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## Random PCR tests in Parliament

A Random PCR testing programme is scheduled to be held today (09) from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon at the Parliament premises.

Sergeant-at-Arms Narendra Fernando invited Parliamentarians to attend the random PCR testing programme. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

# COVAX VACCINES HERE BY MONTH END

18 MN VACCINE DOSES ALSO TO BE ORDERED

4,000 CENTRES FOR VACCINATION

600,000 TO BE INOCULATED PER DAY

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA and DINULI FRANCISCO

The first consignment of COVID vaccines donated under the World Health Organisation's COVAX facility is to be received by the end of this month, stated Deputy Director-General of Public Health Services, Dr. Hemantha Herath.

Dr. Herath was speaking at a special media conference held yesterday at the Government Information Department.

"A consignment of free vaccines for 20 per cent of the country's population is to be received under the COVAX ini-

tiative and the first consignment is to be received by the end of this month. We hope that the rest of the vaccine will also be received soon," he said.

He further said the Government has taken measures to purchase 18 million doses of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine, which will be sufficient to inoculate nine million persons as two doses are needed per person.

The AstraZeneca vaccine can be kept at normal refrigerator temperatures (Celsius 2 to 8), which will facilitate storage and transport logistics. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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## A boost for dairy farming

SANDASEN MARASINGHE

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday instructed the officials to increase the loan amount of Rs 500,000 that was proposed through the Budget proposals for dairy farmers up to Rs.1 million.

Hence the dairy farmers would get an unprecedented opportunity from next week to get loans up to Rs 1 million at a 4 percent interest rate to develop their infrastructure facilities related to their industry. This measure is taken to reduce the expenditure on import of milk powder. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Govt fearlessly facing Geneva challenge - Keheliya

ASELA KURULUWANS and SHAVINI MADHARA

Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said that it is ridiculous for those who gathered at Temple Trees twice a week to discuss the imprisonment of Rajapaksa family members during the former Government's tenure, to talk about the independence of the Judiciary

today. The Media Minister made these observations speaking at a ceremony held to mark the fourth anniversary of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna at the Rambaken Reception Hall at Menikhinna, Kundasale under the theme of 'Siv Desa Sureki Siv Wasa' (the four years that protected the four corners of the country). **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Rs.1,000 daily wage for estate workers through Wages Board

IRANGIKA RANGE

The Tea and Rubber Wages Board yesterday decided to increase the daily wage of Tea and rubber plantation workers up to Rs.1,000, Labour Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva said.

He said the daily wage Rs.1,000 includes a payment of Rs. 900 and a budget allowance of Rs. 100 per day for plantation workers. The decision was taken following a discussion of Tea and Rubber Wages Board participated by CEOs of plantation companies and plantation union representatives. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## PM Mahinda will always be cherished leader of SLPP - Sagara

DINULI FRANCISCO

The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) claimed yesterday that Industries Minister Wimal Weerawansa has no right to comment regarding any matter related to the SLPP and he must seek public forgiveness on the statement made to a weekend newspaper stating that the Party Leadership of the SLPP should be handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa from Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



President inspects construction of model stalls at Galle Face Green in Colombo yesterday morning. The line of stalls will be constructed as another step in the development project surrounding the Galle Face Green. The Navy has designed these model stalls according to the envisioned new plan. President Rajapaksa stressed the need to build the stalls enhancing the scenic appearance of the Galle Face Green. Minister Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, Sri Lanka Port Authority Chairman General (Retired) Daya Ratnayaka and several others were present on the occasion. **Picture courtesy President's Media Division**

## Wannila Aththo files petition challenging clearing of lands at Palledbedda

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Uruwarige Wannila Aththo, leader of the indigenous population known as 'Veddhhas' in Sri Lanka filed a writ petition in the Court of Appeal challenging the clearing of lands at Palledbedda-Rambakan Oya.

Uruwarige Wannila Aththo and the Centre for Environmental Justice filed this. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Measures to increase renewable energy capacity

'Country spends nearly Rs. 400 bn annually to import fossil fuel'

LAHIRU FERNANDO

The Government is taking measures to increase the capacity of renewable energy to meet the country's requirements to reduce the Rs.400 billion expenditure on the fossil fuels, said Power Minister Dullas Alahaparama.

He pointed out that the country spends nearly Rs. 400 billion per annum to import fossil fuel needed to generate electricity which is almost half the funds spent to pay the salaries of public sector employees during the year. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Parliament to convene from today

The Committee on Parliamentary Business met yesterday (08) under the chairmanship of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena decided to convene Parliament from today.

Accordingly, the Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake stated that the regulation issued by the Minister of Labour under an Extraordinary Gazette which was presented in Parliament on January 21 under the Employees Provident Fund Act will be taken up for debate today. Following the

commencement of Parliament at 10 a.m. today (09), time will be allotted for the Oral Questions of the Members of Parliament until 11 a.m. Subsequently, the debate will begin at 11 a.m. and will continue until 04.30 p.m.

"The Adjournment Motion moved by the ruling party will be taken up for debate from 04.30 pm to 5.30 pm," Dasanayake said. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister will answer the questions raised by Members of Parliament on Wednesday. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## 1,400 prison officers to be recruited soon - Ratwatte

ASELA KURULUWANS

One thousand four hundred (1,400) new prison officers will be recruited before the end of this month, Prison Management and Prisoners' Rehabilitation State Minister Lohan Ratwatte

said. He added that in addition another 500 officers under the age of 40 who will have the opportunity to retire after twelve years of service, will also be recruited to get their experienced service as well. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Ravi, six others released in alleged trespassing case

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Colombo Fort Magistrate Priyantha Liyanage yesterday ordered the release of six suspects including for-

mer UNP MPs Ravi Karunayake, R. Yogarajan, Ajith P. Perera and Samagi Jana Balawegaya MP Nalin Bandara from a case. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Private bus strike postponed

IRANGIKA RANGE

The representatives of the private bus associations yesterday decided to postpone the planned private bus strike by a week after a discussion held with Money, Capital

Market and State Enterprises Reforms State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal. Lanka Private Bus Owners Association (LPBOA) and the Inter-Provincial Private Bus Association had earlier planned to commence the islandwide private bus strike based on several demands including the reduction of the leasing interest on private buses. LPBOA representatives said that State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal has given an assurance on solving their problems this week.



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# Nayake Thera's cremation on Feb.10

I.M. ABEYRATNE  
Dunagaha Group Corr.

Chief Incumbent of the Induragara Sri Jethawana Viharaya, Pagnajothy Wansalankara Sasana Keerthi Sri Panditacharya Most Venerable Madampella Siri Sudhamma Nayake Thera of the Sri Lanka Ramanna Sector passed away at the age of 96 on Sunday evening.

The religious, social and the educational service he rendered to the country is invaluable. Among the Nayake Thera's many distinguished students are Senior Professor of the University of Kelaniya, Ven. Rajakiya Panditha Induragare Dhammarathana Thera.

The Nayake Thera's cremation will take place at the Gala Mukalana Public Grounds on February 10.



# Patali to join NSJB

ASELA KURULUWANSA

Parliamentarian Patali Champika Ranawaka said that he would join National Samagi Jana Balawegaya in the near future.

He said that he would join it

along with the 26 members who resigned from the Hela Urumaya. He said he once participated in the Executive Committee meeting of the National Samagi Jana Balawegaya on an invitation and hoped to join it.

# Indian fishers seek end to dry fish ban

Fishermen and traders of Kasimedu want the Sri Lankan Government to lift the ban on Karuvaadu (dry fish) imports from India.

The Kasimedu fishing harbour sends around 500 tonnes of dry fish to Thoothukudi, from where it is sent to Sri Lanka.

Nanjil Ravi of Akhila Indhiya Meenavar Sangam said there were at least 10 traders, who depended on the dry fish trade with the island nation. "The ban on dry fish imports from India was supposed to be only for 100 days and it began in November.

The time limit is over now,

which is why we are asking that the ban be lifted," he said.

