's old ruling Imperial Royals, he worked with other princely families and Ceylon's traditional nobility, other important members of the self-rule movement, as well as the British courts in the end to attain the goal of self-rule.

Rising up the ranks of Sri Lanka's movement for independence in the early part of the 20th century, he moved on to play a pivotal role defending leaders of the independence movement in court and achieving vital legal victories contributing vastly to the cause of independence as a lawyer and orator, soon achieving the Presidency of the Ceylon National Congress. Later, he became the first Minister of Education in the State Council of Ceylon, and was instrumental in introducing extensive reforms to the country's education system that opened up education to children from all levels of society.

Born in the Southern coastal town of Hikkaduwa, his academic progress enabled him to win a Foundation Scholarship to Richmond College, Galle, a prestigious secondary school at the time. After leaving school, he worked as a teacher in Mathematics at Wesley College, Colombo and Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa.

He excelled as a lawyer in the Southern Province which made the public of the area to nominate him to contest at the Legislative Council election representing the Southern Province at which he made an easy win. This was the beginning of his political career. Later, he entered the National Movement for Independence. Kannangara was first elected to the Ceylon Legislative Council in 1923 and then to the State Council. He also served as the President of the Ceylon National Congress

As Minister of Education in the State Council, Kannangara introduced extensive reforms to the education system of Sri Lanka throughout the 1940s. They benefitted thousands of underprivileged students in rural parts of the country by making education free for all students. He also began a Central Colleges scheme, which established high quality secondary schools in rural areas of the country. Kannangara's significant achievements in areas of education have led him to being commonly referred to as the Father of Free Education in Sri Lanka.

The Executive Committee of Education exercised its powers to create new regulations paving the way for the establishment of a new system of education in Sri Lanka. The new system was expected to ensure that education was provided with equal opportunities for all children in the country, irrespective of social class, economic condition, religion and ethnic origin. Whilst the education in vernacular schools had been free prior to the reforms due to government grants to cover the cost of teaching and local philanthropists providing the buildings, equipment and the books, it was not standardised.

Among the recommendations made by the Executive Committee of Education for providing 'lasting value to the nation' given in the report, which was published in 1943, were that "education should be free from the Kindergarten to the University. The mother tongue should be used as the medium of instruction in primary Schools. English should be taught in all schools from standard III and a curriculum for the child which would develop its head, heart and hands should be introduced. In other words, the education of the emotions is as necessary as the education of intellect and practical ability for the well-being of the child."

As Minister of Education, Kannangara was placed in charge of implementing the recommendations. Among the reforms introduced, which came into operation on October 1, 1945, were to make education free for all students, to ensure that every student was provided with instruction in the religion of his or her parents, to prevent teachers from been exploited by managers of schools by having their wages paid directly by the government, and to make adequate provisions for adult education in the country.

Kannangara established a series of Central Schools (Madhya Maha Vidyala) modelled on Royal College, Colombo, in locations outside major cities. These took high quality secondary education to the rural outsta-tions of the country. His objective was to create a central school in every electorate in the country, and as such, while in 1941 there were three central schools in the country, by 1945 the number had increased to 35, and to 50 by 1950. The first Central College was established in Akuramboda, Matale. In 1943 Kannangara also launched an annual scholarship programme, which provided the opportunity for the 20 best performers of the scholarship exam to get free board and lodging in Central School hostels.

During his 16-year period as Minister of Education, he also upgraded ancient pirivenas (educational establishments for Buddhist monks), and established the University of Ceylon, the first University in Sri Lanka.

Further, Kannangara took steps to abolish the two-tier school system where English was taught to privileged students and the vernacular language was taught to the rural masses. While he laid emphasis on teaching *swabasha* (native languages) in schools, he also advised that students should learn English to compete in the modern world. Kannangara was a strong supporter for the establishment of the University of Ceylon and the University Bill passed by the State Council on March 1, 1942. In the first convocation of the University of Ceylon, Kannangara was conferred a LLD (Honoris Causa), in recognition of his services to education.

Kannangara however faced significant opposition to his move to establish free education in the country, especially from socially and economically privileged groups who have enjoyed the significant advantages offered to them by the British. The Bill to establish free education was passed in the State Council in July 1945.

According to reliable sources in the health sector, in another five years Sri Lanka will have 50,000 MBBS doctors for which the number of nurses should be 250,000. But now there are only 50,000 nurses in the country. This shortage will never be addressed. Only around 2,500 Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) are in the country at present which is not adequate. The final year examinations of Rajarata, Ragama and Karapitiya Medical Faculties are delayed by seven months than all other medical faculties in the country.

Usually the final year examination should be held in November of each year, but the three specific medical faculties hold them in May of the next year. This delay allows foreign MBBS medical degree holders to obtain all good positions in the health sector because they complete their MBBS degrees much earlier (sometimes four years earlier) than state medical students. This four-year gap takes place because a student from an international school starts his or her higher studies at the age of 17.

For example, since the recent past unfair and unacceptable practices are happening in Sri Lanka. It is like this. Let us say two friends study in the same Advanced Level Science class in the same school. The poor student gets selected to the MediA danger to free medical

At present, the most dangerous challenge has emerged against the existence of free medical education in Sri Lanka. The free medical education of Sri Lanka has been openly challenged by a group of persons who earn millions of rupees by sending unqualified rich Sri Lankan students to foreign universities. This system has been facilitated by individuals from all walks of life such as academics, professionals, businessmen, top officials, administrators, and so

education

Unfortunately, most of them are in top decision-making positions when it comes to making decisions on medical education in Sri Lanka and giving appointments to Sri Lankan doctors. They have grabbed the positions of these key decision-makers in the past five years during the Yahapalana regime. Their unqualified children are in foreign universities waiting to become MBBS doctors in Sri Lanka. The only way out is establishing a special unit and handing over the entire system of sending Sri Lankan students to foreign medical faculties to the University Grants Commission (UGC). Only then the racketeers will not be able to destroy free medical education in Sri Lanka and the decades-old friendship existing between Sri Lanka and certain friendly foreign countries.

cal faculty with three 'As' and studies medicine. The rich student gets three 'Fs' (fail) and enters a foreign medical faculty through racketeers. The rich students with foreign MBBS degrees return to Sri Lanka a few years before the poor student passes out from the local medical faculty, and gets appointed to a key decision-making position. The poor student is waiting in the state medical faculty as a medical student while the rich student makes decisions for him. There is no need to say what will happen thereafter. This is happening in Sri Lanka during the past decade or more.

It is only one question that we have to ask. Whether a foreign MBBS degree holder with three 'Fs' at the local Advanced Level (Science stream) Examination and now in a top decision-making position will make any decision on behalf of poor medical students with three 'As' passes. No. They will take care of themselves and their friends' children who are

now in foreign medical faculties. Then they will look after their own children who will pass out from foreign medical faculties. Therefore the only way out is handing over this entire decision-making process to the UGC. Then no racketeer will snatch the money of rich parents whose children are not qualified enough to enter into a state medical faculty, but qualify to enter a foreign medical faculty. Only a handful of rich students with three 'Fs' and no basic qualification to become a MBBS doctor in Sri Lanka will get 'affected'.

Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara

If this burning issue continues, the ERPM examination held by the Sri Lanka Medical Council will not be able to prevent unqualified MBBS doctors from entering into the service. It will put the lives of Sri Lankan people in danger. There will be no way of preventing SAITM type fraudulent companies entering into private medical education. (Source:Wikipedia).









"Protecting the planet with standards"



It is my pleasure to deliver this message on World Standards Day 2020 which on 14th October under the theme, "Protecting the planet with standards".

As the National Standards body in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Standards Institution annually commemorates the World Standards Day

As we all understand, life on earth including human beings along with all fauna and flora depends on energy coming from the sun for their existence. On the other hand, as an outcome of human activities over the last century, steered by extensive industrialization, have contributed to depletion of natural greenhouse gases surrounding the earth.

The three fundamental prerequisites to mitigate the impact of human activities on our planet are; political will, concrete actions and adopting appropriate tools. Sri Lanka at present possesses the political will and the strength to take tangible and definitive actions in this regard. Therefore, it is appreciated the efforts taken by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution to fulfill national commitments in International Standards which is a pertinent tool for achieving sustainable development of the country while contributing to save the planet; Earth.

I congratulate Sri Lanka Standards Institution for the positive steps taken to celebrate World Standards Day 2020 and conducting promotional programmes to enhance public awareness on the

Dr. Bandula Gunawardana, M.P. Hon. Minister of Trade

National Quality Week 12-18 Oct.

Protecting the Planet with Standards



World Standards Day 14 October 2020

Message from the Secretary

I am pleased to send this message on the occasion of World Standards Day which falls on 14 October 2020 under the theme "Protecting the planet with standards".

International standards prepared by IEC, ISO and ITU are one of the right tools required to be adopted to protect the planet from negative impacts generated by the human activities as they provide true solutions to technical challenges. Those organizations assist in sharing knowledge and experience broadly in developed as well as developing countries covering aspects such as energy savings, water and air quality. They lay down standardized protocols and methods of measurement.

As the national standards body, Sri Lanka Standards Institution formulates the national standards which are in accordance with the International standards with due consideration to national needs and

Adoption of those standards would leave little or zero footprint on our planet in our industrial and development processes which would contribute to protect our planet from irreversible damage such as through carbon emissions and greenhouse gases. I wish to congratulate the Sri Lanka Standards Institution for all efforts taken to disseminate the World Standards Day message to industry and trade sectors of the country.

Mrs. J.M.B. Jayawardana Secretary, Ministry of Trade



Message from the Director General

I am pleased to issue this message on the occasion of celebrating the World Standards Day under the theme "Protecting the planet with standards", on 14th October 2020.

As a gesture to pay tribute to the collaborative efforts of several experts all over the world who develop International Standards, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electro - technical

Commission (IEC) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) annually celebrate 14th October, as the World Standards Day. The Sri Lanka Standards Institution, being the national standards body has declared the week encompassing the World Standards Day, as the "National Quality Week" since standards and quality are highly consistent. This year, the National Quality Week falls from 12th October to 18th October 2020.

Standardization has taken several growth phases during every era of human civilization. In the context of the present day, standards play a significant role in protecting planet earth. Various International standards can be applied as tools to help in reducing climate change while achieving improved energy efficiency and environmental

Sri Lanka Standards Institution takes the pride in formulating national standards while providing number of other services such as Product certification, Systems certification, Training, Calibration, Information Services and Laboratory Services to the nation.

Since, compliance with standards improves quality of our lives, it is expected that all relevant parties would give due consideration for adopting and complying with appropriate standards.

Dr. (Mrs) Siddhika G Senaratne Director General/CEO, Sri Lanka Standards Institution Each year on 14 October, the members of the IEC, ISO and ITU celebrate World Standards Day, which is a means of paying tribute to the collaborative efforts of thousands of experts worldwide who develop the voluntary technical agreements that are published as International Standards

World Standards Day 2020 is themed "Protecting the planet with standards". Learn more about the theme in this message from IEC, ISO and ITU

WORLD STANDARDS DAY 2020 PROTECTING THE PLANET WITH STANDARDS

Earth, a finite vessel of life in the vastness of our solar system. Life on earth depends on energy coming from the sun. However, over the last century human and large-scale industrial activities of our modern civilization have added to earth's natural greenhouse gases. They negatively impact our climate and with it all forms of life. At the same time rapid population growth and broad urbanization call for the responsible use of limited resources.

To reduce human impact on our planet, we need the political will, concrete action and the right tools. International standards are one such tool. The international standards prepared by IEC, ISO and ITU take into account tried and true solutions to technical challenges. They help share expertise and expert know-how broadly within developed and developing countries alike. Standards cover all aspects of energy savings, water and air quality. They lay down standardized protocols and methods of measurement. Their broad use helps reduce the environmental impact of industrial production and processes, facilitates the reuse of limited resources and improves energy efficiency.





EDDY NJOROGE













































ITU Secretary-General





Ministry of Trade



Director General,

SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

No 17, Victoria Place, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08. Tel: 011-2671567-72, 011-2674618, 011-2697039 Fax: 011-2671579, 011-2672617 Email: slsi@slsi.lk Web: www.slsi.lk

Kiriwawula accident accused sentenced to six years' RI

ARIYAPALA WANSHATHILAKE. Kurunegala Central Special Corr

The accused in the Ibbagamuwa, Kiriwawula van accident case in June 7.2012, which caused the death of six persons and injured eight others, was sentenced to six years' RI and fined Rs.10,000 by Kurunegala

High Court Judge Mapa Bandara yesterday. He was indicted 14 separate counts with killing six persons and injuring eight others on the Kurunegala-Dambulla main road in Ibbagamuwa, Kiriwawula.

The Judge ordered him to pay Rs. 300 000 as compensation to injured persons.

State council Janith Thilakarathne, who prosecuted and submitted to court the witnesses' evidence said that the driver had driven carelessly to beat the SLTB bus ignoring passengers' warning to stop.

The Judge ordered the accused should serve eight-month jail term, if he fails to pay the compensations.

Man dies in bus-motorcycle collision

PRIYADARSHANI KAHAWALA,

A man was killed in a motorcycle-bus collision. The bus was transporting garment workers of Gurugoda, Horana when

the accident occurred. The deceased had been identified as Gamage Nuwan Priyankara (26), a resident of Ellagawa, Kiriella.

The bus was travelling from Horana to Ingiriya and had attempted to overtake a trishaw which was travelling in the same

The Army Corporal who was riding the motorcycle, a relative of the deceased, was hospitalised with serious injuries.

The bus driver has been arrested by Horana Police. He was to be produced before the Horana Magistrate's Court,

YEAR REMEMBRANCE

PASSED AWAY ON: 14TH OCTOBER 2019 IN LOVING MEMORY OF



HELEN MONICA CALLANDER NEE CONGREVE

TO LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WE LOVE IS NEVER TO DIE FONDLY REMEMBERED & SADLY MISSED BY HER HUSBAND RALPH AND

DAUGHTER MARINA



Hiran Gunasekara

Managing Director of CERTIS Lanka Courier Services, Former COO of Home Lands, CEO of Ceylinco Reality and Investments Ltd.

passed away on 13th October 2020. Beloved husband of Sheyhara Kulasekara, father of Isira and Chathura Gunasekara living in Melbourne, Australia, Sanira Gunasekara student of UCL & Gateway College, Colombo. Remains at Jayaratne Restpect, Borella. Cremation on 14th October 2020 at 4.00 p.m. at Borella Cemetery.

Herath appointed PM's Foreign Relations DG

Anuradha K Herath has been appointed as Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's Foreign Relations Director Gen-

She was appointed earlier as the Prime Minister's Foreign Media and Foreign

relations Director as the Government was set up in 2019.

She also worked as the President's Digital Media and Foreign Media Director during the Mahinda Rajapaksa Government. She also functioned as the

Media Spokesman pf the Commonwealth Summit in 2013. She also was the former director of the Sri Lanka Media Training Institute and is a lecturer at the PCE University, New York, USA. (SM)

Indian Consul General in Hambantota calls on SP Governor



Consul General of India, Hambantota P.R Dipin in discussion with Southern Province Governor Dr. Willie Gamage.

RAJA WAIDYASEKERA,

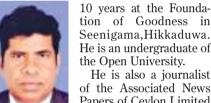
Consul General of India, Hambantota P.R. Dipin called on Southern Province Governor Dr. Willie Gamage at the Governor's Secretariat in the Southrn Province and held discussions on strengthening bilaterial relation-

Consul General thanked the Governor for the support given to the Consulate in organising various activities in the Southern Province. They focused on the development in the Southern Province including its cultural issues, tourism and enhancing connectivity between the two countries. The Consul General briefed the Governor about the USD 15 million grant announced by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to enhance Buddhist ties between India and Sri Lanka. The Governor extended his support and cooperation to the Consul General.

Sworn in as JP

Withanage Ravinath Buddhika Waidyasekara Weerasinghe of No.252, Galle Road, Dodanduwa was sworn in as a Justice of Peace for whole island in the presence of the Galle District Judge recently.

