

CHIEF PRELATES DENY STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THEM ON 20A

ASELA KURULUWANSA
The Chief Prelates of Amrapura 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.

Nikaya Chief Prelate Most Ven. Napanapemasiri Thera, in two separate statements, said that their Sects had not arrived at any official stance with regard to the proposed 20th Amendment.

"Many inquired about our opinion on the 20th Amendment, but our Sangha Council or Executive Council has not held any discussion on that matter. One has to analyse the Amendment Clause by Clause if that person wants to speak

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 Amendment. One has to take them also in to account when expressing an opinion. I personally believe the Executive should be strengthened than it is now. **TO PAGE 02**



Most Ven. Napanapemasiri Thera



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 so far. **TO PAGE 02**

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 Rs.150. **TO PAGE 02**

'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. **TO PAGE 02**

Cabinet approves State run Expressway Investment Company

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Cabinet of Ministers 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 Media Minister Keheliya 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**

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 Propaganda 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**

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**

Get 15% OFF
on Fresh Vegetables and Fruits

For bills over Rs. 2,500/-

From Wednesday to Friday
(14th to 16th October, 2020)

- Maximum quantity of 5kg per item
- Maximum discount of Rs. 500/- per transaction
- Conditions apply.

You can now order through **Cargills Online**

Scan the QR Code to download

Download on the Google play or the App Store

or visit www.cargillsonline.com

Moving forward with trust
DFCC Bank celebrates 65 years

24 Hour Contact Centre: 0112 350000
www.dfcc.lk

BEST ADD-ON PLANS FOR YOUR POST-PAID MOBILE CONNECTION

FASTEST INTERNET WIDEST COVERAGE 4G LTE

Rs. 299+Tax 2.75GB Day: 1.65GB Night: 1.1GB	Rs. 590+Tax 9.9GB Day: 4.4GB Night: 5.5GB	Rs. 1290+Tax 50GB Day: 25GB Night: 25GB
--	--	--

To activate dial #170# or visit the SelfCare App or Datamart App

Day Time: 9.00 am - 12.00 Mid Night
Night Time: 12.00 Mid Night - 9.00 am
TRC/M/Promo/16/09 Terms & conditions apply.

Update employees' personal files in three 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. 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 places. They are also required to provide an alternative contact number of a relative or close associate to obtain their details in an emergency," he said.

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 Lanka (HRCSL) caused 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 tenure. 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 foreign exchange. After summoning the then Chairperson, I came to know about the family member of the deceased LTTE cadre, and he was the one who involved in doing such activities, he said.

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. Sujeeva Amarasekera 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 and 362,824 students face the exam this year. The 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.

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 Secretary. 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 Madurata 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.

'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. "Over 150 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.

ADA KOTIPATHI - WEDNESDAY
Draw No.: 1071 Colour: PINK
Date: 14.10.2020
Today's Jackpot
Rs. 77,953,730/-
Enriching Your Life
Development Lottery
Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.
Development Lotteries Board
356, De. Colvin Rd, De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2
Tel: 2 333 546-47 Fax: 2 333 545 Website: www.dlb.lk
Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

CEAT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CEAT Kelani Holdings hereby notifies the public and all stakeholders that the company's administrative offices will reopen on Thursday 15th 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.

CEAT KELANI HOLDINGS (PVT) LTD.
ceatsrilanka.com

Diabetasol

GO STEADY & WIN

Diabetasol Diabetasol Diabetasol

1646/- 945/- 945/- 328/-

2nd Prize Samsung 340L 2 Door Refrigerator

1st Prize Samsung S20 Ultra

3rd Prize Samsung 7Kg Washing Machine

Many More Prizes

SCAN for more details

HOW TO ENTER?

- 1 Remove the top flap of a Diabetasol Box or the sticker around a Diabetasol Tin
- 2 Write your name, contact number, address on the back of the flap
- 3 Post it to: Kalbe International (Pte) Ltd 413 R A De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 3 E-mail: customer@kalbesrilanka.com Whatsapp/Viber/Skype: +94 76 500 2880

Entries: Diabetasol 180g Box = 2 Entries Diabetasol 360g Tin = 4 Entries Diabetasol Sweetener 50 Sachets = 1 Entry

HURRY! CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 30 NOVEMBER 2020

*Terms and conditions apply. Terms and Conditions Available on @DiabetasolSriLanka

Marketed by: Kalbe International (Pte) Limited 413, R A De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 3. Tel: +94 11 255 2000

Imported and Distributed by: Hemas Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Limited 12, Glen Aber Place, Colombo 3.