Many types of Dry fish, including maasi karuvaadu, made from Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, thena koni and nethili, are processed and sent from Kasimedu. "About 150 containers of dry fish at the Thoothukudi harbour are waiting to be sent to Sri Lanka. The government is asking us to take up deep sea fishing but if we do not have the market for our catch, what is the use? Fishermen have stopped going on deep sea trips since we already have a lot of unsold dry fish," a trader said. (The Hindu)

# Rs.1,000 daily wage... From page 01

He said 11 votes were cast in favour of the proposal to pay the Rs.1,000 for the plantation worker made by union representatives.

The Minister said this increase was one of the pledges included in President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's National Policy Framework. The Government had to

resort to the Tea and Rubber Wages Board to resolve the dispute as the plantation companies did not abide by the Collective Agreement.

The proposal made by the Wages Board to pay a daily wage of Rs.1,000 to plantation workers was passed by a majority vote yesterday.

# Acknowledgement

A.H.M Fowzie (former minister and MP) and Nawzer Fowzie (former provincial council member) and family wish to thank all those who attended to Hajiani Sakina Fowzie's funeral as well as those who expressed their condolences in numerous ways.

They also wish to convey their thanks to Hon. Prime minister and his wife, Hon. Leader of the opposition, Diplomats, Ministers, Parliamentarians and representatives of political parties, members of the local government and other officials who joined them to share their moment of grief.

Further, they express their gratitude to the Doctors, Nurses and Medical staff of Nawaloka and Durdans Hospital specially Professor Senaka Rajapaksha, Dr. Anoja Rajapaksha, Dr. Punsith Gunawardane, Dr. Charith Fonseka, Dr. Ranga Wickramarachchi and Dr. Shazly Mawjoed who cared Mrs. Fawzie during her illness for 16 days free of charge.

They further wish to thank all relatives, friends and well wishers who expressed their condolence and helped in numerous ways at the funeral and regrets their inability to thank them individually.

A.H.M. Fowzie and family,  
78, School Road,  
Colombo-03.

# District level tourism training schools mooted

IRANGIKA RANGE

The Government plans to set up tourism training schools at district level as pledged in President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's National Policy Framework, "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour," Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said.

He added that four new hotel schools will be established this year.

He was addressing a Progress Review Meeting of the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management recently.

The Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management under the Ministry of Tourism is the only institution in the country that produces professionals in the Hospitality and Travel Industry fields. It has branches in Kandy,

Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Bandarawela, Koggala, Ratnapura, Pasikudah and Jaffna. The Government plans to establish hotel schools in other districts of the country.

The Minister pointed out that various courses related to the tourism and hotel industry offered by hotel schools should be upgraded to degree level courses. The Minister said that discus-

sions are already underway with the University Grants Commission in this regard.

Minister Ranatunga also instructed the authorities to introduce a new diploma course in addition to the existing courses for youth who do not possess GCE Ordinary Level qualifications but are currently employed and interested in this field.

# Search operation for missing youth at Punchi Lokanthaya to resume

PRASANNA PATHMASIRI  
Uva Province Group Corr

The search operation conducted by a group of Army Special Forces for the missing youth in the forest areas of Kotagama, Egoda in Bibila *Punchi Lokanthaya* (Little World's end) at Kokagala, Madolsima on Sunday evening was postponed for the second day yesterday (8) due to the unfavourable weather.

"The operation conducted by 36 Army personnel which was suspended due to the mist and rain will commence today," said Kotagama Grama

Seva Niladari Hemantha Wickramasinghe.

The Army personnel suspect that the remains of the missing youth might be found on the upper canopy of the forestry area.

D. Dinura Wijesundara (34) of Maggona, Kalutara had gone with a group of 12 to camp at the *Punchi Lokanthaya*. The group had encountered bad weather and strong winds while on their way to *Punchi Lokanthaya*, and found Wijesundara missing at dawn. He is suspected to have fallen from the *Punchi Lokanthaya*.



The search operation conducted by a group of Army Special Forces for the missing youth at *Punchi Lokanthaya* (Little World's End) in Madolsima.

# COVAX Vaccines here... From page 01

"The Government has already planned to utilize 4,000 vaccine centres for this purpose and these centres will administer a total of 300 vaccinations each day, with 2,000 centers in operation per day. So we will be able to administer vaccines for about 600,000 people per a day," he said. This programme, which will target the general population aged 30-60, will probably start in the first week of March.

Joining the media conference via Zoom technology, Consultant Dr Ananda Wijewickrema stated that the AstraZeneca COVISHIELD vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, is a safe vaccine since no adverse reactions or side-effects have been reported so far in Sri Lanka or in other countries where it is currently used. Dr Abeywickrema urged people not to panic

over this vaccine and not to be misled by any myths or rumours.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine appears to substantially reduce transmission of the virus, rather than simply preventing symptomatic infections, UK researchers have suggested. The rate of positive PCR tests declined by about half after two doses, according to preliminary results by researchers at the University of Oxford that have yet to be peer reviewed. Their analysis, released as a preprint Tuesday, also supports spacing out doses and estimates good efficacy after just one shot of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. The study did not measure transmission directly - for example, by tracing contacts who were infected by study volunteers. But the researchers did collect regular nasal swabs from some participants and found that the rate of

positive PCR tests fell by half after two doses of the vaccine. After one dose only, the rate of positive tests fell by 67%.

A total of 161,773 individuals mainly from the health sector and the Security Forces/Police have been given the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine so far in Sri Lanka since the commencement of the COVID-19 vaccination drive on January 29, following the donation of 500,000 doses of the COVISHIELD vaccine by India the previous day. According to available statistics a total of 3,838 and 1,625 individuals have been vaccinated on Feb 6 and 7 respectively. The COVID-19 vaccination programme was started on January 29 and 5,286 were vaccinated on the first day alone. Accordingly the progress of the immunization programme remains at a percentage of 64.7 by the end of Sunday.

# Random PCR tests... From page 01

The random checkups will be conducted once a week during Parliamentary Sitting weeks as well as during non-Sitting weeks with the

full support of the Department of the Director General of Health Services. Random PCR tests have been carried out since January 13,

2021 and the 190 persons who underwent PCR tests on January 25 turned out to be COVID negative.

# Wannila Aththo files... From page 01

petition seeking an interim order staying the validity of approvals granted to the Mahaweli Authority for the proposed Agriculture and Livestock Development Project. The petitioners are further seeking an order to halt the clearing of the lands at Palledbedda-Rambakan Oya, one of the traditional homelands of the indigenous population.

Filing this petition through counsel Ravindranath Dabare, the petitioners have named Central Environmental Authority, Mahaweli Development Authority, Department of Forests, Department of Wild Life Conservation, Minister of Wildlife and Forest Conservation, RAN Plantations (Pvt) Ltd and several others as respondents.

The petitioners are also seeking an order in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus directing Central Envi-

ronmental Authority to take actions in terms of the National Environmental Act for the illegal clearing of the lands without conducting an Environmental Assessment.

The Petitioners state that Palledbedda is a remote village in the dry zone situated at Mahaoya and is found on the way to the Rambakan Oya Reservoir. Palledbedda is one of the traditional homelands of indigenous population known as Veddhas of Sri Lanka. The petitioners said that deforestation and development have greatly contributed to the shrinking of their traditional lands. This has caused a progressive decline in their number, and the community is at risk of losing its ancient traditions, which have been handed down from generation to generation. The Petitioners

state that an area of approximately 500 ha had already been cleared for the Proposed Agricultural and Livestock Development Project at Palledbedda-Rambakan Oya according to the site inspection carried out by the petitioners.

The petitioner states the Central Environmental Authority is the apex body for the protection of the Environment in Sri Lanka and they have failed in their statutory duties to take cognizance of the clearing taking place in the said area and had permitted to proceed with the proposed project without an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) instead of taking action against the relevant parties for clearing 500 acres of forest cover in a water catchment area without obtaining approval in terms of the National Environmental Act.

# Ravi, six others released... From page 01

filed against them for allegedly trespassing into the Sri Lanka Nidahas Sevaka Sangamaya premises (Port Authority) in 2014.

The complaint had been lodged by the Nidahas Sevaka Sangamaya after a group of UNP

Parliamentarians went on a fact finding mission at the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) premises on October 21, 2014.

The Colombo Fort Magistrate made this order pursuant to the Attorney General's advice not to proceed with further legal action

against the suspects. The Slave Island Police conducting investigations into the incident had sought the Attorney General's advice regarding the incident. Counsel Sajitha Jayawardena appeared for former MP Ravi Karunanayake.