He is the youngest son of Keerthirathna Weerasinghe and Sumana Irangani Weerasinghe. An old boy of the Richmond College, Galle, he has been working as an English trained teacher in the government sector for 25 years and for



Seenigama,Hikkaduwa. He is an undergraduate of the Open University. He is also a journalist

of the Associated News Papers of Ceylon Limited (Lake House).

Weerasinghe is the Chairman of the Sinha Sports Club in Dodanduwa and the Baranasuriya Children's Development Centre in Hikkadu-

Poacher arrested with firearm, ammunition

PRIYADARSHANI KAHAWALA. Ingiriya Central Group Corr

The Kalutara Police Special Task Force (STF) arrested a suspect in Bulathsinhala with a Russian 12-Bore firearm and 10 rounds of ammuni-

He, 47-year-old resident of Horana, has allegedly killed over 100 wild animals with the firearm, police said.

The suspect has been handed over to the Bulathsinhala Police, police said.



The firearm and ammunition.

Three dengue deaths in Batticaloa

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa Special Corr.

The number of persons who died of dengue in the Batticaloa District has risen to three with the dengue patient who died on October 13.

Sixteen people have been detected with dengue in the district and of them, nine are from

the Oddamavadi MOH Division, six from Batticaloa, Arayampathy and Valaichchenai and one from the Koralai Pattu Central Divi-

The Regional Health Department reported that 2,248 people were detected with dengue in the last nine months from the Batticaloa District.

Visit to lockdown hotel in Negombo

Two Kalutara PS members expelled from monthly meeting

H.L.SUNIL SHANTHA, Kalutara Central Special Corr

Two councillors in the Kalutara Pradeshiya Sabha (KPS) were expelled by the KPS Chairman Sanjeewa Ariyarathna at the monthly meeting on October 13. Independent party mem-

bers M.T.Chandana Sri Nath Fernado and W.A.S. Lalinda were asked to refrain from entering the KPS Chamber as they had visited a lock down hotel in Negombo recently as members shouted demanding them to leave the chamber.

They told that they had not

visited any locked down hotel. However, several members showed the Chairman a few photos of the members at the hotel. But they said the photos had been taken a long time back before the COVID-19 outbreak.

However, the two councillors were sent out and the meeting was adjourned for half an hour. The two members were taken to the Kalutara General Hospital by the Pothupitiya PHI assisted by the Kalutara North police officers yesterday for a PCR

Fake kachcheri raided

RAJA WAIDYASEKERA, Tissamaharama Special Corr

A large-scale fake kachcheri in Kopperawatta, Matara was raided by Matara Police. Fake birth, marriage and death certificates and other important documents have been issued by the location for many months. An interdicted policeman and two other suspects were arrested in this regard on a tip off, Matara police said.

Police seized 109

fake rubber seals of schools, police, courts and state institutions. About 35 fake IDs and police and school certificates were also seized.

Matara police said that Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000 have been charged from a customer for a fake document.

The suspects were produced before courts, police said. Matara police are investigating.

House raided, bogus driving licences seized

RAJA WAIDYASEKERA, Tissamaharama Special Corr

Udawalawa police raided a house in Karametiaara and seized a stock of bogus driving

Two rubber stamps bearing the name of the Ratnapura District Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, a date stamp, two NICs, two driving licences, 15 applications for driving licences and 78 mg of heroin were also seized.

The house owner was arrested. The police said that he is a drug addict. Udawalawa police

Paddy, crops cultivated in 191,737.29 hectares in Anuradhapura – Anuradhapura GA

NIMAL WIJESINGHE,

The Anuradhapura District Agriculture Committee said that farmers have cultivated paddy and other crops in 191,737.29 hectares for the Maha season in Anuradhapura. Anuradhapura Government Agent R.M. Wanninayake said that a paddy harvest of 686445.91 metric tonnes is

"We are encouraging farmers to cultivate paddy in 46094.6 hectares.

expected for the season.

About 2000 small tanks supply water to 56380.69 hectares and medium tanks provide water for 11354 hectares," he said.

"Maize has been cultivated in 40,000 hectares. Udu will be cultivated 6514 hectares," he said.

He said that the line Agriculture Ministry has been asked to provide maize seeds at a low rate. Soya, kurakkan, cowpea, green gram, ground nuts, ginger, chili and onion will be grown in 51903.4 hectares including

maize. Fertilizer Secretariat Assistant Secretary said that 30,000 metric tonnes of Urea, MOP and TSP will be provided to the 43 agrarian development centers in time. About 3213.64 metric tonnes of carbonic fertiliser from 6,980 carbonic fertilizer units of the Agrarian Development Centres will be provided. Anuradhapura Zonal Irrigation Director's Office sources said that water capacity of 13 large tanks stands now at 166136 acre feet.

Suvasithuk Kondirukindren launched

I.L.M.RIZAN. Addalaichenai Central Corr.

Writer and poet A.R.Fathima Shoofa of Maruthamunai launched a poetry book titled Suvasithuk Kondirukindren at the Public Library Auditorium, Maruthamunai recently.

The ceremony was presided over by Sri Lanka Islamic Teachers' Union (SLITU) President and Senior Journalist Jesmi M. Moosa. Parliamentarian and National Congress Leader A.L.M.Athaullah was the chief guest.

The first copy of the book was handed over to the chief guest by the chairperson.

Artistes, poets, educationists, politicians, journalists, and many others participated.



Poet A.R.Fathima Shoofa presenting the first copy of the book to the chief guest.

Grants for houses Samurdhi recipients

I.L.M. RIZAN, Central Corr.

Addalaichenai

Six selected beneficiaries from the Samurdhi recipient families in the Addalaichenai DS Division received their cheques for Rs.200,000 each to build a new house or to renovate their dwelling in a ceremony at the Addalaichenai Divisional

Secretariat Auditorium recently. Assistant Divi-

sional Secretary M.A.C. Ahamed Nazeel and Accountant A.L.Rifas handed over the cheques.

Samurdhi Development Officer N.T.Mashoor, Social Development Officer A.S.M.Unais and many others were present.



SAHADEVAN

A beneficiary receiving a cheque.

TRIBUTE TO OUR BELOVED MOTHER Mrs. P. C. Tissera Katugampala Beloved mother of Susantha Katugampala, Chaminda Katugampala 8 Samanthi Katugampala Rupasinghe Final rituals will be held at Boyd Chapel at Springvale Botanical Cernetery or Wednesday 14th October at 1.30pm Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions we will be organizing live with streaming of the May our mother reach Eternal Bliss of Nibbana!!!

Death traps in Matale jungles - residents

A.A.L.DIAS, Matale Group Corr. A large number of trap guns have

been set up in the Wasgamuwa, Sigirya and Kahlla-Pallekele sanctuaries in the Matale District, residents complained. They said that they cannot ven-

ture into the jungle even in an emergency as trap guns have been set up everywhere.

Poachers are setting trap guns to

kill wild animals that come in search of water in the dry weather, they

Hotels in the area buy meat of the wild animals at high prices and a large number of local tourists visit them daily for this reason, they said. Lodge owners have hired poach-

ers to kill the animals .They sell game meat at Rs.1,000 at kilo, the residents said.

Long distance bus operators take passengers for ride

A.A.L.DIAS, Matale Group Corr.

Long distance bus operators on the A6 and A9 routes in the Matale district park their buses for about half an hour at restaurants, passengers complained.

Bus drivers and conductors will be provided with food and drinks free to stop their buses at the restaurants, they said.

The restaurant owners cover the cost of meals given to the bus drivers and conductors by charging

high rates from the passengers. The restaurants, too, are very dirty and passengers are infected with various illnesses after eating from these hotels, they said.

Some drivers drink alcohol from these restaurants and drive their buses, they said.

A strict action should be taken by the authorities to stop the drivers and conductors from indulging in these reckless activities, they

Case against Panadura PS member fixed for Jan. 25

KAPILA SOMARATNE. Panadura Group Corr.

The case against Panadura Pradeshiya Sabha (PS) member Upendra Silva filed by the Wadduwa Police Traffic Branch was fixed for trial on January 25, 2021 by Panadura Additional Magistrate Chandana Kalansuriya on October

Counsel M. D. Wijepala appearing for the complainant informed Court that the National Authority for the protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses had conducted a comprehensive inquiry against Upendra Silva regarding the harassment caused to the complainant in MC Case No. 65334 that was called before Court.

An investigations report had been forwarded to the Attorney General to file action against Upendra Silva before the High Court.

Upendra Silva is charged by the Wadduwa Police Traffic Branch for committing five offences punishable under the Criminal Procedure Code and the Traffic Code.

Obituaries

RAMAN, passed away peacefully at his

PERUMBULLI

house in Mount Lavinia on October 12th, 2020. Beloved husband of Shashikala, loving father of Darini, Rubini, Sanjula, father-inlaw of (late) Senthuran Kanagasababathy and Arunprakash Jeevaranjan (Colombo), son of (late) Perumbuli Krishnan Raman and (late) Thaiyil Ramapillai Saradha, son-in-law of (late) Dr N. Rasiah Rajandra (Gulliyer) and (late) Mrs Naga Rajandra (Chunnakam), brother of Menaka, brotherin-law of Velayutham, Suresh & Suwen (Australia), Chris & Kishi (Australia), nephew of Packiyasundary Gunasingham and Anton Gunasingham, uncle of Dilan (Australia), Suren (UK) and Dhewan (Colombo) and former Purchasing Manager of Lanka Oberoi, Colombo (Cinnamon Grand). Remains will lie at Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia Municipal Council Funeral Parlour on Tuesday, October 13th, 2020 from 12.00 p.m. for viewing. Hindu Funeral Rites will take place on Wednesday, October 14th 2020 at the Parlour prior to Cremation at the General Cemetery, Mount Lavinia at 5.00 p.m.

Please contact 0779810904 for more details.





Wijayananda Herath appointed Media and Communications Director to PM

Wijayananda Herath was appointed as the Media and Communications Director to the Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. He received his latter of appointment yesterday and will serve as the Head of the Prime Minister's Media and Communication Division. Herath had served as the Coordinating Sec-

retary to the President from 2006 to 2014 during the Mahinda Rajapaksa's tenure as President.

Wijayananda Herath also served as the Head of Communications at the Employees' Trust Fund Board and is a member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Human

Resource Development (IHRA), University of

He was also the President of the State Media Secretaries' Association from 2006 to 2014 and has been the Media Advisor to the Sri Lanka People's Front Media Centre since 2016. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honors)

from the University of Peradeniya and a Post Graduate in Sociology from the same University. He holds a Diploma in Media from the University of Colombo and several other media institutes and holds a Diploma in Human Rights from the University of Perad-

Independence Day Celebrations on February 3, 2021

The Cabinet approved the resolution submitted by Irrigation Minister and Internal Defence, Home Affairs and Disaster Management State Minister to appoint a Ministerial Sub-committee to organise and monitor the 73rd Independence Day Celebrations that falls on February 4, 202I. The committee will comprise Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Education Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris, Foreign Affairs Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, Public Service, Provincial Councils and Local Governments Minister Janaka Bandara Tennakoon, Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, Irrigation Minister and Internal Defence, Home Affairs and Disaster Management State Minister Chamal Rajapaksa, Power Minister Dullas Alahapperuma, and Water Supply Minister Vasudeva Nanay-

Establishing Expressway

Investment Company The rural by-ways project covering 100,000 kilo metres is being implemented, while the priority being given to complete the construction work of the central expressway, inaugurating the Ruwanpura Expressway construction work and completing construction of the Kelaniya-Athurugiriya Expressway that totally runs on columns.

Vidyalankara Converting International Buddhist Conference Hall into a service supplying condition

The Government has spent Rs. 1,200 million to construct Vidyalankara Intemational Buddhist Conference Hall and the approval of the Cabinet has been granted on November 11, 2019 to appoint a Trust for proper maintenance of technical equipment with high efficiency affixed to the conference hall altogether considering the size of the investment. The clearance of the Attorney General has been granted for the Trust Bond prepared in that connection and the Cabinet has given their consent followed by the information received from the Prime Minister as the Buddha Sasana Minister that the Ministry Secretary is to sign the trust bond on behalf of the Government as the first party.

Constructing multi-storey vehicle parking and implementating mixed development projects in Colombo city and other selected cities

A programme to construct and maintain vehicle parks by investors selected as per the open competitive procurement has been planned to minimise the daily traffic congestion caused in the influx of vehicles towards Colombo and suburbs. The Cabinet approved the resolution by the Prime Minister as the Urban Development and Housing Minister to implement the project under two methods.

The first is by inviting proposals from the private sector investors to construct general multi-storey vehicle parking and mechanical parking stations in eight venues within Colombo and Battaramulla, Anuradhapura and Kandy as a State-Private Joint Venture. By inviting proposals to construct general multistorey vehicle parking and mechanical parking stations in Narahenpita, Telecom car part in Pettah, parking venue at the Ottus Sports Club - Colombo 7 and Kinsey Avenue - Colombo 7with other appropriate projects including housing units, office spaces among oothers so that the expenditure for the project can be generated from the project itself on the pre-sale basis.

Allocating land to University of Uva Wellassa

The Cabinet approved transferring two acres from the land in the Kalugalpitiya, Badulla under the District Secretariat of Badulla to inaugurate under-

SEYLAN BANK PLC

Company Registration No: PQ 9

Seylan Towers, 90, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Extraordinary

General Meeting (EGM) of Seylan Bank PLC

which was scheduled to be held on 13th October

2020 and postponed will now be held on

Wednesday, 4th November 2020 at 11.00 a.m.

as a virtual meeting (online/by audio-visual

Company Secretary

graduate studies in one of the most appropriate fields required in addition to the fields in which undergraduate studies are conducted already in the University of Uva Wellassa considering a resolution submitted by the Education Min-

Action concerning railway employees residing in railway reserve belonging to Railway **Department**

The Railway Department possesses approximately 14,000 acres of reserved land. About 10 per cent of them are leased to various parties. About 80 per cent of the remaining land is occupied by various parties without permission. These unauthorised occupants include the departmental officers as well as those who are retired from the departmental service. These lands are being used for unauthorised purposes such as constructing houses and business premises and cultivation. Some railway employees who have illegally acquired those lands were removed through court action. There have also been instances of disciplinary action being taken against them and the suspension of pensions. Accordingly the Cabinet approved the proposal by the Transport Minister to appoint a Committee of Ministers to make recommendations to the Cabinet studying the matter.

The proposed committee will include Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge, Chairman; Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government Minister Janaka Bandara Thennakoon; Land Minister S.M.Chandrasena and Money, Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms State Minister Ajith Niward

Amendments to Intellectual Properties Act No. 36 of 2003

There are a number of local products that can be promoted as geographical indications. Such products face a big competition caused by the counterfeit imitations in the local and foreign markets. It has been identified that it is appropriate to register such products in Sri Lanka as geographical indicators.

The Cabinet approved the proposal by theTrade Minister to advice the Legal Draftsman to draft a bill to amend the Intellectual Properties Act No. 36 of 2003, with the provisions to establish of a comprehensive and definite legal framework to register geographical indications in Sri Lanka.



Importing Basmati Rice under Pakistan-Sri Lanka Trade Agreement

About 6,000 metric tonnes of Basmati rice can be imported annually under the provisions of Pakistan-SriLanka Trade Agreement. In importing rice under this provision, the private sector has also been given permission to import Basmathi Rice. However, complaints have been received regarding various irregularities in importing rice committed by importing rice which does not belong to the prescribed categories. Considering these facts, the proposal made by the Trade Minister to import rice under this facility only by the Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation and the CWE was approved by the Cabinet. Greater Colombo Water and

Management Wastewater

Improvement Investment Programme Rehabilitating and expanding the water supply system and limiting the free of charge water supplying the North Eastern part of Colombo and rehabilitating and expanding the waste water system in the southern catchment area of Colombo are being carried out under the Greater Colombo Water and Wastewater Management Improvement Investment Programme. The projects under this programme are planned to be carried out from 2012 to October 24, 2022. Two loan facilities are provided under Phase 3 of the programme and following projects will be implemented using the loan

Providing new wastewater gravity pipes, pressure pipes and pumping stations for the Kirulapone catchment area.

