

NO PLANS FOR LOCKDOWN - DEFENCE SECRETARY

'GOVT. CLOSELY MONITORING SITUATION'

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The current COVID-19 situation in the country is not at a level that requires the whole country to be placed under lockdown, but if the situation worsens the Government may have to take more far-reaching measures in order to deal with the situation for the greater benefit of the

people, said Defence Secretary Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Kamal Gunaratne. "Even the President does not want to lockdown the country at this point, but if the situation gets worse, then we may have to take drastic measures. The Government does not want to impose another lockdown in the country but if and when there are

many cases being reported from a particular area and depending on contact tracing outcomes, we may impose lockdowns in the affected areas. For instance, at the start of this cluster we had to place three police divisions in the Gampaha District under lockdown even though reluctantly. This measure was absolutely

necessary to contain the spread of the virus to other areas," he added. In an interview with the *Daily News* he said the moment these garment factory workers had initially reported to the management regarding their obvious symptoms, the management of this factory should have handled it better. **TO PAGE 02**



Debate on 20A on October 21, 22



SANDASEN MARASINGHE

The Parliament Business Committee Meeting yesterday decided to hold the debate on the 20th Amendment to the Constitution on October 21 and 22 from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm.

The Business Committee Meeting was presided over by the Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena and it was told that the Supreme Court order on the 20th Amendment to the Constitution will be presented to the House on October 20. **TO PAGE 02**

Establishment of FCID may have contravened Police Ordinance - Ranil

ROSHAN THUSHARA

Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday admitted that the Financial Crimes Investigation Division (FCID) established by the previous 'Yahapalana' Government, to investigate allegations of fraud and corruption may have been in contravention of the Police Ordinance.

He was responding to questions by the members of the Commission to probe political victimization yesterday about the legality of the FCID. The Commission pointed out that according to the Police Ordinance, the IGP has the power only to carry out transfers and disciplinary inquiries of police officers. **TO PAGE 02**

Riyaj Bathiudeen's petition to be heard on Oct. 20

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A writ petition filed by former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen's brother Riyaj Bathiudeen was yesterday fixed for support on October 20 by the Court of Appeal.

Through this application, Riyaj Bathiudeen is seeking an Interim Order preventing police from arresting him in relation to the investigations connected with Easter Sunday attacks.

President's Counsel Faiz Mustapha appearing for the petitioner sought an early date taking into consideration the urgent nature of the application. Accordingly, the Court of Appeal fixed the petition for October 20 for consideration.

The petitioner had named Acting IGP C.D. Wickremaratne, former DIG attached to Criminal Investigations Department Nuwan Wedasinghe, CID director Prasanna de Alwis, Attorney General and several others as respondents in the petition. **TO PAGE 02**



Pharmacies and shops selling essential goods in areas under quarantine curfew were reopened from 08 AM to 10 PM yesterday. Here a street vendor selling coconut oil in Gampaha town as people rushed to buy essential items. *Picture by Nishanka de Silva*

PCoI probing Easter Sunday terror attacks Zahran's group planned attack using 20 suicide bombers - SI

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE AND DILSHAN THARAKA

It was revealed before the Presidential Commission to Inquiry (PCoI) probing the Easter Sunday terror attacks yesterday that Zahran Hashim and his group had planned to launch an attack using 20 suicide bombers.

This was revealed in the testimony given by a Sub Inspector attached to the Police Terrorism Investigation Division before the Commission. **TO PAGE 02**

Intervention petition filed against Riyaj's writ petition

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Rev. Fr. Lorenz Ramanayake has filed an intervention petition in the Court of Appeal against the writ petition filed by former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen's brother Riyaj Bathiudeen who had sought an order preventing the Police from arresting him in relation to the investigations connected with the Easter Sunday attacks. **TO PAGE 02**

Russia to provide COVID-19 vaccine to Sri Lanka

CHANDIMA KARUNARATNE



Russia's Ambassador to Sri Lanka Yury Materiy has promised Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of Internal Defense, Home Affairs and Disaster Management Chamal Rajapaksa to provide the COVID-19 vaccine developed by his country to Sri Lanka.

This was stated by the Russian Ambassador when he met Minister Rajapaksa at the ministry premises recently.

The Ambassador said the Russian Government hopes to distribute the "Sputnik" vaccine developed by the Russian Government against the COVID-19 to several countries, including Sri Lanka. **TO PAGE 02**

CID visits Sajith's residence in search for Rishad

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

A group of CID officers had visited Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa's Royal Gardens residence in search of MP Rishad Bathiudeen.

Issuing a statement Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa stated

that the CID had questioned him on whether Bathiudeen had contacted him on the particular day he was to be arrested. However, Premadasa states that despite six Police teams being deployed to arrest Bathiudeen, two days have lapsed but the Police have failed to arrest him. **TO PAGE 02**

Podi Lesi bailed out

MAHINDA P.LIYANAGE,

Galle Central Special Correspondent

Galle Chief Magistrate Harshana Kekunawela released the Arumhandi Janith Madusanka De Silva alias Podi Lesi on four sureties of Rs. one million each when the law suit regarding making death threats on the President, Defence Secretary and several high ranking prison officials was taken up for hearing yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**

Rishad will be arrested soon - Defence Secretary

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Defence Secretary Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Kamal Gunaratne urged the public to give the law enforcement officers time for the arrest of MP

Rishad Bathiudeen, assuring that he would be arrested very soon. "When we look at social media, the Government is attacked and criticized. **TO PAGE 02**

Health Ministry recommendations for factories and private establishments

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

All factories and private establishments have been advised to deploy only the Health Ministry recommended number of workers at their business establishments, said Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana.

Referring to the special Gazette notification on the new Coronavirus preventive regulations issued by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi, he said those who fail to adhere to the safety measures listed in the Gazette notification face strict legal **TO PAGE 02**

Two dead after elevator collapses in Kandy

ASELA KURULUWANSA

Two construction workers at a five-storey building on Dharmashoka Mawatha in Kandy, were killed when a temporary elevator collapsed. The accident in the textile shop had taken place when the temporary lift set up to carry clothes up and down had collapsed at around 9.00 am yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**

COVID-19 recoveries increase to 3,385 Another 110 COVID-19 cases from Minuwangoda cluster

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

With the recovery of five more patients that were infected with COVID-19, the number of recoveries has increased to 3,385, Epidemiology of the Health Ministry said.

The total number of COVID-19 patients stands at 5,224 with 74 persons reported on Thursday, out

of which 1,839 patients are still receiving treatment at 16 hospitals. Among 74 cases were 46 associates of Minuwangoda apparel factory workers, 22 identified while at quarantine centres.

Another 316 suspected of being infected with the virus are under observation. **TO PAGE 02**

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Step 1

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Step 2

Hand washing using a foot operated tap before entering the premises



Step 3

Body temperature is checked at the entrance



Step 4

Foot disinfectant tray at the entrance to ensure cleanliness



Step 5

Hand Sanitizers provided at every touch point



Step 6

Customer facing security personnel in personal protective kits



Step 7

Masks and Gloves mandatory for production staff



Step 8

Production area sanitized before commencing work

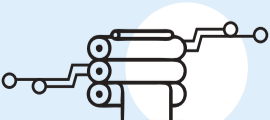


Step 9

Delivery vehicles sanitized before and after



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The newspaper reaches you with the least human interaction and is safe to read



Minister of State for Promotion of National Heritage, Performing Arts and Rural Arts Vidura Wickremanayake held a discussion with Adivasi leader Uruwarige Vannila Aththo on the problems faced by the Adivasi community recently. Members of the Adivasi Village also performed one of their ancient rituals 'Kirikoraha' to bless the Minister following the meeting. Pictures by Ingirja Central Group Corr.

No political influence in Rishad case

- Minister Johnston

IRANGIKA RANGE

Highways Minister Johnston Fernando said yesterday the Government did not politically influence the decision to arrest former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen.

Some people are alleging that the Government has forced the Police to arrest former Minister Bathiudeen on political grounds. It is completely wrong and the Government has not given such an order at all to arrest him. None of the politicians in our Government intervened in judiciary affairs and

Police investigations like the members in the previous Government did," the Minister said.

"People gave a massive mandate to the Government to implement the law against the wrongdoers. So we have to do that," Minister Johnston said.

Members of the ruling party also made a request from the President to probe the incident regarding the release of former Minister Rishad's brother. What we want to find out is whether there was any invisible force behind his release", he added.



PCoI probing Easter Sunday terror attacks

Muslim MPs resigned to protect Yahapalana Govt. and not Rishad Bathiudeen - Kabir

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE and DILSHAN THARAKA

Former UNP chairman and Samagi Jana Balawegaya General Secretary Kabir Hashim told the Presidential Commission to Inquiry (PCoI) probing the Easter Sunday terror attacks on Thursday that Muslim MPs resigned from the Yahapalana Government to protect the government and not to protect Rishad Bathiudeen after a No-Confidence Motion was brought against him

following the Easter Sunday terror attacks.

"The No-Confidence Motion filed against Rishad Bathiudeen after the Easter Sunday terror attacks had a drastic impact on the government. As the chairman of the UNP, Sinhala MPs told me that I would not be able to cast my vote. I then told former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe that this was brought to defeat us. When Rishad Bathiudeen was asked to resign

from the ministry post he said no. At that time Ven. Rathana Thera went on a death fast. I talked to the Prime Minister and said I would step down. An opinion had been formed against Muslim ministers. I thought confidence would be built when everyone resigned from their positions. We resigned from our positions thinking of the United National Party and the country," Hashim said.

He also said that he had

twice informed the Cabinet about extremists and that he had nothing to do with the The Fetullahist Terrorist Organization (FETO) and that it would be completely false statement if anyone suggested such a thing. He told the Commission that not all Muslims were extremists and that he was a Sri Lankan who practiced Islam and that 85% of Sinhala Buddhists and 5.5% Muslims voted for him.

Keys to Oval View Residency Condominiums handed over

The vital role played by government servants is proven more than ever during crisis times. We have a dream to provide housing solutions to public servants who are doing such a distinguished service. We will continue to work despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to realise our dreams as we have very limited time left. State Minister for Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Public Sanitation Dr. Nalaka Godahewa.

He was speaking at a ceremony at Borella to

hand over keys to houses to recipients of Oval View Residences.

on October 14. He said the Government's main aim is to provide housing for public servants.

State Minister Godahewa further said the Oval View Residences condominium scheme at Palangasthuduwa in Borella was initiated by then Secretary Defence and Urban Development and current President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The project should have been completed three years ago but was delayed due to the inefficiency of the previous regime.



State Minister for Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Public Sanitation Dr. Nalaka Godahewa handing over the house keys to on a housing recipient.

Tamil Nadu police nab 'Katta' Kamini

CHENNAI: Sri Lankan drug trafficker Sunil Gemini Fonseka alias 'Katta' Kamini has been arrested from his hideout in Bengaluru by the 'Q' branch of the Tamil Nadu police. He has been remanded in judicial custody.

Fonseka was involved in murders besides drug trafficking in several countries including Sri Lanka. He reportedly has close contacts with underworld don Dawood Ibrahim and other international drug traffickers.

The man who was sentenced to death in a drug trafficking case escaped from Sri Lanka. He had illegally stayed in Pudupakkam near Kancheepuram for six months. Inquiries revealed that he had rented a house at Pudupakkam posing as an entrepreneur.

When officials began tracking his movements, he fled to Bengaluru.

Death of veteran actress Anula Bulathsinhala

Veteran actress Anula Bulathsinhala passed away at the age of 73 yesterday. According to family sources she had passed away while receiving treatment for an ailment at a Hospital in Colombo. Anula Bulathsinhala was popular for her acting prowess in Sri Lankan cinema, teledramas and stage dramas. She is also an accomplished singer.

Anula Bulathsinhala is well known for

her roles in Sinhala movies *Bawathra* (2005), *Asandimitta* (2018) and *Nil Diya Yahana* (2008).

Her songs such as *Deekiri Deekiri*, like *Thattu Karanna* and *Bundun Wadina Me Dathin Wedala Kiyannam* are highly popular among local audiences.

Anula Bulathsinhala is the wife of veteran playwright, poet, stage drama producer and lyricist Lucien Bulathsinhala.



PUBLIC NOTICE

TOKYO CEMENT COMPANY (LANKA) PLC TO HOST THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF SHAREHOLDERS AS A VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS APP WITHOUT THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF THE SHAREHOLDERS, DUE TO THE PREVAILING COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION.

In view of the strict social distancing guidelines issued by the public health authorities of the Government of Sri Lanka in response to the current COVID-19 outbreak, The Board of Directors of TOKYO CEMENT COMPANY (LANKA) PLC has decided to host the previously announced AGM on Thursday 22nd October 2020, as a Virtual (online via the internet) assembly with the quorum necessary to conduct the business of the meeting.

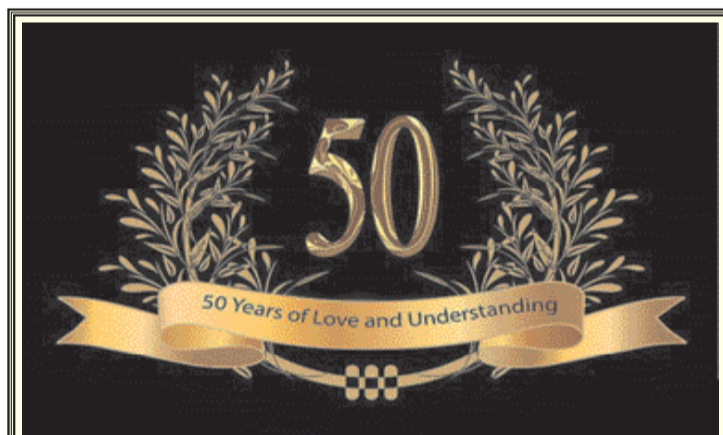
Shareholders are hereby requested to participate at the AGM virtually via Microsoft Teams App by submitting the Registration Form circulated previously and follow the procedures/instructions therein. Upon receipt of the duly completed Registration Form, the Company will email/issue Virtual Attendance Log-in Information to the registered shareholders/proxies, to enable them to attend the AGM on-line via the internet.

Strictly no shareholders will be permitted to attend the meeting in person. Accordingly, shareholders of the Company are requested to refrain from attending the AGM in person or by attorney or by corporate representative, and anyone seeking to attend the meeting in person will be refused entry.

Shareholders are urged to exercise their votes by submitting their proxy as explained in the Notice of AGM and Circular to Shareholders published at Company Website and at the Colombo Stock Exchange website. Shareholders are also invited to submit questions to the business of the meeting at least THREE days prior to the date of the AGM.

By Order of the Board TOKYO CEMENT COMPANY (LANKA) PLC
Seccom (Private) Limited
Sgd
Company Secretaries
17 October 2020

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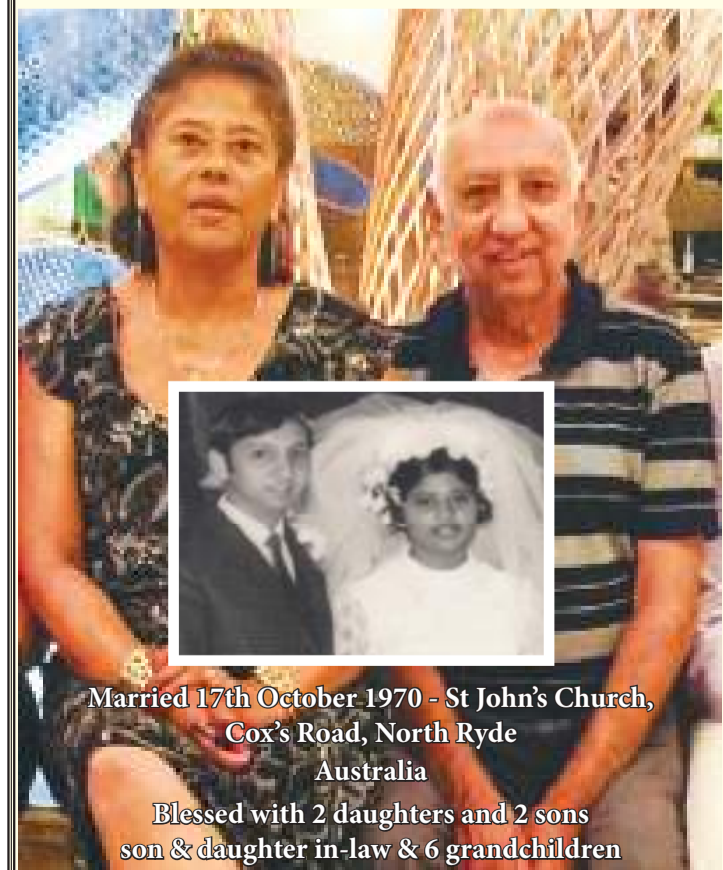


Felicia Philomena (nee Blom)

Everard Mervyn La Faber

Former St Anthony's Convent Mutwal Kotahena

Benedict College



Married 17th October 1970 - St John's Church, Cox's Road, North Ryde Australia

Blessed with 2 daughters and 2 sons son & daughter in-law & 6 grandchildren

PS auditorium ceiling collapses, no injuries

A.A.L. DIAS - Matale district group corr

The monthly meeting of Laggala-Pallegama Pradeshiya Sabha came to an abrupt end after its ceiling came crashing down on Thursday, Chairman Buddhika Senarathna said.

He further said that the Pradeshiya Sabha meeting commenced at 9 a.m. and came to a halt at about 10.30 a.m. when the ceiling collapsed. No one was injured at the incident.

The two storied building was constructed about two years ago by the Mahaweli Development Authority at the cost of 51 million.



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The “New Normal”

The gazette giving legal effect to the prevailing health guidelines, issued by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi it is hoped, would act as an effective deterrent to those acting irresponsibly vis-a-vis the Coronavirus pandemic. According to the new gazette, a fine of Rs. 10,000 and/or a six month prison term will be imposed against violators of the health regulations in force. This time around the law ought to be imposed in all its severity if the problem is not to get out of hand, like in some other countries.

It is the leniency adopted during the first outbreak, perhaps, that led to the public taking a casual approach to the looming danger of a second wave. Any softening of the penalizing process would certainly make the Coronavirus assume more serious proportions in this country at a time when almost all the Western countries have re-imposed curfews and lockdowns.

Sri Lankans are notorious for their short memories and for letting their collective guard down after the immediate danger has passed, a trend that was amply witnessed during the war years. Already 168 curfew violators have been arrested in the lockdown areas in the Gampaha district which is a clear indication that a majority of the public are either gluttons for punishment or seized by a death wish, willing to expose themselves to the deadly contagion.