# Parliament to convene... From page 01

(10) from 10 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Thereafter, from 10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m., time has been allotted for oral questions of Members of Parliament.

On that day, the regulations imposed under the Gem and Jewellery Act will be taken up for debate, which will be held from 11 am to 4.30 p.m. After that the adjournment motion moved by the Opposition will then be taken up for debate.

The Secretary General further said that three regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act will be taken up for debate on Thursday (11). On the same day, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., time will be allotted for the oral questions of the Members of Parliament and the adjournment motion moved by the Government will be taken up for debate from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Votes of Condolence on the late MPs Surangani Ellawala, K.P Silva and Kapila Abeyratne will be presented in Parliament on Friday (12). The sitting will be held from 10 am to 4.30 p.m. on that day and no time will be allotted for the oral questions of the Members of Parliament.

The Committee on Parliamentary Business had decided to limit the oral questions of MPs to 10 per day.

# 1,400 prison officers to be... From page 01

"The Prison Inmate Review Programme which was terminated by former President Chandrika Bandaranaike will be re-enacted," State Minister Lohan Ratwatte said. He expressed his hope that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa would give his approval before the Vesak Poya Day this year.

State Minister Ratwatte said further that the Prison Inmate Review Programme, which had not been operational for 20 years, was a

legal process which enables inmates who are on death row to mitigate to life imprisonment and those serving life imprisonment to 20 years imprisonment.

The State Minister made these observations while speaking to the media after the opening of a consular office of the Ministry of External Affairs in Kandy.

Furthermore, he said that he had received the report of the investigation into the Mahara prison inci-

dent and that the committee's recommendations are still being implemented.

State Minister Ratwatte said that by the time he took over the ministry, 30,000 detainees were in prison and that it had now been reduced to 18,000.

He also said that according to the available space and the number of officers, the number of inmates that can be kept is 12,000.

# A boost for dairy... From page 01



The Prime Minister made this directive at the Development Review Meeting at the Finance Ministry. He also pointed out that the attention of the Government has been drawn on attracting foreign investors rather than taking foreign loans.

The Finance Ministry Secretary explained that the interest rates of the housing loans already taken by the Government

servants and those to be taken will be dropped up to 7 percent and the same is then similar to a Rs.2,500 to Rs.3,000 salary increase.

The Government has also planned to grant loans up to Rs.800,000 for both Government and non government employees at an interest rate of 4 percent to fix solar panels to increase the use of renewable energy and hence reduce the expenditure on fossil fuels for thermal energy.

# Govt fearlessly facing... From page 01



Minister Rambukwella said that the present Government had to pay for the heinous betrayals of the previous Government and they are ready to face all those challenges

without fear.

He said that the Human Rights Commissioner had made allegations to the country based on the betrayal of the then Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera and that we would not accept them. He emphasized that the Government was successfully facing all these problems with the strength given to the government by the people of this country.

The Minister said that the Podujana Peramuna had carried out a political revolution in this country in a short period of four years. He added that the same path was not paved on a bed of roses. He added most of them had to make statements to the FCID without any reason. He added that they could go around with a smile as they had not done any crime.

# PM Mahinda will always... From page 01

SLPP General Secretary Sagara Kariyawasam addressing a media briefing said that Wimal Weerawansa should withdraw his comment which is a third class move.

"Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa is the massive pillar that stands behind the success of the country as well as the SLPP. He was defeated baselessly yet the majority of the country still requests his contribution for the betterment of the country," Kariyawasam said.

He further added that the SLPP will not betray their party for narrow political gains and SLPP will always maintain the code of discipline. "It is unethical for Minister Wimal Weerawansa to state any views regarding the SLPP leadership and he should immediately withdraw his comment and apologize to the party."

MP Sanjeewa Edirimanna also speaking at the press briefing stated that the SLPP is well known for co-existence among parties and within the party itself co-existence is practiced. He further said that the statements directed towards MP Sagara Kariyawasam by Minister Wimal Weerawansa are baseless allegations.

"Politics is a broad subject; one cannot escape from the collective responsibilities. If Wimal Weerawansa is not satisfied with the current happenings the only thing left for him to do is to resign," he said.

# Measures to increase... From page 01

Minister Alahapperuma was addressing the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) Youth Front meeting held at Kamburupitiya on Saturday.

The Minister said in keeping with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's election manifesto, the Power Ministry has been tasked with increasing the use of renewable energy in electricity generation. "We were asked to rely on hydro power, solar power and wind power," he added.

"Nearly 35 per cent of the country's power generation depends on diesel," Minister Alahapperuma pointed out.

"It is the responsibility and the duty of politicians to eradicate the root causes of the issues other than eradicating the particular issue," he further said. He also said that it was ridiculous for politicians who created a fear psychosis in the country during 88/89 insurgency period to speak of human rights.



**Indian FM presents digital Budget for 2021/22**

Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the first digital Budget on February 1. The budget for the Fiscal Year 2021/22 coincides with India's V-shaped economic recovery overcoming the hurdles posed by COVID-19.

India is slated to be the fastest-growing economy in the next two years with its real GDP estimated to attain a new record of 11.5% growth in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 and 6.8% in the Fiscal Year 2022/23. India has also set a USD 5 trillion target for its economy in the Fiscal Year 2024/25. With a strong rebound expected in the second half of the Fiscal Year 2020/21 (October 2020 to March 2021), the Indian economy is well on course towards realising these figures.

Strong performance of the economy translated into increased attractiveness among investors. FPI inflows reached an all-time monthly high of USD 9.8 billion in November, 2020. Forex reserves also stood at a record high of USD 586 billion, which is sufficient to cover India's import bill for 18 months. Performance of stock market indices have been robust and capitalisation to GDP ratio crossed 100% after more than 10 years.

India's sterling bounce back is attributable to the Government's disciplined and mature policy response to COVID which was guided by four principles: strategy of containment, fiscal, financial, and long-term structural reforms. These were coupled with other measures such as cushioning vulnerable sections of the society during lockdown and boosting consumption and investment while unlocking.

Total outlay for the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget is close to USD 500 billion. India's agricultural sector, which witnessed 3.4% growth in agriculture during the first half of Fiscal Year 2020/21, contrary to the global economic downturn, got a big boost in the budget. Agriculture credit target has been increased to USD 226 billion and various farmer friendly initiatives are being envisaged, in continuation of the progressive reforms that have already been carried out.

These steps are aligned with the goal of doubling farmer's income by 2022. The Budget gave further impetus to foreign investment by introducing several investor friendly measures such as increasing the FDI cap in the insurance sector from 49% to 74%.

Finance Minister outlined the vision for a self-reliant India (AatmaNirbhar Bharat) in the budget. This blueprint consists of various elements such as strengthening infrastructure, providing opportunities for youth, offering education for all, empowering women among others.

The Budget stood on six key pillars namely health and well-being; physical and financial capital, and infrastructure; inclusive development; reinvigoration of human capital; innovation and R&D; and minimum Government and maximum Governance.

Under these, manufacturing has been further incentivised, and startups are being given focused attention. Ambitious targets have also been set in the field of space expeditions.

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The entry turret

## Dutch Fort at Kalpitiya

# WELL CONCEALED YET FORMIDABLE



The main gate of the Fort

The Kalpitiya Fort has two tunnels, one leading to the sea and the second leading to the old Dutch church. The first is on the left flank of the fort. As we entered it was almost pitch black and some large bats excitedly made their exit. Using our mobile phone lights, we were able to see the tunnel which runs to a length of about 10 feet, before it had been sealed decades ago. There is some speculation as to where it exactly leads. The second tunnel is even more mysterious and is adjacent to the fake church structure

DISHAN JOSEPH

The coastal areas of Sri Lanka have some stunning historic forts. Some are massive and imposing. Other forts are not that big but served their purpose of a fortified defensive bastion. With the tranquil Puttalam lagoon opening out to the sea, Kalpitiya is one of the most beautiful destinations in the country. A cluster of 23 islands, 14 of which are major islands, enhances the appeal of this resplendent location.