KALBE

Bank of Ceylon

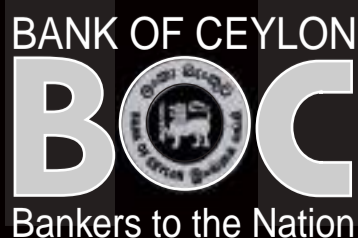
Requires suitable buildings on lease to relocate following Branches

KARAWANELLA and GODAKAWELA

Proposed buildings should conform to the following specifications:

- ▶ Building should have been legally constructed and should not be older than 10 years.
- ▶ Minimum floor area should be around 4500 - 5500 sq. ft. and if it is a storied building Ground Floor should be at least 3500 - 4000 sq. ft. and the remaining space should be 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 should be available.
- ▶ 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 quotation.



Asst. Chief Manager (Sabaragamuwa Province)
Bank of Ceylon
Sabaragamuwa Province Office,
No. 227, Colombo Road, Ratnapura.
Tel: 045-2222036 Fax: 045-2222314
E-mail: bocsbp@boc.lk

எங்களுக்கும் இடம் கொடுங்கள்
 உடனடி உதவியை வழங்குங்கள்
 GIVE US SPACE
 -- THIS IS MY STREET TOO --
 Optimum

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

Bold pioneer of free education

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

Dr. 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 edu-

cation 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 being 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 Vidyalaya) modelled on Royal College, Colombo, in locations outside major cities. These took high quality secondary education to the rural outstations 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 *suaabasha* (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 Medi-



A danger to free medical education

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 on.

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.



Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara

Kannangara's reforms benefitted thousands of underprivileged students in rural parts of the country by making education free for all.

Kannangara established a series of Central Schools (Madhya Maha Vidyalaya) modelled on Royal College, Colombo, in locations outside major cities.

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'.

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).





World Standards Day

14th October 2020



“Protecting the planet with standards”

2020 - Theme

National Quality Week 12-18 Oct.



Message from the Hon. Minister

It is my pleasure to deliver this message on World Standards Day 2020 which falls 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 theme.

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



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 limitations.

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 sustainability.

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.



YINBIAO SHU
IEC President



EDDY NJOROGE
ISO President



HOULIN ZHAO
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



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 Colombo. 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 Peradeniya.

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, 2021. 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 Dulas Alahapera, and Water Supply Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara

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.

Converting Vidyalankara International Buddhist Conference Hall into a service supplying condition

The Government has spent Rs. 1,200 million to construct Vidyalankara International 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 implementing 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 multi-storey 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 7 with other appropriate projects including housing units, office spaces among others 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 Kalugapitiya, Badulla under the District Secretariat of Badulla to inaugurate under-

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 Minister.

Action concerning railway employees residing in railway reserve lands 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 Tennakoon; Land Minister S.M.Chandrasena and Money, Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms State Minister Ajith Niward Cabraal.

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 the Trade Minister to advise 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.

CABINET DECISIONS

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-Sri Lanka Trade Agreement. In importing rice under this provision, the private sector has also been given permission to import Basmati 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 Wastewater Management 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 facility.

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

Constructing Wellawatte Wastewater Treatment Plant to Rehabilitate and expand 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 the Cabinet.

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 produce 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 Cans 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 100mg/4ml

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 Injection 100mg/4ml to M/s Medmart Pharma (Pvt.) limited for Rs. 196.88 million.

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 Transharma 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 in Wellawatta

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 have been identified as some of the barriers to accelerate the implementation of development activities.

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 expeditiously 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 recommendations.

The report of the 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 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 Minister to completely reform the Non-Banking 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.

Advertisement for Jayoda lottery. Date: 12-10-2020, Draw Number: 1697, Colour: Yellow. Super Jackpot: Rs. 54,725,892/-. Winning Numbers: 12, 14, 46, 55. English Letter: D. Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 3,020,580/-. Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 54,882,024/-.

Advertisement for Super Ball lottery. Date: 12.10.2020, Draw Number: 1243, Colour: Purple. Draw Date: 12.10.2020, Date: Monday. Winning English Letter and Numbers: N 18 28 59 65. Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 3,401,340/-.