Several thousand curfew violators were taken into custody during the first outbreak. In all probability they would have been left scot free after a warning. No wonder some people do not take curfews seriously. This time around the curfews and isolations must be strictly enforced and any violators severely dealt with.

Apart from making wearing face masks compulsory and the one metre distance rule, the gazette stipulating the restrictions in factories and workplaces too is timely. These places have very large work forces especially in factories involved in production activities. Besides a majority of these premises are not equipped to accommodate the full complement of such a workforce, bursting at the seams. Hence, the restrictions specifying the numbers that could be accommodated on any single day is a positive step, especially given that the second wave outbreak originated in a workplace that employed vast numbers.

According to Army Commander Lt General Shavendra Silva who is also Head of the Anti-Coronavirus Task Force, all cases detected so far have traced their origin to the Brandix cluster, ruling out a community spread. However, the unearthing of cases in large numbers on a daily basis from all districts in the country should be viewed with alarm, although everything is being done by those involved in hunting down the multi-tiered contacts. Their dedication and sacrifice should be appreciated by all.

However they are confronted with a problem – the unwillingness and reluctance on the part of those having had contact with the Brandix cluster in some form or other to respond to calls to submit themselves for quarantine. Most feel that doing so would mark them as social outcasts and the fallout from such an eventuality on their social life and also employment, while others are averse to entering quarantine centres due to other reasons, which according to Lt. Gen Silva had compelled his men go for the hard option and force such persons to see sense. After all, it is for their own good and good of the community at large. The larger benefit this will entail to all concerned is worth the price of a certain degree of inconvenience and sacrifice.

Like what Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohan said what they seek is not to intimidate anyone but to provide a shield against the spread of the Coronavirus. It is the duty of all citizens, therefore, to cooperate in this exercise.

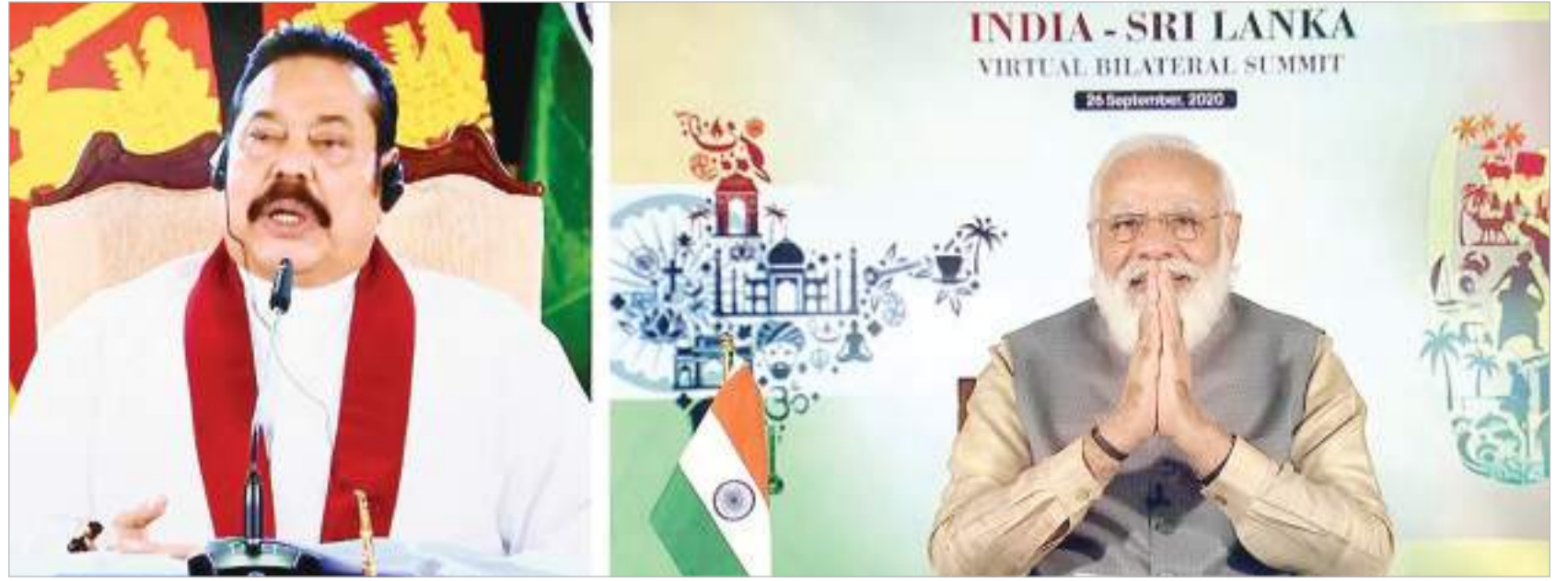
The gazetting of the regulations making compliance mandatory under the law will ensure that the “New Normal” concept is permanently embedded in community life in this country as elsewhere in the world. This is because the Coronavirus pandemic, while causing monumental upheaval, admittedly, has also brought in its wake certain positives such as constant adherence to good health practices.

During the strict regulations and restrictions forced down on the people due to the pandemic, it was a telling revelation on how the world would have been a better place to live in had these regulations and guidelines been in existence earlier, which would have even prevented the spread of the pandemic with such devastating effect.

With the World Health Organization (WHO) warning that the COVID-19 would remain in our midst at least for the next two years before a viable vaccine is made widely available, it is just as well that we settle down to the “New Normal” life pattern right away. In that respect the gazette containing the enforced guidelines could not have come at a better time.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The greatest gift you can give your family and the world is a healthy you. - Joyce Meyer



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi during a virtual bilateral summit on September 26, 2020.

SRI LANKA: NEW FOREIGN POLICY VISTAS

N. SATHIYA MOORTHY

The short-notice Colombo visit of a high-level Chinese delegation, to be followed now by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's this month-end should be of interest as much to the Indian strategic community as to their counterparts in Sri Lanka. The question is that if the Chinese visit was a reaction to the recent Quad Ministerial Meet at Tokyo, and the delayed one by Secretary Pompeo, likewise, has been influenced by the latter.

“Negotiations are underway for a \$10 billion (Renminbi) currency-swap agreement between the Central Bank and the People's Bank of China, to address the current liquidity crunch,” says Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Money, Capital Markets and Public Enterprise Reforms Minister, only days after the visit of a Chinese delegation, headed by former Foreign Minister, Yang Jiechi, now a leading Politburo member. Converting as US\$ 1.5 billion swap (approx), this is much bigger than the \$400 million swap deal with India, with ‘technical negotiations’ already on for another US\$ 1 billion swap.

Central Bank Governor during the presidency (2005-15) of Mahinda Rajapaksa, now Prime Minister, and Cabraal recalled how he had signed such a deal in his time. As if to make greater sense, or make light of what is otherwise seen as a further Sri Lankan tilt towards China, he indicated the possibility of the Government approaching the IMF for funding, instead. “If we have to go and hold the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) hand — or if the IMF has to hold our hand — that, I think, is a danger signal. We know we have to get our debt situation under control. Do we need the IMF to say that? No,” he said, by way of explanation.

During the Yang team's visit, China offered a US \$90 million grant towards Covid-related medical assistance, promised a further US\$ 500 million loan to Sri Lanka, repayable in ten years. The loan-agreement, as it turns out, was to have been concluded during Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's Beijing visit, which had to be delayed, and will be signed soon in the Chinese capital.

Following the successful conclusion of exchanges between the two sides, Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is expected to visit China later this year — his first after assuming office. Thus far, also because of the intervening Covid-19 pandemic, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's overseas visit was restricted to meeting with neighbouring India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

At talks with the Chinese delegation, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa pointed out that China had been a long-standing friend to Sri Lanka. It supported Sri Lanka to defeat terrorism and to build infrastructure, including the Hambantota Port, the Port City and Southern Expressway. He highlighted how “irrespective of the administration in power” in Colombo, bilateral ties had grown.

As if in this context, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said that the Hambantota Port was Sri Lanka's idea, and not that of China, and the latter offered to fund it. Now, many geopolitical analysts call it a Chinese debt-trap to gain control over Sri Lankan affairs.

“I want to prove that it is not the case and that this large-scale project will help improve the living standards of the people.” If the current focus is on the promised Chinese-funded SEZ at Hambantota, it remains to be seen, how much of Sri Lankan exports (as against imports) it would handle.

Read between the lines, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was sending out a message to overseas critics that Ham-

AT TALKS WITH THE CHINESE DELEGATION, PRESIDENT GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA POINTED OUT THAT CHINA HAD BEEN A LONG-STANDING FRIEND TO SRI LANKA. IT SUPPORTED SRI LANKA TO DEFEAT TERRORISM AND TO BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING THE HAMBANTOTA PORT, THE PORT CITY AND SOUTHERN EXPRESSWAY. HE HIGHLIGHTED HOW “IRRESPECTIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN POWER” IN COLOMBO, BILATERAL TIES HAD GROWN.



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo



US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Alaina B. Teplitz



State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabraal



Foreign Secretary, Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage

bantota was a ‘national project’ of Sri Lanka and there was across-the-board consensus in the matter. Clearly, he was referring to the predecessor Government of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe converting Mahinda era construction-cum-concession contract into a ‘debt-equity swap’ deal, handing over Sri Lankan ‘territory’ to a Chinese firm on a 99-year lease.

According to an official release from the Sri Lankan President's office, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said he wanted to bring to Sri Lanka the type of development in rural areas that he had seen during his 13 visits to China before he became President (mostly when he was war-time Defence Secretary under President Mahinda, his brother).

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa wanted Sri Lanka's trade-deficit with China to be lowered with China buying more Sri Lankan goods. He pressed for more Chinese investment and visitors. He encouraged Chinese participation in the domestic tea auction. He also called for the establishment of a technology university in Sri Lanka with Chinese backing. According to reports, the two sides will also revive negotiations on a bilateral Free Trade Agreement, stalled during the Wickremesinghe rule.

Independence and sovereignty

Yang declared that China will firmly

stand with Sri Lanka to protect the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity at international fora, including the UNHRC (where Colombo faces reprimand of some kind in the March 2021 session, after a two-year leeway).

In a recent interview, Alaina B. Teplitz, the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, told a Colombo-based newspaper: “Sri Lanka should engage with China in ways that protect its sovereignty. Sri Lanka is a sovereign nation, but we do believe it is better for countries if transactions are transparent and cost-effective, and if they create jobs and other material benefits for local people.”

It is in this context, revived talks of an early Colombo visit by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, towards October-end, and assumes added significance. While the visitor will press the hosts on the pending US proposal on the US\$ 480 million ‘Millennium Challenge Cooperation’ (MCC) connectivity project in Sri Lanka, the Rajapaksa leadership can be expected to feel the pre-poll American pulse on the UNHRC resolution.

The US concerns on China in Sri Lanka's Indian Ocean tri-junction with India and Maldives are well known. The US and India are partners in the four-nation Quad, also involving Japan and Australia. Recently, it signed a ‘Framework

Agreement’ for military cooperation with Maldives. Back home after the Quad Ministerial in the Japanese capital recently, Secretary Pompeo declared that “India needs the US as an ally” and talked about the ‘China risks.’

According to media reports, Secretary Pompeo's Colombo visit is timed to coincide with his presence in Delhi. Citing Pompeo dropping his planned Colombo visit last year after Gotabaya became President, a section of the Sri Lankan strategic community is curious if the rushed visit now was prompted by the Chinese delegation.

Needless to point out, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was profuse in his appreciation of China after meeting with the Yang delegation but was business-like on his exchanges with Prime Minister Modi, in interviews to the Indian media.

India already has a ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy, into which Sri Lanka very much fits in. Gotabaya Rajapaksa used his Delhi visit, after his election as President, to reiterate successive Sri Lankan Government positions that his administration (too) would follow an ‘India First’ foreign policy (which also implied security policy). After the Parliamentary Polls, his new Foreign Secretary, Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage said so in a series of interviews to the local media.

Given the trajectory of the China relations, now as under the predecessor Mahinda regime, Sri Lanka's ‘India First’ policy will obviously be confined to bilateral security issues and New Delhi's concerns in the matter.

This has become near-obvious, given Sri Lanka now wanting to review the India-Japan ECT project in Colombo Port, apart from the American-funded MCC scheme and Japan-funded ‘light rail project’ to decongest Colombo City — all of them signed by the predecessor Wickremesinghe administration.

In between, the Sri Lankan state too would be evaluating its own immediate security concerns, that too in the face of the Indo-Pacific Quad's increasing attention to the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), and the US’ Framework Agreement with Maldives.

While India may be reassessing its circumstances and priorities, Sri Lanka may also be seeking to reposition itself in the ever-evolving Indian Ocean geo-strategic scenario, where the nation may have as much to lose as it can gain, depending on what game it wants to play, how and when.

- Observer Research Foundation

ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

There is heavy voting in many states in the US with just more than two weeks for the presidential election on November 3. More than 15 million have already voted, and polls observers see the current voting numbers as staggering in a pre-election situation.

Both parties - Republican and Democratic - are steering supporters toward mail-in and early voting due to a surge in cases of coronavirus across the nation. Worrying case rises are experienced in battleground states including Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, important for President Trump. Health experts have warned that large crowds on Election Day could worsen the health risks.

However, there are also moves by Republican governors and legislators to launch legal challenges to early voting by reducing ballot drop-off locations, and the placing of false ballot boxes.

President Donald Trump has moved to active campaigning, especially in what are considered the battleground states, where he won easily in the 2016 election, but is now showing a big drop in support.

Democratic rival Joe Biden holds a double-digit lead over President Trump less than three weeks from Election Day, a new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll of registered voters finds. Mr. Biden is ahead by 11 points in the national survey, 53% to 42%, following a tumultuous few weeks that included Mr. Trump's nomination of federal Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court; the candidates' contentious, televised debate and the president's Covid-19 diagnosis and hospitalization.

There is also increased public interest in the US, on the Senate hearings on Judge Amy Coney Barrett nominated to the Supreme Court by President Trump, to take the place of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg who died recently. Judge Barrett, who is seen as extremely rightwing, has refused to answer many questions raised by Democratic Senators, especially about the legal support for abortions, the Affordable Care Act of President Obama - giving health insurance to many low-income Americans, which is now before the courts and will be taken up soon after

since the start of the pandemic on Thursday October 15 - which the prime minister has long said was his final cut-off date.

But despite no agreement being in sight, the Prime Minister Johnson is considering whether to prolong the exercise, potentially until the first week of November, to give the teams more time.

He spoke to the presidents of the European Commission and European Council on Wednesday night, where he "expressed his disappointment" that intensified discussions had led to little progress.

Downing Street said the prime minister would wait for the summit to conclude before he decided whether to pull out, with a decision expected after he heads home.

Boris Johnson will be advised by his chief negotiator that a trade deal with the EU is still possible should the prime minister ditch his deadline to exit by mid-October, and continue to negotiate with Brussels - as the French government offered a hint of compromise on fisheries.

Pressure is mounting after the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said the two sides are yet to make a significant breakthrough throwing doubt over whether Johnson's looming deadline will be met.

Top EU officials have warned the UK to stop trying to divide the EU27 in negotiations over the post-Brexit relationship, and said the UK is running out of time to reach a deal.

Germany's Foreign Minister Michael Roth and the EU Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic issued the warning to London after participating in a meeting to prepare for an EU leader's summit in Brussels later this week.

The UK's Prime Minister Boris Johnson has already initiated legislation to make unilateral changes to the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement with the EU. He has set this week as his deadline for securing an agreement with the EU.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel vowed not to let Ireland down on Tuesday as part of any Brexit trade deal, while adding that EU member states are keen to come to an agreement with their British counterparts. "We want an agreement: from the Irish point of view in particular it is extremely important," Merkel said. "We won't let Ireland down but will continue to stick together in these exit negotiations," she added. France has said it is time for UK 'tactics' to be



Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict is raging.



Lashkar Gar has become a battlefield.

TRUMP VS BIDEN: HEAVY EARLY VOTING IN US



President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden participated in separate Town Hall events organised by NBC and ABC respectively.

her appointment to the Supreme Court, and also about the likelihood of President Trump, who nominated her, challenging the result of the coming election.

Azerbaijan- Armenia

Heavy fighting continues between Azerbaijan and Armenia, with more than 700 reported dead, as the international community appeals for calm.

Russia has urged Turkey to work on bringing an end to deadly clashes in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, as Ankara has thrown its support behind Azerbaijan. Moscow's appeal came after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday demanded Armenia put an end to its "occupation" of Nagorno-Karabakh and called for it to leave the territory, which is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan.

"We call on all sides, especially partner countries such as Turkey to do all they can for a ceasefire and get back to a peaceful settlement of this conflict using political and diplomatic means," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

The fighting continues despite a ceasefire agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia at talks held in Moscow last week.

The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh has fueled a fresh fight within NATO, with alliance members pushing Turkey to dial back its aggressive foreign policy and support a cease-fire in the Caucasus.

As the conflict over the disputed territory has escalated NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called on Turkey to defuse the situation, given its decades of support for Azerbaijan. But Turkey has defied a joint call from the United States, France, and Russia for an immediate cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Analysts fear that the conflict could spiral into wider regional confrontations; both Turkey and Israel have a close security relationship with Azerbaijan, Russia has a defense pact with Armenia, and neighbouring Iran is trying to play a role in mediating the conflict.

Brexit - No Deal?

A no-deal Brexit hangs in the balance as Boris Johnson says the outcome of Thursday's EU summit will dictate whether Britain will walk out of talks.

Britain, the world's sixth-biggest economy, left the EU in January and has since been locked in talks with the Union. EU leaders will hold a summit in Brussels this week to assess progress after UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson set a deadline for October 15 for a deal to be reached before the transition period ends on December 31. EU leaders met for their first Brexit summit

over. The French Foreign Minister told the Parliament, "As things currently stand, the hypothesis of a 'no deal' is a very real one, and also one that is unfortunately very likely today."

Meanwhile, the EU said on Tuesday that Brexit negotiations could drag on for weeks, into November, as Britain's self-imposed deadline for a deal was about to expire.

Afghanistan - heavy fighting

Tens of thousands of people in southern Afghanistan have fled their homes following days of heavy fighting between the Taliban and security forces, as violence continues to soar despite ongoing peace talks.

Taliban militants launched a series of attacks on the city of Lashkar Gah in restive Helmand province on Sunday night, prompting the US to call in air strikes to defend Afghan forces.

"More than 5,100 families or 30,000 people... have fled the fighting so far," Sayed Mohammad Ramin, director of the refugees department in Helmand, told AFP. "Some families are still living in the open in the streets in Lashkar Gah, we don't have tents to give them."