A few metres from the main town is a historic architectural gem - the Dutch Fort. As we entered through the main gate of SLNS Vijaya, the naval quarter-master greeted us and directed us to the fort. The first view from the right side of the Base is the majestic rock wall that has stood here for three centuries. The cool breeze of the lagoon was refreshing. A sailor accompanied us to this historic fortified structure. The fort is not large like Fort Fredrick in Trincomalee or the massive Dutch Fort in Galle; yet we would soon discover its defensive elements that helped it achieve its security objective.

The arched-entrance has two large wooden doors, which is the only point of entry. Above the arch is a pediment which is common in Classical and

Baroque architecture. I noticed the emblem of the Dutch East India Company - the letters 'VoC'. The fort's crest displays two elephants that signify strength and a palm tree in the centre as a reflection of prosperity. The year 1676 is engraved on the wall. Old records say that before this fort was built here there was a small chapel built by the Portuguese priest of the Jesuit Order. The Portuguese had arrived here in 1544 and named the area as Kardiv Island.

The priests from the Jesuit Order served and lived here. Later on, the Dutch moved into this area and called it Calpentyn. They set their sights on the lucrative cinnamon trade which was bountiful in the Puttalam area. By 1666, they managed to chase away the Jesuit priests and began to build this fort. The Dutch initially informed the king that their intention was to build a church, for which he kindly granted permission.

However, they were quite cunning. They began building a fortified structure using granite rocks and coral stones. In fact, they did not build a church on this site. Once the fort was completed in 1676, they added three cement crosses on the topmost walls (one on the entry gate) to misguide the king and other potential seaborne foreign enemies that this was only a fortified church. After building other majestic forts along the

**The walls were about eight feet wide and interspaced with gun turrets. The top of the walls are sloped to reflect a 20-degree angle - a defensive tactic where under siege, Dutch sailors would pour hot oil that would burn anyone trying to mount the walls. Back in the day, there were five bastions on this fort**

coastal areas, I wondered, why the Dutch would want to conceal the presence of this fort. But, as we explored this mysterious building it was intriguing to understand their security perspectives from a bygone era.

The prudent Dutch engineers had deployed their second security feature to fool the enemy. To understand this we must realize the mode of seaborne assault in that era. An invading ship would fire her canons at the fort well away from the shoreline - focusing on the spot where they believed the troops would be gathered, before sending in 'landing parties' to physically raid the fort. In order to misdirect such fire the Dutch engineers had put up four large granite columns, and erected triangular-shaped walls on top of them, that gave the illusion of a church from a distance. This misleading structure is about 75 metres long. When the enemy fired, there was nothing of significance here and the cannon balls would land and explode onto a large open field. The field is in the centre of this old fort.

We climbed an angled ramp that took us to the ramparts. The walls were about eight feet wide and interspaced with gun turrets. The top of the walls are sloped to reflect a 20-degree angle - a defensive tactic where under siege, Dutch sailors would pour hot oil that would burn anyone trying to mount the walls. Back in the day, there were five bastions on this fort.

Four at the edge of each side and the fifth was placed outside the fort - forming the outer perimeter defence. There were 16 cannons on the wall directed towards the lagoon and 14 cannons aim-

ing at the landside. Unfortunately, with time, not a single canon is found today. Naval sources assume that each gun had a two-man crew. Thus, there would have been 60 Dutch men who manned these 30 guns, making this a formidable fort with a destructive fire wall. In addition, there would have been another 20 men working as cooks, clerks, horse keepers and storekeepers. We descended some steps and encountered a tunnel.

The Kalpitiya Fort has two tunnels, one leading to the sea and the second leading to the old Dutch church. The first is on the left flank of the fort. As we entered it was almost pitch black and some large bats excitedly made their exit. Using our mobile phone lights, we were able to see the tunnel which runs to a length of about 10 feet, before it had been sealed decades ago. There is some speculation as to where it exactly leads. The second tunnel is even more mysterious and is adjacent to the fake church structure. It is believed that it definitely went past the shore connecting the fort to a nearby island.

It was a tunnel for a tactical retreat in case of an intense assault. The other buildings in the fort include a commander's residence, dining hall, armoury, two prison cells and a storeroom. Drinking water was obtained from two wells. Years after erecting the fort the Dutch did build a real church for worship about 400 metres away from the fort, in 1706. The church belongs to the Dutch Reformed denomination, and we took time to visit the church in the evening. The old belfry is still standing. By 1795, the British took control of this fort.

Initially, a naval detachment was set



Old Dutch Church



Side view of the old Dutch Church

up here in 1973 to guard the lagoon and in 1982, this Base was commissioned as SLNS Vijaya. In the Dutch era, this was a vital trading point. There were boats that took cinnamon from here to Puttalam and then ferried via Hamilton Canal to the Colombo Port. For many years, the Navy has maintained this beautiful fort, protecting its historic value. On weekdays prior to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, busloads of schoolchildren would visit this fort on study tours. Tourists also visited this fort. The Sri Lanka Navy has done a commendable task by teaching the visitors about the maritime history of old Ceylon in Kalpitiya.

Towards late afternoon, I boarded a boat with a naval petty officer and set off to discover some of the islands. These lush islands are home to a variety of marine bird species. We went to one particular island where it is believed the tunnel from the fort emerged. We got onto the island with much expectation. The place was partly covered by mangroves and I noticed many tropical birds nesting amidst the clusters of trees. A snake slithered into the network of roots. I walked with caution but there was no trace of the tunnel's exit point, perhaps it has been sealed by nature's own process. On our return to the fort, I realized that the formation of islands around this fort could easily mislead a first-time visitor, thus concealing the real presence of this ancient formidable Dutch Fort. The view of the sunset was a bonus.



Ramparts



Inside the Fort



To improve productivity of seafood transportation

# Jaffna fishermen request train compartment with deep freezers

NIMAL WIJESINGHE

Fishermen in Jaffna have requested the government to provide a railway compartment equipped with deep freezing facilities to the Jaffna-Colombo train in order to improve the productivity in transporting processed seafood for export.

It was made during a meeting held in the Jaffna District recently, during which it was revealed that although there was plenty of seafood varieties and resources in Jaffna, fishermen were deprived of raking out the full

potential of it due to the unwarranted meddling of intermediaries.

This was revealed by senior economic researcher Dr. Akilan Kadhiragamanadhan at the meeting meant for exchanging views and opinions with regard to the Jaffna District seafood varieties promotion programmes.

Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Minister Douglas Devananda, who was also present at the meeting, said that he would discuss with the government regarding the provision of

rail carriages for the purpose of transporting processed seafood varieties.

The minister, responding to a request of the fishermen, said that after consulting experts, a decision was taken to combine rural fisheries and fisheries cooperative societies. He said action would be taken to execute a livelihood empowerment programme for fisherfolk and their families through micro-loan facilities under the Fisheries Federation's Rural Credit System.

## Twenty persons get three months' RI over illegal sand mining

ARIYAPALA WANSHATHILAKE

Twenty persons who pleaded guilty to illegal sand mining near the Deduru Oya was sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Rs.10,000 each by Kurunegala High Court Judge Mapa Bandara, yesterday.

The judge also ordered the convicts to

pay Rs.3,000 each as compensation to the injured former OIC of Rasnayakapura in Nikaweratiya. They would face an additional six-month sentence in default of the compensation.

According to the court report, the incident had taken place on March 30, 2014, while a group of tractor drivers

and their helpers were found carrying out illegal sand mining near the Deduru Oya. The suspects had attacked the police personnel who had arrived at the scene with their shovels before fleeing.