Constructing Wellawatte Wastewater Treatment Plan to Rehabilitation and expanding water supply systems in the northeastern and south western parts of the Colombo city and limiting the free of charge water supply.

Procuring vehicles and office equipment and conducting training workshops to assist Project Management Unit of Colombo **Municipal Council**

The loan facility under Phase 3 of this programme is scheduled to end on

December 31, 2020 and accordingly the proposal made by the Public Service, Provincial Councils and Local Government Minister to extend the loan facility to October 24, 2022 was approved by

Solving issues related to procuring special bamboo sticks required as raw material for incense stick production

Approval of the Cabinet was granted to the proposal by the Industries Minister to take actions to solve the issues related to procuring special bamboo sticks required as raw material for incense stick production. Importing the required quantity of special bamboo sticks used as raw material to product incense sticks until the required quantity is produced locally to the required standard.Granting tax relief for such imported bamboo sticks. Taking necessary steps through the Department of Forest Cons Department of Agrarian Development and Mahaweli Authority to identify locations of this particular bamboo plant and to identify the lands where this plant can be cultivated.

Obtaining the assistance of the Industrial Development Board to introduce advanced technological devices to produce incense sticks.

Procurement for supplying 11,250 vials of Bevacizumab Injection 100 mg/4 ml

International competitive bids have been called to procure the medicine called Bevacizumab used to treat some types of cancers. In accordance with the recommendation of the Procurement Appeals Board, the Cabinet approved the proposal by the Health Minister to award the procurement of supplying 11,250 vials of Bevacizumab Injection100mg/4ml to M/s Medmart Pharma (Pvt.) limited for Rs. 196.88

Procurement for supplying 6,875 Trastuzumab injection 440 mg vials with 20ml solvent vials International competitive bids have

been called to procure the medicine called Trastuzumab used to treat some

types of cancers. In accordance with the recommendation of Cabinet appointed standing procurement committee, the Cabinet approved the proposal by the Health Minister to award the contract of supplying 6,875 Trastuzumab injection 440 mg vials with 20ml solvent vials to M/s Transfarma Dis Ticaret Anonim Sirketi for Euro 1.62 million of total cost and freight.

The Greater Colombo Water and Waste Water Management **Improvement Investment Programme** Tranche 3 - Designing, Constructing and Operating of Waste Water Treatment Plant inWellawatta

International Competitive bids have been invited from qualified institutions to procure to design, construct and operate of the waste water treatment plant in Wellawatta under the Greater Colombo Water and Waste Water Management Improvement Investment Programme -Tranche 3, which is to be implemented with the funds of the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Sri Lanka. Accordingly, approval of the Cabinet has been granted for the proposal by the Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government Minister to confer the relevant contract to the Joint Venture of Power of China Zhongnan Engineering Corporation Limited with the Beijing Enterprises Water Group Limited at US Dollar 20.96 million and Sri Lankan Rupees 4.36 Billion (VAT exempted) as per the recommendation by the Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet.

Simplification systems and procedures to accelerate implementation of development activities

The following issues hve been identified as some of the barriers to accelerate the implementation of development

The Ministries should take actions to obtain the approval of several institutions and finally the Cabinet for general matters which are not relevant to the policy matters and there regulatory requirements. Delays in payments to be done to private contractors cause delays in development projects and increase project costs. Accordingly, the Cabinet approved the proposal tabled by the Prime Minister as the Finance Minister to perform as follows to minimise the delays as possible to accelerate development activities. Submitting a report to

the Cabinet once in three months on the development projects which could be implemented expediently with the approval of the Secretary to the Treasury and the other authorities. Introducing a new procedure to ensure continuous cash flow for the key development projects by issuing Treasury Guarantee or Facilitation Letters to their banks which enable to the pay contractors for the work completed without delay.

Execution of recommendations of **Presidential Commission of Inquiry** on Investigating Edirisinghe Trust **Investment Finance Limited**

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed a presidential commission on 09.01.2020 to investigate, inspect and report the alleged wrongdoings, irregularities and malpractices of the Edirisinghe Trust Investments Limited, which was chaired by retired Supreme Court Judge K.T.Chithasiri.

The report that contains observations and recommendations of the aforesaid commission has been submitted to the President on 06.10.2020. The commission has pointed out that there have been several offences under the Company Law, the Financial Cooperation Act, the Money Laundering Act, the Financial Information Reporting Act, the Legal Framework for the transfer of lands to foreigners and the Penal Code by its observations and recommenda-

The report of the commission has pointed out the need to reform the Non-Banking Financial Institutions Supervision Department of the Central Bank of SriLanka that supervises and regulates Finance Companies. Approval of the Cabinet has been granted for the proposal by the President while drawing the attention of the Cabinet to the matters.

Forwarding the report to the Attorney General to take immediate legal actions to execute the recommendations of the commission report on alleged finance and property irregularities of the Edirisinghe Trust Investment Limited.

Informing the Finance Ministry to completely reform the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Supervision Department of Central Bank of Sri Lanka and to formulate a new institutional structure to regulate Finance Companies.

Submitting the report of the commission and report the measures that are to be taken thereof to Parliament by the Justice Minister.













Requires a suitable building on lease to relocate the

MULLERIYAWA NEW TOWN BRANCH

Proposed building should conform to the following specifications:

- ▶ Building should be legally constructed and not to be aged more than 10 Years
- Minimum floor area of 3500-4000 Sq. Ft. and is required and if it is a two storied building, the ground floor should be 2000 Sq. Ft. and remaining space should be available in upper floor.
- Minimum main road frontage should be 40 feet and it should be within town limits. The floor area of 100 sq.ft should be available for generator room and it should be at
- rear side of the building which could be accesible.
- Spacious, Suitable Parking area with at least 4 Nos. of vehicles could be parked.
- Facilities should be available such as telephone (Sri Lanka Telecom) 3 phase electricity which should be provided according to the office requirement.
- Water tank should be available at a higher location with a minimum capacity of 1000 Ltrs.
- At least 3 numbers of wash rooms should be available at the building for male and female which should be used separately and one of the wash room should be at the rear
- The Floor should be tiled and roof should be sheltered with a ceiling. The rear door and windows should be safe with grills and if not they should be provided.

Interested parties are requested to forward the copy of Building Plan, Survey Plan, Title Certificate, Certificate of conformity (COC) and expected monthly rental within 14 days to

reach the following address. The caption "Suitable building for Mulleriyawa New Town Branch"

should be mentioned on the left-hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.

E-mail: bocwpn@boc.lk



Asst. General Manager (Western Province - North) Bank of Ceylon 2nd floor, BOC Merchant Tower Building, Tel: 2381366/5865151 Fax: 2326830

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Telephone : (011) 242 9211 Fax: (011) 234 3694 : editor.dailynews@lakehouse.lk news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

An inspiring assurance

he assurance given by the relevant authorities that the latest Coronavirus outbreak could be contained would allay public fears to a great extent. Fears were being entertained by the public that a dark chapter awaits the country as a result of the growing nature of the pandemic.

The assurance came both from Army Commander Lt. General Shavendra Silva who is also the Head of the Coronavirus Prevention Task Force and Dr. Jayaruwan Bandara, the new Health Ministry spokesman. They spoke in unison that the spread of COVID-19 could be pulled back effectively before it assumes dangerous proportions.

Lt. General Silva while not giving a specific time-frame expressed confidence that the virus would not be allowed to get out of hand. He said the entire Brandix cluster had been identified and directed to hospitals or quarantine centres.

The contention by the Army Commander that a specific time-frame could not be given for the total arrest of the pandemic is understandable. Although the Brandix cluster had been identified one has to take into account that there had been suspected cases within the Brandix factory complex even before the first detection of the virus, going back to the middle of September – time enough for a long chain reaction. There were also instances where residential addresses given by the Brandix employees to the management varied and could not be traced to pick up the scent to track down the contacts. The police were unable to get this information from the employees who are either in hospital or quarantine, according to Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana. He has called all establishments and workplaces to update their employees' personal files so that they could be tracked down without difficulty in case of infection. This sounds like a good idea as far as fixed employment is concerned. What option is left in instances of employment where such details will or can be hidden from the

This is not to say that all options should not be tried in tracing the contacts of the Brandix cluster whose reach has even extended to places like the Mannar Bishop's Residence where it was found that a maintenance worker had been in touch with an associate of a Brandix employee. This is just one instance of the extent to which the chain-link has progressed. There is no knowing to what other corners of the country the Brandix tentacles had spread.

The random detection of Coronavirus cases from locations far apart and in unlikely places no doubt tells a tale. It is also doubtful if calls for those showing signs of the symptoms of the virus to give themselves up for quarantine would meet with the desired response. This is because most fear the unnecessary social stigma attached to this virus, which makes it doubly difficult to trace the cases.

Hence, the Army Commander's reluctance to provide a time-frame is quite understandable. However a fallacious mindset should be dispelled and confidentiality guaranteed to all those submitting themselves for quarantine voluntarily. Workplaces too should be advised to re-accommodate all such individuals who submit themselves for quarantine. This is because fears may be entertained among such individuals that they would not be welcome at their workplaces after undergoing such an experience.

Workplaces themselves ought to tighten up on safety measures. We also wonder what happened to the booklet issued by the Health and Indigenous Ministry that set down guidelines for 46 work settings and public activities, with an emphasis on the 'New Normal' and responsible behaviours to be adopted by all Sri Lankans.

While it has laid stress on the health guidelines already in practice, in the wake of the initial outbreak a fresh set of guidelines had also been issued covering a wide gamut of professions, occupations, services and other activities including mundane functions. These include the behaviour to be followed while travelling in buses, trains, trishaws, seating arrangements in hotels, at weddings, seminars, public meetings, sporting centres etc, which hitherto had free licence. Interestingly, among the latest detections was a party of 25 who were guests at a wedding reception, which shows that all these guidelines had been thrown overboard with the passage of time.

The Army Commander has also discounted any suggestion of a lockdown. Of course there is no need for such a desperate measure as the full machinery is in operation to combat the virus. The Employers' Federation of the Katunayake Free Trade Zone too has stated that it would not go for a total shutdown of the factories in the IPZ after six factories were closed down following the detection of several cases. The country cannot be allowed to slip into despair, despondency and a state of paralysis enslaved by a pandemic, admittedly monstrously dangerous, but must emerge from the threat by adapting counter measures to combat the risk. Hence, the sooner all Sri Lankans get used to the new order of things the easier it will be in the long run.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Good health is not something we can buy. However, it can be an extremely valuable savings account. -Anne Wilson Schaef

Intense focus on SUPREME COURT DETERMINATION

with Disna Mudalige

Supreme Court (SC) has delivered its carefully considered judgement on the proposed 20th Amendment to the Constitution (20A), the Government keenly awaits the next Parliamentary session to move ahead with its

It is most likely that the country will have a President with rejuvenated powers by the end of this month. Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena will officially announce the Supreme Court's decision when Parliament meets next week and then he will call a Party Leaders' Meeting to revise Parliament's agenda for that week to accommodate the debate of the 20A Bill.

Political analysts observe that the Bill is likely to be done and dusted in no time as dilly dallying is clearly not the way of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the incumbent Government.

According to the Government, the 20A will serve as a transitional amendment till a new Constitution is drawn up with broad consultation across the political spectrum.

The shape of governance and institutional structure will undergo changes under the proposed Amendment. It will see the back of the 19th

that the Amendment (19A) except for a few Clauses, thus reinstating the status quo that prevailed prior to 2015.

It was the President's asser-

tion that he needs a free hand to deliver what the people expect from him, and that he would exercise his powers cautiously for the common good. His wish has been granted by way of the 20A, opening a rare window of opportunity for him to make his own leadership legacy by steering the country in the right direction with prudence and wise counsel. The people's overwhelming mandate and the support of a twothirds majority in Parliament have helped the President to stay focused on his mission.

Legal battle ends

The Supreme Court fivejudge bench headed by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya handed down a landmark determination on the constitutionality of the proposed 20A Bill to the Speaker and the President on Saturday. Speaker is vet to come, news of the Court ruling is now a matter of public knowledge after several news outlets published extensive details. According to these revela-

tions, the Supreme Court in its well-articulated determination running to 61 pages, has summed up that certain clauses of the Bill, which relate to the President's duties, his immunity from suit and his power to dissolve Parliament after one year, and a few other clauses are inconsistent with the Consti-

tution in their present form.

However, the Government has in any case announced that Committee Stage Amendments to the Bill as submitted to the Court by the Attorney General will be accommodated. Under those revisions to be made in the Third Reading, the President's duty "to ensure the creation of proper conditions for the conduct of free and Although the formal fair elections and referenda, announcement from the on the advice of the Election Commission" will be restored, and the President will only be able to dissolve Parliament two-and-a-half years after Parliament first meets.

Court verdict

The Government is likely to amend the Bill in line with the Court ruling. It could be seen that the salient features of the 20A are intact. Importantly, it has become clear that none of the Clauses in the Bill affects the "entrenched Articles" of the Constitution.

According to the published parts of the determination. the SC has stated that "in view of the fact that the President who holds the People's executive power in trust of the People, is the Head of the Cabinet of Ministers and the appointing authority of the Prime Minister, we are of the view that empowering the President to remove the Prime Minister and appoint a new Prime Minister who in his opinion commands the confidence of Parliament, does not infringe the Sovereignty of the People.' With reference to the Presi-

dent's power to dissolve Par-

liament, the Court ruling states, "The power to dissolve Parliament is a legitimate right of the executive and operates as an effective check and balance between the two organs of the Government. A fair balancing of competing interests is of prime importance to ensure that the exercise of this Right would not infringe the Sovereignty of the Peo-

It has also been highlighted that companies with more than 50 percent stake held by the Government and the Offices of Secretaries to the President and the Prime Minister

are still enlisted as "auditee entities" under the National Audit Act and therefore the Auditor General is not prevented from auditing them. In the end, it has been decided that many of the Clauses of the Bill are consistent with the provisions of the Constitution and can be passed with a special majority in Parliament.

Awaiting Parliament's nod

Despite the divergent opinions on the 20A, the Government is confident that it can muster the support of a twothirds majority in the current 223-Member Parliament for the safe passage of the Bill. Two seats, allocated each to the United National Party (UNP) and the Ape Jana Bala Pakshaya (AJP), are still vacant in the Ninth Parliament due to infighting in the two parties. This could well be the first-ever Constitutional Amendment in the country's history in the absence of the UNP in Parliament.

The top-rung of the Government is optimistic that the Government Members will close ranks when the Bill is taken up in Parliament, and that those holding different opinions on certain clauses or

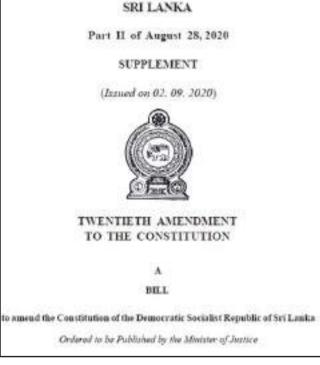
President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

aspects will return to the fold and strike a conciliatory note. As of now, several Government members including Wimal Weerawansa, Udaya Gammanpila, Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Gevindu Kumaratunga, Vidura Wickramanayake and Dr Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe have expressed their contention on certain provisions of the Bill. Constitutional Expert and Minister Prof G.L. Peiris said the various concerns of those Members would be addressed as much as possible at the Committee Stage Amendments.

The Government Members advocating the 20A are keen to see the Bill through Parliament within this month and they are also hopeful of roping in a few Opposition MPs to support the Bill.