Advertisement for Lagna lottery. Date: 12-10-2020, Draw Number: 2950, Colour: Yellow. Super Jackpot: Rs. 3,065,382/-. Winning Numbers: 16, 19, 20, 37. Capricorn. Double Chance. For Rs. 500 prizes: 2567. For Rs. 100 prizes: 875. Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 9,549,280/-.

Advertisement for Ada Kotipathi lottery. Date: 12.10.2020, Draw No.: 1069, Colour: RED. Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 4,040,700/-. Winning Numbers: 07, 17, 53, 67. English Letter: W. Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: 2367. Winning number for Rs. 100/- cash prizes: 224.

Advertisement for Shamiya lottery. Date: 12.10.2020, Draw No.: 3399, Colour: BLUE. Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 4,490,920/-. Winning Numbers: 09, 12, 34, 43. English Letter: H. Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: 3158.

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 means). The shareholder communications in this regard, namely, the Supplementary Circular to Shareholders (along with the previous Circular to Shareholders dated 15th September 2020), Supplementary Notice of EGM and the Form of Proxy have been published in the website of Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE), www.cse.lk and also in the website of the company: www.seylan.lk. The company will not despatch the above mentioned shareholder communications by post. Shareholders are therefore requested to access the websites (www.cse.lk ; www.seylan.lk) to peruse the said documents and download/print as required.

Bank of Ceylon

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 accessible.
- 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 side of the building.
- The Floor should be tiled and roof should be sheltered by 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.

BANK OF CEYLON. Asst. General Manager (Western Province - North). Bank of Ceylon. 2nd floor, BOC Merchant Tower Building, Kollupitiya. Tel: 2381366/5865151 Fax: 2326830 E-mail: bocwpn@boc.lk. Bankers to the Nation

Daily News



The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited,
LAKE HOUSE
P. O. Box 1217 No. 35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha,
Colombo 10, Sri Lanka
Telephone : (011) 242 9211 Fax: (011) 234 3694
E-mail : editor.dailynews@lakehouse.lk
news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

An inspiring assurance

The 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 authorities?

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 Schaefer



Intense focus on SUPREME COURT DETERMINATION



Now that the 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 debate.

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 dalling 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

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

It was the President's assertion 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 two-thirds majority in Parliament have helped the President to stay focused on his mission.

Legal battle ends

The Supreme Court five-judge 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. Although the formal announcement from the Speaker is yet 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-



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

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 Constitution 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 fair elections and referenda, 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 President'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 People."

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 two-thirds 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



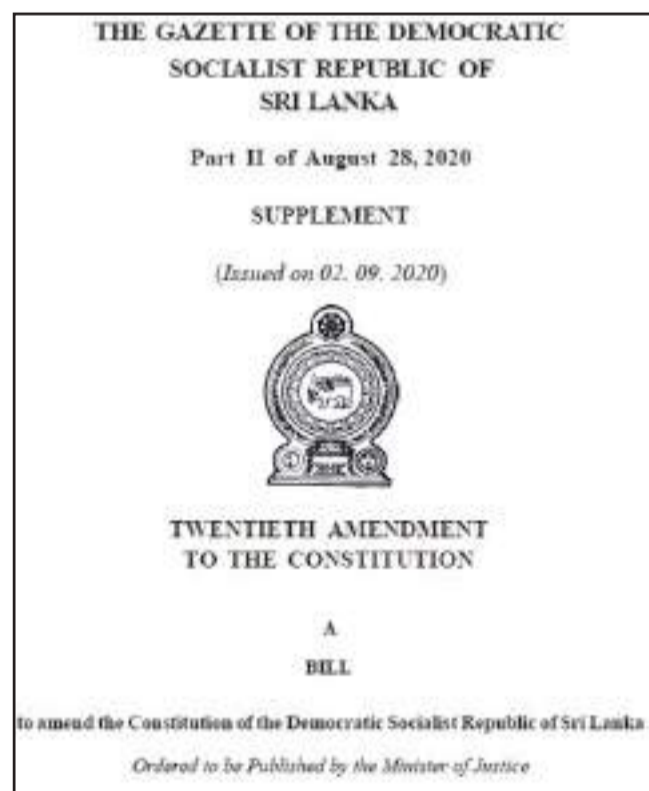
Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

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 Rajapaksa 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 nod.