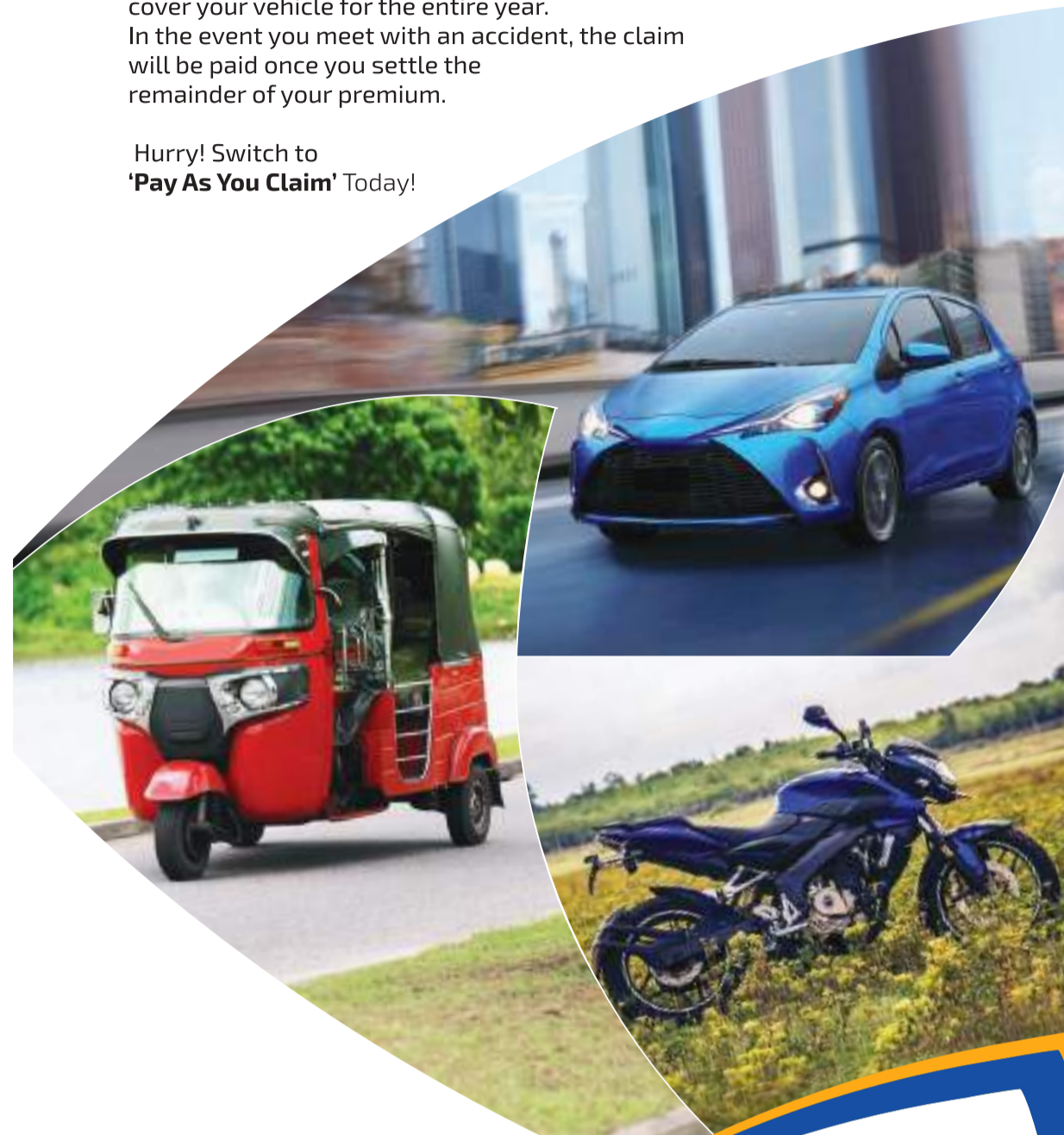
The convicts are residents of the Wariyapola and Kobeigne areas. State Council Janith Thilakarathna prosecuted.

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# Government launches project to turn Anuradhapura into TJC mango export zone

**NIMAL WIJESINGHE,**  
Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

The government has launched a programme to turn the Anuradhapura District into a TJC mango export zone. The project is being carried out under the supervision of the Export Agriculture Ministry.

Anuradhapura District Planning Director Sugath Nayananda, who is coordinating the project, told the *Daily News* recently that within the past six months, 157,250 TJC mango saplings have been distribut-

ed in 14 Divisional Secretariat Divisions of the Anuradhapura District. He said that the District Agriculture Director's Office has been entrusted with the implementation of the project.

It is also planned to train 10,000 farmers to take up mango farming with modern equipment, and farmers with a minimum land area of 0.75 acres would be eligible for the project. They would be provided with 25 free mango saplings each. TJC mango plants, which usually

bear fruits within eight months of being planted, have grown in popularity among foreign consumers, Nayananda added.

"We are deploying development officers to support these farmers. Moreover, under the second phase of the project, it is intended to begin the production of mango juice, jam, and other products for exportation. TJC mango cultivations are making progress especially in the Embilipitiya, Kurunegala, Ampara, Polonnaruwa, and Kataragama areas.



OPA President Eng. Shantha Senarath presenting the Annual Conference Proposals to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

## OPA discusses economic revival at 33rd Annual Conference

The Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA) recently conducted its 33rd Annual Conference under the theme 'Bounce Back - Disasters are Opportunities'. The event was held for two days on a digital platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa participated in the conference as its chief guest, while the keynote speaker was former Pakistani Federal Minister and a world-

renowned scientist Prof. Atta-Ur-Rahman. Several other speakers joined from countries such as India, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom.

The speeches covered proposals on the 'Economic Revival of Sri Lanka' through the mitigation of COVID-19 in different sectors such as Education, Agriculture, Health, Housing, Supply Chain, Construction, and Foreign Employment.

## Farmers to receive biofertiliser this 'Maha' Season

**M.A.R. MANUKULASOORIYA**  
National Fertiliser Secretariat Kurunegala District Assistant Director Bandara Herath said that steps have been taken to provide farmers with biofertiliser for the upcoming 'Maha' Season in order to promote more eco-friendly paddy cultivation. He was speaking at a press briefing held at his office last Friday.

Herath said biofertiliser has to be

mixed with small amounts chemical fertiliser in order to be effective, and that it would reduce the damage caused to the environment. Excessive amounts of chemical fertiliser reduce the fertility of soil, he added.

The Assistant Director said that the programme is being implemented in Bingiriya, Panduwassuwa, Welpalla, Deegalla, Kobeigana, Amangalla, Nagollagama, Maho, Borluwewa, and

Ganewatta, where 7,256 hectares of paddy land has been cultivated.

He said that 1,012 kilotonnes of urea, 254 tonnes of Triple Superphosphate (TSP), and 284 tonnes of Muriate of Potash (MOP) will be provided to farmers free-of-charge under the programme. Each farmer will be provided with two 500ml bottles biofertiliser, which would be sufficient per acre of land, Herath added.

## SL sees spike in leprosy cases

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

The country has seen a spike in leprosy patient numbers in the recent past, National Leprosy Control Campaign Director Dr. Kapila Piyasena told the media recently.

He added that the majority of the cases were reported from the Kurunegala District during the past month, and that most of them were children.

About 20 percent of total number of leprosy patients reported in the country last year were from the Western Province, Piyasena said.

## Leishmaniasis risk in 32 MOH divisions of Northwestern Province

**HIRIYALA GROUP CORR.**

Northwestern Province Director of Health Services Dr. Sampath Indika Kumara told the *Daily News* recently that there is a risk of Leishmaniasis spreading in 32 M.O.H. divisions in the province.

He said that there had been 460

Leishmaniasis patients reported from 29 M.O.H. divisions in the Kurunegala District and 10 more from three M.O.H. divisions in the Puttalam District during last year. The highest number of patients were reported from the Rideegama, Alawwa, Polpithigama, Ibbagamu-

wa, and Pannala M.O.H. divisions in the Kurunegala District; as well as the Anamaduwuwa, Karuwalagaswewa, and Pallama M.O.H. divisions in the Puttalam District, he added.

Meanwhile, Kurunegala Teaching Hospital Director Dr. Chandana Kedangamuwa said that eight

patients suffering from this skin disease were receiving treatment in the hospital by February 2. He added that over 80 patients suffering from this disease are getting treatment from the skin disease hospital at present.

The Northwestern Province

Director of Health Services said that the disease is caused by Leishmania parasites and is spread via sandfly bites.

If perishable garbage collected in houses are burnt, the breeding of sandflies could be prevented, he added.