The Taliban's push in the strategic southern province of Helmand is again testing the strength of Afghan forces, as well as the US's commitment to its ally, only months after the US and the Taliban signed their own agreement.

US warplanes are striking again, day after day, as the Taliban continue their attack. It's the time of year, as winter starts to close in, when violence often intensifies at the end of the fighting season.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said thousands had fled and called on Taliban fighters and security forces "to take all feasible measures to protect civilians, inc. safe paths for those wishing to leave" the area.

Under a deal the Taliban signed with Washington in February, the insurgents are not supposed to hit urban areas and are meant to keep violence down.

The US committed to pulling all foreign troops from the country by next May in return for Taliban security pledges and an agreement to begin peace talks with the Afghan government in Qatar, that appear to be stalled as the two sides have struggled to establish a basic framework for negotiations.

Belarus

As protests in Belarus continue there are warnings of a general strike there unless President Alexander Lukashenko announces his resignation. "If our demands aren't fulfilled by Oct. 25, the entire country will peacefully take to the streets," Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the main opposition challenger in the recent presi-

dential election, said in a statement issued from Vilnius, Lithuania, where she's in exile after leaving Belarus under pressure from authorities after the country's disputed August 9 presidential election.

"On October 26, a national strike of all enterprises will begin, all roads will be blocked, sales in state-owned stores will collapse. You have 13 days to fulfill three conditions. We have 13 days to prepare, and in the meantime Belarusians will continue their peaceful and persistent protest," the statement said.

Belarus has been rocked by mass protests since August 9, when results of a presidential election reportedly handed President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office. Tsikhanouskaya, who officials claim got only 10% of the vote, and her supporters refused to recognize the results as valid, saying they were riddled with fraud. The European Union and the United States have also refused to recognize the official results of the vote.

The rallies, some of which drew up to 200,000 people demanding the president's resignation, have posed the biggest challenge yet to Lukashenko, who has run the country for 26 years, relentlessly repressing the opposition and independent media.

In the first days of the protests, Belarusian authorities cracked down brutally on protesters, with police detaining thousands and beating scores. The government has since maintained the pressure, detaining hundreds of protesters and prosecuting top activists.

Last week President Lukashenko visited a prison to talk to jailed activists in a move commentators interpreted as an attempt to initiate a dialogue to reduce tensions. However, subsequently the authorities ramped up their crackdown on protesters, dispersing crowds with water cannons and stun grenades, hurting dozens and detaining hundreds.

Thailand protests

The Thai government has announced an emergency decree to stem largely peaceful protests in Bangkok, including a ban on large gatherings. The student-led democracy movement has called for the prime minister to resign and curbs on the king's powers.

Those arrested include key protest leaders - the human rights lawyer Anon Nampa, student activist Parit Chitwarak, and Panusaya Sithijirawanakul. Anon, 36, was the first to openly break the taboo on discussing the monarchy by calling for reforms in August. Panusaya became one of the most prominent faces of the protests since she delivered a 10-point manifesto urging royal reform later that month.

The decree from Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former junta leader, said protesters had intended to instigate an incident leading



Thai youth protesters giving the Hunger Games salute.

to "chaos and incitement of conflict and public disorder" and caused "obstruction to the royal motorcade". Some protesters on Wednesday had raised the three-finger salute, a symbol of the movement, at a convoy carrying the queen as they were pushed back by ranks of police.

Shortly after the decree took effect, Thai riot police cleared protesters from outside the prime minister's office. Some tried to resist, using makeshift barricades, but they were pushed back.

In addition to limiting gatherings to four people, the decree puts restrictions on the media, prohibiting the publication of news "that could create fear or intentionally distort information, creating misunderstanding that will affect national security or peace and order".

The growing student-led democracy movement has become the greatest challenge in years to Thailand's ruling establishment. Protesters are demanding the resignation of Prayuth, a former army chief who seized power in a 2014 coup before becoming premier last year after a controversial election. They also seek the rewriting of the constitution, whose amendments in recent years have been disputed, as well as an end to the harassment of state critics.

Covid 19 - Global spread

Coronavirus is continuing its spread across the world, with more than 38 million confirmed cases in 189 countries and more than one million deaths.

The US has recorded more than 216,000 deaths from coronavirus - the world's highest official death toll. It is also fast approaching eight million confirmed cases, with 7,907,189 infected. India has the largest increase in numbers in Asia, with more than seven million confirmed infections, the second-highest official total in the world after the US, with 7,307,097 infected and 151,747 deceased. The country has, however, maintained a relatively low death rate, given the size of its population, and there are signs that cases and deaths may now have begun to decline.

In Latin America, Brazil has now passed 5m confirmed cases, although the number of daily new infections is now thought to be slowing. In Argentina, cases have been rising quickly - the country now has more than 900,000 infections.

In the Middle East, cases in Iraq have been rising steadily since June, with the country having recorded more than 400,000 cases in total.

The virus is surging in many regions and some countries that had apparent success in suppressing initial outbreaks are also seeing infections rise again.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned the global death toll could hit two million before an effective vaccine is widely in use. Lockdowns and other restrictions have been brought back in the worst-affected regions, especially in Europe, and there have been fresh appeals for people to wear face coverings and follow social distancing.

Israel imposed a new national lockdown after recording record numbers of daily cases in late September. The lockdown is due to be reviewed

and to be lifted only gradually. Other countries that have seen a resurgence of the virus include Peru, Canada and Russia.

The spread of Covid-19 in the UK has raised warnings of another national lockdown. Leading scientist Prof. Peter Horby said the UK was at a "precarious point" as Covid cases and hospital admissions continue to rise.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced a three-tier system, where each region in England is placed into a tier based on the severity of cases in the area.

Prof. Horby, chair of the New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (Nervtag) and a government adviser, said the "critical mission" now was to protect the NHS to avoid non-essential hospital services being cancelled, as many were when the UK went into its first nationwide lockdown in March. There are fears that the infected numbers would widely increase in November, leading to a national calamity.

French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday ordered a nighttime curfew for Paris and eight other French cities, after daily new infection rates reached record levels.

He said residents of those cities - having close to a third of the French population - would not be allowed to be outdoors between 9pm and 6am from Saturday, for duration of at least four weeks, except for essential reasons. "We have to act. We need to put a brake on the spread of the virus," Macron said.

"We are going to have to deal with this virus until at least the summer of 2021," Macron said, and "all scientists" were in agreement on that point. Germany will introduce tougher measures on gatherings and mask-wearing to fight a surge in coronavirus infections, Chancellor Angela Merkel said Wednesday after talks with the heads of Germany's 16 federal states.

Europe's biggest economy will begin imposing limits on people gathering at events as well as mandatory mask wearing at crowded places when new infections in an area reach 35 per 100,000 in seven days, earlier than under the previous yardstick used of 50 per 100,000.

G20 - Help

The Group of 20 nations, representing the world's biggest economies, has agreed to extend the suspension of debt payments by an additional six months to support the most vulnerable countries in their fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

The G-20 says the extension will provide ongoing relief for the \$14bn in debt payments that would have come due at the end of the year otherwise. Wednesday's decision gives developing nations until the end of June 2021 to focus spending on health care and emergency stimulus programmes rather than debt repayments.

International aid groups expressed disappointment that more debt relief isn't being provided by extending the moratorium on debt payments for a full year or by forgiving part of the debt rather than merely suspending payments.

At 20th Virtual Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting

Minister Gunawardena calls for integrated strategies for multidimensional challenges

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, leading the Sri Lanka delegation to the 20th Virtual Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) in the sidelines of the 75 UN General Assembly on Wednesday, called for innovative thinking, collective, and integrated strategies to address the multidimensional and cross-cutting challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He cited Sri Lanka's experience of conducting the first ever tea and rubber auctions via a digital platform, while the country also remained the first in South Asia to adopt international standards for digital transactions. He also proposed mobilising existing scientific and technical expertise and knowledge in the Commonwealth towards ongoing research related to COVID-19.

He also underlined the need to identify the barriers, risks, and potential opportunities for scaling individuals to dengue infection, to understand immune responses to COVID-19 infections.

Minister Gunawardena, noting the unprecedented and adverse economic and social impact induced by the crisis on countries, underlined the urgent need for debt relief, loan repayment moratoriums, and financial stimuli to ease current difficulties.

In this regard, the Foreign Minister highlighted the partnership between the University of Sri Jayawardenepura of Sri Lanka and Oxford University in sharing expertise and knowledge acquired in immune responses in

Minister Gunawardena informed that Sri Lanka planned to reduce 30% of GHG emissions by 2030 and move towards a resilient and cleaner future with low carbon economic growth by transitioning to hydro, solar, and wind power.

The meeting was chaired by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and First Secretary of State of the United Kingdom, Rt. Dominic Raab MP, as Commonwealth Chair-in-Office.

MPs hold online panel discussion on 20th Amendment

LAHIRU FERNANDO
An online (Zoom) panel discussion on the proposed 20th Amendment to the Constitution, themed 'After the 20th Amendment', was held with the participation of Government and Opposition Parliamentarians, civil and political activists, and academics, yesterday. The event was organised by the Department of Social Studies of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Expressing his views, State Minister Premajayantha said the main purpose of moving the 20th Amendment is to reverse the problematic situation created by the 19th Amendment. According to him, the powers of this amendment would remain within the limits of the 1978 Republican Constitution and would not pave the way for an autocratic rule.

The Samagi Jana Balawegaya, would take every possible effort to defeat this amendment in the Parliament, he added.

State Minister Susil Premajayantha, Parliamentarians Dr. Harsha De Silva and Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Dr. Dayan Jayatileka, Prof. Ranjith Bandara, and Duminda Nagamuwa of the Frontline Socialist Party facilitated as the panelists in this discussion.

Dr. De Silva said the proposed amendment is solely an attempt to give extreme powers to one particular group and therefore, the Samagi Jana Balawegaya group he represents completely against this move. "We will stand by with the 19th amendment", he added. As a political party which follows the democratic path,

Dr. Jayatileka, Prof. Bandara, and Nagamuwa also expressed their views at this discussion. Dr. Athulasiri Samarakoon coordinated the event, which was moderated by Lecturer Sumith Chaamina.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



SHANTHI MACHADO
Born on 17th October 1947
Died on 25th October 2018

How very much you are missed is something you will never know you left behind the broken hearts of those who loved you so
A sea of tears and endless grief would simply ebb away if only you could celebrate your special day today
This birthday token brings you love it's just a simple touch to let you know how dear you are you'll always mean so much
Fondly remembered by your loving husband Maxie and daughter Thushani

167 curfew violators arrested

One hundred and sixty-seven persons were arrested yesterday evening over curfew violations from 19 areas in the Gampaha District, Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said.

Long-distance buses will be allowed to pass through the curfew areas. However, they will not be allowed to load and unload passengers. However, no restrictions had been made for the students sitting for the GCE Advanced Level examination, the spokesman added.

Nearly two weeks after the Minuwangoda cluster was detected in the Gampaha District when a factory worker tested positive for the coronavirus (which, within days, spread to several parts in the district and later to other parts of the country), currently, over 1,500 active COVID-19 cases have been reported thus far.

Motor Traffic Department to resume services on Oct 21

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE and IRANGIKA RANGE
The government has decided to resume public services rendered by the Motor Traffic Department from October 21, Transport Ministry sources told the *Daily News*, yesterday.

The department officially closed its services to the public from October 12 to 16 in view of the recent re-emergence of COVID-19 infection cases.

State Minister Dilum Amunugama had said that the government had decided to get the Motor Traffic Department to resume its public services at the offices in Werahara and Narahenpita, effective from October 21, under strict health guidelines, sources said.

Daily News first Trincomalee Correspondent passes away

K.D. Jayasekara, the first Trincomalee District Correspondent of the *Daily News* from Lake House, passed away on the 17th of this month, three months ago.

Jayasekara served in the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. He later left them and joined Lake House in 1953 as the Trincomalee Correspondent for the *Ceylon Daily News*.

Tamil, and English newspapers and was also the Trincomalee District Reporter for the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and the Rupavahini Corporation.

French News, Lankapuvath, and Asia Week. He imported stamps and early day covers from foreign countries, printed souvenir covers, set up a stamp club, and printed and sent a magazine containing the *Ceylon Pilatelic*, a stamp

information magazine. Jayasekara, the husband of Banduwathi, who died five years ago, is a father of three daughters: Manel (Department of Forest Conservation), Thakshila (*Manchu* Editor) Visakha (former Journalist).



OBITUARY NOTICE

Upali Dhanapala Abeyewardene

29th September 1929 - 10th October 2020



It is with deep regret that we announce the demise of Upali Dhanapala Abeyewardene, more affectionately known as Upa. A well respected member of the Civil Service having earned the name 'Honest Abey', Upa retired as Deputy Commissioner of Labour.

He studied at St. Joseph's College and moved on to St. Thomas' College in his later years. Having graduated from then University of Ceylon (where he captained the boxing team), Upa's tremendous hard work paid off as he went on for further education at the University of Oxford on a scholarship.

An avid enthusiast of the English language, Upa was a regular contributor to the newspaper, and leaves behind his legacy with his book titled "Make Wit Your Canny Companion", a collection of his contributions.

- Son of (late) Ernest Noel and (late) Kamala Abeyewardene.
- Loving brother of (late) Lalani Wickremaratne, (late) Mahinda, (late) Nissanka, (late) Swama Weerakody, (late) Seetha Jayasena and Bandula.
- Beloved husband of Chintha.
- Loving father of Nilika, (late) Nalaka, Nilanthi, Nuwan and Nirodha.
- Beloved father-in-law of Dushmantha Senanayake, Ishani, Rukshan Fernando, Inoka and Cindy.
- Dearest grandfather of: Dulith, Lasith and Harini Senanayake; Senali and Geemitha Fernando; and Sinali, Sineth, Ranul and Dulhara Abeyewardene.

Upa passed away peacefully in his house last Saturday 10th of October, and was cremated on Sunday 11th. Owing to his request and the current situation, a private funeral was conducted within 01 day.

May he attain the supreme bliss of NIRVANA!

"Old humorists never die - they go down laughing all the way!"

-Upali Abeyewardene



Korean Ambassador Woonjin Jeong handing over the face mask consignment to Acting IGP C.D. Wickramaratne.

Korean Embassy donates face masks to Police

Woonjin Jeong, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, met with Acting Inspector General of Police C.D. Wickramaratne and a delegation of the Sri Lanka Police on October 15, at the Korean Embassy in Colombo. The Ambassador donated a consignment of reusable fabric masks manufactured by a Sri Lankan social enterprises for distribution among police personnel in appreciation of their dedication and commitment to control COVID-19 island-wide. It is of utmost importance that the police forces remain healthy and the masks will be helpful in controlling the spread of the pandemic within police stations and its environs.

Lanka will decline due to the effective mechanism adopted by the Anti-COVID-19 Taskforce. He expressed his gratitude to the Inspector-General and the Sri Lanka Police Force for their diligent efforts, especially in the present situation. Sri Lanka Police has also played a key role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic across the island. He stated, "There has been no single infection case among the Korean community in Sri Lanka. On behalf of my country, Korea, I would like to thank Sri Lanka Police for ensuring the safety of Korean residents here in Sri Lanka amid Covid-19. I would like to give my sincere appreciation to all police teams who have been dedicated to the fight against COVID-19 for the Sri Lankan people including Korean residents."

He will stand in solidarity with Sri Lanka and work together to overcome this pandemic. The Ambassador further stated that he will undertake his duty to develop the mutually beneficial cooperation between the Police authorities of the two countries. Korea wishes to be a beacon of hope and a true friend to Sri Lanka in times of difficulty and will help strengthen the bilateral ties to promote a healthy community. Receiving the donation, C.D. Wickramaratne, Acting Inspector-General of police applauded the Ambassador and thanked him for the gesture of goodwill as a support to the Sri Lanka Police Force. The Inspector-General noted that this meeting is an initiative for Korea and Sri Lanka to create a mutually favourable, investor-friendly environment. It is important to ensure

that the country is secure to attract more investments from Korea. It is vital for the Police to coordinate with the Korean business community in order to facilitate secure trade and investments. Furthermore, he mentioned that it would be beneficial for the Sri Lanka Police to deepen the relationship with its counterpart in Korea in order to share valuable expertise in the field of security. Priyantha Weerasooriya (Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police), Asanga Karawita, (Deputy Inspector General of Police), Ranmal L.Kodithuwakku (Deputy Inspector General of Police), and S.M. Keerthipala (Senior Superintendent of Police) also graced this occasion. The Korean residents' leaders in Sri Lanka and Mr. Sung Hun Lee, Country Director of KOTRA, also participated in this meeting.

'Quarantine centres cannot outsource laundry services'

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE, Galle Central Special Corr. Assigning the washing of clothes at Galle quarantine centres to external laundry services is prohibited, Galle District Regional Epidemiologist Venura K. Singarachchi said. All

quarantine centres should provide their laundry details to the respective health authorities. The washing and cleaning of used clothes of quarantine centres should be operated by corresponding centres accord-

ing to health regulations, following high standard scientific laundry methods which will be supervised by the health authorities, the epidemiologist added. However, he affirmed that cloth washing undertakings of all quarantine

centres have been carried out under quality and safe laundry processes. Especially the laundry processes at the quarantine centres maintained by Sri Lanka Navy are handled smartly and neatly, he said.

Former Swiss diplomat praises Lanka's quarantine process

Former diplomat from Switzerland Rudolf Albert Gaulh hailed the professional manner in which SriLankan Airlines and airport authorities quarantined people coming from overseas back to Sri Lanka.

Gaulh who was a top Embassy representative of Switzerland serving in Sri Lanka for nearly two decades said that he was so impressed about Sri Lanka that he decided to settle down in Sri Lanka after retiring from his diplomatic duties with his wife Hui.

In a bid to give back to Sri Lanka he set a Bright Light Foundation and was engaged in several CSR activities to help the underprivileged Sri Lankans.

He recalled that in mid-February this year they left for Switzerland in order to take part in the Lucerne Carnival. "The big bang and the carnival parades were great as always and the city of Lucerne shook and the carnival people experienced the best days of the year."

However the corona pandemic moved around the world like a dark shadow with lockdowns and airlines after airlines stopped their flights.

"Airports all over the world closed indefinitely and our planned return flight was suddenly cancelled for an indefinite period. We were therefore blocked in Lucerne and my only hope was that at some point a window would open and a return journey to my host country Sri Lanka would appear."