The 20th Amendment Bill



The Supreme Court complex

RAJPAL ABEYNAYAKE

The entire country's forest destruction problem should be under the authority of military personnel acting in tandem with police and the Grama Niladhari, 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 god-send. 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 has failed.

The military can use its network-logical 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



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.

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 Kodikamam 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 men-

ace 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 Kamal Gunaratne and others could do today.

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 work.

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 destruction?

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 happens.

There was initial resistance to seatbelts, or one-way 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 brigands.

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 slash-and-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 beyond 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



These 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 headline.

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-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. 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, rigger 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 Sujewa, 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 better.

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 humor.

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 that.

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 hands.

(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 con-

taining the spread of Covid-19," Thomas Schinecker, who heads Roche's diagnostics unit, said in a statement.

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.

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
Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 28

MEGA POWER
 DRAW NUMBER : 640
OFFICIAL RESULTS
 DATE 2020.10.12

English Letter: **K** Super Number: **14** Winning Numbers: **07 21 30 64**

PRIZE	PRIZE STRUCTURE	PRIZE MONEY (RS.)	NO. OF WINNERS
1st PRIZE	If all 4 Numbers are correct	1,000,000.00	-
2nd PRIZE	If only 3 Numbers with English Letter is correct	100,000.00	00
3rd PRIZE	If all 3 Numbers are correct	1,000.00	113
4th PRIZE	If only 2 Numbers with English Letter is correct	500.00	301
5th PRIZE	Only 2 Numbers are correct	100.00	6,211
6th PRIZE	If only 1 Number with English Letter is correct	60.00	4,007
7th PRIZE	Only 1 Number are correct	20.00	105,191
8th PRIZE	Only English Letter are correct	20.00	16,463

NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE Rs.53,171,949.20

NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE Rs.12,442,368.80 **NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE Rs.19,903,516.40**

Total Prizes Won in This Draw Rs.4,200,360.00

OFFICIAL RESULTS
 DRAW DATE: 12/10/2020 DELAY NUMBER: 1543

English Letter: **05** SUPER NUMBER: **05** WINNING NUMBERS: **24 27 43 44**

PRIZE	PRIZE STRUCTURE	PRIZE MONEY (RS.)	NO. OF WINNERS
1st PRIZE	ALL 04 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 500,000.00	-
2nd PRIZE	SUPER NUMBER & 03 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 15,000.00	05
3rd PRIZE	03 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 1,000.00	113
4th PRIZE	SUPER NUMBER & 02 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 200.00	312
5th PRIZE	02 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 100.00	4556
6th PRIZE	SUPER NUMBER & 01 NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 60.00	4244
7th PRIZE	01 NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	59,114
8th PRIZE	ONLY THE SUPER NUMBER IS CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	14984

TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW Rs. 2,447,900.00

SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW Rs. 21,294,337.08

Govisettha
 OFFICIAL RESULTS

DRAW NUMBER: 2568 DRAW DATE: 12.10.2020

English Letter: **0** WINNING NUMBERS: **22 45 59 73**

PRIZE	PRIZE STRUCTURE	PRIZE MONEY (RS.)	NO. OF WINNERS
1st PRIZE	If all 4 numbers correct	Rs. 1,000,000.00	01
2nd PRIZE	If letter & any 3 numbers correct	Rs. 100,000.00	05
3rd PRIZE	If any 3 numbers correct	Rs. 2,000.00	187
4th PRIZE	If letter & any 2 numbers correct	Rs. 1,000.00	371
5th PRIZE	If any 2 numbers correct	Rs. 100.00	9553
6th PRIZE	If letter & any number correct	Rs. 60.00	6308
7th PRIZE	If any number correct	Rs. 20.00	156772
8th PRIZE	If only the letter is correct	Rs. 20.00	20538

TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW 201716

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW Rs. 7,118,840.00

SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW Rs. 63,936,481.20

Vasana Sampatha
 OFFICIAL RESULTS

Draw No. 1621 Date 2020.10.12

English Letter: **Y** WINNING NUMBERS: **03 41 72 73**

PRIZE	PRIZE STRUCTURE	PRIZE MONEY (RS.)	NO. OF WINNERS
1st PRIZE	Four Numbers are correct	1,000,000.00	-
2nd PRIZE	If three numbers and English letter are correct	100,000.00	04
3rd PRIZE	Three Numbers are correct	2,000.00	71
4th PRIZE	If two numbers and English letter are correct	500.00	161
5th PRIZE	Two Numbers are correct	100.00	3,599
6th PRIZE	One Number and English letter are correct	60.00	2,154
7th PRIZE	Only One Number are correct	20.00	53,979
8th PRIZE	Only English letter is correct	20.00	8,848