### IN THE SUPREME COURT LIST OF CASES FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**B.P. ALUVIHARA (P.C.) (J)**  
A.L.S. GOONERATNE J. M.A. SAMAYAWARDHANNA J.  
**COURT NO. 502 (FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 11.30 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. SC. Application FR 47/15  
2. SC. Application FR 427/19  
3. SC.HC.CA. LA 458/19  
-HCCA 1791/18  
**FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED**  
1. SC. Application FR 277/20  
2. SC. Application FR 278/20  
3. SC. Application FR 303/20 WITH 302/20  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal 12/14  
-HCCA 15/01  
**(FROM 11.30 A.M. TO 12.45 P.M.) FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**  
1. SC.HC.CA. LA 70/21  
-HCCA 68/20  
(Top of the list)  
2. SC.HC. LA 74/17  
-HC 514/14  
3. SC. (Spl) LA 227/17  
-CA 127/17  
4. SC.HC. LA 109/18  
-HCCA 08/16  
5. SC. (Spl) LA 447/18  
-HCCA 21/16  
6. SC.HC.CA. LA 323/19  
-HCCA 26/17  
7. SC.HC.CA. LA 343/19  
-HCCA 82/17  
**(FROM 01.30 P.M. TO 03.00 P.M.) FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**  
1. SC.HC.CA. LA 251/20  
-HCCA 43/19  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Application FR 248/18  
2. SC. Appeal 29/19  
-CA 19/16  
3. SC. Appeal 28/20  
-CA 80/12  
L.T.B. DEHIDENIYA J. MURDU N.B. FERNANDO P.C.J.  
A.A.U. WENGAPPULI J.  
**COURT NO. 403 (FROM 10.00 A.M. TO 11.30 A.M.) TO BE**

**MENTIONED**  
1. SC.(Spl) LA 301/08  
-CA 184  
-184A-187/96  
2. SC. Application FR 251/18 with 250/18  
3. SC. Appeal No. 52/20  
-CA 157/16  
4. SC. Application FR 312/20  
**FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED**  
1. SC. Application FR 185/20  
2. SC. Application FR 287/20  
**COURT NO. 403 Contd...**  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal 42/10  
-HCCA 240/04 (Top of the list)  
2. SC. Appeal 71/20  
-CA 697/10  
**(FROM 11.30 A.M. TO 12.45 P.M.) FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**  
1. SC.HC.CA. LA 431/17  
-HCCA 92/14  
2. SC.HC.CA. LA 39/18  
-HCCA 127/14  
3. SC.HC.CA. LA 157/19  
-HCCA 31/14  
4. SC. (Spl) LA 353/19  
-CA 261/00  
5. SC. (Spl) LA 90/20  
-CA 76/13  
**(FROM 01.30 P.M. TO 03.00 P.M.) FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal No. 141/16  
-HCCA 124/09  
2. SC. Appeal No. 117/20  
WITH 116/20  
-HCCA 39/13, 03/14  
P. PADMAN SURASENA J.  
E.A.G.R. AMARASEKERA J.  
YASANTHA KODAGODA P.C.J.  
**COURT NO. 404 (FROM 10.00 A.M. TO 11.30 A.M.) FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**  
1. SC.HC.CA. LA 364/19  
-HCCA 60/12  
2. SC.HC. LA 55/20  
-HC (Civil) 434/13  
3. SC. (Spl) LA 67/20  
-HC 01/19  
4. SC. (Spl) LA 127/20  
-CA 28/19  
5. SC.HC.CA. LA 370/20  
-HCCA 96/17  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Miscellaneous No. 04/12 (Top of the list)  
2. SC. Appeal

No. 88/15  
-HCCA 780/08  
**(FROM 11.30 A.M. TO 12.45 P.M.) FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED**  
1. SC. Application FR 378/18  
2. SC. Application FR 350/19  
3. SC. Application FR 17/21  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Application FR 365/16  
**(FROM 01.30 P.M. TO 03.00 P.M.) TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. SC. (Spl) LA 237/14  
-CA 730/10  
2. SC. Appeal No. 45/20  
-CA 65/98  
3. SC.HC. LA 64/20  
-HC No. 175/18  
**IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9**  
ARJUNA OBEYSEKERE J. (P/CA)  
MAYADUNNE COREA J.  
**COURT NO. 301 AT 09.30 A.M.**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 53/21 Writ of Cert  
2. 54/21 Writ of Cert  
3. 23/18 TAX 23/18 TAX 14/13, TAX 19/17, TAX 07/09, TAX 04/15, TAX 06/14  
4. 242/18 HC  
**FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 41/20 Writ of Cert  
2. 16/21 Writ of Cert  
3. 37/21 Writ of Cert  
4. 41/21 Writ of Cert  
ARJUNA OBEYSEKERE J. (P/CA)  
MAYADUNNE COREA J.  
**COURT NO. 301 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 138/20 Writ of Cert  
2. 227/20 Writ of Cert  
WITH WR 229/20  
3. 46/21 Writ of Cert  
4. 10/18 COC WITH WR 182/16, WR 93/19  
**FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 488/19 Writ of Cert  
2. 22/20 Writ of Cert  
3. 404/20 Writ of Cert  
4. 462/20 Writ of Cert  
**TO BE RESUMED**  
1. 11/13 TAX

K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J)  
SAMPATH B. ABAYAKOON J.  
**COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M.**  
**TO BE MENTIONED FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 237/19 HC  
2. 243/19 HC  
3. 59/19 HC  
2. 368-369/19 HC  
K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J)  
SAMPATH B. ABAYAKOON J.  
**COURT NO. 107 OTHERS ASSIGN COUNSEL**  
1. 427 -428/19 HC  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 09/19 HC  
2. 383/19 HC  
MENAKA WIJESUNDE-RA J.  
NEIL IDDAWALA J.  
**COURT NO. 204 AT 09.30 A.M.**  
**TO BE MENTIONED FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 31/20 PA  
MENAKA WIJESUNDE-RA J.  
NEIL IDDAWALA J.  
**COURT NO. 204 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 173/15 PHC  
2. 25/17 PHC  
3. 79/17 PHC  
4. 177/19 PHC  
5. 249/19 PHC  
**COURT NO. 204 OTHERS CONTD...**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
6. 253/19 PHC  
7. 255/19 PHC  
8. 112/14 PA  
9. 138/16 PA  
10. 15/17 PA  
11. 11/19 PA  
WITH 103/19 HC  
12. 121/19 PA  
13. 94/20 PA  
**FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 83/20 PA  
2. 30/20 BA  
**NOTICE RETURNABLE**  
1. 35/20 BA  
**FOR INQUIRY**  
1. 149/19 PA  
2. 24/20 BA  
3. 26/20 BA  
N. BANDULA KARUNARATNE (J)  
R. GURUSINGHE J.  
**COURT NO. 205 AT 10.00 A.M.**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 159/14 Writ of Cert  
2. 165/08 HC  
3. 359/17 HC  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 287/17 HC  
2. 415/17 HC  
3. 463/17 HC  
4. 113/18 HC  
5. 133/18 HC  
6. 211/18 HC  
7. 307/18 HC

N. BANDULA KARUNARATNE (J)  
R. GURUSINGHE J.  
**COURT NO. 205 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 255/17 HC  
2. 445 -446/17 HC  
3. 35/18 HC  
4. 407/18 HC  
5. 413/18 HC  
DEVIKA ABEYRATNE J.  
P. KUMARARATNAM J.  
**COURT NO. 110 AT 10.00 A.M.**  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 274/15 HC  
2. 250/18 HC  
DEVIKA ABEYRATNE J.  
P. KUMARARATNAM J.  
**COURT NO. 110 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 444/17 HC  
2. 26 -31/20 HC  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 328/15 HC  
2. 150/17 HC  
3. 154/17 HC  
4. 200/17 HC  
5. 18 -22/18 HC  
M. T. MOHAMMED LAF-FAR J.  
K. K. A. V. SWARNADHIPATHI J.  
**COURT NO. 206 OTHERS FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 104/14 Writ of Cert  
2. 21/18 Writ of Cert  
DR. RUWAN FERNANDO (J)  
M. SAMPATH K. B. WIJERATNE J.  
**COURT NO. 302 OTHERS FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 09/18 TAX  
SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J.  
DHAMMIKA GANEPO-LA J.  
**COURT NO. 303 OTHERS FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 372/19 Writ of Cert  
WITH WR 253/19, WR 51/19  
2. 379/19 Writ of Cert  
3. 402/19 Writ of Cert  
4. 492/19 Writ of Cert  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 338/19 Writ of Cert  
D. N. SAMARAKOON J.