This window opened on September 25 when, thanks to the help of the Sri Lankan Embassy in Berlin and the Honorary Consulate in Zurich, we were suddenly offered a direct flight from Frankfurt to Colombo by SriLankan Airlines. (UL1506) Some foreigners and a large



number of Sri Lankan citizens, who were blocked for months after visiting their families because of Covid-19, were already waiting eagerly for returning to their home land. "After the usual checking of the documents, we were accompanied to the cabin individually, keeping a safe distance. The stewardesses, masked from head to toe, insisted on receiving us with the unmistakable "Smile of Sri Lanka" despite the uncomfortable outfit." The safety distance between the seats and the mask requirement also applied in the cabin. Dinner and breakfast were served in one-way service boxes and there was water served. After a perfect landing in Colombo the passengers were taken to Immigration and a compulsory PCR test followed. "Later our disinfected travel bags



were checked by Customs and a scheduled AC bus brought us to the Jetwing Sea Hotel Negombo to undergo a compulsory 14 day quarantine." The army itself has made available accommodation free of charge. During quarantine time, an additional PCR test was carried out after the 10th day of our stay. Guests will only be released if the test is negative." He said that strict precautionary measures applied in the hotel itself. "No third person was allowed to enter the guest's room. The body temperature was measured twice a day by a doctor and the guests were asked about their health condition." Delicious food was served in one-way boxes which were deposited in front of the room door after prior notification. The consumption of alcohol is not permitted during this time. "We believe that this entire process was done very systematically to world standards and this should be highly lauded." It's this professional pattern initiated by the government, tri forces and the health authorities that is still keeping the Covid patient count under 5,000 and most importantly death at 13. Sri Lanka's outstanding success story in relation to the fight against Covid-19 deserves world attention and we would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Government for this achievement. In our case, a very special thank goes to the honorary consul of Sri Lanka in Zurich, the Stewardess from SriLankan Airlines and Dr. M. Abusayed, coordinator of the repatriation program in Colombo, who is a great support for many returnees in the airport through his commitment.

FTZMA donates essentials to Gampaha Health Department

Free Trade Zone Manufacturers Association (FTZMA) has donated Bed Sheets, pillowcases, Soaps, Toothpastes and water bottles to the Health Department in Gampaha division in assisting COVID-19 patients.

FTZMA has been always actively contributing their fair share during calamities and disaster in helping the employee community and this instance also is part of the association's responsibility to be good co-operate citizen, FTZMA is proud to partner with the National health authorities and has pledged its support

to the impacted communities in the surrounding areas of KEPZ, BEPZ, Malwate industrial park, Wathupitiwala Zone and Miririgama zone which are coming under their purview.

FTZMA as an active member of the COVID Task Force team has continued to pledge its support & commitment with its members to the resilient response initiatives taken by BOI, Health Authorities and Security forces in curbing & combating the spread of pandemic the employees of all our BOI EPZs around the country.



The donation made by the Chairman, Jitendra Biala and Secretary, Dhammika Fernando at their secretariat to Dr Aruna Plaitha Sampath - Director/E&OH Gampaha Division with the patronage of Director-KEPZ of BOI Sisil Fernando.

Strathspey Estate Upcot takes measures to prevent spread of Covid-19



PHI - Upcot area is addressing management staff, factory workers with regard to new guidelines.

With the alarming announcement coming out with regard to breakout of a new wave pandemic of Covid 19, swift action have been taken on Strathspey Estate Upcot by educating the worker community, population to adopt to health care activities such as wearing mask, washing hand with approved sanitizer, maintaining distance, checking temperature of workers prior to reporting for work in the morning at the field and factory.

Individual workman's temperature is checked and recorded before allowing them to commence their work.

Health and Welfare Staff, Child Development Officers working on this plantation are providing yeoman service in this regard. All precautionary measures are being taken to train the masses to get used to living in the new normal way. Frequently washing hands with approved disinfectant, wearing masks and maintaining distance have been made mandatory and all the required facilities being provided in this regard.

Management of Strathspey Estate which is coming under the purview of Mas-keliya Plantations Plc., owned by Aprico Group of Companies in collaboration with Government Medical Personnel of this area such



Checking the temperature of the workers before reporting for work by the health staff.



Hand washing facility is installed at the Factory Tea Processing Centre.

as MOH, Public Health Inspector is providing all required guidelines in this regard.

The assistance provided by the Plantation Human Development Trust, Grama

Niladari, and other NGOs operating in the area has been immense helpful to the estate, which is gratefully remembered by the management, staff and workers of this plantation.

AUCTION SALE UNDER SECTION 09 OF THE RECOVERY OF LOANS BY BANKS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ACT NO. 04 OF 1990

PRADESHIYA SANWARDANA BANK **RDB**

AUCTION SALE OF A VALUABLE PROPERTY

All allotment of Land Marked Lot 91 in L.S.P.P.03 in field sheet No. 15 prepared and owned by Surveyor General situated in Kuda Nelubewa village in No. 265 Grama Niladhari Division in Nuwaragam Koralya in Nachchaduwa Divisional Secretariat Division in Anuradhapura District in the North Central Province in extent (A00 : R01 : P39) Government land.

According to a re-survey that above land is described as follows:

The allotment of land marked as Lot 01 of Plan No. 59 attested by K.K. Chinnaia, Licensed Surveyor on 14.02.2006 called as Kuda Nelubewa Kele mentioned in the Grant No. Anu/Nnp/P/2749 dated 07.02.1997 situated in Kuda Nelubewa in Nuwaragam Koralya in Nachchaduwa Divisional Secretariat Division in Anuradhapura District in the North Central Province.

Containing In Extent: A00 - R01 - P39

Together with the trees, fruits, buildings and all belongings thereon UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO US BY PRADESHIYA SANWARDANA BANK

WE SHALL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION

On Thursday 05th November 2020

To be held at the Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank, Thalawa Branch Premises Commencing at 3.00 p.m.

The auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, adhering to COVID 19 protocol

For notice of resolution: Please refer the Government Gazette of 16/08/2019 and Dinamina, Daily News & Thinakaran newspapers of 17.09.2019.

ACCESS TO PROPERTY: From Thalawa town proceed along Anuradhapura road up to Rathmale Junction. Then proceed along Hospital Lane for about 100 meters and the subject property is located on the right hand side of the road.

MODE OF PAYMENT:

The successful Purchaser will have to pay the following amount in cash at the fall of the hammer.

- (1) 25% of the purchased Price
- (2) 1% Local Authority Tax payable to the local authority
- (3) Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2% (Two and a half percent only) on the purchased price plus applicable taxes.
- (4) Clerk's & Crier's Fee of Rs. 1,500/=
- (5) Cost of sale and any other charges, if any.
- (6) Stamp duty for the Certificate of Sale

The balance 75% of the purchased price will have to be paid within 30 days from the date of sale to the **Regional General Manager, Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank, North Central Province Office, No. 65/D, 04th Lane, Abhaya Place, Anuradhapura. Telephone: 025-2223080, 025-2225214.**

If the balance amount of the purchased price is not paid within 30 days as stipulated above, the Bank shall have the right to forfeit (25%) of the purchased price already paid and resell the property.

The Title deeds and any other reference may be obtained from the aforesaid address.

*The Bank has the right to stay/cancel the above auction without prior notice

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Tel: 011-2671465, 011-2671468
Tel/Fax: 011-2671469
E-mail: schokman@samera1892.com

Web: www.sandslanka.com

AUCTION SALE UNDER SECTION 09 OF THE RECOVERY OF LOANS BY BANKS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ACT NO. 04 OF 1990

PRADESHIYA SANWARDANA BANK **RDB**

AUCTION SALE OF A VALUABLE PROPERTY

All that divided and defined allotment of land depicted No. 68/B, Medirigiriya Grama Niladhari Division 1, Kauduluweva first step village Survey General Plan No. F.V.P. - PO 107 Lot 274 "Kahabilyawa" North Lot No. 286, South Lot No. 285, West Lot No. 275 Containing in Extent 02 Acres: 02 Roods : 03 Perches permission by Medirigiriya Divisional Secretary Letter No. NCP/MG/L/1 Survey General dated 16.07.2007 Lot No. 01 of Rabukkana, Licensed Surveyor H M R T K Herath's Plan No. 4721 dated 20.07.2007.

Property determined above together with building and everything thereon and **Containing In Extent: 01A: 00R: 25.19P**

Under the Authority granted to us by Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank

WE SHALL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION

On Thursday 05th November 2020

To be held at the Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank, Galamuna Branch Premises Commencing at 11.00 a.m.

The auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, adhering to COVID-19 protocol

For notice of resolution: Please refer the Government Gazette of 02.03.2018 and Dinamina, Daily News & Thinakaran newspapers of 03.05.2018

ACCESS TO PROPERTY: From Medirigiriya town near the clock tower, turn right from the four way Junction to Diyasempura Road, proceed along this road up to Diyasempura town and from the four way junction in the town turn right to Polonnaruwa - Kirimatiyana Road and proceed about 03 kilometers up to Kahambilyawa Junction and the subject property is situated on the right hand side of the road.

MODE OF PAYMENT:

The successful Purchaser will have to pay the following amount in cash at the fall of the hammer.

- (1) 25% of the purchased Price
- (2) 1% Local Authority Tax payable to the local authority
- (3) Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2% (Two and a half percent only) on the purchased price plus applicable taxes.
- (4) Clerk's & Crier's Fee of Rs. 1,500/=
- (5) Cost of sale and any other charges, if any.
- (6) Stamp duty for the Certificate of Sale

The balance 75% of the purchased price will have to be paid within 30 days from the date of sale to the **Regional General Manager, Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank, North Central Province Office, No. 65/D, 04th Lane, Abhaya Place, Anuradhapura. Telephone: 025-2223080, 025-2225214.**

If the balance amount of the purchased price is not paid within 30 days as stipulated above, the Bank shall have the right to forfeit (25%) of the purchased price already paid and resell the property.

The Title deeds and any other reference may be obtained from the aforesaid address.

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Tel: 011-2671467, 011-2671468
Tel/Fax: 011-2671469
E-mail: schokman@samera1892.com

Web: www.sandslanka.com

SALE UNDER SECTION 29 D OF PEOPLE'S BANK ACT NO. 29 OF 1961 S AMENDED BY ACT NO. 32 OF 1986

PEOPLE'S BANK **PEOPLE'S BANK**

GODAKAWELA BRANCH

Auction Sale of a Valuable Property

All that allotment of land depicted in Plan No. 6754 dated 01.09.2016 made by M M D S Shantha L.S. of the land called "WEWEHENEWATTA" alias "WEWEWATTA" together with building, plantation & everything else standing thereon situated at Godakawela village in the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Godakawela, Grama Niladhari Division of Godakawela - Godakawela Divisional Secretariat in Meda Pattu Atakalan Korale in the District of Ratnapura, Sabaragamuwa Province and bounded on the North by Road, on the East by Land claimed by S.P. Ekanayake, on the South by Crown Land & West by Lot No. 1 (Road) & 4 in Plan No. 1817 and

Containing In Extent: A00 - R01 - P20

Under the authority granted to us by People's Bank

We Shall Sell By PUBLIC AUCTION

On Tuesday 03rd November 2020

Commencing at 11.00 a.m. at the People's Bank, Godakawela Branch Premises

The auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, adhering to COVID-19 protocol

FOR NOTICE OF RESOLUTION: Please refer the Government Gazette, Daily News, Dinamina and Thinakaran Newspapers on 01.02.2019.

ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY: From Godakawela Town Center (middle of the Bazaar) proceed along Pallegama Road (Balangoda Road) about 450 m to reach the property which is on right hand side of the same Road.

MODE OF PAYMENT:

The successful purchaser will have to pay the following amounts in cash at the fall of the hammer.

- (1) 10% (Ten percent) of the purchased Price
- (2) 1% (One percent) of the sales Taxes payable to the Local Authority
- (3) Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2% (Two and a half percent only) on the purchased price plus applicable taxes on the commission.
- (4) Clerk's & Crier's Fee of Rs. 1,500/=
- (5) Cost of sale and any other charges, if any.
- (6) Stamp fee & Notary fee for the Certificate of Sale

Balance, 90% of the purchased price will have to be paid within 30 days from the date of sale to the Manager, People's Bank, Godakawela Branch Tel: 045-2240570/045-2240170.

If the said amount is not paid within 30 days as stipulated above, the Bank shall have the right to forfeit (10%) of the purchased price already paid and resell the property.

Title deeds and any other reference may be obtained from the following address.

Regional Manager, People's Bank, Regional Head Office, Ratnapura
Tel. Nos.: 045-2223084, 045-2232108

The Bank has the right to stay/cancel the above auction sale without prior notice

SCHOKMAN & SAMERAWICKREME

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Tel: 081-2227593
Tel/Fax: 081-2224371
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City Office: 6A, Fairfield Gardens, Colombo 8.
Tel: 011-2671467, 011-2671468
Tel/Fax: 011-2671469
E-mail: schokman@samera1892.com

Web: www.sandslanka.com



NAVARATHRI FESTIVAL BEGINS TODAY

NINE-NIGHT CELEBRATION OF DIVINE POWER



DISHAN JOSEPH

The Hindu community in Sri Lanka and across the globe prepares to observe and celebrate the radiant festival of Navarathri. This year the traditional period of observance commences on October 17 (today) and concludes on October 25. The word Navarathri is derived from the Sanskrit language, and translates as nine nights and has the same meaning in many Asian languages.

This colourful Hindu festival has been celebrated for centuries. Its rituals are observed for different reasons within the wider Asian Hindu community. According to the ancient Hindu text *Vaishnava Purana*, there are four seasonal Navarathri. However, in practice, it is the post-monsoon autumn festival called Sharada Navarathri which is reverently observed in honour of the deity Durga. The devotees worship the nine manifestations (avatar) of Maha Durga.

The corresponding month in the Hindu calendar is Ashvin, which falls in the Gregorian months of September and October. In India, which is the grand cradle of Hinduism, the Durga Puja (also spelt pooja) is synonymous with Navarathri, where goddess Durga battles and victoriously subdues a demon. The nine days are designated under three clusters to adore *Malai Magal*, *Alai Magal* and *Kalai Magal*.

A Hindu priest explained, "the Durga Puja festival marks the battle of Goddess Durga against the deceptive and powerful buffalo demon Mahishasura (Asura means demon). The Asura symbolizes the chaos and ignorance hidden inside one's outer appearance. In deeper context, this signifies the victory of good (Dharma) over evil. On the other hand, it is a harvest festival that appreciates the Goddess as the motherly influence which sustains creation according to Hindu belief. The Durga Puja festival dates coincide with *Vijayadashami*, where the victory of Rama is exalted."

During the Durga puja, other Hindu deities are also worshipped including Lakshmi (the Goddess of Prosperity and Wealth), Saraswati (the Goddess who bestows wisdom and music), Ganesha (who offers good beginnings) and Karthikeya (the God of War). The ritual of this Durga puja can be found in the 12th century scripture of *Yasatilaka*, which is said to be written by Somadeva where an ancient king offered a puja after a battle victory on an annual basis.



The *Puranas* (a vast genre of ancient Indian literature) associate Durga puja with the spring festival. In keeping with this belief, Tamil farmers used to offer a bundle of nine plants called *Navapatrika*, denoting the nine manifestations. Also, nine grains known as *Navadhanya* were offered. Today this practice is still seen in Tamil agricultural communities in the Northern Province.

The Indian religious cultural celebrations include extravagant stage decorations, recital of the legend, enacting of the story, and chanting of Hindu scriptures. I have witnessed the latter at various kovils and it is a beautiful display of devotion.

On the final day, called the *Vijayadashami*, the statue of Durga is immersed in a river symbolizing her return to the Divine Cosmos.

On the other hand, the statue symbolizing evil is burnt with fireworks marking the total defeat of evil forces. This festival starts the preparation for another important festival, Diwali or Deepavali (the Festival of Lights), which is celebrated 20 days after *Vijayadashami*. Diwali is one of the most vibrant religious festivals across the world with its dazzling lights.

These nine days are solemnly dedicated to the Goddess Durga and her nine avatars, where each day is dedicated to an incarnation of the Goddess.

Hindu scholars describe the significance of each of these nine days-

DAY 1: Shailputri

Known as *Pratipada*, this day is for Shailputri (meaning "Daughter of Mountain"), also Parvathi. It is in this form that the Goddess is worshipped as the consort of Shiva; she is depicted riding Nandi the cow. The colour of the day is bright crimson (red) which depicts action and vigour.

DAY 2: Brahmcharini

Goddess *Brahmcharini*, another incarnation of Parvathi, is worshipped. In this form, Parvathi became Sati, her unmarried self. *Brahmcharini* is worshipped for emancipation or Moksha and endowment of peace. The colour of the day is royal blue which depicts calmness and energy.

DAY 3: Chandraghanta

Tritiya commemorates *Chandraghanta* - the name derived from the fact that after marrying Shiva, Parvathi adorned her forehead with a half-chandra (meaning moon). She is the embodiment of beauty, yellow being the colour for this day.

DAY 4: Kushmunda

Kushmunda is worshipped on *Chaturthi*. Believed to resonate the power of the universe, *Kushmunda* is associated with the endowment of vegetation on

earth. Green colour dominates this day. She is depicted as having eight arms.

DAY 5: Skandmatha

Skandamatha is worshipped on *Panchami*, the mother of *Karthigeya*. The colour grey is symbolic of the transforming strength of a mother when her child is confronted with danger. She is depicted riding a defiant lion, and safely defending the baby.

DAY 6: Katyayani

Born to a sage, *Katya*, is said to be an incarnation of Durga and is shown to display courage which is symbolized by shades of bright orange. Venerated as a warrior Goddess, this is a violent form of the Goddess Parvathi.

DAY 7: Kalaratri

She is considered the most ferocious form of Goddess Durga. *Parvathi* removed her fair skin to destroy *Sumbh* and *Nisumbh*, two demons. The colour for the day is white. The other forms associated with *Kalaratri* are *Bhadrakali*, *Rudrani* and *Bhairavi*. The fierce *Kalaratri* attired in red is said to destroy ghosts, demons and negative forces.

DAY 8: Mahagauri

Symbolizing intelligence and peace, the colour associated with this day is pink which endorses optimism. In this form, her right hand holds a trident and *Mahagauri* majestically rides a white bull.