Total prize money won in this Draw Rs. 2,368,180.00

Next Super Prize Rs. 24,309,600.90

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA
 DATE: 12-10-2020

English Letter: **C** WINNING NUMBERS: **9 8 2 2 0 7**

PRIZE	PRIZE STRUCTURE	PRIZE MONEY (RS.)	NO. OF WINNERS
1st PRIZE	6 Numbers are correct	Rs. 2,000,000.00	01
2nd PRIZE	5 Numbers are correct	Rs. 100,000.00	11
3rd PRIZE	4 Numbers are correct	Rs. 10,000.00	108
4th PRIZE	3 Numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000.00	1,080
5th PRIZE	2 Numbers are correct	Rs. 100.00	10,852
6th PRIZE	1 Number is correct	Rs. 20.00	107,284

Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs.10,260,570.00

The Super Prize of next draw Rs.25,489,389.00

Daily News WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY

BUDGET adz

It suits your budget

CUBIK ENCLOSURES & SWITCHBOARD ACCESSORIES

Electrical Enclosures
 Cable Management System
 Control Components
 Wiring Accessories
 Switchgears
 Solar Products
 Smart Manufacturing, IoT & IIoT
 Tools & Testers

Call 2 86 40 40

CUBIK ENGINEERING CO. (PVT) LTD.
 #3701, Nawata Road (Kirimandala Mw Junction), Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka.
 Tel : 2 86 40 40 (Auto Line) E-mail : sales@cubik.lk
 Fax : 2 86 40 40 Web : www.cubik.lk

රනුං වාසියක්

සිත්තවිමට යන භාණ්ඩ සඳහා ඉහළ මිලක්, පාවිච්චි කළ පරණ රත්තරං ඉහළම මිලට ගනු ලැබේ. විශ්වසනීය සේවාව.

076 987 1373

ROOFING FOR THE LAST TIME!

RE ROOFING * ROOF REMOVAL AND TILING WITH LEAK PROOF GUARANTEE * REPLACING TILES OR ASBESTOS SHEETS ON EXISTING STRUCTURE

COLOURCON offer a total solution to your roofing problems. We undertake to repair & replace old leaking roofs using the existing roof framework. We also remove old Asbestos sheets or lay tiles over sheets using a light timber framework. Which ever you choose, your guaranteed to have a Roof Makeover at a cost effective rate without moving out of your house.

Call 0773 680675 For a free INSPECTION
 Web: COLOURCON.COM

Daily News **BUDGET adz**

It suits your budget

The Latest Business Marketplace

15.2cm (Height) x 8cm (Width)
Rs. 6,000/- +VAT

Contact : **Chamara - 077 727 0067**
Umanga - 077 727 0845
 adzsuo@gmail.com

Best way to fulfil your Business Dreams

Daily News **BUDGET adz**

7.5cm (Height) x 16.2cm (Width) - Rs. 6,000/- +VAT

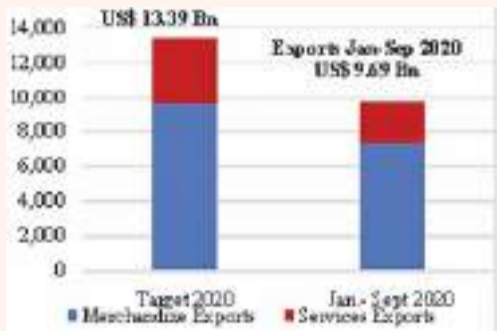
Contact : Chamara - 077 727 0067 | Umanga - 077 727 0845
 adzsuo@gmail.com



Finance

Business: 0112 429221 / 0112429299 Fax: +94112343694 email: business.dailynews@lakehouse.lk www.dailynews.lk

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 2020.

"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 commence 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



Sri Lanka's merchandise exports have surpassed the \$ 1 billion mark in September after July during this year.