The Opposition parties, on the other hand, have officially taken a stand against the Bill, but their objections are mostly limited to press conferences and press releases. At the same time, the resurgence of Coronavirus cases has further crippled their ability to organize protests. But one thing is certain - heated debates and exciting political developments can be expected in next week's Parliament session as the 20A seeks Parliament's



THE GAZETTE OF THE DEMOCRATIC

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF

The 20th Amendment Bill



RAJPAL ABEYNAYAKE

he entire country's forest destruction problem should be under the authority of military personnel acting in tandem with police and the Grama Niladharis, said Kamal Gunaratne, the retired Major General, now the Defence Secretary.

Irrespective of other implications, if any, Army intervention is guaranteed to save the forests, which need saving, perhaps much more than any other naturally occurring resource component of this nation. Forest cover is by and large not replaceable — and though other issues such as the narcotics menace are vexed, the issue of forests has a terminal quality to it.

The forests represent our collective lungs, and they are also our catchments and the repository of herbal medicines and other varieties, fauna, which if they go extinct are extinct forever. Forest depletion could result in desertification and would threaten our ecosystems that are the lifeline for an island people who depend on agriculture and commodity crops as the primary means of sustenance.

When the Defence Secretary says that the Army would tackle the issue of forest cover depletion, the only reaction, therefore, could be as if to a prayer that has been answered. This is primarily a law and order issue, and with that disciplinary dimension, the recent experience shows that only the Army can do it.

That is sad for a civilian mindset, but it's good. The civilian mechanisms of monitoring and control should have worked. But they did not. for some time now, and there is no likelihood whatsoever that they would work in the future.

THE ARMY CAN DO IT

Call in the military, even though civilian administrative control was the norm. As in a myriad issues that have faced the nation in times of crisis, it appears that only the Army can do it. Only the Army could contact-trace effectively and instill the isolationist discipline that was needed for Covid-19 eradication.

It's the military-led Task Force for a Disciplined Society that is taking the drug menace head on. The Army of course ended the war, and that's almost forgotten in the detail after the people got used to Army efficiency in everything from flood relief to street maintenance.

This has raised the hackles of many who complain of a creeping militarization, but civilians who see a civilian administration and Army discipline in tandem, are not complaining.

It's in this context that the message of forest conservation by military men and women sounds a godsend. It is the military and the military alone that has the manpower, the discipline and the apparatus to meet the issue head on when all else

The military can use its networklogistical capability to keep a sweeping watch over our dispersed forest cover, and the civilian and police oversight over forests that we had in the past would look utterly inadequate in comparison.

It's also difficult to corrupt the military, and this a vital consideration as it's known that illegal

WHO CAN CONSERVE OUR FORESTS? THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS



encroachers often have powerful antecedents. The military of course has other advantages as well, such as knowing the terrain particularly after a long war in which thick jungle played a part in the game of hide-and-seek with a tenacious enemy. Retd. Major General Kamal Gunaratne has spoken of his experience in Menik Farm, for instance, which was earlier part of the Kodikkamam forest before it was cleared and converted into an IDP camp.

A CHANGE OF MINDSET Anyone who deploys the Army in this mammoth task has conservation at heart. The critics will know

that the Army means business.

Will public vigilance improve, and will law enforcement become effective in the face of greater demand from among the people for accountability regarding forest destruction?

The critics by the way are the same people who are now using alleged forest destruction as a weapon against the government. But not a finger was raised against the menace in their five-year tenure, and deforestation took place at a brisk pace in Wilpattu and so on.

When Kamal Gunaratne says he will combat deforestation, the people can be assured it's not an empty boast and that he means business. Forest cover will be conserved if the Army seriously challenges loggers and other encroachers.

But others will see a legitimate issue with this military method. They will say that the Army cannot do this task forever and that the day Kamal Gunaratne is not part of the operation against deforestation, the rate of forest cover depletion would reach its previous levels.

Those who engineer transforma-

tive change must ensure that such change will leave a lasting imprint. A permanent 'military solution' against deforestation certainly does not sound viable in this context, but that's the only solution now. There is always the danger that later miscreants in the administration would come and undo in a few years what

A permanent civilian operation that combats the menace of forest clearing for nefarious purposes cannot be in place unless mentalities change among the people of this country. The legal system and, more importantly, law enforcement must

Kamal Gunaratne and others could

Mindsets have to change, and a collective will must be inculcated among the general populace that makes issues such as deforestation total anathema to the ordinary man. The Army can do its job, but it cannot be the guardian angel over everything on a permanent basis.

Will public vigilance improve, and will law enforcement become effective in the face of greater demand from among the people for accountability regarding forest

It's an existential poser, in a manner of speaking at least. Will a people — who have a general reputation for indifference, even self-centeredness – realize that denuding forests is a national issue that has a bearing on all lives and not just those immediately affected?

The indications are that despite all the cynicism — mostly justified — people change once there is an institutionalization of any positive transformation. It may not happen

> in every instance, but in many instances it hap-

> > There was initial resistance to seatbelts, or oneway traffic on Galle Road, for instance. But once habits were formed, they

endured. It may be argued that the aforementioned are simple issues compared to destruction of forest cover which is carried out by marauders and organized

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

RHETORIC AND DELIVERY

The seatbelts are only an example, but it's a fact that people do learn despite the odds against it. The disinformation during the last general election and the previous presidential election before that, was unrelenting.

The Opposition tried its tactics of 2015, of vilification, and slashand-burn negative attacks of a completely fabricated type, in 2019 and 20.

But the people became wiser to all of that and nothing could change their minds once they had cottoned onto the fact that they were being deceived, however sophisticated the method.

The people also began to understand the difference between rhetoric and delivery. They learnt that the sweetest sentiments about a just society are all balderdash if these were also used to rule over them and retain power for a worthless elite that can deliver nothing.

The people therefore, are never peyond redemption, though some politicians definitely are.

If the Defence Secretary can stop forest destruction — big, small or sustained in scale — he will probably change mindsets fundamentally.

The nation can hope to have sustainable forest cover in topographical terms, and have it permanently in the bargain.

Indrani in her long ago



hese are not big match days. Indeed, this year, thanks to Covid-19, the so-called Mad March Days were quite sober for the most part. This is not a big match story, although there are references to that time of the year.

Ranjan Madugalle is not a collector of mementos, but Rajiva Wijetunga, who opened bowling for Royal in the two years that Ranjan captained (1977-'78 and 1978-'79) is. I wanted to check on something that appeared in the big match souvenir. "I never read it during the match because I didn't want to know what kind of stuff had been written about me," Ranjan said.

I was interested in the 'limericks page'. Every year, the playing eleven, captain downwards, would be caricatured in verse. The writer would be fed by teammates and other friends. Dark secrets would be laid out, but with some elegance, in code that was not entirely beyond breaking. Each year the limericks came with a head-

I remembered most, which Rajiva confirmed. He filled in some of the blanks while Ajith Devasurendra (skipper in 1981) and Rajitha Dhanapala, my classmate, gave me the rest.

Samuel Lawton captained in 1974. That team was lampooned under the title 'Lawty and his Naughty Eleven'. And so it went. We had 'King Kari and his Merry Men' in 1975 (Prasanna Kariyawasam's year). T.M.S. Saldin skippered in '76, but his team wasn't 'titled' but had a cryptic intro ending with the promise, 'Versus...'

Then came Ashok Jayawickrema ('Over to the Jayawickrema Clan') in 1977, 'The Complete Works of Ranjan Madugalle' (1978) and 'Ranjan's Gear and Tackle Trim' (in 1979, the Centenary Year), Pasqual's All and Sundry (when Sudat Pasqual captained in 1980), 'Deva's Bag and Baggage' (for Ajith Devasurendra's team in 1981), 'Charlie's Match Bag' (Sumithra Warnakulasuriya's team in 1982), 'In the pleasure of your company' (Chulaka Amarasinghe's team, 1983) and 'Sandy and his Handy Men' (1984: Sandesh Algama).

I believe the cricketers were thus caricatured in 1985 when Heshan De Silva captained and in 1986 (Roshan Jurampathy's year). If memory serves me, that's when it stopped.

There was a reason. The teacher-incharge of the Roy-Tho souvenir retired after serving the school for 15 years. She didn't sever ties with the school though. She continued to help students write personal essays when applying to universities abroad and worked at the school's Skills Center in the early years of the new millennium. When you've been a part of any



Indrani Seneviratne.

institution for more than 30 years, you become a legend. In her case it was not just longevity.

"She was the Grand Old Lady of Royal College," observed Mohammed Adamally, one of her students, more than 25 years after he had last sat in her class.

Her students, some even in their late 60s now, recall her with love. They have anecdotes. They have respect. Lots of stories to tell. Here's one.

One day she had put an entire bunch of students on detention. They were all involved in sports. She hadn't given any reason. They had turned up after school and she had corralled them into a classroom.

"Now sit and write down all your achievements!"

They did. Sriyan Cooray, rugger captain in 1983 explained: "She said that if she had not put us on detention and got us to The teacher-in-charge of the Roy-Tho souvenir retired after serving the school for 15 years. She didn't sever ties with the school though. She continued to help students write personal essays when applying to universities abroad and worked at the school's Skills Center in the early years of the new millennium.

write all that down, we would never have done it. She collected all the information and she wrote our character certificates. Thanks to her, I got my son into Royal because that was the only record I had of my achievements. My brother Sujeewa, who captained in 1981, couldn't get his son into college.'

Ensuring that the sons of students have a chance of attending their fathers' alma mater wasn't her intention of course. She was at the time the go-to person to write character certificates of students who were about to leave school or had left recently. She knew all the students, sportsmen and non-sportsmen, the smart ones and those who were not considered all that bright. She knew strengths and knew everyone had something good. She always pushed everyone (students, friends, colleagues, non-academic staff including security guards and gardeners) to be the best they believed that could be and even

Eleven years ago, on October 13, 2009, she was on her way to help the son of one of her fellow teachers at Ladies' College complete university applications. Her

friend was driving. There was a call. It was someone who had got into some kind of trouble. She took the call. Responded. Then collapsed. A few hours later, she was gone. Forever.

She was as strict as they came and did not cut any slack when it came to teaching. She had words. Lots of them. She had

A twinkle in her eye. She enjoyed writing those limericks and I am sure obtained a great sense of satisfaction when she got it right. The headlines she would have written down with a chuckle. She was like

I have stories about her. All of them put together would be nothing in comparison to all the stories that her students can tell about their particular friendships with her. She was my mother. Indrani Seneviratne. She was mother to many more than myself, my brother and our sister.

Maatu paadan namaa mahang...your feet I touch with veneration, now with heart and mind as before it was with

(malindasenevi@gmail.com, www.malindawords.blogspot.com)

Roche rolling out high-volume rapid Covid-19 test by year-end

ZURICH: Swiss pharmaceuticals giant Roche said Tuesday it would produce a new antigen test for Covid-19, allowing high-volume and rapid testing for the deadly disease, by the end of the year.

The new Elecsys SARS-CoV-2 Antigen test is meant to be administered by healthcare professionals in a lab setting and allows the detection of the virus that causes Covid-19 in as little as 18 minutes, Roche said.

It said the "highly accurate" tests could be run through all so-called Cobas analysing equipment that is available in most labs, and that a single such machine



Swiss pharmaceuticals giant Roche.

could analyse up to 300 tests per hour.

"Being able to quickly and correctly identify if someone has a SARS-CoV-2 infection is critical to informing patient management decisions and containing the spread of Covid-19," Thomas Schinecker, who heads Roche's diagnostics unit, said in a state-

The new coronavirus has killed nearly 1.1 million people and infected more

than 37.5 million worldwide since it first surfaced in China late last year.

Roche said its test would first be available for countries that recognise the CE mark for products sold in the European Union, adding that it was also seeking approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Antigen tests are typically less sensitive than the more traditional PCR diagnostic test to low levels of virus. Roche has already launched eight Covid-19 tests since the start of the crisis, including one that can distinguish between Covid-19 and the flu. (AFP)

Italy imposes 'no party' rule with new anti-virus measures

ROME: Italy imposed new hardened rules on Tuesday to control a resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic, including an end to parties, amateur football matches and snacking at bars at night.

The decree, which is valid for 30 days, forbids restaurants and bars from serving non-seated customers after 9:00 pm in an attempt to avoid crowds.

Halian Giusepp

While banning parties in general, the government also recommended that people avoid gatherings in their own homes.

"Parties are prohibited in all indoor and outdoor locations," read the decree signed by President



Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

Giuseppe Conte in the early hours of Tuesday.

"As for private homes, it is however strongly recommended to avoid parties and to receive non-cohabitants of more than 6 people." Italy registered 4,619 new cases on Monday, a return to the levels seen in

April. More than 36,000 people have died of the virus, one of Europe's worst tolls.

While the infection rate remains far below that of neighbours France or Spain, the country is trying to avoid a new lockdown that would further hit its struggling economy.

A ban on gatherings was imposed in March at the height of Italy's coronavirus crisis, but after the country emerged from its over two-month lockdown, and as the summer holidays began, the ban was often flouted.

"We've specifically worked to avoid a generalised lockdown," Conte told reporters on Monday, before a night of last-minute negotiations with regional leaders. Conte did not exclude imposing measures targeting particular geographical areas if cases continue to rise. Besides the ban on contact sports between friends, such as football or basketball, other new rules are aimed at controlling infections among youth, such as a ban on school trips.

For receptions related to religious and civil functions like marriages and baptisms, the decree imposes a limit of 30 attendees. Last week, Italy reinstated its rule to make mask-wearing compulsory in public, even outdoors. (AFP)

12.10.2020 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 658,083 TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 26,335,850.00

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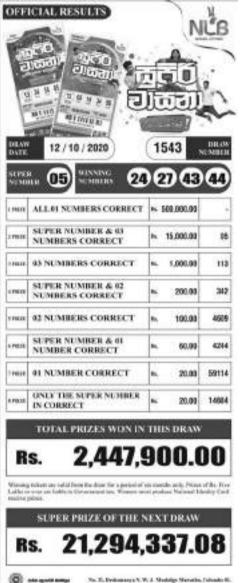




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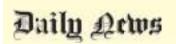
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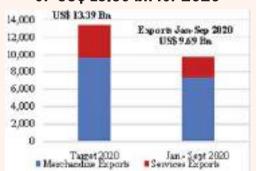
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EDB sets revised export target of US\$ 13.39 bn for 2020



The Export Development Board has set a revised export target of US\$ 13.39 billion for

"For this we expect US\$ 9.57 billion from merchandise exports and US\$ 3.82 billion from services exports. During the period January to September 2020, earnings from exports recorded US\$ 9.69 billion including the estimated services data for July to September and 72.4% achieved from the revised export target. Further, earnings from Merchandise exports and services exports achieved 77.33 % and 60.06% respectively during the period of January to September 2020.

Oman Air flies to Colombo from Oct. 29

Oman Air, the national carrier of Sultanate of Oman will recommence its flights to Colombo, Sri Lanka from October 29. The airline will initially operate two flights per week.

The GSA for Oman Air is, Hayleys Aviation.

Lanka's exports surpass US\$ 1 bn for the third time

1,200 1,000 800 656.4

Monthly Merchandize Export Performance 2019, January-September 2020

Mar Apr May Jun Jul

increased by 3.3 % y-o-y to US\$ 113.99 million but the export volume decreased by 2.82 % in September 2020.

400

200

In addition, export earnings from rubber and rubber finished products have increased by 10.54 % y-o-y to US\$ 80.01 million in September 2020. Earnings from all the major categories of Coconut based products increased in

which made up 12% of merchandise exports September 2020. Export earnings from spices and essential oils have increased significantly by 24.14% to US\$ 38.93 million in September compared with the value of US\$ 31.36 million recorded in September 2019. Meanwhile, earnings from export of electrical and electronic components (EEC) increased by 13.42% to US\$ 37.01 million in September 2020.

Total merchandise export earnings for Janu-

ary to September 2020 was US\$ 7,401.48 million compared to US \$ 8,872.57 million recorded in a similar period of the previous year - a decline of 16.58 %.