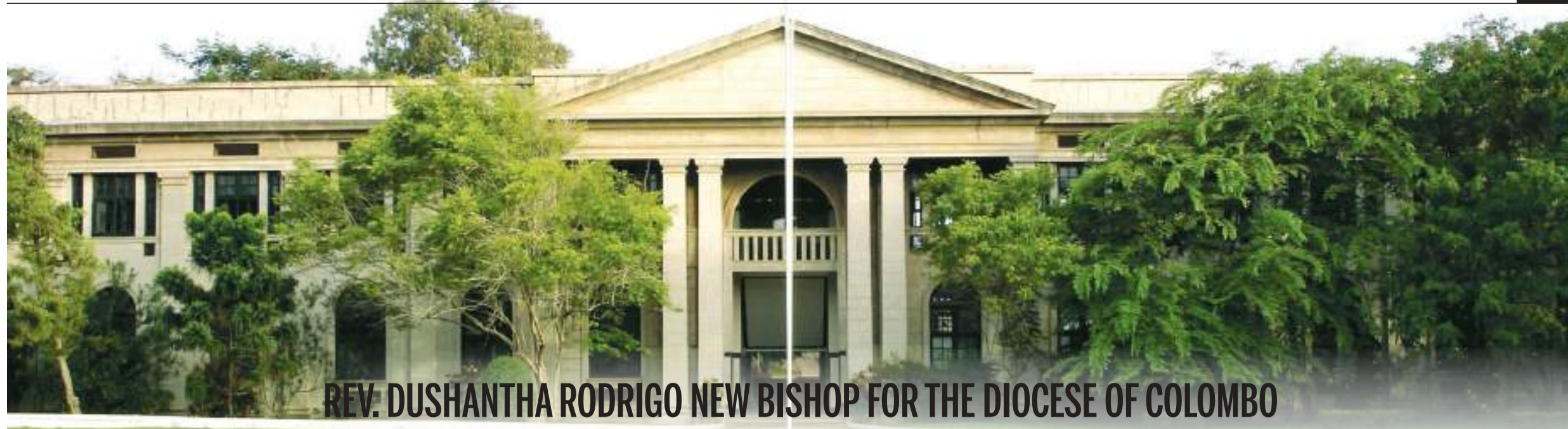
DAY 9: Siddhidatri

On the last day of the festival also known as *Navami*, people pray to *Siddhidatri*. Sitting on a lotus, she is believed to possess all type of Siddhis. She is affectionately known as *Saraswati Devi*. The last day is believed to be the culmination of all the religious aspirations of those who worshipped.

Over these nine days, Hindu devotees will visit kovils around the country. However, this year there will be some restrictions due to COVID-19. The Northern Province will have many pious pujas as villagers collectively celebrate these nine days of devotion. *Navarathri* is a beautiful confluence of Hindu faith and Tamil culture. It is a time for thoughtful reflection and spiritual refinement of the human. It reflects the multi-religious population of Sri Lanka and powerfully projects our cultural diversity.

This colourful Hindu festival has been celebrated for centuries. Its rituals are observed for different reasons within the wider Asian Hindu community. According to the ancient Hindu text Vaishnava Purana, there are four seasonal Navarathri. However, in practice, it is the post-monsoon autumn festival called Sharada Navarathri which is reverently observed in honour of the deity Durga. The devotees worship the nine manifestations (avatar) of Maha Durga





REV. DUSHANTHA RODRIGO NEW BISHOP FOR THE DIOCESE OF COLOMBO

A MISSION TO SERVE HUMANITY

S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia

DISHAN JOSEPH

The Anglican Church of Sri Lanka was bestowed with a new Bishop for the Diocese of Colombo. Reverend Dushantha Lakshman Rodrigo, affectionately known to thousands as Fr. Dushy was recently appointed as the 16th Bishop of Colombo.

The decision to appoint him to this high office in the episcopate was made by His Grace Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in his capacity as the Metropolitan of the Church of Ceylon (Sri Lanka). The Episcopal ordination and Installation into this high office is set to take place in November at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour Colombo. The installation of an Anglican Bishop is a key ceremony in the church, laden with decorum.

I have been privileged to know Fr. Dushantha Rodrigo for the past 15 years. He is an unassuming gentleman, a prudent decision-maker, a leader with Christian charisma and importantly a humble person. He is blessed with a sense of humour which he gently unleashes from time to time.

I recollect many instances of his humility and resolute character. In 2017, there was a cyclone like wind condition in some parts of Sri Lanka. On hearing the terrible damage this wind had caused to the buildings of S. Thomas' Preparatory School, I visited the school with my friend Ravi Francis. I was not surprised to find Fr. Rodrigo attired in his cassock standing in the middle of the junior playground, amidst the rain. Ravi ran back to the vehicle to grab an umbrella for the Headmaster. The humble Fr. Rodrigo proceeded to talk to me, politely refusing the umbrella. His heart was totally focused on rebuilding the damaged sections and recommencing school. He did the rebuilding with great passion supported by all old boys. He is a leader who boldly leads by example, a trait which is important for such a high office which deals with the spiritual formation and guidance of all Anglican adherents.

Fr. Dushantha Rodrigo becomes the first Thomian to take on the mantle of Bishop of Colombo. Ever since Rt. Rev. James Chapman, the pioneer clergyman who sailed to Ceylon, set up the Anglican Churches and schools such as S. Thomas' College (STC), Mount Lavinia. The great school by the sea has produced many good priests but no Bishops. Interestingly, cricketing rivals Royal College has produced four Bishops. Thus, the vision of Rt. Rev. James Chapman (the first Bishop of Colombo) took almost 169 years to become a reality with the selection of Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo. Needless to say that the Thomian community is very jubilant about their son who has created history.

I met up with the Bishop-designate at school. He was seated in his office. Fr. Dushy explained, "I started my education at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. I am from the batch of 1987. In school, I was fond of playing soccer and cycling. I took a keen interest as an altar server in the Chapel of the Transfiguration. During my college days, I worshipped at Christ Church Dehiwela, where I was also an altar server. The Vicar Fr. Lionel Peiris realized that I had the character of a priest. I too felt the voice of God gently prompting me towards the ordained ministry. This was duly identified by the Chaplain of S. Thomas' College Fr. Sunil de Silva, who subsequently left the college. He updated the Sub-Warden Fr. Duleep de Chickera (who later became Bishop of Colombo) to mentor me and guide me towards God's service. As I look back I can say with great respect and gratitude that Rt. Rev. Duleep de Chickera helped me and remains my mentor to this day."



Reverend Dushantha Lakshman Rodrigo



Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby

HE IS AN UNASSUMING GENTLEMAN, A PRUDENT DECISION-MAKER, A LEADER WITH CHRISTIAN CHARISMA AND IMPORTANTLY A HUMBLE PERSON. HE IS BLESSED WITH A SENSE OF HUMOUR WHICH HE GENTLY UNLEASHES FROM TIME TO TIME

Becoming a priest is a process in the Anglican Church. Young Dushantha Rodrigo was fresh out of school. He spoke to the then Bishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Swithin Fernando who said, "Son, you are still young. Why don't you work somewhere for two years? Learn to experience the corporate sector and then if you really want to serve God, you will break every fetter and return to the church." The young Thomian worked at Ford Rhodes (presently KPMG) and then faithfully answered the call of Christ's gospel. He underwent his Parish training for one year at St. John's Church, Colombo 15 before entering the Theological College of Lanka at

there was a gale-force wind. Before we could enter our home the big banyan tree came crashing down on the house, had we been inside we would be dead. God saved us. However, during this time, as the Anglican community, we were able to celebrate 150 years of the old cathedral (which is the Christ Church). I then served as Vicar of St. Michael's Church, Polwatte and Chaplain of Bishop's College for five years. In 2011, I was transferred as Chaplain to STC, Mount Lavinia. It was a memorable moment. I was going back to my alma mater as the Chaplain.

The system of education had changed a lot and we did not have corporal punishment. The students were seen and also heard. "In recognition of his service to the school, he was appointed Acting Warden. In keeping with the requirements of the church, he was relocated as Vicar of St. John's Church, Nugegoda where he served for five years.

The year 2015 was a significant year for Fr. Dushantha as the Bishop invited him to take on the mantle of Headmaster, S. Thomas' Prep

THE DECISION TO APPOINT HIM TO THIS HIGH OFFICE IN THE EPISCOPATE WAS MADE BY HIS GRACE JUSTIN WELBY, THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE METROPOLITAN OF THE CHURCH OF CEYLON (SRI LANKA). THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION INTO THIS HIGH OFFICE IS SET TO TAKE PLACE IN NOVEMBER AT THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIVING SAVIOUR COLOMBO. THE INSTALLATION OF AN ANGLICAN BISHOP IS A KEY CEREMONY IN THE CHURCH, LADEN WITH DECORUM

Pilimathalawa, Kandy in 1990. Two of his batchmates were Rev. Adrian Aaron and Rev. S.D.P. Selvam. In 1994, Dushantha Rodrigo was ordained as a Deacon having completed a Bachelors Degree in Theology. His first posting was to the hill country at Holy Trinity Church, Nuwara Eliya and Christ Church, Ragala. His ministry knowledge was further augmented with a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Senate of Serampore, India. Recognizing the potential of this dynamic young priest, he was posted as the Chaplain to S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa. Over the next few years, he served as curate and vicar of many churches including a stint in Matara.

Bishop-designate Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo recalled God's divine grace over his life, and added, "I was the vicar at Christ Church Mutwal where a great banyan tree has stood for nearly 150 years, in the church garden. One night I returned home with my wife around 11 pm after conducting a bible study. Suddenly

School Colombo 3. On June 11, 2020, he celebrated 25 years as an ordained priest. When the incumbent Bishop of Colombo was due to retire, Fr. Dushantha Rodrigo was encouraged by his fellow clergy to offer himself for the sacred post. There were two other clergymen as aspiring candidates alongside him.

The final decision came from the Archbishop of Canterbury and thus the dynamic Thomian priest will soon be ordained to the highest office in the Anglican Church of Sri Lanka. Fr. Dushantha concluded by saying, "I am truly humbled by this experience. I am very conscious of the fact that S. Thomas' College was established to produce an ordained priest for the Christian ministry. We have duly produced many great men of God. I hope to work closely with the youth in all our churches."

The Archdeacon of Jaffna, Rev. Samuel Ponniah (also an old boy of STC) said, "On behalf of the Archdeaconry of Jaffna, I would like to extend my hearty congratulations to Fr. Dush-

antha Rodrigo as he has accepted the invitation to become the Bishop of Colombo. Fr. Dushy is no stranger to my Archdeaconry as he was here last year to conduct a workshop on liturgy and worship. He was also at St. John's College on two occasions in my three and a half years here. On both occasions, he came to Jaffna using public transport - once to witness his under 17 cricket team play against St. John's College in 2017 and next for the installation of the new principal of the college this year.

The church in the North joins me in praying for Fr. Dushy as he will face the challenge to be a shepherd who will understand the hardship his flock is enduring and stand in solidarity with them in their efforts to search for truth and justice and meaningful solutions to governance issues and in the collective journey towards reconciliation."

As the Anglican Church in Sri Lanka moves forward with her new Bishop it would be prudent to remember the words of the great theo-

gian St. Augustine who said to fall in love with God is the greatest romance, to seek him the greatest adventure, to find him the greatest human achievement. This is a magnificent journey of a young altar boy who remained faithful to his calling and whom Almighty God blessed and duly promoted as Bishop.

ADA KOTIPATHI - SATURDAY
 Draw No.: 1074 Colour: YELLOW
 Date: 17.10.2020

Today's Jackpot
Rs. 78,765,495/-

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

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 Development Fortune

Date: 15-10-2020
 Draw Number: 375 Colour: Blue

Super Jackpot
Rs. 12,842,736/-

English Letter: **E** Winning Numbers: **21 50 53** Fate Number: **4**

Total Value of Prizes: **Rs. 3,113,760/-**

Next Super Jackpot: **Rs. 12,988,296/-**

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Development Lotteries Board
 No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2.
 Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Hotline: 0114 824 824
 Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
 Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

ADA KOTIPATHI
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THURSDAY
 Date: 15.10.2020
 Draw No.: 1072
 Colour: BLUE

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,257,480/-

Winning Numbers: **18 27 33 76** English Letter: **H**

Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: **9155**
 Winning number for Rs. 100/- cash prizes: **125**

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Development Lotteries Board
 No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
 Tel: 0112 333 546-47
 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
 For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

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 Lagna Wasanawa

SUPER JACKPOT HAS BEEN WON
Rs. 3,605,486/-

Date: 15-10-2020
 Draw Number: 2953
 Colour: Brown

Winning Numbers: **18 21 30 54** Taurus

For Rs. 500 prizes: **1990**
 For Rs. 100 prizes: **544**

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Double Chance
SPECIAL NUMBERS

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES
Rs. 12,387,106/-

Development Lotteries Board
 No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2.
 Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Hotline: 0114 824 824
 Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
 Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

ශ්‍රී චිද්‍ර
 Shri Chidra

THURSDAY
 Date: 15.10.2020
 Draw No.: 3402
 Colour: RED

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,338,740/-

Winning Numbers: **05 25 37 55** English Letter: **I**

Winning number for Rs. 500/- cash prizes: **7440**

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Development Lotteries Board
 No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
 Tel: 0112 333 546-47
 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
 For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

SUPER BALL
 සුපර් බෝල්

Draw Number: **1246** Colour: **Green**
 Draw Date: **15.10.2020** Date: **Thursday**

Winning English Letter and Numbers
K 23 55 58 74

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,398,800/-

SPECIAL NUMBER
SUPER 500 1 6 2 6

The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

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 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
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 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
 SMS: DLB-space-LOT-space-SB & send to 999
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Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour, Colombo

WHO shows 'great concern' over Europe virus surge

DENMARK: European countries have unveiled tough new measures to try to curb a surge in COVID-19 coronavirus infections which the World Health Organization (WHO) warned is of "great concern".

Underscoring the disruption wrought by COVID-19 even in the corridors of power, US Presidential candidate Joe Biden's running mate Kamala Harris suspended travel after a staffer contracted the disease and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen abruptly left a summit in Brussels for a similar reason.

And in France, police searched the home of the health minister as part of a probe into the government's handling of the coronavirus crisis, as new daily cases topped 30,000 for the first time.

A map published Thursday by the EU's ECDC disease control agency handed a red label for high rates of transmission and positive testing to more than half the 31 countries it monitors, which include non-EU members.

As the disease marches on relentlessly, millions in England are facing tighter restrictions, including a ban on household mixing.

Meanwhile Queen Elizabeth II made a first public appearance outside a royal residence since the start of the pandemic, going unmasked during a visit to a top-secret British government research lab.

Across the Channel, a curfew is to be imposed in Paris and eight other French cities and in Germany there are new limits on people gathering at events.

Announcing a partial lockdown in "red" zones including major cities, Poland's government asked people to work from home if possible, while Switzerland's health minister Alain Berset said the situation there "is deteriorating faster than elsewhere".



World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus speaks during a visit of the Presidents of the Swiss Federal Chambers, at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland on Thursday.



Both countries are facing record levels of new infections.

With nearly 1.1 million coronavirus deaths and close to 40 million cases worldwide, countries in many parts of the world are facing tough choices on how to control the disease without the economic and social devastation wrought by nationwide lockdowns.

In India, where the pandemic has upended a movie-mad culture, some cinemas were allowed to reopen Thursday to try to attract punters back to the cash-strapped silver screen.

Israel, meanwhile, said it was lifting an unpopular ban on citizens flying out of the country in an easing of a second nationwide lockdown.

At a press conference in Copenhagen, the WHO's regional direc-

tor for Europe Hans Kluge told reporters it was time to "step up the measures" as rising case numbers on the continent were of "great concern".

Britain hopes a local three-tier system will fit the bill, with London heading into level two at the weekend and northwestern city Liverpool the only area in the top level, with strict limits on social mixing including the closure of pubs.

In France, police searched the home of Health Minister Olivier Veran, one of several current or former ministers being probed following complaints by victims of Covid-19 that they were slow to act to check its spread.

The action came after France announced a virus shutdown between 9 pm and 6 am in Paris and other hotspot cities that will

remain for as long as six weeks. In neighbouring Spain, bars and restaurants will close across the northeastern region of Catalonia for the next 15 days, while Germany said daily infections have reached levels not seen since the start of the pandemic.

Breaking with past practice, China has sought to avoid a major lockdown after an outbreak in the port of Qingdao, testing almost 10 million residents but allowing people to come and go as they please.

Countries across Africa – which accounts for just over four percent of global cases – have also eased lockdowns and travel curbs over the past month, but weekly cases and deaths have ticked up, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

- AFP

Donkey therapy to help Spain's stressed-out doctors

SPAIN: Walking into a dusty paddock, a young nurse is quickly surrounded by a group of donkeys gently nudging her for attention as she strokes their soft noses and feeds them carrots.

When someone places a 10-day-old colt in her arms, Monica Morales squeals with delight, visibly relaxed after a few hours unwinding at El Burrito Feliz – "The Happy Little Donkey" – an association offering free donkey therapy sessions to medics fighting the virus. Known as animal-assisted therapy, such encounters can help with a range of physical and mental disorders, including stress, depression and anxiety. Although such therapy is more associated with horses, experts say donkeys are better suited to helping mental or emotional disorders given their gentle nature and intuitive respect for personal space.

"The situation is quite overwhelming, what we went through before is now happening again," says Morales, 25, who spent months working in a Madrid hospital when the pandemic hit. She is now based in the south as Spain faces a second wave.

"There are more and more patients, and growing tensions among colleagues so being here with these donkeys is really helping." Located by a sprawling forest on the edge of Andalusia's Donana National Park in southern Spain, El Burrito Feliz is a non-profit association with 23 donkeys that

have worked with Alzheimer's patients and children with problems.

The "Doctor Donkey" project began in late June as a way of offering respite to frontline workers battling a virus that has killed some 33,400 people, infected more than 900,000, and left medics traumatised and exhausted.

"The huge stress created through the daily struggle with Covid-19 exhausts them, so here they can be strengthened through therapy with the donkeys," explains Luis Bejarano, 57, who runs El Burrito Feliz.

"They can recharge their batteries to keep fighting another day." Bejarano says the idea came from a book about Japan's therapeutic forests where people spend time among trees to reduce stress and depression as an alternative to therapy.

"The situation generates a lot of anxiety and stress because of the risk of getting infected, or passing it on to colleagues, family members or other patients who are more fragile than usual," says 31-year-old oncologist Mari Paz Lopez. And the risk of falling ill is very real, with one in 10 of Spain's healthcare workers getting infected – twice that of the general population and one of the highest rates in the world. "We've not been offered any psychological help although I know it exists in other places," says Lopez who works in the southern city of Jaen and heard about the donkey therapy through television. - AFP



Luis Bejarano, who crossed The Alps with a donkey and a llama, says donkeys interact better with people than horses, who are more suited to physical therapy.

SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS IN EUROPE

Map reveals the spread of the killer bug



Over half of EU countries 'red' on new virus travel map

SWEDEN: More than half of countries in the EU, plus the UK, were on Thursday labelled red in a new map issued by the bloc's disease control agency aimed at guiding decisions on travel restrictions.

The map was issued after EU member states decided on Tuesday to coordinate their approach to travel restrictions on other countries in response to Covid-19 outbreaks.

Seventeen of 31 countries covered by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) were labelled red or mostly red, meaning average daily cases over the previ-

ous 14-day period were 50 or higher per 100,000 inhabitants coupled with a test positivity rate of over four percent.

The red rating is if the 14-day notification rate is 150 cases or higher per 100,000.

In addition to the 27 EU countries, the ECDC covers the UK, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

A green rating means the 14-day notification rate is lower than 25 cases per 100,000 and the test positivity rate below four percent, and orange are those that fall between red and green.

Member states agreed not to impose travel restrictions on travellers from regions rated "green", but none achieved that level nationwide.

For countries that are red and orange, members states are free to decide what measures, if any, they wish to impose but could for instance require travellers coming from those countries to undergo quarantine or a Covid-19 test.

Five countries – Austria, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland – did not receive a rating, with the agency citing a lack of information. - AFP

\$60 dollar experimental vaccine available in Jiaxing



CHINA: A \$60 double-dose experimental coronavirus vaccine is being made available to some residents in an eastern Chinese city, health officials have said, the first details of a mass rollout for an as-yet unproven vaccine.

Officials in Jiaxing city said Thursday residents aged between 18 and 59 with "urgent needs" can seek consultations at clinics for a Sinovac Biotech vaccine that authorities have been giving to groups such as medical workers.

The statement from Jiaxing's centre for disease control and prevention did not specify what constituted "urgent needs".

Authorities did not say how

many people in the city had been given the vaccine, which comes in two doses, administered up to 28 days apart and costing a total of 400 yuan (\$59).

China has already given hundreds of thousands of essential workers at ports, hospitals and other high-risk areas across the country an experimental vaccine, according to officials.

But even as 11 Chinese vaccines have entered clinical trials – with four in advanced Phase Three trials – none have been approved for mass market distribution. Beijing has also made bold predictions on a broader rollout before year-end as it battles a storm of international criticism over its early handling of the outbreak.

Health officials told a press con-

ference last month that the country expects to be able to produce 610 million vaccine doses annually by year-end, stressing it would be affordable.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has also previously declared that Chinese vaccines would be made a "global public good".

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

Beijing has not given details on how much money it would commit to the deal, which has a fundraising goal of \$2 billion and aims to provide 92 low and middle-income countries with a future vaccine.

- AFP

Indian cinemas re-open after 7 months

INDIA: Cinemas in movie-mad India tentatively re-opened on Thursday but with worries about coronavirus and only old films showing, early punters were few and far between.

The famously cinema-hungry nation has been deprived of physical venues since March, when it entered a serious lockdown that continues today.

The pandemic has clobbered theatres worldwide but in India, home to the planet's most prolific movie industry, it has upended a culture that treats the stars of the silver screen almost like gods.

After the recent loss of several luminaries to coronavirus, cancer and even suicide – as well as a Bollywood drugs scandal – the industry is desperate for some good news.

But it may have to wait, with some states still keeping theatres closed – including Maharashtra and its movie mad capital Mumbai – and film studios offering no new releases.

At the Sharada Cinema in Bangalore on Thursday, there was only a small trickle of customers for the morning showing of action fantasy "Kaanadante Maayavadanu".

One of those in line was businessman Chandrashekhar Naidu, who said he was "excited" to

return to the cinema after the almost seven-month-long coronavirus-imposed hiatus. India's largest operator PVR – which lost \$30 million in the last quarter – on Thursday was

only screening movies for employees, police and their families, before opening to the public on Friday at selected locations. A trip to the cinema remains an affordable pursuit in India, with as little as 75 rupees (\$1) buying three hours of drama, dancing and song in air-conditioned luxury.

But with temperature checks at the door, half the seats left empty for social distancing, and only a limited selection of food, the experience now is a far cry from what was previously on offer. Top Bollywood producer Aditya Chopra is also preparing to release "Bunty Aur Babli 2", a sequel to a 2005 hit, at the same time, according to media reports.

But with India's virus cases surging past seven million, the threat of infection remains strong, prompting authorities in Mumbai, the home of Bollywood, to put off reopening cinemas for the time being.

"Mumbai is the heart of the film industry – if theatres are closed there, half the battle is already lost," said analyst Nahta.

In such uncertain times, if the remaining cinemas are able to sell even half the tickets available – 25 percent of normal capacity – they can celebrate, he said.

"If they manage to fill 60 percent of the seats on offer, it will be superb news for the industry." - AFP



A movie goer gets his temperature checked at the entrance of a cinema theatre in Bangalore on Thursday. - AFP

Trump defends COVID-19 response, Biden talks 'UNITY'



US: US President Donald Trump delivered a combative defense on Thursday of his COVID-19 response while election challenger Joe Biden - offering a glaring contrast in style in a rival town hall - accused him of doing "nothing" to end the pandemic.



US President Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Joe Biden.

The dueling appearances, scheduled at the same time on rival television networks, showed Biden giving unflinching, empathetic, often in-depth answers to voters in the audience, while Trump delivered a fiery, sometimes agitated defense of his Presidency.

Trump, who trails in the polls ahead of the November 3 election, was especially under pressure about the coronavirus that has killed over 217,000 Americans and inflicted deep economic damage.

"We're rounding the corner," Trump insisted with his usual optimism, even as swaths of the United States see sharply rising case loads. The President entered

calmer waters when fielding a series of more comfortable questions from members of the audience, one of whom sparked applause by telling Trump: "You have a great smile."

By contrast, Biden's appearance on rival network ABC mirrored his steady and generally low-key campaign, with promises of bipartisan healing in divided Washington and aiming steady fire on Trump's coronavirus record. "We're in a situation where we have 210,000 plus people dead and what's he doing? Nothing. He's still not wearing masks," Biden said of Trump at the event in Philadelphia. "We've got to

change the nature of the way we deal with one another," Biden said. "If I'm elected President, the first thing - and not a joke... I'm going to pick up the phone and call them and say, 'Let's get together.'"

Biden repeatedly came back to the theme of unity, saying he would be President to all Americans including those who voted against him. Originally, both candidates were meant to meet Thursday for what would have been their second of three Presidential debates.

With only 19 days until the election, Trump is now running out of time to overtake Biden. - AFP

Scientists throw lifeline to world's rarest primate

FRANCE: Hainan gibbons - the rarest primates on Earth - were already teetering on the edge of extinction in 2014 when the most powerful storm to lash China's coast in half a century ravaged their island oasis.

Decades of economic development, along with logging and deforestation, had reduced their habitat by more than half. What primary forest remained was also fragmented, further hemming in the tailless apes, which travel exclusively above ground.

But the massive mudslides unleashed by super typhoon Rammasun made things worse, gouging 15-metre wide gullies into the mountainous forest and effectively cutting off their treetop highways.

"Canopy connectivity is critical for gibbons as they

are strictly arboreal," lead author Bosco Pui Lok Chan, head of the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden in Hong Kong's New Territories, told AFP.

"Forest fragmentation thus presents a major conservation challenge for gibbons." It not only limits their ability to forage for food, it can interfere with the search for a mate and make them more vulnerable to predators.

After the typhoon, Chan and his colleagues noticed while monitoring the gibbons - only a few dozen of which remain in the wilds of China's Hainan Island - that they had trouble crossing these new gaps in the forest.

And when they did, they took very risky routes involving a lot of long jumps and high falls among the few surviving trees," he

said. Then Chan had a light-bulb moment.

"We constructed a two-pronged canopy rope bridge across the damaged arboreal highway," he said.

The "bridge" consisted of two parallel ropes tied at either end to trees. The conservationists also set up motion cameras to record any movement on or across the ropes.

The group of nine gibbons most affected by this particular gash in the forest didn't avail themselves of the lifeline right away.

Indeed, only 176 days later did the cameras capture the first image of a gibbon on the ropes.

After that first crossing, however, others quickly followed suit. Some strode across the mountaineering-grade ropes like tight-rope walkers, while others moved underneath, swinging arm to arm. - AFP

China's southern island gibbons

The world's most critically endangered primate

Hainan gibbon
Nomascus hainanus
Highly specialised tree dwellers

Status
Critically endangered

Population
Around 30 individuals

Live in social groups and form well-established territories

Under threat from habitat loss and fragmentation

Impact of habitat fragmentation

- Difficulties in dispersing from each other when needed
- Foraging is limited
- Loss of energy efficiency
- Breeding opportunities limited
- Vulnerability to predators, disease, parasites
- Roadkill and electrocution risks

Artificial canopy bridge

- First erected 2015 to connect fragmented habitat
- First used by gibbons after 175 days
- Now used by all except by breeding male of the group
- Larger males more frequently jump

Techniques observed

- Climbing (handroving)
- Walking
- Climbing (underneath)
- Branchiation

Americans voting early in record numbers in Presidential election

US: Americans are voting early in record numbers with more than 17.8 million casting their ballots already ahead of a presidential election between Democrat Joe Biden and Republican Donald Trump taking place under the shadow of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.



Long lines of voters queue up to cast their ballots on the first day of early voting in Texas on Tuesday.

And while the result of the White House race will not be known until Election Day on November 3 - or perhaps much later - the early vote indications appear to favor the 77-year-old Biden, who has a double-digit lead over Trump in the national polls. Early voting began in Iowa on October 5. As of Thursday more than 325,000 ballots have been cast in the Hawkeye

State, according to the US Elections Project of the University of Florida.

The project maintains a running tally of in-person early votes and returned mail ballots. By Thursday afternoon a total of 17.8 million ballots had been cast in the states that

report early totals. Election experts point to the COVID-19 crisis and an expansion of voting by mail for the surge in early voting, which is on a pace to smash the 2016 total of 47 million early votes. Several polls have shown that Democrats are more

likely than Republicans to vote early because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the US Elections Project, voters, as of Thursday, have requested 80.69 million mail-in ballots in the states reporting such figures. Of the states that

report requests by political party registration, Democrats have requested 23.66 million ballots and Republicans 13.91 million. A total of 2.09 million early votes have been cast in Florida, 1.68 million in California and 1.62 million in Texas, according to the US Elections Project.

Other states with high early vote totals include Michigan (1.3 million), Virginia (1.14 million) and New Jersey (1.14 million).

More than 916,000 early votes have been cast in the southern state of Georgia despite long lines on the first day this week which saw some voters waiting for more than 10 hours. - AFP

Over 11 million girls won't return to school after COVID -19, says UNESCO

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Over 11 million girls face being unable to return to school even after coronavirus restrictions are lifted around the world, UNESCO head Audrey Azoulay said Thursday during a visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"We worry that in many countries the closure of schools has unfortunately led to losses,"

Azoulay said as she visited a high school in the capital Kinshasa, three days after the country's 2020-21 school year began.

"We estimate that 11 million girls will be unable to go back to school around the world."

Accordingly, "we have launched an awareness campaign on the need for schools to go back to school," the former French culture minister said.

Education "unfortunately remains very unequal" for girls, Azoulay said, noting that their access to schooling is a priority for the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Congolese Education Minister Willy Bakonga, accompanying Azoulay, urged her to support the country's programme of free public primary education launched

by President Felix Tshisekedi in September last year.

He said the programme had allowed more than four million children to join or rejoin the education system in the poor but mineral-rich Central African country. Hailing the reform as "very ambitious", Azoulay recognised the "enormous challenges" at hand in terms of infrastructure, teacher training and budget-

ing. Urging girls to pursue their schooling "as long as possible", she said she would support the Congolese authorities in the "massive effort that must be made for the quality of teaching". Experts estimate the annual cost of free primary education at \$2.64 billion, a colossal sum for the Democratic Republic of Congo. - AFP



15.10.2020 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 613,160

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 24,138,140.00

Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 **Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 01** **Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 19**

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA
DRAW NUMBER : 4276 OFFICIAL RESULTS
DATE: 15-10-2020

Winnings: 01 (Rs. 2,000,000/-), 11 (Rs. 100,000/-), 162 (Rs. 10,000/-), 1,032 (Rs. 1,000/-), 10,501 (Rs. 100/-), 103,627 (Rs. 20/-)

Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs. 9,928,420.00

The Super Prize of next draw **Rs. 27,793,829.00**

Govisetha
DRAW NUMBER : 2571 DRAW DATE : 15.10.2020
ENGLISH LETTER: H WINNING NUMBERS: 10 12 18 37

TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW **194,885**

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 6,090,120.00**

SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 65,019,102.80**

Mega POWER
DRAW NUMBER : 643 OFFICIAL RESULTS
DATE 2020.10.15

Prizes: 01 (Rs. 1,000,000.00), 02 (Rs. 100,000.00), 80 (Rs. 1,000.00), 142 (Rs. 800.00), 5,668 (Rs. 100.00), 9,096 (Rs. 40.00), 91,001 (Rs. 20.00), 18,724 (Rs. 20.00)

Next Mega Super Prize **Rs. 53,488,902.40**

Next Power Super Prize **Rs. 12,759,342.00** Next Grand Super Prize **Rs. 20,220,463.60**

Total Prizes Won in This Draw **Rs. 4,295,620.00**

HERO
DRAW DATE: 2020/10/15
DRAW NUMBER: 023

English Letter: S Winning Number: 11 14 55 59

Total prize money won in this draw **Rs. 1,934,600/-**

Super Prize for the next Draw **Rs. 7,002,576.60**

Vasana Sampatha
Official Results
Draw No. 1622
Date 2020.10.15

English Letter: P ONCE A ALWAYS A HERO
Winning Nos. **45 49 52 67**

Total prize money won in this Draw **Rs. 1,897,380.00**

Next Super Prize **Rs. 24,499,036.90**

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL - KADUWELA

Meat Stalls and Market Procurement Notice - Year 2021

Sealed procurement bids are invited up to 10.00 a.m. on 06.11.2020 for the lease of meat stalls and markets belonging to Kaduwela Municipal Council for the period from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021.

Procurement Bid forms will be issued from 19.10.2020 to 05.11.2020 (only on week days) from 09.00 a.m. to 03.00 p.m. by the Finance Department of this office. Procurement bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 06.11.2020 at this offices. Further details could be obtained from the Municipal Commissioner during working days from 09.00 a.m. to 03.00 p.m. (Telephone No. 0112-539562), procurement applicants or their authorized representatives with written request could be present at the time of opening of tenders.

NB:

- It is compulsory to produce the applicant's National Identity / Driving Licence / Passport when obtaining procurement applications.
- Procurement applications will not be issued to those who have to pay due rentals to Kaduwela Municipal Council or who have defaulted procurement tender terms and conditions earlier.
- The Municipal Commissioner reserves the right to accept or reject the bids submitted.
- If any person intends to apply for more than one trade stall, separate applications for each stall should be obtained and submitted separately.
- Tender forms perfected in duplicate inserted in two separate covers marked as "the original" and "the duplicate" and sealed should be deposited in the tender box kept at the Municipal Finance Department of Kaduwela Municipal Council before 10.00 a.m. on 06.11.2020. The name of the trade stall for which bids are submitted should be mentioned on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing tenders.

Place	Minimum Procurement Bid for 2021 Rs Cts	Procurement Deposit Amount	
		Refundable Rs Cts	Non-refundable Tender Form Fee Rs Cts
Athurugiriya District Office			
01	Beef Stall	293,000.00	23,000.00 4,000.00
02	Mutton & Chicken Stall	304,000.00	24,000.00 4,000.00
03	Pork Stall	330,000.00	26,000.00 4,000.00
Kaduwela District Office			
01	Mutton & Chicken Stall, Kaduwela	304,000.00	24,000.00 4,000.00
02	Beef Stall, Kaduwela	330,000.00	26,000.00 4,000.00
03	Pork Stall, Kaduwela	322,000.00	26,000.00 4,000.00

Sanjeeva Bandukeerthi
Municipal Commissioner

Kaduwela Municipal Council
Kaduwela.
14.10.2020

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following company is to be incorporated under and in terms of Section 34 of the Companies Act, No. 7 of 2007 as amended.

Name of Company : **Nuwandika Siriwardena Foundation**
Registered Office Address : **No. 1046/3/B, Pothuarawa Road, Malabe.**
On behalf of the Board by **Gregory's Partners**
Company Secretary
53/3, Gregory's Road, Colombo 7.

The proposed objectives of the Company, which have been approved by the Registrar General of Companies are as follows :

- To provide medicine and other medical equipment for low income earning cancer patients.
- To provide aid for the families of low income earning cancer patients for their day to day maintenance / requirements ; including providing of necessary aid for health care, education and other necessities for children in such families.
- Providing counselling services to family members of patients suffering cancer.
- Conducting awareness programs and seminars through media platforms in order to prevent the discrimination against patients or influence, for the protection and upholding of fundamental rights of citizens of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
- Empowering the society on the religious values and knowledge in order to create a society with religious norms.
- Providing children of low income earning families with aid and donations necessary for the development of their education.
- Hosting medical clinics aimed at providing medical treatments and advise to people in rural areas of the country.
- Providing aid for the development of religious places and places of worship in rural areas of the country.
- Providing aid for the wellbeing of children in orphanages and senior citizens in homes for the aged.
- Raising awareness in order to sustain and reserve environment by providing required aid.

Marriage
Proposals
in the
Sunday Observer
Is the best way to fulfil
your Future Dreams

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, that the under mentioned private limited liability company was incorporated on 12th October 2020.

Name of the Company : **Fashion & Events (Private) Limited**
Registered Number : **PV 00228832**
Incorporation Date : **12th October 2020**
Registered Office : **No. 136/4, Uduwana, Homagama.**

Company Secretary
Date: 15th October 2020

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TEACHING HOSPITAL - KURUNEGALA

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Tenders are invited up to 10.00 a.m. on 04.11.2020 from construction contractors possessing valid ICTAD/CIDA registration for granting the contract for extension of the Director's Office of this hospital - completion of balance work. Tenders will be opened at the Director's Office immediately after closing of accepting tenders. The tenderer or an authorized representative could be present on this occasion.

Bid documents could be inspected free of charge during working days of the week up to 3.00 p.m. on 02.11.2020 and bid documents could be obtained up to this time from the Head Office after submitting the documents mentioned below.