Export Development Board (EDB) Chairman Prabhath 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 merchandise exports. However, we are concerned about the recent escalation of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka but hopeful of a swift recovery and a stable level of business continuity."

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.

This strong performance is consistent with the gradual lifting of restrictions due to Covid 19 pandemic within the country and globally. Increases in exports were recorded as; Europe Region (20.19%), CIS Countries (19.59%) and African Region (56.4%) in September 2020.

Export earnings from Apparel & Textiles declined by 3.75% to US\$ 431.87 Mn during September 2020.

Export earnings from tea in September 2020



Monthly Merchandise Export Performance 2019, January-September 2020

which made up 12% of merchandise exports increased by 3.3% y-o-y to US\$ 113.99 million but the export volume decreased by 2.82% in September 2020.

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

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), 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 - September 2020.

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 chain.

Created in Adelaide, the GoMicro AI microscope has previously been used in a kit to diagnose leishmaniasis in war-torn 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 technology combines a mobile phone microscope attachment with an artificial intelligence suite that is able to recognise 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 AI-supported 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.

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 system.

"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 Sri Lanka so we formed a fully owned subsidiary there to do our software development," Krish said.

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

(indaily.com.au)



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 Airlines'

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 our passengers' 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".

An alternative to Savings Accounts

NDB | WEALTH MONEY PLUS FUND

* Current Yield as at 8th October 2020

7.10%

WITHDRAW ANYTIME

It's time for more than banking!

Disclaimer: * Current yield is variable and subject to change. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the Exploratory Memorandum before investing. Among others, investors should consider the fees and charges involved.

071 9 788 788

NDB Wealth Management
Licensed by the Securities & Exchange Commission

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.

Dialog HOME Broadband



ANYTIME WORK & LEARN PACKS

Zoom, Google, Microsoft, YouTube, Education Apps and Web Browsing @ Amazing Rates

35GB Pack**

for just Rs.495/-
*inclusive of taxes

80GB Pack**

for just Rs.995/-
*inclusive of taxes

This Pack cannot be used to access Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Netflix and other streaming, gaming & social networking apps

Activate from MyDialog App or Dialog.lk

Ultra High Speed Home Broadband

**Valid for 30 days TRC/DBN/PRO/20/03 • Conditions apply

Dialog
The Future.Today.

Ajith Peiris assumed duties as GM/CEO of NSB

Ajith W Peiris assumed his duties as GM/CEO of National 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 K Ratnayake, who was function-

ing as the Acting GM/CEO of NSB.

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 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 2007.

Peiris is a firm believer of continuous 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 Monday



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 consumers' 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 Amarantunga, 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.

thriving career in marketing and 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. Arusha 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 led by Prof. Sampath Amarantunga, who is currently serving as the Chairman of the University Grants Commission. He highlight-

ed the importance of obtaining a professional qualification on top of academic qualification as well. Moreover, Prof. Amarantunga 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 milestone.

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 merchants, inclusive of clothing, accessories and electronics retailers, restaurants, bookshops, car care providers and supermarkets. Once customers select a merchant, they can redeem points and apply for physical vouchers or e-Vouchers from selected merchants 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 scheme.

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 the premium segment. The cards are equipped with 'Tap 'n Go' NFC technology and are backed by a strong NFC Point-of-Sale (POS) network.

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 6.43-inch 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 16MP primary 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



Bokeh effect or Black & White effect on the foreground or background. OPPO F17 Pro's AI Super Night Portrait gives users clearer selfie portraits in low light night conditions. It will be a perfect travel partner which gives 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 technology.

Customers can now pre-order OPPO F17 Pro from authorized OPPO dealers island-wide 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



Handing over of the keys.

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 complement 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

developing the higher education sector. 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."

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.

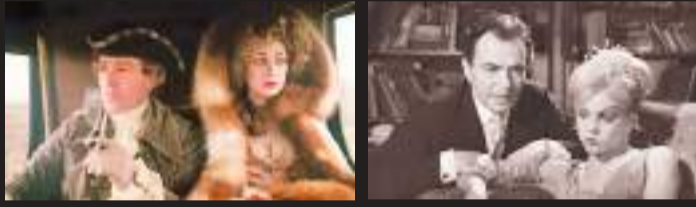
TOWN & COUNTRY

To re-kindle the passions of town & country folk

FEATURES EDITOR: (011) 242 9216 Fax: (011) 234 3694 E mail: features.dailynews@lakehouse.lk

TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY

DIRECTOR'S SPOTLIGHT



Barry Lyndon (1775)

Lolita (1962)

STANLEY KUBRICK'S VISIONS



Eyes Wide Shut (1999)

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. Phillips)

Some 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 me."