Major exports such as apparel & textiles (US\$ 3,273.9 million), tea (US\$ 919.56 million) lion), rubber and rubber based products (US\$ 586.58 million) and spices and essential oils recorded decrease of 21.54%, 10.32%, 14.01% and 0.4% respectively during January - Septem-

Earnings from export of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) related products increased by 42.91% to US\$ 636.67 million in January to September 2020. The top five export destinations during the period January-September 2020 were United States of America (US\$ 1,892.14 million), United Kingdom (US\$ 664.21 million) India (US\$ 453.67 million), Germany (US\$ 430.0 million) and Italy (US\$ 330.24 million) absorbed over 50% of exports recorded in the period.

The services exports estimated by EDB which includes ICT/BPM, Construction, Financial services and Transport & Logistics show exports of US \$ 2,291.8 million for the period of January to September.

Aussie startup moves into SL seafood market

GoMicro has landed funding and a major partner to test its AI assessment app on tuna for a major Sri Lankan supermarket

Created in Adelaide, the GoMicro AI microscope has previously been used in a kit to diagnose leishmaniasis in wartorn nations, in schools as a teaching tool and on farms to identify pests. It is now being tested to grade tuna for consumption in Sri Lanka.

The GoMicro technolog bines a mobile phone microscope attachment with an artificial intelligence suite that is able to recognised patterns and objects with a fraction of the number of photos usually required.

GoMicro CEO and Founder Sivam Krish said that their AI microscopy tool had impressed an investor in Sri Lanka because it had the ability to grade seafood, such as tuna, with a database of 100s of photos instead of tens of thousands.

"It's a 12-year apprenticeship to train a tuna expert, so this is a problem in the edge of human assessment.

GoMicro solves this problem by allowing warehouse staff to simply use their phones to take a photo of the tuna and the AIsupported app then quickly determines a grade so they can



label it and send it to the appropriate store. The GoMicro technology is able to develop this grading database quickly because the Adelaide-based company, which was spun out of the New Venture Institute at Flinders University, has solved the problem of bad lighting that often hinders photo databases by optically engineering the lens and building a diffuser into the tech.

GoMicro uses advanced manufacturing technologies to manufacture the microscopes and the Tensorflow AI-engine developed by Google to make predictions.

Sri Lanka's merchandise exports have sur-

Export Development Board (EDB) Chair-

man Prabhash Subasinghe (Pictured) said they were pleased to see US\$ 1 billion of exports in

September. "It is the third time this year we

have seen a year on year increase of merchan-

dise exports. However, we are concerned about the recent escalation of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka

but hopeful of a swift recovery and a stable

As per the Customs statistics, earnings from

merchandise exports recorded a positive

growth of 5.16% in September 2020 to US\$

1,001.27 million as compared to the value of

US\$ 952.1 million recorded in September 2019.

19 pandemic within the country and globally.

Increases in exports were recorded as; Europe

Region (20.19%), CIS Countries (19.59%) and

Export earnings from Apparel & Textiles

Export earnings from tea in September 2020

declined by 3.75 % to US\$ 431.87 Mn during

African Region (56.4%) in September 2020.

This strong performance is consistent with the gradual lifting of restrictions due to Covid

passed the \$ 1 billion mark in September after

July during this year.

level of business continuity.'

September 2020.

The technology is being tested at Colombo supermarkets before a planned roll out to the chain's 100 stores around Sri Lanka. Sivam said the AI system could easily be adapted to other seafood as well as fruit and vegetables and their business plan was to sell subscriptions to the sys-

"We offer 10,000 clicks a month for USD \$100, and the device comes free with the subscription," Sivam said.

"We now have an investment from a star investor Jeevan Gnanam in SriLanka so we formed a fully owned subsidiary there to do our software development," Krish said.

to John Keells Holdings PLC, the owner of supermarket chains.

Gnanam introduced GoMicro



Ceylon Biscuits Limited (CBL) recently donated a large consignment of Munchee Biscuits to the Sri Lanka Army in support of the Army's operation towards the control of COVID 19. Here Nalin B. Karunaratne, Director/Chief Executive Officer of CBL handing over the donation to Army Commander Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva at the Army Head Quarters. Janmesh Paul Antony (General Manager - Marketing), Romesh Jayathillake (Marketing Manager), Anuradha Mahesh (Senior Brand Manager) and Sujith Udatiyawala (Event Executive) look on

SriLankan wins Conde Nast Traveller award

SriLankan Airlines has been recognized as one of the world's leading airlines in the recent Conde Nast Traveller 'Readers' Travel awards'.

The airline has been awarded the sixth place in the survey among Best International Airlines with readers commending the airline's comfy business class seats, attentive cabin crew and flavourful in-flight meals.

The factors considered in selecting winners under this category have been the health and safety measures taken up by the airlines to adopt to the new normal of travel and the marketing initiatives carried out by the airlines to gain top of mind awareness during the present scenario, etc.

SriLankan

Chairman Ashok Pathirage said, "We are honoured to be recognized as one of the best airlines for business travel by the readers of Conde Nast Traveller. Focusing on passengers' our utmost comfort, whilst providing an

excellent service are amongst our priorities - and this award is yet another testament to achieving that".

The Chief Executive Officer of the airline Vipula Gunatillake- added saying, "with a fleet of 26 aircraft combined with our extensive business and leisure destinations, SriLankan Airlines continues to set the industry standard in the airline travel".



The Magazine commented, "it's a top choice for travellers headed not only to the island nation it calls home, but to destinations in the region like the Maldives, where it's the largest foreign airline with a fleet of 26 planes, it's not huge, but more passengers are discovering it, thanks to its membership in the oneworld alliance".

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Presidential Commission on ETI reveals malpractices

The report of the Presidential Commission appointed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on January 9, 2020 to investigate, inspect and report the alleged wrongdoings, irregularities and malpractices of the Edirisinghe Trust Investments Ltd (ETI) which was chaired by retired Supreme Court Judge K. T. Chithasiri has been submitted to the President on October 6, 2020.

The aforesaid commission has pointed out that there have been several offences under the Company Law, The Financial Cooperation Act, The Money Laundering

Act, The Financial Information Reporting Act, The Legal Framework for the transfer of lands to foreigners as well as the penal code by its observations and recommendations. Moreover, the report of the aforesaid commission has pointed out the need to reform the Non-Banking Financial Institutions Supervision Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka that supervises and regulates Finance Companies.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted for the proposal submitted by President while drawing the attention of the

Cabinet to the aforementioned matters and forwarding the report to the Attorney General to take immediate legal actions to execute the recommendations of the aforesaid commission report on alleged finance and property irregularities of Edirisinghe Trust Investment Ltd.

A decision has also been taken to inform the Ministry of Finance to completely reform the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Supervision Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and to formulate a new institutional structure to regulate Finance Companies.

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Ajith Peiris assumed duties as GM/CEO of NSB

duties as GM/CEO of National NSB. Savings Bank last Monday following a simple religious ceremony.

The Chairperson of NSB Kesila Jayawardana and the Members of the Board of Directors of the Bank, former Acting GM/CEO, Members of the Bank's Corporate and Executive Management, past Chairpersons, General Managers, Members of the Bank's Trade Unions and well-wishers participated in this occasion.

Former DGM (Operations) of the Bank, Ajith Peiris has been appointed as the 17th GM/CEO of National Savings Bank with effect from 12th October 2020.

Peiris succeeds R M Damitha

Ajith W Peiris assumed his ing as the Acting GM/CEO of

Peiris is a professionally qualified and a sound banker with a proven track record. He is a master of his trade and has to his credit an illustrious banking career of over 32 years at NSB. Since joining the Bank as a Management Trainee in 1988, he has been serving in many strategically important spheres including the Branch Operations, Branch Administration, the Retail Credit Sector, International Banking, Postal Banking and has held several key positions in the likes of Branch Manager, Zonal Manager, Assistant General Manager, and Deputy General Manager before his elevation to the position of K Ratnayake, who was function- General Manager/CEO.

Peiris has been instrumental in successfully implementing key projects in the Bank in his capacity as DGM (Operations), shouldering the responsibility of achieving the corporate objectives of the Bank.

He has also immensely contributed towards establishing the International Banking Unit of the Bank and bringing it to the present standard. Further, he has the credit of being the first Manager of the Ja-ela Loan Center which was inaugurated under the Loan Center concept of the Bank in the year

Peiris is a firm believer of continues professional development and has attended top-level industry seminars representing the Bank Locally and Internationally.

Using the wide exposure and expertise he has gathered in the Banking Sector over the years, Peiris is gearing up to spearhead the Bank towards a Digital Transformation, which is a sine qua non, if the Bank is to thrive in the industry in the years to come.



Ajith W Peiris assuming duties as GM/CEO of National Savings Bank last Mon-



Litro Gas conducts random PCR tests

In keeping with state directives

In keeping with a directive from The President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for all large institutions to screen their employees with random PCR testing, Litro Gas has taken immediate steps to submit their employees to such tests.

Staff members across Litro Gas storage facilities, filling plants, supply chain and head office were tested randomly with PCR tests conducted at premises.

"As a responsible state owned corporate institution to undertake such a challenging task efficiently and swiftly, we are mindful of the contribution being made towards a safer Sri Lanka," says Anil Koswatte, Chairman and CEO - Litro Gas Lanka Ltd. & Litro Gas Terminal Lanka (Private) Limited, "Safety and health protocols form the basis of our business – we pay attention to maintaining the highest possible standards at all times as the supplier of LPG to the nation."

Commenting on the initiative, Jayantha Basnayake, Director Health, Safety & Environment at Litro Gas says that the tests were conducted as a part of the COVID-19 protocols that are established across the company's vast network of operations.

"Litro Gas understands the importance of maintaining relevant safety and health procedures since as the market leader in the industry, we reach thousands of consumer's everyday", he adds.

In recognition of their exceptional commitment to maintaining a consistent service during the COVID- 19 lockdown, Litro Gas was the first state owned enterprise to recently be awarded SLS 1672:2020 COVID-19 safety compliant standards by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI).



SLIM organizes knowledge sharing forum

The Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) recently conducted a knowledge-sharing forum themed 'Your Future with a Professional Qualification'.

The forum was held at the BMICH. Prof. Sampath Amaratun-Chairman, Board of Study, SLIM and Chairman, University Grants Commission, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr Madhuka Udunuwara, Consultant Education (SLIM) and Senior Lecturer Management Faculty, University of Colombo; Dr Pradeep Edward, Chief Executive Officer, Lanka Hospitals Diagnostics and Advisor to Business Development at SLIM and Prabath Ambegoda, Chief Corporate and Digital Officer, Sri Lanka Telecom joined the knowledge sharing forum as speakers to enlighten the audience.

The forum was moderated by Ahamed Aroos, Chief Operating Officer, Rainco (Pvt) Ltd. The knowledge-sharing forum was named "The Voice of SLIM" to highlight the recent revamp of the Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing Management programme at SLIM.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing Management is a unique programme designed for aspiring marketers who wish to embark on a



Panelists at the forum.

brand building arenas.

With an experienced panel of expert lecturers, SLIM is synonymous with bringing out the best in students. The revamping of the programme was initiated and executed by the Education Reforms Committee of SLIM headed by Prof. Arosha S. Adikaram, who is currently an academic of the Human Resource Management Faculty at the University of Colombo.

The structural change of the course was implemented upon the approval of the Institute's Board of Study lead by Prof. Sampath Amarathunga, who is currently serving as the Chairman of the University Grants Commission. He highlight-

thriving career in marketing and ed the importance of obtaining a professional qualification on top of academic qualification as well. Moreover, Prof Amaratunga believes that such individuals have an added advantage in the competitive job market.

Sharing his ideas, Roshan Fernando, President, SLIM said, "SLIM being the National Body for marketing strives to elevate the marketing profession in the country. This forum was held to signify the revamp of SLIM PGDIPMM to suit the industry standards."

"We have revamped this course to add more value to the students and help them stay abreast with the latest trends and practices in marketing. Most of the top corporates in

the country have placed their trust in the quality of education provided by SLIM and give priority to the PGHDIP holders in recruiting marketing professionals," stated Nuwan Gamage, Vice President Education,

SLIM. "We always make sure that the PGDIP, which is the most recognized marketing qualification in the country, evolves with time and the dynamism of the corporate world, marketing is one of the most lucrative and rewarding professions in the world, and marketers across the globe are at the helm of renowned top international companies", mentioned Sanath Senanayake, Chief Executive Officer and, Executive Director, SLIM.

ComBank rewards redemption crosses Rs. 150 mn

Credit and Debit Cardholders of the Commercial Bank of Ceylon have redeemed accumulated rewards point to the value of Rs 150 million, taking the Bank's Max Loyalty Rewards programme passed a significant

To commemorate this landmark achieved in September 2020, the Bank has introduced additional features to the loyalty programme, including an e-voucher facility for the convenience of customers and additional discounts when redeeming ComBank Max Loyalty points with merchants.

The Bank said a dedicated website launched in 2018 for loyalty customers has played a pivotal role in helping the Bank reach this remarkable milestone in redemption value. The website enables tracking and redeeming of points accumulated under the Max Loyalty Rewards programme and was promoted as a convenient way for Commercial Bank card users to earn, track and redeem their loyalty points.

The website provides access to products and services with merchant partners around the world in a number of categories including more than 900 airlines, over 650,000 hotels across the world, car rentals in over 150 countries, online shopping and lots more from which customers could choose to redeem their points and decide on a host of redemption options.

Additionally, there are over 100 local merhants, inclusive of clothing, accessories and electronics retailers, restaurants, bookshops, car care providers and supermarkets. Once customers select a merchant, they can and are backed by a strong NFC Point-of-Sale redeem points and apply for physical vouch- (POS) network.



present at more than 1000 locations. The program is run in partnership with Gift Management Asia PTE LTD, which operates one of the leading global networks of loyalty programs. Commercial Bank Credit and Debit Cards

offer year-round promotions covering a wide variety of services. Commercial Bank was the first bank to offer loyalty rewards for both Credit and Debit Cardholders under its Max Loyalty Rewards Points

The Bank was also a pioneer in extending promotional discount offers which were traditionally only offered for Credit Cards to its Debit Cards.

The Bank offers a variety of Credit Cards in the Silver, Gold and Platinum tiers of Visa, Mastercard and UnionPay Cards, as well as Visa Signature, World Mastercard, Visa Infinite, UnionPay Asia Prestige Platinum and UnionPay Asia Prestige Diamond Cards in premium segment. The cards are the equipped with 'Tap 'n Go' NFC technology

OPPO F17 Pro in Sri Lanka

OPPO is to launch their next F series model, OPPO F17 Pro by mid-October. Featuring a 6 AI camera setup the OPPO F17 Pro is geared to make great strides in Photography, Design and Power-Management.

The OPPO F17 Pro will come with a 6.43inch full-HD+ display which assures lesser screen-disturbance due to its 'Mini-Dual Punch Hole' that will take the minimum space possible from the display.

Customers will be able to choose OPPO F17 Pro from two colour options Magic Black and Magic Blue, with a 7.48mm Ultra-Sleek Body and 164g Ultra-light-weight design.

Speaking of optics, OPPO F17 Pro's 6 AI cameras include a quad rear camera setup that includes a 48MP primary camera, an 8MP wide-angle camera, and two 2MP cameras. OPPO F17 Pro features a dual-camera setup at the front that includes a 16MPprimary sensor and a 2MP depth sensor. With Ultra steady Video function, videos, when taken under shaky conditions, will appear

clearer, sharper and more stable. The combination will allow unprecedented quality and features in photography such as 'Colour Portrait' which allows users to take

the subject in glorious colour whilst giving a



OPPO F17 Pro

superior mobile photographs. The onboard storage of 128GB will be expandable (up to 256GB) via a dedicated microSD card slot. The phone will pack a 4,015mAh battery that would support 30W VOOC Flash Charge 4.0 fast charging tech-

nology. Customers can now pre-order OPPO F17 Pro from authorized OPPO dealers islandwide and stand to win OPPO Enco Free W11.