PRADEEP KIRTISINGHE J.  
**COURT NO. 108 AT 10.00 A.M. FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 11/20 RII  
D. N. SAMARAKOON J.  
PRADEEP KIRTISINGHE J.  
**COURT NO. 108 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 713/00 (F) DC  
2. 03/17 RII  
**FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 09/20 RII  
PRASANTHA DE SILVA J.  
S. U. B. KARALLIYADDE J.  
**COURT NO. 109 AT 12.30 P.M. TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 36/16 PHC  
2. 91/19 PA WITH PA 92/19  
3. 05/14 LTA  
**NOTICE RETURNABLE**  
1. 07/16 PHC  
A B C D E  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 92/15 PHC  
2. 176/15 PHC  
**CIVIL APPEAL WESTERN PROVINCE (COLOMBO) LIST OF CASES FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9**  
A.A.C.J. RAJARATHNA (H.C.J.)

R.P. HETTIARACHCHI (H.C.J.)  
**(AT 10.00 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED**  
175/16 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo LA 45/18  
HCCA/Colombo LA 164/17  
HCCA/Colombo LA 85/16  
HCCA/Colombo LA 06/18  
HCCA/Colombo LA 110/20  
HCCA/Colombo 71/17 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 272/15 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 06/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 47/16 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo LA 147/17  
HCCA/Colombo LA 114/19  
HCCA/Colombo LA 135/19  
HCCA/Colombo  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
217/15 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 15/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 04/20 RA  
HCCA/Colombo 178/16 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 65/13 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo


## O/L practical tests to be held from March 1 to 11

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

Commissioner General of Examinations B. Sanath Pujitha informed all school heads through a circular that G.C.E. (O.L.) practical tests would be held from March 1 to 11.

The decision has been taken by the Department of Examinations after taking the COVID-19 pandemic into consideration, the circular stated.

**19th YEAR REMEMBRANCE**



**SHANI CHRISHELLE LIYANAGE**  
23-08-1993 to 09-02-2002

You are the most beautiful memory we keep locked inside our hearts!  
We will love and miss you forever!

Ammi, Thaththi, Akki & Aiyya,  
Nana and all your loved ones  
(Jenny, Susil, Janice & Shehan)

The Death is announced of **Gemunu Dasa Kariyawasam** (retired Sri Lanka Navy Officer and Lake House). Husband of Bernerdette (Bernie), father of Samitha Director M/s Antara Interior Solutions (Pvt) Ltd. Father-in-law of Sonali Mack (Ex-HSBC), grandfather of Shevan (St. Peter's College) Shanuki & Shanaya (St. Bridget's Convent). Cortege leaves residence No. 32/1, 08th Lane Sarvodaya Nawatha, Kesbewa at 3.40 p.m. on the 09th of Feb (Tuesday) to St. Lazarus Church (Wewala Church) Piliyandala. (Samitha 0773363662 / Sonali 0768247954).

## Obituaries

**SILVA - SUSIL LEONARD** (Ex - Hayleys). Dearly beloved husband of Zuhaida, everloving father of Thashni (LSEG Technology), loving father-in-law of Eymard Tavarayan (Eurika Technology Partners), daring seeya of Eyyan, brother and brother-in-law of late Ranjith and Chitrani, Mike & Premani, Joseph & Ramani, Jacintha & Rohith, Bernard & Dagma, expired. Cortege leaves residence on Tuesday 9th Feb, **43A, Diyakadahena Road, off Jaya Road, Udahamulla** at 3.45 p.m. for Burial at Kohuwela Cemetery. Note : Covid 19 Health Regulations / Precautions to be observed. 010168

**VATHANI SENATHIRAJAH** (Former Teacher, Chundukuli Girls' School, Jaffna, Ladies' College Colombo), daughter of late Poornam and Ganamuthu Arulanandam, beloved husband of Jayakumar Senathirajah, mother of Adrian, Rukshan, Krishan, sister of Arulkumar, late Ravi Kumar, sister-in-law of Ajanthini, Geraldine, Ravindra, Jeevaraj, Nimalan, Jothi, Clement, Shashi, Nimali and Inthika. Her remains will be laid at **Jayaratne Parlour** on 9th February from 09.30 a.m. - 07.00 p.m. Burial will be at Kanatte on 10th February at 03.30 p.m. Contact Jeyakumar - 0770657676, Adrian (Qatar) - +97450295417, Rukshan - 0763787313. 010135



# EARN MORE ON YOUR HARD EARNED MONEY



## TWO RUPEES MORE!

### FOR EVERY US DOLLAR YOU EARN

In implementing the Government Budget proposal 2021, all Sri Lankans, who have been or are currently employed abroad or who reside in Sri Lanka and earn foreign currency income by rendering services abroad in nature of employment, can now earn extra 2 rupees per US Dollar, whenever foreign currencies are changed/converted into Sri Lankan Rupees via the Licensed Commercial Banks and Licensed Specialized Banks.

Central Bank of Sri Lanka has issued necessary instructions to all Licensed banks to offer this incentive with effect from 28.12.2020.

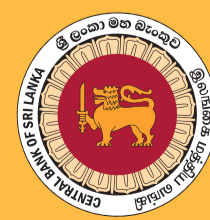
#### You can enjoy this benefit whenever you:

- remit money to a Personal Foreign Currency Account (PFCA)
- exchange foreign currency notes and coins
- remit money to Sri Lanka through Intermediary Exchange Houses and authorized money transferring agents.

**VISIT THE NEAREST BRANCH OF ANY LICENSED BANK FOR FURTHER DETAILS**



**Ministry of Finance**  
The Secretariat  
Colombo 01, Sri Lanka.

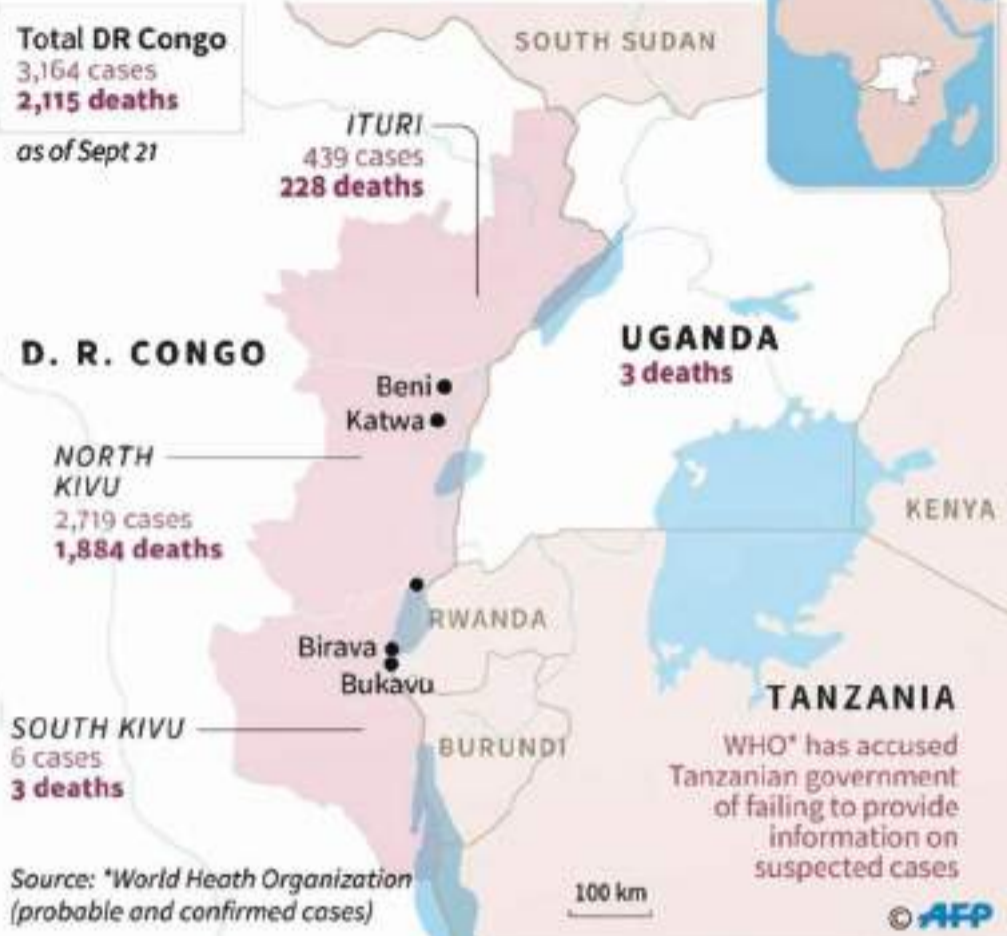


**ශ්‍රී ලංකා මහ බැංකුව**  
இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி  
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA



# DR Congo announces 'resurgence' of Ebola

## Ebola in Africa



Map showing Ebola cases and deaths in DR Congo and neighbouring Uganda. - AFP

**DR CONGO:** The Democratic Republic of Congo (DR CONGO) on Sunday announced a "resurgence" of Ebola in its troubled east after a woman died of the disease, just three months after authorities declared the end of the country's latest outbreak.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said it had dispatched a team of epidemiologists to the scene of the latest death to investigate.