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

the number of films that Robert Bresson 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 editing.

More than once he got into a conflict with his cast and crew; here one remembers Ray's arguments with his cinematographer, Subrata Mitra, 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 just 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.



Stanley Kubrick



Barry Lyndon

WHY IS THE CONDUCTOR SO IMPORTANT?



Barbara Hannigan Conductor and Soprano

GWEN HERAT

It 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 them because I think all they

do is help the orchestra keep time. I think may be people do not understand the role of a 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 singer-conductor 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 world-class 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 an open heart from my seat at South Bank Centre's London Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of iconic conductors.

The superman within a man

Professor **SUNANDA MAHENDRA**

In the local literary scene, the name Parakrama Kodituwakku 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 Vesgath Kathavak (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 narrative presents 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 vision.

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 in a manner he had not 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 as evil.

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 would-be husband who has laid down taboos for her. There comes a moment that this particular person has planned 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 entity.

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 necessary for living.

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.

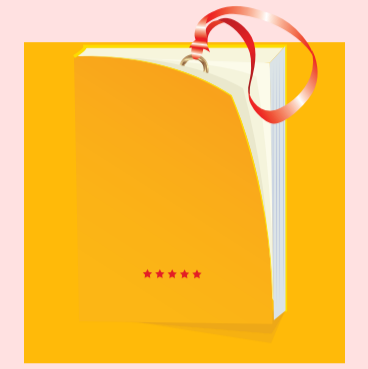
For the reader of the narrative, a fresh outlook on the concept of metamorphosis that is generally known is extended to various other areas of thinking. This enables us to make a niche in the narrative that overpowers in the literary scene. The reader is also given the chance of seeing the beauty of 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 existence.

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 experiential 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.



BOOKMARK



Dance devoted to Hinduism

Dr SUBASHINI PATHMANATHAN

Some 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 Desi dance. 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.

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 classical and 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.



Now you see me

CHANNA BANDARA WIJEKOON

From every Monday to Thursday at 9pm enthusiastic viewers could now gather in their living rooms to watch 'Can you hear Me' the newest tele-drama 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 tele-drama 'Can you hear Me' revolves around people of upper segment in



the society who try to 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 scores of 'Can you hear Me'.



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 franchisees.

"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.

De Villiers, 36, brought the 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 tournament.

"Barring one super-human, everyone struggled on that pitch," Kohli said of his star player who



AB de Villiers

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 people do what is done in other games, but only AB can do what

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 from the final 30 deliveries of the innings.

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

"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 stand.

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 Karthik. **AFP**

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 Saracense 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 unveiling the photo in the presence of Maj. Dinesh Chandimal and senior officers.

Ranjith Weerasena dies

Ranjith Weerasena, 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 president of the NOC. He is also the youngest president of the NOC to be elected at the age of 37, which enabled him to be the youngest person in the history to get into sports administration in the country.

He is an old boy of St. Peter's College, Colombo. As an athlete he held a 12-year unblemished record in the discus throw event



Ranjith Weerasena

while holding the 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 Weerasena was conferred the honorary title 'Kreedha Bhushana' at the Presidential Sports Awards held at BMICH in 2017.

The funeral will be held on Thursday (15) and the venue will be notified later. His body lies at his residence 368, Galle Road, Colombo-3 near 'Niko Flowers'. He was 79 years at the time of his demise. **(AN)**

Rugby Australia boss takes job 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 vindication after the Wallabies' much-improved display in Wellington on Sunday - when they were inches from victory as Reece Hodge's post-rinse 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 Championship.

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 pandemic.

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

Jaguars. 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

teams from Hong Kong, Hawaii 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 said.

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

NOTICE

MOORS SPORTS CLUB

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

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 seven games.

"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.

"IPL commentators are 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 catches 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" circular lighting system instead of the regular tall towers of floodlights.

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

trajectory comes in the way," Dhoni said after one game at the venue.

Fake noise

Known for its packed stadiums and raucous crowds, the IPL has been forced by the coronavirus into exile in empty stadiums in United Arab Emirates.

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**