OPPO is a leading global smart device brand. Since launching its first smartphone "Smiley Face" - in 2008, OPPO has been in relentless pursuit of the synergy of aesthetic satisfaction and innovative technology.

UMG Lanka supplies equipment to Ruhunu Group



UMG Lanka, signed an agreement to be the suppliers of Matador rollers to the Ruhunu Development Group of Companies. UMG Lanka is the sole agent for Matador and Shantui construction and earth moving machinery in Sri Lanka.

This equipment is expected to be used for road development. The construction of the 100,000 km of road

development under the president's vision articulated in 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor' is driving demand.

UMG Lanka has contributed construction machinery products and services for Mega Scale Projects such as Moragahakanda, Hambanthota Port, Colombo Port City, Kandy Highway and Southern Expressway.

Sri Lanka Technological Campus joins FITIS as Corporate Partner

Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC) carrying the vision of being the excellence in higher education and research, joined hands with the Federation of Information Technology Industry (FITIS) as Corporate Partner in a bid to broaden its collaborative and industrial reach. With the objective of producing industry ready graduates with the right set of skills matching the industry job profiles, this partnership will certainly add value in moulding the academic delivery with industry inputs.

The sponsorship cheque was recently handed over by SLTC Founder President/CEO Eng. Ranjith G. Rubasinghe to

FITIS Chairman Abbas Kamrudeen. Welcoming SLTC onboard for the year 2020, Kamrudeen said that it was indeed a pleasure for FITIS to have the support of SLTC, a most emerging high-



FITIS CEO Aruna Alwis, FITIS Senior Vice Chairman Dr. Prasad Samarasinghe, FITIS Chairman Abbas Kamrudeen, Founder President/CEO Eng. Ranjith G. Rubasinghe, Lead Corporate Education Nuwan Dishan, and Head of School of Computing and IT Dr. Dhammika Elkaduwa.

er education institute focusing on bringing in industry expertise in improving a profile of a graduate produced, to com-

plement future employer demands. "I am very pleased to welcome SLTC onboard as a Corporate Partner, and I

believe this partnership will tremendously benefit both organisations alike," he said. Kamrudeen also noted that having SLTC onboard is also an endorsement of the Federation's mission to continue to serve the society by promoting and

Expressing his views on the Corporate Partnership, Eng. Ranjith Rubasinghe stated, "It is of great honour to be the Corporate Partner for FITIS 2020, it being a leading organisation in Sri Lanka with the purpose of providing the timely requirement and emphasis to the ICT industry. As a higher education institute focusing on producing skilled graduates to the industry, we will be able to further enhance the credibility of SLTC in the industry through this collaboration and further get the industry endorsement and inputs for improvement of degree programs in IT and Computing."

developing the higher education sector.

Since the inception in 2015, SLTC have been through a rapid growth in terms of establishing a university with a 2000+ student base and a 150+ full time academic carder.



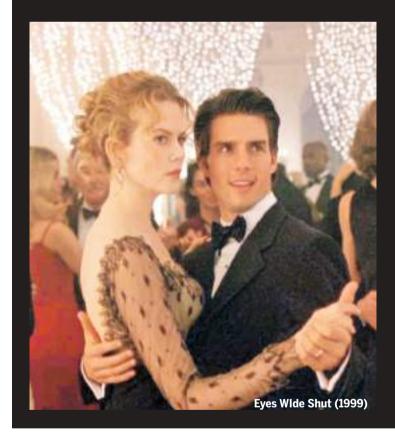






75) Lolita (1962)

STANLEY KUBRICK'S VISIONS



MADAPATHA CHINTAKA
"One doesn't give up
being concerned for
mankind because one
acknowledges their
fundamental
absurdities and
weaknesses. I still have
hope that the human
race can continue to
progress." (Interview
with Gene D. Philips)

ome of the most visually intriguing movies I've seen from the last half-century were those directed by Stanley Kubrick. These have confounded me, a passionate cinephile, more than those of any other director. But then this is to engage in needless clichés.

It would be more appropriate to acknowledge their real contribution: like the thrillers of Alfred Hitchcock and the epics of David Lean, two other visual directors who count as his contemporaries, Kubrick's work continues to exert a profound, inescapable influence on moviemakers and movie critics. The latter weren't always kind to him – and some of them who weren't kind remained unkind in their judgments of him long after his reputation in the industry had soared as high as it could – but then as he once rightly observed, "No reviewer has ever illuminated any aspect of my work for

Movie directors who owe more than a tokenistic debt to him have been kinder and fairer. If their adulation of him hasn't nudged down even after all these decades, it's because the full weight of his influence on their work hasn't nudged down either.

Perhaps the most recent example for that would be Yorgos Lanthimos, in particular The Killing of a Sacred Deer (2017). Visually stunning if not morbid, it owes its conception of its story – as macabre unbelievable as any story that plays around the supernatural against a secular, suburban landscape can be - to some of Kubrick's works. Even Mike Flanagan, in *Doctor* Sleep (2019), made his sequel to The Shining (1980) more than a sequel: he partly incorporated Kubrick's vision from the latter work. The results can be mixed - as in *Deer*, where the ending to me looked like a travesty to the achievements of the rest of the plot but the influence, and the inspired direction, can't be denied.

NAPOLEONIC EUROPE

In a career spanning 50 years, Kubrick made just 13 films; roughly

son made over the same period. But Bresson operated in France at a time when Charles de Gaulle's government had embarked on a lavish program to subsidise thriving artists. Kubrick received no such endorsement from any government - while making his second film at the age of 37, for instance, he had to collect \$30 a week in unemployment compensation – and in fact, right before the peak of his career, he had to leave his country and settle in another. Thoroughly American, he remained an American to the last, and it's a tribute to this that of the 13 movies he directed, only two – one set in Napoleonic Europe, the other in a dystopian future – were based in his new home, England.

Those 13 movies peddled so many genres that it's hard to categorise him or to pin him to a wall. That's where comparisons with Hitchcock and Lean fade away, though they remained as visual a couple of storytellers as he did. Hitchcock, in thriller after thriller, experimented in the same themes and motifs – an innocent man on the run, a witness to a crime which no one sees or believes happened, and a random Johnny on the street falling into a conspiracy - as did Lean in his epics. Kubrick, whose only experience in the epic left him disillusioned and encouraged him to leave home, did engage in thrillers, but only as far as they allowed him to straddle other genres: science fiction, antiwar, suburban drama.

Yorgos Lanthimos spares no one in The Killing of a Sacred Deer, not even the protagonist's wife (played by Nicole Kidman, who incidentally was the main actress in Kubrick's last film). His vision of humanity, if you can call it that, is at best cynical and at worst annihilating. He doesn't let anyone off the hook, and as the story unfolds and we realise the true nature of the relationship between the doctor (Colin Farrell) and the boy (Barry Keoghan), we feel our pity for both evaporate. People aren't good or evil, the director seems to be telling us; they're good AND evil, and for the most, evil.

ANTAGONIST-PROTAGONIST UNYIELDING

Lanthimos here is closer to Kubrick's outlook on humanity than Flanagan was in *Doctor Sleep*. There's hardly anything of the cynicism and the barbarity of *The Shining* in the latter. Stephen King, who famously hated Kubrick's version of the original novel so much that he disavowed it and went on to make arguably the worst ever TV adaptation of a novel by the novelist ever made, loved Flanagan's version of its sequel. He would have been responding favourably,

perhaps, to the optimism and hopefulness in that sequel. Flanagan is by default a mainstream director, and nothing in the ending in *Doctor Sleep* suggest otherwise. Under Kubrick, however, *The Shining* gradually turns out to be merciless, cruel, and in its depiction of the antagonist-protagonist (Jack Nicholson), unyielding.

On at least one occasion Kubrick told an interviewer that, for all their absurdities and weaknesses, he sincerely believed "the human race can continue to progress." The Shining, made at the peak of his career (i.e. when studios couldn't refuse him even if what he made cost them a fortune), debunks this faint optimism. For that reason alone, the novel seems to be closer to Doctor Sleep's hopefulness than its adaptation, and perhaps this explains King's contrasting attitudes to Kubrick's and Flanagan's versions. Either way, it's clear what Kubrick didn't believe in: he didn't buy all that crap about man's innate goodness.

Like Satyajit Ray, Kubrick obsessed over every aspect of his productions, from the script to the music to the edit-

More than once he got into a conflict with his cast and crew; here one remembers Ray's arguments with his cinematographer, Subatra Mitta, his editor, Dulal Datta, and his composer, the great Ravi Shankar (who he himself replaced after a while). The one time Kubrick allowed anyone to get above him was in Spartacus (1960), the most expensive production until then in cinema history, one seen today more as an actor's (Kirk Douglas, who played the hero) and scriptwriter's (Dalton Trumbo, who with it returned to Hollywood after being blacklisted for over a decade) than a director's venture.

He could do this because, like Ray, he remained deeply versatile. He was always reading, always jotting down notes for his next film, and always engaged in research. When he met him for the first time in 1965, Anthony Frewin, the man who later wound up as Kubrick's personal assistant (and much later, the representative of his estate), saw books upon books piled up: "There were hundreds of them volumes on surrealism, dadaism, futuristic and fantastic art - in English, German, Italian, and other languages. There were works on astronomy, rocketry, cosmology, extraterrestrial life, and unidentified flying objects." And it wasn't just books: with his sharp eye and sharp ear, he was, until the very last, an avid photographer and an ardent lover of music. All these went into his movies.

Born in the Bronx to a suburban middle class New York family in 1928, Stanley Kubrick was the first of two children. His father, a physician and an amateur photographer, handed him a Graflex camera when he turned 13. At Taft High School, where he received the closest to a formal education, he became an official photographer of sorts. He was still studying there when, during World War II, he sold a picture to *Look Magazine*.

In 1946, after the War and after his graduation, he joined the publication, and at the age of 20 spent all his savings, a cool \$3,900, on his debut short film, *Day of the Fight* (1950); "I had no idea what I was doing," he later recalled. In any case, RKO saw it and brought it for \$4000, giving him a profit of \$100. It also advanced \$1,500 for a second short, *Flying Padre* (1951). Two years later he directed his first feature work, *Fear and Desire*.

BRIEF INTERREGNUMS

The films he made thereafter have attracted critical attention like no other director's films have. This is not a generalisation or a simplification, it's a fact: browse through the archives, and see how many reviews, academic essays, entire books and tomes, have been penned on them. They all came one after another, after brief interregnums: The Killing (1956), Paths of Glory (1957), Spartacus (1960), Lolita (1962), Dr Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964), 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968), A Clockwork Orange (1971), Barry Lyndon (1975, my favourite), The Shining (1980), Full Metal Jacket (1987), and Eyes Wide Shut (1999, which paired Tom Cruise with Nicole Kidman). Bleak yet momentarily hopeful, they reveal not iust the flaws, but also the primitive state of nature within human beings: quoting Thomas Hobbes, they remain "nasty, brutish, and short."

The reference to Hobbes isn't arbitrary, much less is it random: more than one scholar has reduced Kubrick's fascination with man's penchant for evil – with no hope for redemption, as we see from the plights of the "heroes" in Lolita, A Clockwork Orange, and Barry Lyndon - to a fundamentally cynical and Hobbesian outlook on the world. This is in stark contrast to, say, the philosophy of Rousseau or Locke, which essentially says that human beings are good, and that it is the institutions set up to govern them which corrupt. Not really, Kubrick counters in his narratives: men are bad, and institutions just make them worse. If you don't get a hint of that in The Sacred Killing of a Deer, you haven't got the film.

And if you don't get that in Kubrick's works, you haven't got him either. In that sense he remains the most enigmatic director, in the history of movies.



WHY IS THE CONDUCTOR SO IMPORTANT? **Barbara Hannigen Conductor and Soprano**

GWEN HERAT

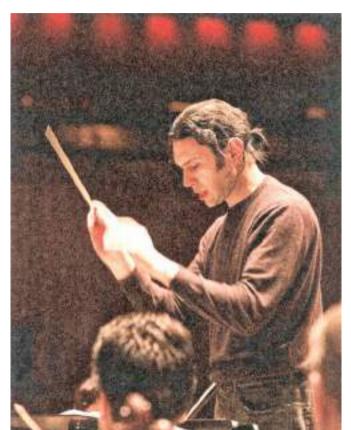
must be remembered that a conductor is there as a musician to serve the music and the composer. The worse thing for a conductor is to get in the way. Of course, it is a delicate balance but given the baton, he directs all the way no matter how complex it may be.

Each time I am at the London Philharmonic Orchestra, I am drawn to the conductor (and the lead violinist) and the rest are the ensemble whether strings, wind or brass. A tiny hesitation on the part of the director that will impact the orchestra is like a city bus grinding to a halt.

Discovering new and young conductors are part of LPO's foremost concern because while the popular ones are the toast of the day. Scouting for energy and a mixture of knowledge and also a tremendous taste for discovery.

Some orchestras have grown famous under theirs, others perform without them.

What makes them different? Some conductors feature highly whenever great musical maestros are remembered. But to some of us who just see them waving their arms



Vladimir Jurowski Conductor

around a concert podium, may appear overrated. I am not being unkind to

do is help the orchestra keep time. I think may be people do not understand the role of a them because I think all they conductor. Yet, they become

the voice of the creator. Then, his life is brought to life through the musicians. The analogy is sort of bringing a actor to the stage. But I am more than inspired by their dedication; the hours of rehearsing, scripting and the home-work that go into their efforts.

Then, we have the singerconductor combination who looks differently in her conducting like Barbara Hannigan who is a Stravinsky expert. I am able to see the difference, perhaps from a women's point of view. Hannigan is a worldclass soprano.

Though it is sort of part coach and part captain, technically binds them. They cannot separate each other. Sometimes it is hard for audience to understand why a piece of music has been written and the historical context that produce works of art.

One must remember apart from conducting that he has a roving eye in each in the ensemble and might even communicate with a nod of appreciation. One of the many amazing things is the flexibility with an uncanny ability to identify with what kind of music they are directing. The sheer quality of playing and the sound that fills the air is a real celebration both for the conductor and the player.

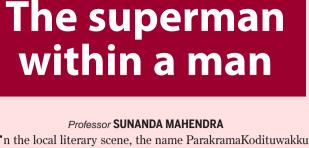
One cannot stop learning or for that matter listening and exploring because they all bring new approaches. Conducting is a language and the syntax of the language develops as a conductor through one's life.

The conductor comes back to something that is familiar and face a new challenge that is a treat.

Exploring new dimensions and sounds that come fresh are what they search for. When they find plenty of opportunities, naturally they are excited more than you or me. If one is to follow their themes, they are intelligently constructed.

The baton follows every nich and corner dealing with harmony. Exciting contemporary classical music are the ultimate goal.

All these I have observed and followed through with a keen eye, balanced mind and with a open heart from my seat at South Bank Centre's London Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of iconic



is more known as a poet who had been in the engagement for over half a century. He has, to his credit, also contributed several Sinhala newspaper columns, features and brought out several volumes of short stories and a type of narratives that embrace an expression of his own identity. His latest attempt is the narrative titled VesgathKathavak(A Story of a Disguise).

This, I found, is one work that could be singled out of the plethora of narrative that is available today in the book market.

This narrativepresents a deep sense of humanism expressed in a style and/or a technique of creative communication that excels the commonplace genres. In the first instance, readability is one of the most sensitive catch points of illumination that spins the narrative. The central experience in the work revolves around a man who loses his wife and only son when he encounters a disastrous accident at an unprotected railway crossing. Without giving descriptive harangues, the narrator enters the inner self of the man who is sensitive possessing a deep-seated

The deep sense of loneliness in the mind of the protagonist is shown mainly due to this creative sensibility over the years. A moment comes when he is sandwiched between the levels of living and death. But he decides to overcome his mental torture by trying to change how social position ina manner he had not





පරාසුම සොඩිතුවක්ක

undergone so far in his life. This layer of thinking gives way for him to become a completely metamorphosed individual working as a busy butler, caretaker, driver and patient go-between in various standpoints.