- Submitting a written application addressed to the Director, Teaching Hospital, Kurunegala.
- Submitting the receipt obtained for payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2500/- to the Shroff of the hospital for each of the work.
- Submitting a certified photocopy of the ICTAD / CIDA registration along with the original copy.

The name of the work should be clearly mentioned on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the tender and should be addressed to The Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Teaching Hospital, Kurunegala and sent by registered post or could be inserted in the Tender Box kept at the Chief Accountant's Office. Further details regarding this matter could be obtained by calling on Tel. No. 037-2233906 - Extension 2800.

Chairman
Regional Procurement Committee
Teaching Hospital
Kurunegala.

Replies to Classifieds & Casual Advertisements published C/o the

Daily News

should only be sent by ordinary post. Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

Tangalle Urban Council

Tender Notice

Year 2021

Sealed tenders in duplicate for the lease of the properties of Tangalle Urban Council mentioned in the following schedule for the period from 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020 may be sent by registered post to the Tangalle Urban Council or deposited in the tender box kept at the Council before 10.00 a.m. on 06.11.2020.

Tender forms will be issued only to those who confirm their identity by the National Identity Card or any other acceptable form of identity and fulfilling the following requirements levying the undermentioned charges up to 3.00 p.m. on 05.11.2020.

The person who obtain tender forms should confirm his identity prior to obtaining same. The Grama Niladhari Certificate in proof of permanent residency should be submitted and the revenue certificate issued by the Divisional Secretary to the effect that the bidder has an annual income of over Rs. 240,000/= should also be produced. Tender forms will be issued only to those over 25 years of age.

Tenders will be opened at 10.30 a.m. on 06-11-2020.

The Tender Board of Tangalle Urban Council reserves the right to accept or reject the whole tender or a part thereof. Tenderers or their representatives could be present at the time of opening tenders. Further details could be had from this office during office hours. Telephone No. 047-4931945 or 047-4934275.

Serial No.	Reason	Minimum Bid Amount could be applied	Tender Deposit Rs. Cts.	Tender Form Fee Rs. Cts.
01	Lease of the right of collecting taxes at janatha Pola, Fish Market at Tangalle and collection of additional taxes within Urban Council limits	4,684,465.50	25,000.00	1,500.00
02	Lease of Beef Stall at Tangalle Public Market	1,231,875.00	15,000.00	1,500.00
03	Lease of New Public Toilet	495,375.00	10,000.00	500.00

Ravindu Wedaarachchi
Chairman
Tangalle Urban Council

TENDER NOTICE

PRADESHIYA SABHA, MADULLA, DAMBAGALLA

Sealed Tenders are invited by me from Voluntary Organizations, registered within the Moneragala District or from individuals with permanent residency up to 10.00 a.m. on 17.11.2020 for granting of leasing rights of property mentioned in the Schedule below located within the area of authority of the Madulla Pradeshiya Sabha and belonging to the Sabha for a one year period from 01.01.2021 upto 31.12.2021 (Tender Forms will be issued from 19.10.2020).

Tenders will be opened on the same day (17.11.2020) at 10.05 a.m. in the presence of the Tender Board and the applicant or his representative with written approval could be present on this occasion.

Tender applications could be obtained only up to 2.00 p.m. on 16.11.2020 after paying the specified Tender Form fees and the Tender Guarantee as mentioned in the schedule below. The applicant should submit the National Identity Card when obtaining Tender Forms in proof of identity.

Schedule 01

Serial No.	Details	Minimum Bid (Without VAT) (Rs.)	Tender Guarantee (Refundable) (Rs.)	Tender Form Fees (Non-refundable) (Rs.)
01.	Madulla Weekly Fair with 04 Shops	6,000,000.00	60,000.00	10,000.00
02.	Madulla Weekly Fair			
i	Fish Stall	45,000.00	15,000.00	4000.00
ii	Fish Stall	45,000.00	15,000.00	4000.00
iii	Fish Stall	45,000.00	15,000.00	4000.00
iv	Fish Stall	45,000.00	15,000.00	4000.00
v	Fish Stall	45,000.00	15,000.00	4000.00
vi	Fish Stall	45,000.00	15,000.00	4000.00
vii	Fish Stall	45,000.00	15,000.00	4000.00
viii	Fish Stall	45,000.00	15,000.00	4000.00
03	Marie Arawa Weekly Fair	650,000.00	25,000.00	6000.00
04	Marie Arawa Weekly Fair Shop No. 02	27,500.00	7000.00	2500.00

Further details regarding Tender Conditions could be obtained from the Officer in-charge on the subject of Tenders at the Pradeshiya Sabha, when collecting Tender Forms.

D.M. Chaminda Pushpakumara
Chairman,
Pradeshiya Sabha,
Madulla, Dambagalla.
Madulla Pradeshiya Sabha
Enquiries : 055-2275186 / 071-2565067

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Employment Opportunities



VACANCIES

UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA, SRI LANKA

University of Jaffna will entertain applications from the qualified persons for the undermentioned posts.

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES AND COMMERCE

Senior Professor/ Professor of Commerce / Financial Management / Human Resource Management / Marketing

Senior Lecturer Grade I / Senior Lecturer Grade II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary) in Accounting / Financial Management / Marketing

SALARY AND OTHER BENEFITS

Post	Salary scale
Senior Professor	Rs.139,175 - 11x2925 - 171,350/= p.m
Professor	Rs.117,350 - 13x2700 - 152,450/= p.m
Senior Lecturer Grade I	Rs.91,310 - 7 x 2,170-106,500/= p.m
Senior Lecturer Grade II	Rs.79,360 - 11 x 1,630-97,290/= p.m
Lecturer (Unconfirmed)	Rs.69,580 - 5 x 1,630-77,730/= p.m
Lecturer (Probationary)	Rs.54,600 - 10 x 1,335-67,950/= p.m

In addition to the above salary,

1. The following allowances will be paid as the percentage of the basic salary to the academic staff:

- Academic allowance

Senior Professor	- 167%
Professor	- 162%
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/Gr.II	- 151%
Lecturer (Unconfirmed)	- 131%
Lecturer (Probationary)	- 115%
- Research allowance - 35% (based on the research activity)
- Additional monthly allowance - 20%

2. Cost of living allowance of Rs.7,800/-p.m.

Statutory Benefits:

- Sabbatical leave entitlement for the holder of the Post of Senior Lecturer Gr.II and above
- Membership in Universities Provident Fund and Pension Scheme in the University system
- Gratuity payments
- Employees' Trust Fund benefits
- Free Medical Services

Closing date:

Applications should reach us on or before the dates given below:

Post of Senior Professor/Professor	- 31.12.2020
Other posts	- 18.11.2020

Applications and other documents for the Post of Senior Professor/Professor shall be sent to the Vice-Chancellor with a covering letter. Applications for the other posts shall be sent to the Deputy Registrar / Academic Establishments, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka with the photocopies of the educational & professional qualifications (with statement of the Degrees and service certificates.)

* Applicants for the Post of Professor are requested to submit the following in addition to the prescribed Application Form:

- 18 copies of his/her Curriculum Vitae
- 18 copies of self-assessment of his/her whole career that lists and specifies the contribution to:
 - > Teaching, Scholarship and Academic Development
 - > Research, Scholarship and Creative Work
 - > Dissemination of Knowledge
 - > Awards, University, National and International Development Activities

The Self Assessment should be prepared in accordance with the marking scheme, giving details under each heading/sub heading.

- Three copies each of the documents to support self assessment in :
 - > Teaching, Scholarship and Academic Development (Section 1.0)
 - > Research, Scholarship and Creative Work (Section 2.0)
 - > Dissemination of Knowledge (Section 3.1)
 - > Awards, University, National and International Development Activities and other relevant documents listed in the self assessment. (Section 3.2 & 3.3)
 (Section 2.0 & 3.1 could be prepared as a separate document)

(The three copies of the publication, research papers and other relevant documents should be submitted in a form of that can be evaluated)

- Titles of five (05) outstanding research publications/research papers by the candidate.

Application forms and other details will be available in the University website www.jfn.ac.lk. Downloaded application forms should accompany the paid Bank Slip for the deposit of a sum of Rs.100/- credited to the Peoples Bank Account No: 162-1-001-6-0000880 of Bursar, University of Jaffna.

Application forms and other details may be obtained from the office of the Deputy Registrar, Academic Establishments, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, on a payment of Rs.100/- per application form. Those who wish to obtain application forms by post are requested to send a self-addressed stamped envelope 23x10 c.m. in size along with the paid Bank Slip to the above address.

The candidates who apply for more than one position should submit separate application along with separate Bank slip. The post applied for should be marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Applicants from the University System/Government Departments/Corporations and Statutory Boards should channel their applications through the Heads of respective Institutions, but may send an advance copy in the first instance. However, no such applicant will be considered for interview, if the application channeled through the Head of the Department is not received.

Illegible & incomplete applications, and applications received by the University after the closing date will be rejected without intimation. Only shortlisted applicants will be called for an interview.

REGISTRAR
UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA
SRI LANKA
16.10.2020



University of Kelaniya - Sri Lanka VACANCIES

Applications will be received from qualified persons to fill the vacancies of the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

01. Post : Marshal (Grade II)

Qualifications:

- A graduate of a recognized University/ Higher Educational Institution.
 - Age - Between 30-45 years
 - Physique - Male Height : 5' 5"
Chest : 32" deflated
Female Height : 5' 4"

Note : Preference will be given to those who possess experience in Police/Armed Forces and active participation in sports activities, social welfare activities within the university and at national level.

OR

- A person who has experience in a post not below the rank of Major in the Armed Forces in Sri Lanka or not below the equivalent rank in Sri Lanka Police.

Selection : By Interview

Salary Scale : Rs. 42885 - 18x660 - 54765 p.m. [UMN 3 (II) as at 01.01.2020 as per Commission Circular No. 17/2016 & 17/2016 (v)]

In addition to the salary, the cost of living allowances and other approved allowances will be paid to the selected candidate/s.

02. Post : Security Inspector (Grade II)

Qualifications:

- G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in six subjects at not more than two sittings with credit passes in 5 subjects. The credit passes must include Sinhala/Tamil language or Literature and Arithmetic/Commercial Arithmetic/Mathematics.

OR

- Employees of the University System with not less than 5 years satisfactory service and who have passed the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in 06 subjects at not more than 03 sittings. The subjects passed must include Sinhala/Tamil language or Literature and Arithmetic/Commercial Arithmetic/Mathematics.

AND

- Not less than 05 years satisfactory service in the Police or Armed service or Security service in the University System or other recognized security organization.
- Should have actively participated in Sport.
- Height : Not less than 5 feet and 4 inches.
Chest : Not less than 34 inches (Normal)

Selection : By Interview

Salary Scale : Rs. 30,725 - 17x300 - 35,825 p.m. [UMN 1 (IIIA) as at 01.01.2020 as per commission Circular No. 17/2016]

In addition to the salary, the cost of living allowances and other approved allowances will be paid to the selected candidate/s.

03. Post : Mason (Grade II)

Qualifications :

- Should have passed Grade 08.
- Should be conversant with -
 - Brick work and the different types of courses used in the construction of wall footings, wall arches, taper pillars, chimneys, sewer chambers etc.;
 - All types of plaster, mixing and laying of reinforced concrete;
 - Reading plans and setting out foundations for simple construction;
 - Colour washing including use of emulsion paint.
- Not less than 2 years experience in masonry.

The Applications submitted without service certificates will be rejected and treated as not qualified.

Age : Not more than 45 years.

Salary Scale : Rs. 29915-16 x 270-34235 p.m. [U-PL3(III)]

(Salary Scale for 2020 as per Commission Circular No. 17/2016)

In addition, other allowances recommended by the University Grants Commission will also be paid.

Selection Method : By a Trade Test and an interview.

04. Post : Electrician (Grade II)

Qualifications:

- Ability to read and write.
- Should be conversant with -
 - Detecting faults, repairs and assembly of materials, transformers and all types of machinery and appliances, cables, wires and their ratings, measuring instruments and their uses, various types of wiring, joining, testing meters and small transformers;
 - Reading and understanding drawings and diagrams. Reading scales and record fractional dimensions;
 - Care and the use of the tools in the trade.
- Not less than 2 years experience as an Electrician in a Government Department, State Corporation or in a recognized establishment.

The Applications submitted without service certificates will be rejected and treated them as not qualified.

Age: Not more than 40 years.

Salary Scale : Rs. 29915-16 x 270-34235 p.m. [U-PL3(III)]

(Salary Scale for 2020 as per Commission Circular No. 17/2016)

In addition, other allowances recommended by the University Grants Commission will also be paid.

Selection Method : By a Trade Test and an interview.

05. Post : Mechanic (Grade II)

Qualifications :

- Should have passed Grade 08.
- Should be conversant with -
 - Reading scales, micrometers and recording fractional dimensions;
 - Specialized types of fitting of plant and machinery of steam, motor and diesel or the operation of workshop machinery such as lathes milling machines and shaping machines; and
- Reading and understanding drawings.
- Not less than 2 years experience as a Mechanic or Machine Operator.

The Applications submitted without service certificates will be rejected and treated as not qualified.

Age : Not more than 45 years.

Salary Scale : Rs. 29915-16 x 270-34235 p.m. [U-PL3(III)]

(Salary Scale for 2020 as per Commission Circular No. 17/2016)

In addition, other allowances recommended by the University Grants Commission will also be paid.

Selection Method : By a Trade Test and an interview.

Method of Application :

Application forms could be downloaded from the University Website (www.kln.ac.lk). Duly completed Applications on prescribed forms should be sent with copies of relevant certificates, indicating the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope to reach the Assistant Registrar/ Non-Academic Establishment Division, University of Kelaniya, Dalugama, Kelaniya, to be received on or before 2nd November 2020.

Age limit will be not applicable to applicants from Higher Education Institutes, Government Departments, Corporations and Statutory Boards and they should channel their applications through the respective Heads of Institutions.

The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Applications which are not fulfilling the required qualifications, incomplete, illegible applications and those received after the closing date will be rejected and they will not be considered again under any circumstance.

Registrar
University of Kelaniya

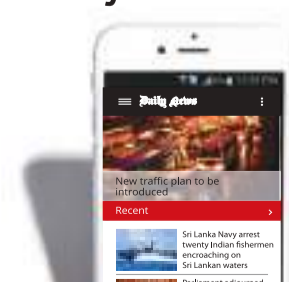
14.10.2020

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Sampath Sofa Panadura to invest in Form Factory

JAYANTHI COORAY

Sampath Sofa Manufacturing Company Dibbadda Panadura will invest over Rs. 40 million to construct a modern cushion latex form factory.

Chairman Managing Director, Sampath Sofa, Sampath Fonseka said that with most of the latex form is imported and in some instances the quality is questionable. "Due to this Sofas tend to shrink."

He said that manufacturing latex form locally would also result in saving huge forex to the country and the price of Sofas in the local market too would come down making the product affordable even to a low income family.

He said that he has already obtained land for this project and he is in the process of importing machinery. "The latex form factory will also increase my value addition to almost 80%."



Chairman Managing Director, Sampath Sofa, Sampath Fonseka.

Fonseka said that once the factory is operating from next February he also hopes to open his own show room in Colombo and would intensify his exports to Australia and the Gulf when the corona pandemic settles.

"For the first time in Sri Lanka I will also introduce the 'sofa trading concept' from mid next year."

He also said that they will also have a mobile sofa repairing unit to attend to minor Sofa repairs since

households find it hard to transport sofas.

Asked if he has plans to move in to fabric manufacturing he answered in the negative.

He said that though some 'orders' for hotels were temporary halted due to the covid pandemic, there is increase demand from apartment market. "This is because we design sofas according to the diverse designed requirement of architects.

Recalling his path to success, Sampath Sofa began from stitching cushion covers and supplying them to Arpico Super a decade ago at very low margins. "I soon mastered the technique and started designing sofas and getting them crafted by carpenters in Moratuwa. Due to my personal supervisions these sofas were well accepted in the market and then I started my own carpentry house in Dibbadda Panadura and rebranded the products as Sampath Sofa."



Sampath Sofa with nearly 200 employees today is the largest supplier of Sofas accounting to nearly 80% of Sofas sold in all leading furniture Department stores in Sri Lanka. He has also won many awards for his craftsmanship.

He was also presented the Gold award in the Wood and Wood based Products category at the Industrial Development Board of Ceylon

(IDB) organized annual awards ceremony for the SME sector recently.

Sampath Sofa, was also recognised for occupying the biggest space and for reaching a top sales performance at the Build Sri Lanka Housing Construction Expo 2020, held at the BMICH and organised by the Chamber of Construction Industry of Sri Lanka recently.



Highlights from the donation event

Senior Alumnus of Colombo University donates bus

Multiform Chemicals (Pvt) Ltd through its Chairman Thilak Karunaratne, Former President of the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo and Council Member of the University of Colombo donated a brand new 33 seater air conditioned luxury passenger bus to the Faculty of Science of the University of Colombo at a simple ceremony held at the College House of the University of Colombo.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Professor Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne accepted the keys to the passenger bus from the Senior Alumnus Thilak Karunaratne. Dean of the Faculty of Science, Senior Professor Upul



Sonnadara, President of the Alumni Association, Rajeev Amarasuriya, the Registrar K.A.S. Edward, Bursar S. Jayasooriya, Members of the Academic and Administrative Staff and Alumni were present.

The Vice Chancellor expressed the university's heartfelt gratitude to

Karunaratne and his family. She acknowledged their sincerity in filling a long-felt void in the academic schedules of the Faculty of Science in the provision of student learning and research opportunities through field visits.

She highlighted the commitment of Alumni in the

development of the University that will inspire the student body to value their Alma Mater throughout their life. Dean Faculty of Science recalled that this was the largest contribution received by the faculty from a single donor.

Alumni President Amarasuriya said that Karunaratne has been a benefactor of the University of Colombo for many years now and was greatly appreciative of the latest donation of this Passenger Bus to the Science Faculty for the use of the students and staff. He called upon more Alumni of the University to take a cue from Karunaratne and give back to the University of Colombo, when possible.

GREENEE Lighting donates essential medicines to Cancer Hospital

GREENEE Lighting donated valuable and essential medicines to the Cancer Hospital Maharagama recently as part of their annual CSR project.

GREENEE lighting has been able to light up the lives of the community by taking part in various charitable activities of this nature.

GREENEE a specialist in Indoor, Outdoor and Underwater Lighting provider is a complete Lighting solution provider in Sri Lanka since it was established in 2012.

GREENEE is also a strategic lighting supplier for many large real estate companies in the region and also has established retail



lighting showrooms in Nawala and Kiribathgoda to demonstrate energy efficient and smart lighting

technology in a real-life applications.

"This infusion of these medicine enables hospital staff to continue providing essential advanced cancer treatment services to patients. We wish to provide hope for the patients to live for another day by contributing the essential medicines to Cancer Hospital" said Chairman GREENEE Lighting, Nature Efficient Electronics Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Ajith Gunawardana.

Consultant Clinical Oncologist National Institute of Maharagama, Dr. Damayanthi Peiris received the donation from Chairman, GREENEE Lighting, Ajith Gunawardana.

Market recovers 90% of fresh COVID-19 wave losses

The weekly market closed in green recovering almost 90% of fresh COVID-19 wave losses amidst heavy retail activities.

Turnover continued to be led by the Materials counters followed by Transportation and Capital Goods counters making a joint contribution of 54%.

Index experienced a downturn during the early hour of trading as it hit its intraday low of 5,898. Later the market recorded a continuous upwards movement and closed at 5,946 with an advance of 26 points. Market recorded low foreign participation edged by the selling-side resulting in a net outflow.

Wrapping up the week, the secondary market witnessed continued buying interest in selected maturities while mixed activity was seen on the belly end of the curve amidst overall market witnessing moderate volumes.

Mixed activity was seen on 15.09.24 in the range of 6.03%-6.10% levels

while 01.08.26 traded in the range of 6.70%-6.55% levels. Investor interest was seen on short tenor maturities 15.07.23 and 01.09.23 trading at 5.75%-5.65% levels, in addition, 01.02.26 traded at 6.58%-6.50% levels, 15.08.27 and 15.10.27 traded in the range of 6.85%-6.88% levels.

OPPO launches OPPO F17 Pro, Watch and W51 wireless headphone in SL

OPPO launched the latest OPPO smart phone F17 Pro in Sri Lanka at an entertaining and exciting On-line launch.

The event also saw the participation of a string of Sri Lankan youth icons and a top tech blogger in the country.

The On-line Launch itself was a success and a milestone in the annals of digital landscape in Sri Lanka as it probably was the first ever 'Private Event Live Streaming' in Sri Lanka for a Mobile brand to have the highest number of 'Concurrent Viewers' Watching LIVE.

Produced exclusively for Digital it was the First Launch Event with the first ever Simulcast for a private event across 15 channels and 2 platforms - Facebook and YouTube with Full HD Streaming.

OPPO F17 Pro introduces fashionable technology along with functions which make life more efficient that can keep up with the pace of fast lifestyle, all packed into an Ultra-Sleek smartphone body of a truly premium design.

Along with F17 Pro Sri Lanka also launched the much awaited OPPO Watch - water resistant and powered with Wear OS by Google as



well as OPPO Enco W51, the first active noise cancellation (ANC) true wireless headphones under OPPO Acoustics.

"F Series has been designed so that the trendsetting generation can attain a quality smartphone that suits both their life and personal sense of style, and with a sleek design that you won't be afraid to flaunt outdoors" said Bob Li, CEO Xinda Lanka (OPPO Sri Lanka).

"Designed based on consumer research, F17 Pro ticks off all the right boxes for a phone that boasts AI cameras to deliver breathtaking portrait photos, and the latest generation of VOOC Flash Charging technology to ensure that your phone won't hold your lifestyle back" he added.

Designed with a 7.48mm Ultra-Sleek Body that easily slides into a pocket and jacket without the bulge, or tucks neatly into a small bag or clutch OPPO F17 gives the premium experience like no other.

To ensure that users are fully immersed in their content, F17 Pro's 6.43" dual punch-hole display comes

with a brilliant FHD+ Super AMOLED Display with a large 90.7% screen-to-body ratio. F17 Pro's look isn't complete without a trendy back cover design. The front of the phone boasts a Dual Cam that empowers to take beautiful selfie portraits easily.

AI Portrait Color in F17 Pro enables one to capture



fashionable urban street style photos or travel photos from a new perspective by making portraits pop with color.

The 30W VOOC Flash Charge 4.0, OPPO's proprietary rapid-charge technology can quickly charge F17 Pro even if there is just five minutes to spare in between a meeting.

F17 Pro even introduces ways to optimize the phone's battery life.

Designed for life and crafted for a premium experience, OPPO Watch comes in 46mm with eSIM/LTE or WiFi, sculpted with a 6000-series aluminum alloy frame.

Enco W51 will offer all the hot, in-demand features such as wireless charging, professional audio quality, ultra-low latency, and intelligent touch controls to create a dazzling comprehensive experience and perform ideally in any travel situation or windy environment.

F17 Pro will be available starting October 17, onwards in two colors including Magic Blue and Matte Black. Customers who pre order these devices from at Abans, Singhagiri, Dialog, Daraz on-line store and all authorized OPPO dealers island-wide will get an OPPO backpack.

Mount Clifford Residencies Homagama ICC incorporates flexible payment plans

International Construction Consortium, (ICC) one of Sri Lanka's leading contractors has incorporated a flexible payment plans to their ongoing residential project Mount Clifford Residencies Homagama.

This is an initiative taken to allow potential home owners to procure prime properties in the condominium space.

Offering the entire urban living package for an unmatched offer, investors are presented with a convenient payment scheme to purchase an 870 Sq Ft apartment that comes along with a series of facilities and amenities.

Apartments at Mount Clifford Residencies, Homagama consists of two bedrooms, two washrooms, of which one is en-suite, a living room, kitchen and a balconies that makes way for natural ventilation.

Spread over two towers rising up to six floors each on a two acres land, mount Clifford residencies entails facilities such as a well-equipped gymnasium, swimming pool, herbal garden, jogging track, relaxing area, community room and 24 hour security amongst



others. Investors are now able to acquire the high Return on Investment (ROI) property through strategically structured and secured payment plan.

Reserving a unit with only Rs. 500,000, investors are given the flexibility to settle the balance payment in installments. While the initial 30% of the payment can be made in three tranches, the balance 70 % payment can be made in monthly instalments that would end within the construction period.

Acknowledging the challenging times that determined investors are faced with due to the impacts stemming from the pandemic, ICC with its decades of reputation as a trusted partner will arrange bank loans for all potential customers on request.

The complex is within close proximity to the Kot-tawa Southern Expressway and is easily accessible. It is also just minutes from University of Sri Jayawardanapura Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa Institute of Technology, and the NSBM Green University amongst others.

Established in 1980, ICC has a strong position in the local construction space, recognized as one of Sri Lanka's leading building and civil engineering organization that has a proven track record in developing projects for the public and private sector. Up to date, ICC has completed over 3,000 housing units by completing 15 projects on time and successfully handed over to their clients, bonded with trust, quality and unmatched service.

Omalka Gunaratne to play for CH and FC

INDIKA WELAGEDARA
Former Isipathana College Captain, Sri Lanka Under-20, 15 a side captain, Sri Lanka Under-20, seven a side Vice captain and Sri Lanka national XV a side Captain Omalka Gunaratne has decided to don the jersey of CH and FC during the upcoming new inter club rugby season.



Omalka Gunaratne

Omalka was one of the prized products to come out of Isipathana College - whose team he also captained while playing as number eight in 2015, the year they were the inter-school triple runners-up (Sevens, League and the knock out) under the head coaching of former Kingswoodian Nilfer Ibrahim. He also had the honour of vice captaining the Sri Lanka Under-20 Sevens team at the Asian Championships and guided them to the Cup championship title for the first time in the career in club rugby and led the CR team in last year's Inter-Club rugby season. Last year Omalka had the distinction of leading the Sri Lanka national XV a side team in the rugby Asiaid in Chinese Taipei. He was just 23 years old and probably the youngest to lead a national team at that time. Speaking exclusively to the *Daily News*, Omalka said "Since I wanted to play professional rugby I have decided to sign up for CH and FC in the upcoming rugby season. I also wanted to thank my previous club CR & FC, where I had the opportunity of representing them for four consecutive years, while captaining them last year at the age of 23. I am eternally grateful to them. Now I will put all my effort and rally around with my CH and FC team to give off my very best for CH to achieve success."

Sri Lankan rugby history in 2016. Omalka was the captain of the traditional 15-a-side game which became runners-up to Hong Kong at the Asian Under-20 tournament in 2015, where the national team was coached by veteran rugby coach Sanath Martis. After leaving school he joined Navy SC and later crossed over to CR and FC to enhance his



Minister of Sports, Namal Rajapaksa (2nd from right) along with NSSF President, Shirantha Peiris (extreme right) and NSSF Secretary, Pradeep Edirisinghe (2nd from left) during their meeting.

Minister approves three new shooting ranges for schoolchildren

CHANDRIKA FERNANDO
Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Namal Rajapaksa has granted approval for the construction of three new shooting ranges in an attempt to popularise the sport among the schools in the country. The Minister responded swiftly to the need when he met the high-ranking officials of the National Shooting Sports Federation (NSSF) at the Sports Ministry in Colombo. As an initial step to support the plan, the Sports

Minister approved the construction of one airgun range per District in order to facilitate over 7,500 school shooters in the country. The ultimate target will be to have shooting ranges in all 25 Districts of Sri Lanka, which would be accessible not only to the students but also to the other shooting community in general and for the public for leisure shooting. The Sports Minister has also identified and approved three locations as shooting

ranges to be completed and the task was handed over to the President and Secretary of the NSSF to be accomplished by December 31. Meanwhile, President of the NSSF, Shirantha Peiris said that this has been the first time, that a Sports Minister had given a firm decision to move ahead without any interruptions. "I am very happy that these children can now have a location to train and shooting would improve their focus in studies as

well as in their general discipline." NSSF President Peiris told the *Daily News* yesterday. This programme, coordinated with the Ministry of Education is also extended to train school teachers as coaches who will overlook the training of their students. In fact, the President and Secretary of the NSSF have already had discussions with Daya Bandara, Director of Education and Sports, Ministry of Education to execute this programme.

'How can I be nervous?': Gayle back in business with 53 as Punjab down Kohli's Bangalore

DUBAI, THURSDAY: Chris Gayle smashed 53 in his first outing this Indian Premier League season to give Kings XI Punjab their second win of the virus-hit Twenty20 tournament on Thursday. The explosive West Indies batsman walked in at number three to put on a key 93-run partnership with skipper KL Rahul, who made an unbeaten 61, as Punjab chased down 172 to beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by eight wickets in Sharjah. The match witnessed late drama with Punjab, needing two for victory, scored just one run and lost Gayle to a run out on the fifth ball before Nicholas Pooran hit the winning six on the last ball off leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal. Gayle, the 41-year-old self-styled "Universe Boss" who recently recovered from a stomach bug, smashed five sixes in his 45-ball knock to announce his arrival in the United Arab Emirates. "It is the Universe Boss batting, how can I be nervous?"

the left-handed said after the win. "I might give you a heart attack, I thought I had it in the bag but stranger things have happened in cricket. It was a very sticky surface, very slow, but it was better batting second. The team asked me to do a job at three and it wasn't an issue (coming one down from his usual opening slot)." The information Rahul consolidated his top spot in the IPL batting chart with 448 runs as the opener struck his fourth fifty -- he has hit a hundred as well -- of the season. Rahul put on 78 with opening partner Mayank Agarwal, who

made 45 off 25 deliveries before becoming Chahal's 200th T20 victim. Punjab though still languish at the bottom of the eight-team table with two wins from eight games in the Twenty20 tournament that was moved out of India due to the coronavirus pandemic. "As a group, we have been disappointing. It can get frustrating. Our skills were good, but we didn't capitalise on the big moments," said Rahul. "It becomes a habit - winning and not winning. There are ups and downs and this has been the roller-coaster. We wanted this win to get some confidence in the group." On Gayle's first appearance after seven games, Rahul said, "He was training hard, he wanted to be out on the park. It was a tough call to make and not make him play. It's important to keep the lion hungry. Wherever he bats, he's dangerous." Earlier Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli made 48 before Chris Morris' late-order cameo propelled Bangalore to 171 for six after electing to bat first. - AFP



Chris Gayle

Wimbledon set to return in 2021 even without fans

LONDON, FRIDAY: Wimbledon is set to go ahead next year even if the Grand Slam tournament has to be staged behind closed doors, organisers announced on Friday. The grass-court championships were cancelled this year for the first time since World War II because of the coronavirus pandemic. The tennis season has been badly disrupted by Covid-19 but the US Open went ahead behind closed doors and the French Open took place in front

of only 1,000 fans a day after its starting date was moved from May to late September. The All England Club is planning for several scenarios in 2021 - a full-capacity Wimbledon, reduced numbers of fans or holding the tournament with no spectators present. "Staging the championships in 2021 is our number-one priority and we are actively engaged in scenario-planning in order to deliver on that priority," said chief executive

Sally Bolton. Wimbledon's statement read: "Our overriding priority will continue to be the health and safety of all of our stakeholders, in particular our guests, our staff, and our competitors. "We are working closely with the relevant government and public health authorities, alongside the rest of the sports industry, to understand the varying challenges and opportunities presented by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic." The 134th champion-

ships will be staged from June 28 to July 11, 2021. Wimbledon has been working closely with local communities during the pandemic and will continue to provide 200 hot meals a day to people in need until Christmas. More than £750,000 (\$970,000) has been donated to charities and organisations, while 30,000 of the famous Wimbledon towels that were intended to be used for the 2020 tournament have been given away. - AFP

'Perfect storm' forced Springboks out of Rugby Championship

JOHANNESBURG, FRIDAY: A coronavirus-induced "perfect storm" forced world champions South Africa to pull out of the 2020 Rugby Championship in Australia, SA Rugby chief executive Jurie Roux said Friday. He said factors had contributed to the withdrawal of the Springboks from the October 31-December 7 tournament included: - Some local players would have flown to Australia having played just one competitive match instead of the five director of rugby Rassie Erasmus considered to be the bottom line. - Uncertainty over the availability of many Europe-based South Africans as England and France battle with spikes in Covid-19 cases. - The six Springboks based in Japan, including jet-heeled winger Makazole Mapimpi, have played no rugby recently because of the pandemic. - South African government regulations were unclear regarding whether home-based players could legally leave the country. The Springbok-stacked

Stormers, whose squad includes 2019 Rugby World Cup-winning captain Siya Kolisi, will play their first competitive match since March this Saturday. Harsh lockdown conditions left South African rugby players far behind those in New Zealand and Australia, who resumed playing in mid year, when it came to game-time. This raised fears that the rusty world champions could be on a hiding to nothing, not only against arch foes New Zealand but also resurgent Australia under new coach Dave Rennie. "Players in England, Ireland and France are subject to differing local regulations and travel protocols and potentially imminent renewed lockdowns," said Roux in a statement. "It was unclear when they would be able to become functioning members of the Springbok squad in Australia." Erasmus, who coached South Africa to World Cup glory before returning to his director of rugby role, said the Japan-based

Springboks had "played no rugby at all". Roux added: "Public safety concerns come first and there is no way we could take short cuts to get them out of their host countries and into a Springbok bubble. "It seems impossible that the Springboks will not play a Test in 2020, but public health and safety have been the primary concerns. "All we can do now is enjoy our domestic competitions and find ways to be ready for the arrival of the British and Irish Lions in 2021." Preparing the Springboks for a three-Test series against the Lions next July and August without playing a Test since November 2019 is the huge challenge facing SA Rugby. The cash-strapped governing body will also suffer financially as they stood to earn a reported 300 million rand (\$18 million/15.5 million euros) by competing in Australia. A Lions tour will be a money-spinner, but only if locals and British and Irish visitors are allowed to attend. - AFP

Wounded All Blacks seek Eden Park 'statement' after Wallabies draw

AUCKLAND, FRIDAY: The "hurting" All Blacks will look to restore pride against Australia at their Eden Park fortress on Sunday after last week's 16-16 draw further dimmed their aura of invincibility in coach Ian Foster's first game in charge. Foster criticised the three-time world champions' "relatively poor" game management for the drawn first Bledisloe Cup Test in Wellington, and warned they will not make the same mistake in round two on Sunday. As Test rugby's resumption goes into its second week in New Zealand, where there is no community Covid-19 transmission, a crowd of 47,000 is expected to pack Auckland's Eden Park - where the All Blacks are unbeaten in 43 games. However, the Wallabies are riding high. After going into the first Test as underdogs, and ended up out-muscling the All Blacks for much of the game and saw a penalty bounce off the posts after the final hooter. For Australia, who last won the annual Bledisloe Cup series in 2002, it was a

moral victory with coach Dave Rennie saying "it's something we'll draw on Sunday afternoon". There is even confidence in the Wallaby camp that they can smash the curse of Eden Park, where it has been 34 years and 19 Tests since they last tasted victory. But whenever Australia has started a Bledisloe series well in recent years they have generally been thrashed the following week, and Foster warned they can again expect a vast improvement from the All Blacks. "It was a game where we didn't achieve the level that we wanted to, that's clear and obvious, and yet we walked away with a 16-all draw," said Foster. "So we're hurting and it's the way it should be. We know we've got to respond." **No room for sentiment** While Foster rated the All Blacks scrum and line-out as effective, he said "how we used those as weapons was probably relatively poor" and also called for more aggression.



New Zealand's Beauden Barrett reacts as he runs to score a try.

Among five changes, Foster included blockbusting wing Caleb Clarke and moved no-nonsense hooker Dane Cole into the front row, while Beauden Barrett returns from injury to take over the fullback role. His 36-Test brother Scott Barrett, who has been sidelined for three months by a foot injury, will come off the bench in the second half, while experienced centre Anton Lienert-Brown starts in place of Rieko Ioane, who fluffed a certain try last week when he failed to ground the ball properly. Foster said he accepted criticism that the All Blacks lacked their usual edge in Wellington. "Those comments come every time we have a performance that doesn't reach our expectations for starters, so there's not much point arguing with them," he said. "Is it time for a statement? Well, yes it is." Despite Australia's

delight after the first Test, Rennie had no room for sentiment as he made four changes to his line-up. Hooker Folau Faingafa'a, who struggled at lineup time and nearly gifted the All Blacks a try with a sloppy pass, makes way for Brandon Paenga-Amosa, and the size of the pack has been bolstered by Ned Hanigan replacing Pete Samu in the loose forwards. Star outside back Jordan Petaia and Queensland Reds flanker Liam Wright have been added to the bench. "We know that New Zealand will step it up another level this weekend, we're excited by the challenge ahead," Rennie said. New Zealand have held the Bledisloe Cup for the past 18 years and after the drawn Test last weekend, Australia will need to win two of the remaining three matches to win it back. The third and fourth Tests will be played in Australia on October 31 and November 7 as part of the Rugby Championship, which also involves Argentina. - AFP