Quite a number of page-moving experiences are embedded where the protagonist undergoes turmoil and upheavals, especially when he is given the chance of being a caretaker of a retired commissioner, his ageing wife and young daughter. His disguised manner itself becomes a self-study for himself that reaches a climax with a vision of life that helps the others to share with him. He faces several ordeals that make him feel that they help him to ponder on the nature of social goodwill as well

In the day to day living, he observes the manifold mannerisms of the three characters that he is made to serve. He also sees their links with those who visit them from time to time.

The most significant factor is that the narrator in a very skilful manner makes the protagonist formulate an attached detachment metamorphosis that transcends the mere barriers of being disguised in a physical plane of living. At several moments, the reader sees the grave sense of the young daughter of the retired rich commissioner as a dancer, musician, a poet and a sensitive human being who fail to succumb to attach herself of her wouldbe husband who has laid down taboos for her. There comes a moment that this particular person has panned to torture the good human being who had come to serve the others. But this too is seen as a moment of maturity. As time goes on, the reader comes to know that the narrative conclusion is an unachievable

It is a passage of time that makes the narrative flow. As a reader, I was reminded of the creative ability in Kodituwakku coming closer to those of the creative skills of Andre Gide, Thomas Mann and Franz Kafka. I do not mean to stress that he had been grossly influenced by them. All I want to stress is a focal factor where similarities could inevitably occur in various forms. As a reader, I found that each chapter is an episode of a prophetic vision with a fresh outlook.

They are fused with the plugged moment of truth, in reality, explained in the oriental form as Satyam. Then I felt that he, in several ways, try to evoke the sense of delight and wisdom nec-

The protagonist remains unshaken even in turmoil and disaster, that reaches a climax with the death of the old retired commissioner who led an intimate association with the protagonist. Although the protagonist was known by a pseudonym, he happened to be one of the well-known poets who had given up creative function in order to make a self-effaced identity that paved the way for tangible sustenance from moment to moment in the existential standpoint enmeshed in willpower to live.

For the reader of the narrative, a fresh outlook on the concept of metamorphosis that is generally known is extended to various other areas of thinking. This enables us to make a niche in the narrative that overpowers in the literary scene. The reader is also given the chance of seeing the beauty of poems as written from time to time on the part of the daughter who towards the end of the narrative gets ready to leave the shores of her exist-

Kodituwakku takes the reader into a plane of spiritualism not in the form of a sermonised series of dialogues but the form of several significant situations. The work as a whole is recurrent of an age-old narrative reborn to suit the present social conditions. The beauty of living is underlined as a necessity amidst the gravest trepidations. I am not trying to exaggerate what I deeply felt but it is true to state that the simplest kind of living experiences when well-expressed give way deeper visions that help the living beings live in harmony.

In this direction, the narrative disseminates a message of love and kindness in the deepest sense of the term. The commonplace sentimental weeps and sighs are pruned down to the bottom-most layers. The mindfulness of a person who had faced the gravest disaster is esteemed as a noble living force.

All in all, one may feel that this creative world of Kodituwakku is a mere tale of a person who tries to disguise himself to pass time. But may it be said that the creative vision transcends that superficial layer of narration. But the subtle manner in which a human embraces boldly the forces that destruct him is the key point. The narrative pattern enables the reader to feel that it is beyond the mere experimental level of expression.

A wider and a broader vision of discourse is perhaps necessary for the discussion of this type of emerging creative work. This is a serious moment of such necessities anticipated by the literary lovers the general and the academic. As a point of remembrance, I felt that creativity too takes different alternative dimensions as a result of the social forces that change the living patterns of the humans in a given frame of reference.

Dance devoted to Hinduism

Dr SUBASHINI PATHMANATHAN

ome sections of Sri Lankan Tamils feel that they must develop a separate classical dance form of their own. They feel that Bharatha Natyam is an Indian classical dance form. Those who make such claims are ignorant and don't have any deep knowledge of the traditional Tamil culture.

They must realise that Bharatha Natyam is essentially a Tamil dance of Tamil Nadu fostered and developed in the Tamil country over centuries and it is a part of Tamil heritage and culture. Above all, it is deeply rooted in Hindu religious philosophy. Hence it is not only a linguistically based dance but also a religious dance form. The majority of the Sri Lankan Tamils are Hindus who are preserving and practising this art form with full devotional faith.

The expatriate Tamil community has carried the religion, language, literature, music and their social customs to their new homes. They have earnestly preserved and fostered these traditional Tamil links. The terms Bharatha Natyam is often referred to as Bharatham.

Bharatham is derived from the Tamil words Bavam, ragam and thalam. Bharatha Natyam is the classical dance form of Tamils wherever they live. The place and the area where they live is immaterial for the community to carry out their cultural activities and preserve their cultural heritage.

Bharatha Natyam is the classical dance form of Tamils. It has its grace, charm, and standing in the international spheres. But a dance form differs from region to region, place to place, district to district and any community formulating a dance form for



amusement is called folk dance. This locally-based custom and dance form is called folk dance form of the area.

This folk dance varies from place to place. According to Natya Sastra, the dance forms which are confined to a particular Pradesh is called Desidance. The Desi dance forms do not insist on strict adherence. Desi reflects regional, religious and social influences prevailing among the local population. Therefore, Desi is a regional dance and never acquired international recognition. Anybody can formulate a folk dance based on the regional and other values of

Any dance form which transcends the international barriers acquires international recognition is known as Margi. Any classical dance form is firmly rooted in cultural tradition, philosophy and religion are called Margi. Margi developed over the centuries have specialised with sophisticated techniques. Bharatha Natyam is certainly a Margi form of dance.

Bharatha Natyam evolved over centuries is regarded as one of the clas-

> and sical national dance forms of India. But it does not distract from the view that it is essentially a Tamil classical dance form. No one has ever suggested that the expatriate Tamils have to devel-



op a dance of their own. Such a suggestion is preposterous. Some argue that spoken Tamil and their social practices differ from place to place and region to region.

But it differs from one area to another area within the same country. The written Tamil grammar and the alphabetical letters remain the same. So too the traditional classical music and classical dance form. Similarly, Tamils have their folk dances which vary from place to place according to the social customs. But it is impossible to advocate that the expatriate Tamils must develop a different classical dance form.

A classical dance form must substantially adhere to the principles of Natya Sastra. To develop a separate dance form one must understand that distinct literature and deep religious philosophy are needed.

Above all, separate music (different from the Carnatic music) must be created for this need, and a system of Thala structure should be found. It means such a dance form needs grammar and idiom of its own.

Self-styled dances which are practised by the present generation teachers and students in the name of so-called creative dances and modern dances cannot be considered as rich classical oriental dance forms. This shows their poor knowledge of the classical

dance. India is the home for 55 million Tamils and Sri Lanka is geographically separated by the sea by 18 miles. The Indian influence has inevitably continued to dominate the Sri Lankan Tamil culture. A separate classical dance for Sri Lankan Tamils will remain a pipe-dream.



see me

CHANNA BANDARA WIJEKOON

rom everv Monday Thursday at 9pm enthusiastic viewers could now gather in their living rooms to watch 'Can you hear Me' the newest teledrama of the award winning director Sunil Costa.

'Can you hear Me' commenced its telecast over Rupavahini from October 5.

Sunil Costa is an innovator who believes in experimenting on different creations to satisfy the tastes of viewers. Tele dramas such as Piyasa, Pinsara Dosthara and Sudu Endagena Kalu Evidin are testament to this fact.

'Sudu Endagena Kalu Evidin' was recognized as the most popular tele drama of the year at the 24th edition of the Sumathi Tele Awards and was also recognized in this year's Raigam tele awards.

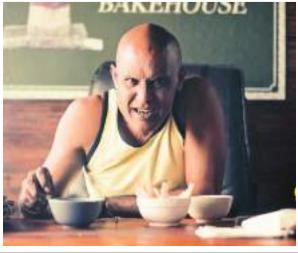
Story of Costa's latest teledrama 'Can you hear Me' revolves around people of upper segment in



maintain their position as elite ones and hilarious behaviors of middleclass people to survive as lovers, businessmen, laymen and their interaction.

The cast include, Roger Seneviratne, Veena Jayakody, Dilhani Ekanayake, Gihan Fernando, Niroshan Wijesinghe, Lukshman Mendis, Shalani Tharaka, Priyankara Ratnayake, Chinthaka Kulathunga, Ajith Lokuge, Mitchel Dilhara, Umayangana Wickramasinghe and many more.

Sisikirana Paranawithana has handled the camera while Dinesh Subasinghe has made the music scoresof 'Can you hear





Double International Rohan brought honour and fame to Sri Lanka

ALTHAF NAWAZ

St.Benedict's College, Kotahena is one of the leading Catholic schools in the country which has produced some quality yesteryear players, who donned the National jersey in several sports at International level. Gaston Rohan Gunaratne was one of them who made his 'Alma Mater' proud by representing the country in Basketball and Rugby.

Rohan hails from a sports loving His father is late Basil Gunaratne from Kalutara who served in the Health Department while his mother was Rosebell Gunaratne from Mutwal. Being the eldest in the family he has three brothers Philip, Keerthi and Jayantha while the sister is Basil-

All three brothers excelled in sports while his younger brother Keerthi represented the Sri Lanka cricket team. Rohan started his school career with Holy Cross College, Kalutara and went to De La Salle College, Mutwal and later moved to St. Benedict's Coldecade. His mentor in Basketball at the Sri Lanka Air Force to play Rugby

wal there was a Basketball court built by the De La Salle College where Rohan played with other children. Late Rev. Bro.Edwin Ambrose was instrumental in building the courts which later encouraged many children from that area to get into Basketball. With his height he was chosen to play for St.Benedicts College team from the under-13 age category to senior level. He went on to Captain the Sri Lanka Schools Basketball team in 1971 and while being a schoolboy he represented the senior National

team in 1970/71 season at the age of 17 years. Cosmos Perera Malsiri Perera Percy Perera Rienzie de Silva, Noel Perera Vivian Saverimuttupulle, Dr. C Thurairaja, Late Gen.Rohan Daluwatte, Royden de Silva, Nemantha Hatharasinghe, Kumar Bastian pillai and Duncan Jayawardena were some of his colleagues in the National side and his career spanned over a

onwards. When he was living in Mut-played a pivotal role in grooming him as a quality player.

Apart from this, he was also an Athletic Champion at school in the Inter House Sports meet in the under-19 age category. Rohan has an interesting history in getting into the rugby arena. As a prominent Basketball player he used to attend practice under coach Ram. He also had a liking for Rugby and attended practices one day quitting Basketball. Noticing his absence, Ram the Basketball coach, reported him to the brother Rector, who summoned him and advised him about the risk of playing rugby, especially the injury side of it and he heeded his advice and decided to quit finally. But in 1972, which was his last year in College he completed the Basketball season and joined Rugby under the coaching of Raja Sahabandu, where he played as a second row forward under

late Lalith Edirisinghe's captaincy. Soon after he left College he joined

lege, Kotahena from grade eight school was Ram Sundaralingam who and Basketball. His rugby coach was the 'Sportsman of the year' on four late Air Chief Marshal Harry consecutive occasions, which is a Gunathilake with Victor Jayaraj being the Basketball coach there. He played for them in the 1972 and 73 seasons in both sports before joining CH and FC in 1974 where Y.C. Chang, Harindra Gunesekera, Bryan Baptist, Upali Vithanage, Baratha Hegoda and Saman Jayasinghe were some of his team mates.

He engaged himself in two seasons with them and in 1976 he wore the Police uniform as a sub Inspector. From then until 1986 he was a regular player in both forms of sports. He had the opportunity of playing with some top class players in both sports where Police remained undisputed champi-

His first skipper there was flanker R.P.Linton He was a member of several champion sides in Police where he later went on to lead them in 1983, winning several championships. Due to his unstinted performance in both sports he was awarded

rare feat by any sportsman. Mohan Sahayam, Mohamed, Azain Gamini Fernando, Anton Benedict. M.A.Majeed and late Daya Jayasundera were his coaches.

He made his Sri Lanka debut in 1978 with the National team at the Rugby Asiad in Kuala Lumpur and went onto play in Rugby Asiads 1982 (Singapore), 1984 (Japan), 1986 (Bangkok) where he captained the

In 1983/85 played in the Hong Kong sevens and captained the side in 1985. He also led the Sri Lanka team on the tour of Hong Kong and Taiwan in 1985 His coaches were Kavan Rambukwella, Summa Navaratnam, Jeff Ratnam, Ajith Abevratne and GamIni Fernando at the National Level.

After hanging up his boots in 1986 he started coaching his school St. Benedict's for five years. He also coached the Sri Lanka National sevens team at the Hong Kong, Singapore



Rohan Gunaratne

sevens and Malaysian sevens respectively. He also served as the Manager of the Sri Lanka National Men's team and under-19 team. He retired from the rugby arena after serving a decade with Sri Lankan Rugby as an Executive Director.

His wife Srimani Gunaratne is the sister of former Havelocks player and President Lal Silva. His Son Lakshitha Gunaratne who captained St. Joseph's College team in 1999 represented the Sri Lanka under-19 team at the Youth Rugby Asiad.

Former Royal boxing champion Herath Bandara heads Colombo District Volleyball Association

SHERIFFDEEN AMATH

A former Royal College boxing star Mahinda Herath Bandara has been elected President of the Colombo District Volleyball Association (CDVA). All office-bearers were elected uncontested at their annual general meeting held at the Sports Ministry auditorium recently.

Bandara played a key role in promoting the national sport of volleyball when he served as Vice President of the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVB) for a period of ten years. He was instrumental in getting Dialog to sponsor the President's Gold Cup Volleyball Championship since 2005.

During the 80s decade, Bandara excelled in sports such as boxing, Employment Bureau.



Herath Bandara

football, cricket and athletics at Royal College, winning laurels in boxing and captaining the school in 1991

Bandara served in top positions in government institutions including Managing Director of the National Youth Services Council, Director of Sri Lanka Telecom and Director of Sri Lanka Foreign

The office-bearers

President - Mahinda Herath Bandara

Vice Presidents - Pradeep Ratnayaka, Mohamed Riyal, Vajira Gunasekera, Dhammika Eliyapura Chamila Secretary -

Nadee Herath Asst Secretary - Sarath

Treasurer -Kavinda Mahavedage

Tournament Secretary -D.M.D. Janaranjana

Grounds Secretary - N. Chandana **Medical Committee Head** Dr Thushara Mativalage

Disciplinary Committee Secretary – Prabath Indika General Committee -Maduka Kiriella, Sumith Jayalal, Sumith Perera, P.I. Jagath, Sarath Jayasinghe, Kamal Dabare, Chandima Akarawita, Tilak

bo to the Grade One and during this period his Rector was Reverend Father Trevor Martyn. He attended cricket practices in the

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

N.K.Ratnayake, an old boy of Dharmaraja College,Kandy is a fine cricketer, Athlete and a veteran Tennis coach and was the youngest President of the Old Boys Union of Dharmaraja

Kandy. Popularly known as Tissa Ratnayake to his associates. He is a cricketer with a lot of stamina as he used to bowl for a long spell

He played under the writer at the victorious 'Big Match' of Dharmaraja College against Kingswood College, in the year 1965 by capturing a match bag of six wickets for his school. He used to swing the ball both ways. As an Athlete he won the Javelin Throw in

number of tennis matches at the Grade II Club tennis tournaments.

former Mayor of Kandy.

Shon Shenil Rodrigo outstanding cricketer and athlete

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Corr.

Fourth year first eleven cricketer, right hand middle order batsman, right arm medium pace bowler, athlete and football player Shon Shenil Rodrigo excelled as an all rounder for Loyala College, Negombo and later for St. Joseph Vaz College, Wennappuwa.

He was born on 17th June 2002 in Rome, Italy and for his schooling he returned to Sri Lanka and got admitted to Loyala College, Negomunder 13 cricket team and came

under Dinesh Ranatunga and in the following year he scored 132 runs and claimed 9 scalps and in his final year he bagged 19 wickets.

Playing in the under 15 team in his first year he scored 230 runs and claimed 27 wickets and in his second year he collected 462 runs with 28 wickets. With these performances under his belt he was selected to represent Gampaha District and Gampaha Province in the Prima Cup in the Gampaha District cricket tournament and representing his Alma Mater in five matches he scored 732 runs with an unbeaten 303 runs against Jayakody Maha Vidyalaya and another 165 runs and bagged nine wickets.



He played in the under 17 for one year and scored 311 runs and captured 14 wickets. In the mean time he played for the college under 19 team for four successive years and in his last year he scored 200 runs. During this period he was coached by Maditha Bandara and Tharanga Perera. He played for the school

SCHOOL CRICKETER

under 16 and 17 teams and did athletics in the inter house sports meet and he did 200, 400 metres and high jump. He represented his school in athletics for the under 15 and 17 teams in the divisional and Zonal meets and won places.

After that he joined St. Joseph Vaz College in 2018/19 cricket season and came under Tharanga Liyanapathirana and played in the Big Match against their arch rivals St. Mary's College, Chilaw and also played in the 2019/20 inter school cricket season and scored 137 runs with a fifty and claimed 33 wickets with two five wicket hauls and presently he is in the under 23 cricket squad of Negombo Cricket Club.

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NO. 32

Sports in Kandy at a standstill

HAFIZ MARIKAR

The outbreak of the corona virus, has affected sporting events, in Kandy which have been cancelled or postponed. Kandy's sporting fraternity hopes to come back after things get back to normal.. game, is continuing to be Kandy District has established a proud record of producing some of the top sports men and women in Sri Lanka

Cricket and rugby are the most popular sports for years. and crowd pulling games. best. And in early days

game of rugby is Kandy office bearers who did clubs. Billiards and snooktheir best with a good

in the good old days Kandy Lake Club., Kandy RFC, Peradeniya University, Kandy Youth SC and Old Trinitians SC too gave a big hand for rugby. Football, the common man's in the doldrums. Sad to say in the last ten years the game of football in Kandy at club level has taken a back seat and the AGM has not been held

Hockey at school and This is because of the club level is on a good players who give of their footing, with most of the schools, especially girls' there were top sports schools dominating the promoters involved in game. Kandy District Hockey Association has Today the only club out come back to the game of Colombo playing the and will be organizing the inter club men's league SC, thanks to the former tournament with ten

er however has taken a

background of the game. nose dive with hardly any activity Only Mahanuwara YMBA gives the cue to the players.

Basketball has come back to its former position. Table tennis and badminton too are in good shape with participation at every level being more than satisfactory.Volleyball too is at a low ebb. In recent times Kandy has produced some top athletes but the eye-opener has been swimming where Kandy has produced some top class swimmers among both men and women.

especially in schools. Although Kandy has several sports bodies they need to get actively involved at the highest level. Kandy urgently is in need of proper ground facilities for cricket, rugby football, hockey and ath-

N. K. Ratnayake-cricketer, athlete and tennis coach

Kandy Sports Special Corr.

College,

as a medium pace bowler representing his Alma Mater

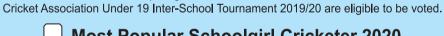
School and District level. N.K. Ratnayake represented the Central Zone Schools Cricket team under the captaincy of Harindra Dunuwille, a Trinitian. After leaving School he started playing Tennis and after several training programmes at the Sri Lanka Tennis Association, he won a record

He won veteran open singles as well as open doubles and mixed doubles in the same tournament at the Garden Club in the nineties. He was selected to attend a training programme organized by the International Tennis Federation (I.T.F.) in Bangkok in the year 1998.

He has a club tennis record of winning five titles in Singles and doubles, veteran singles doubles and mixed doubles. He participated in a Tennis Coaching Camp and Coaches from 15 Asian Countries participated. Presently he is an I.T.F. certificate holder, a Senior Tennis coach and Tennis Secretary at Garden Club, Kandy. He is the son of Thilak Ratnayake, the







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

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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C2 Games Colombo 2020 held successfully



The Champions of an event

dar of Leo District 306 C2, an annual Sports meet 'C2 Games' fostering camaraderie, improving physical fitness of Leos in friendly

The 1st ever C2 Games Colombo 2020 was held on October 3 at hane MJF and project chairman

including an aquatic meet, athletic meet, rugby tournament, volwas added with the objective of leyball tournament etc. under the supervision of the District President Leo Rahul Attanayake, District Chairperson for Leos PDG Dr. Lion Lasantha Goonaward-



The torch relay

As a novel event into the calen- Sugathadasa Stadium, Colombo Leo Kalpa Sulakshana. The sports recipient Ms. Niluka Rajasekara meet was filled with more than while the chief guest of the clos-400 Leos and invitees. Nearly 150 ing ceremony was past interna-Leos enrolled for the events and tional president of Lions Interna-

guest of honour was Olympic holder Akalanka Peiris.

tional Lion Mahendra Amarsuriya The chief guest of the opening PMJF and the guest of honour of ceremony was District Governor the event was the well-known Dr. Rasika S Priyantha and the international swimming record



aily Acws

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Pallekele, Hambantota to host all LPL matches

Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy and Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium in Hambantota will host all 23 matches to be played in the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2020. The League is scheduled to be held from November 21 to December 13, 2020 and the Players Draft is scheduled to be held on October 19, 2020.

The Pallekele International Cricket Stadium which has hosted seven Tests, 26 ODIs and 23 T20 Internationals has a spectator capacity of 35,000. The Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium, also with a spectator capacity of 35,000, has hosted 21 ODIs and 7 T20 Internationals. The last T20 match played at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium was between West Indies and Sri Lanka on March 6, 2020



Pallekele International Cricket Stadium

where the visitors triumphed by seven wickets in the D/N encounter.

The last T20 encounter at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium was played in August

6, 2013 when host Sri Lanka got the better of the visiting South African side by six wickets in another D/N encounter.

In the Lanka Premier League, five



Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium

franchisee teams, named after Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Dambulla and Jaffna. will compete in 23 matches over a 15-day period for the title.

Along with all key current interna-

tional players from Sri Lanka, 75 foreign players will be in the Players Draft to be picked by the five fran-

chisees. "LPL gives us an opportunity to

provide the cricket-loving nation a T20 extravaganza to look forward to. Sri Lankan cricket fans are extremely passionate about the game, and it gives me tremendous joy and happiness that IPG got the mandate to conduct the League here. The Sri Lankan Cricket (SLC) too has been extremely helpful and I look forward for their unending co-operation and support to make this League a grand success. We are committed to create a world class league with LPL," said Anil Mohan, CEO of IPG.

'The tournament will not only create a platform for local players to develop their skills by playing alongside world class players, but will also provide an opportunity for Sri Lankan cricket fans to watch a quality cricket tournament," said SLC vice-president Ravin Wickramaratne.

Kohli hails 'super-human' De Villiers after Bangalore's massive win

DUBAI, MONDAY: Skipper Virat Kohli Monday praised AB de Villiers' "super-human" effort on a sluggish pitch after the South African great hit a match-winning 73 for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League. Bangalore thrashed Kolkata

Knight Riders by 82 runs in Sharjah as De Villiers stood tall with his 33-ball blitz and an unbeaten century stand with Kohli, who made 33.

Bangalore posted 194 for two, a total their bowlers defended by keeping down Kolkata to 112 for nine in 20 overs.

house down with two of his six sixes going out of the stadium and one hitting a moving car on the road as he went past 3000 runs in the Twenty20 tourna-

"Barring one super-human, everyone struggled on that pitch,"

AB de Villiers

De Villiers, 36, brought the hit his third half-century of the season on a slow Sharjah pitch.

"It was unbelievable. I thought I had a few balls under my belt, and I might start striking. He just came in and struck the third ball, and said he felt good.

"I said you might see a lot of Kohli said of his star player who games, but only AB can did what innings.

he did. It was a fabulous knock. We were looking at 160-165, and it was only thanks to his genius we got to 195."

De Villiers took the attack to the opposition bowlers with Kohli playing second fiddle at the other end as the duo scored 83 runs people do what is done in other from the final 30 deliveries of the

"I am very happy with my performance. That's all I can say," De Villiers said after being named of

"I got a duck last game, that is a terrible feeling. I am very happy that I contributed. I surprised myself today to be honest."

Opener Aaron Finch, who made 47, and Devdutt Padikkal, who hit 32, set the platform for Bangalore's total with a 67-run

Kolkata's bowling looked dismal in the absence of spinner Sunil Narine who was dropped from the XI after being under warning for a suspect bowling

action. Kolkata skipper Dinesh Karthik said it was just "hard to stop" a world-class player" like AB.

"He was the difference between the two teams. We tried everything. The only ball was the perfect inswinging yorker. Anything else was going," said

Dinesh Chandimal honoured for his epic feat



A portrait of former Sri Lankan cricket captain Major Dinesh Chandimal was unveiled at the Panagoda Army cricket ground Hall of Fame recently in recognition of his knock of unbeaten 354 against Saracence SC at the SLC Major Tier A tournament, which is the highest individual score in Sri Lankan domestic cricket. Here Army cricket head Maj. Gen. Ruwan Wanigasooriya unavail-

Ranjith Weerasena dies

na, the former Amateur Athletic Association (AAASL) and National Olympic Council (NOC) president passed away yesterday. He became the president of the AAASL in 1978 and after two years he was elected as the presi-

dent of the NOC. He is also the sena was conferred the honorary youngest president of the NOC to be elected at the age of 37, which enabled him to be the youngest person in the history in the country.

He is an old boy of St. Peter's he held a 12-year unblemished Flowers'. He was 79 years at the record in the discus throw event time of his demise. (AN)



Ranjith Weerasena

National Champion's record for eleven years from 1964 to 1975. He played a pivotal role in extending his support, from his own funds to some of the former top athletes by sponsoring them with their sporting gear. Ranjith Weera-

title 'Kreeda Bhushana' at the Presidential Sports Awards held at BMICH in 2017.

The funeral will be held on to get into sports administration Thursday (15) and the venue will be notified later. His body lies at his residence 368, Galle College, Colombo. As an athlete Road, Colombo-3 near 'Niko

Rugby Australia boss takes jab at New Zealand after 'ironic' draw WELLINGTON, TUESDAY: Rugby Australia chairman Hamish McLennan delivered a broadside against his New Zealand counterparts Tuesday after a "wondrously ironic" 16-16 Test draw undercut assertions that Australian teams don't deserve equal billing in a revamped Super Rugby competition. McLennan claimed vindica-

tion after the Wallabies' muchimproved display in Wellington on Sunday - when they were inches from victory as Reece Hodge's post-siren penalty hit the upright.

"All year we've been told that we can't compete, and we don't have the player strength, so a 16-16 draw was wondrously ironic," he told Stuff.co.nz.

Rugby's governing bodies in New Zealand and Australia have been locked in arguments



Hamish McLennan

over the future of Super Rugby and the format of this year's Test-level Rugby Champion-

Cash-strapped Australia has accused New Zealand - which has the larger market and the stronger teams - of arrogance after Kiwi officials said up to three Australian sides should be left out of a trans-Tasman Super Rugby competition.

McLennan earlier said that the relationship between administrators either side of the Tasman was at the "lowest ebb it's ever been".

New Zealand, Australia and South Africa all organised domestic versions of Super Rugby this year after the southern hemisphere tournament was halted by the coronavirus pan-

demic. But South Africa is now hoping to put four of its teams into Europe's PRO14 after New Zealand unveiled a proposal ditching South African sides and Argentina's Jaguares. Rugby Australia insisted all five of its teams must be included, rather than the two to four proposed by New Zealand.

As it stands, New Zealand and Australia are set to continue to operate separate domestic Super Rugby competitions in 2021, although plans remain fluid in such uncertain times.

McLennan said a Kiwi proposal to include unproven

and an Auckland-based Pacific team was questionable.

"We were instructed that New Zealand wanted to create a world-class competition, and so three new teams go forward - that makes a mockery of the original premise," McLennan

"How could you compare those teams to the Brumbies or the Reds?". **AFP**

MOORS SPORTS CLUB

NOTICE

This is to inform the Members of Moors Sports Club that at the 108th Annual General Meeting of the Club held on 25th July 2020 the following Motion was passed.

"To readmit an Ordinary Member who is in arrears of membership subscription by allowing him/her to pay a lump sum fee of Rs, 6,250.00 in lieu of all membership subscription arrears to date. However, such readmitted Member will not have any voting rights until 2023/24. This facility will be extended to all Members who are in arrears until 31st December 2020. If any Member in arrears decides to settle the arrears in full then such Member will continue to enjoy the privileges of an Ordinary Member".

Hence, all those Members who are in arrears of subscription payments can be readmitted after paying a lump sum fee of Rs. 6,250.00. This concession can be availed until 31st December 2020.

Hony. General Secretary Moors Sports Club

10th October, 2020

IPL Five things: the surprises and new names "IPL commentators are trajectory comes in the way,"

DUBAI, TUESDAY: Halfway through the 2020 Indian Premier League, exiled to the United Arab Emirates because of the coronavirus pandemic, it is already increasingly likely that a new name will go on the winner's trophy.

Here AFP takes a look at five things that stood out in the first half of the world's richest cricket tournament including the upstart challenge from the Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore:

Kohli's hunt for first title

In search of their first IPL title, India captain Virat Kohli has led Royal Challengers Bangalore to their best start to a campaign with five wins from

"King" Kohli found form with a half-century in his

team's win over Rajasthan on October 3. Bottom of the table last year, Bangalore are now level with leaders Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals on 10 points. South African veteran AB De Villiers, who hit an explosive 73 in Monday's win over Kolkata Knight Riders, has played a key role. Kohli hailed the South African as "super-human".

Indian youngsters

New Indian player including Bangalore opener Devdutt Padikkal and Kings XI Punjab spinner Ravi Bishnoi have been making a claim for national attention in the IPL. Kohli called the 20-year-old Padikkal a "serious talent" before the left-hander hit three half-centuries in seven games. Bishnoi, 20, has caught the eye with his leg spin for King's XI Punjab

and his eight wickets so far have included England's Eoin Morgan and Jonny Bairstow, and Australian star David Warner. Kolkata Knight Riders pace duo of Shivam Mavi, 21, and Kamlesh Nagarkoti, 20, have also made their presence felt taking nine wickets between them. **Dhoni slump**

Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been one of IPL's most successful skippers, leading Chennai Super Kings to three titles. But Dhoni and the Super Kings are in a slump this year. The 39-year-old Dhoni, once known for finishing off games, has failed to fire in the middle overs with Chennai in five of their seven games and they are now in the unfamiliar position of seventh in the eight-team table.

maintaining the fiction that the wicket of Dhoni is still a huge one," Wisden Almanack editor Lawrence Booth wrote on Twitter. **Dropped catches**

A number of dropped catch-

es by top fielders in this year's tournament have shocked many at the IPL. Virat Kohli and Ravindra

Jedja are among the elite to have let routine catches go to ground. The problem venue has been Dubai's stadium which has a "ring of fire" circu-

lar lighting system instead of the regular tall towers of flood-According to players, the ball gets lost in the black sky and is misjudged by fielders. "The players are not used to playing

under such lights, maybe the

Dhoni said after one game at the venue. Fake noise

Known for its packed stadi-

ums and raucous crowds, the IPL has been forced by the coronavirus into exile in empty stadiums in United Arab Emir-As with European football

leagues, organisers have turned to fake crowd chants and video recordings of cheerleaders to keep TV viewers happy.

Social media has been divided over the canned noise but the tournament is still attracting viewers. The stadium was empty but a record 200 million people watched on screens at home as reigning champions Mumbai Indians beat Chennai Super Kings in the opening game. AFP

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