"We have another episode of the Ebola virus" in the Biena health zone of North Kivu province, Health Minister Eteni Longondo told state television RTNC.

"It was a farmer, the wife of a survivor of Ebola, who showed typical signs of the disease on February 1," he added. She died on February 3, after which a sample of her blood tested positive for Ebola, the health ministry said.

DR Congo had on November 18 declared that epidemic, which lasted nearly six months in the northwestern province of Equateur, to be over. It was the country's eleventh Ebola outbreak, claiming 55 lives out of 130 cases.

The last person declared recovered from Ebola in Equateur was on October 16.

The widespread use of vaccinations, which were administered to more than 40,000 people, helped curb the disease.

The return of the virus in the country's northeast – a region plagued by violence between armed groups – comes as the vast African country is also fighting its own COVID-19 outbreak, with 681 deaths to date.

A previous Ebola outbreak in the DRC's east, which ran from August 1, 2018 to June 25, 2020, was the country's worst ever, with 2,277 deaths. - AFP

## India provides Afghanistan 500,000 COVID-19 vaccines, China delivers 600,000 doses to Cambodia

### AFGHANISTAN:

Afghanistan received half a million doses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine from India Sunday, the first consignment to arrive in the country that was hit hard by the virus last year.

Kabul plans to ultimately cover 60 percent of the population and was working with international agencies like the World Bank, Asian Development and the European Union to procure more jabs.

In August last year a Health Ministry survey revealed that 10 million people – nearly a third of the country's population – had been infected with the coronavirus.

The country of 32 million people has limited testing capacity, but recent months have seen a decline in new infections, with officials registering about 55,300 confirmed



Health workers unload the first shipment boxes of COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine donated by the Indian Government, at the Kabul airport in Afghanistan on Sunday. - AFP

cases so far and about 2,400 deaths.

Meanwhile, China delivered 600,000 doses of its Sinopharm coronavirus vaccine to Cambodia on Sunday, making the kingdom the latest country to use Chinese jabs despite concerns about their efficacy compared to Western alternatives.

Cambodian leader Hun Sen announced last month

that China would donate one million doses of its coronavirus vaccine to the kingdom – which will cover 500,000 people because two doses are required. Cambodia plans to vaccinate at least 10 million of its 16 million population with shots from both China's Sinopharm and Sinovac as well as the British-Swedish AstraZeneca. - AFP



Workers transport a shipment of China's Sinopharm COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine which arrived at the Phnom Penh International Airport in Cambodia on Sunday. - AFP

## "Legendary" US Secretary of State George Shultz dead

**US:** George Shultz, Ronald Reagan's genial Secretary of State who identified a diplomatic opening that helped end the Cold War but contributed to a new brand of conflict by advocating preemptive strikes, has died. He was 100.

An economics professor who saw himself more as a data-driven expert than an ideologue, Shultz had the rare distinction of serving in four different Cabinet positions – including Treasury Secretary as Richard Nixon dismantled the post-World War II Bretton Woods monetary system.

President Joe Biden said "few people did as much to shape the trajectory of American diplomacy and American influence in the 20th century" as Shultz.

"I regret that, as President, I will not be able to benefit from his wisdom, as have so many of my predecessors," Biden said in a statement.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken described Shultz as a "legend" and a "visionary."

In the Reagan White House, notorious for infighting, Shultz was one of the least controversial figures, cultivating cordial ties with Congress and the press and – most crucially – rock-solid backing from the President himself, who kept Shultz as his top diplomat for six and a half years.

In early 1983, half a year into his tenure, Shultz returned from China to a snowed-under Washington and was invited by Nancy Reagan to a casual dinner at the White House, where he was intrigued to hear the famously anti-Communist president sound eager to meet the Soviets.

"He had never had a lengthy session with an important leader from a Communist country, and I could sense he would relish such an opportunity," Shultz wrote in his memoir, "Turmoil and Triumph."

Days afterward, Shultz brought the Soviet ambassador to the White House in an unmarked car for a secret meeting with Reagan, who pressed for Moscow to allow

the emigration of Pentecostal Christians who had sought refuge in the US embassy.

The Soviets quietly followed through. Reagan's unlikely role as a negotiator with the superpower he termed an "evil empire" had begun.

In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev ascended to the helm of the Communist Party, and Shultz – joining then-vice president George H.W. Bush – flew to Moscow and met him at the funeral of his predecessor, Konstantin Chernenko.

Shultz immediately detected opportunities with Gorbachev.

"Gorbachev is totally different from any Soviet leader I've met," Shultz told reporters. A former Marine who fought the Japanese in World War II, he recalled the trust he built with the Soviets as Treasury secretary when he offered a sincere salute at a memorial to their war dead.

Shultz's approach with Gorbachev encountered deep skepticism from Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and CIA chief Bill Casey, but Reagan overruled them.

By 1987, Reagan and Gorbachev signed the landmark Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The Soviet Union soon began disintegrating after Gorbachev initiated liberal reforms and dissent grew.

Shultz later played down Gorbachev's role, pointing to underlying weaknesses in the Soviet system and crediting the US leader's massive boost in defense spending.

He also hailed European allies, especially West Germany, that defied public protests against NATO missile deployments in the 1980s.

While Secretary of State, Shultz's policies in the Middle East were more moderate. He repeatedly clashed with ally Israel, especially over Lebanon, and opened contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization. - AFP



Former US Secretary of State George Shultz with former US President Ronald Reagan

## Dozens missing after glacier breaks in Himalayas

**INDIA:** At least 140 people are missing and nine were killed in India after a portion of a glacier broke in the Himalayas on Sunday, sending powerful floods into nearby hydroelectric plants.

Part of the Nanda Devi glacier snapped off

Sunday morning, dispensing a deluge of trapped water down into other bodies of water in the northern state of Uttarakhand, The Associated Press reported.

Rescue crews, including more than 2,000 military members, paramilitary members and

police, were deployed to attempt to save those trapped by the disaster that experts attributed to climate change and warming temperatures.

Vivek Pandey, a spokesperson for the paramilitary Indo Tibetan Border Police, said the surge of water and debris wiped out the hydroelectric plant on the Alaknanda River and damaged a plant that was being built on the Dhauliganga River, according to the AP.

He said at least 42 workers were stuck in tunnels at the Dhauliganga plant, with 12 of those being rescued.

"The rescuers used ropes and shovels to reach the mouth of the tunnel. They dug through the debris and entered the tunnel. They are yet to come in touch with the stranded people," Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, Uttarakhand's head elected official, said, according to the AP.

The flood led to the evacuations of several villages along both rivers, and Ravi Bejaria, a government spokesman, said it had damaged homes without releasing information on whether residents were injured, missing or killed.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Twitter that he is "constantly monitoring the unfortunate situation."

"India stands with Uttarakhand and the nation prays for everyone's safety there," he posted.

- ASSOCIATED PRESS



Members of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) during a rescue operation after a broken glacier caused a major river surge that swept away bridges and roads, at Reni village in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. - AFP

## Palestinians to use own postal codes



A postman at a post office in the city of Al-Bireh in the occupied West Bank.

**PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES:** The Palestinian Authority announced Sunday it would begin using its own postal codes, a move at easing the delivery of parcels in the occupied territories as well as asserting sovereignty.

International mail sent to or from the occupied West Bank currently has to pass through Jordan or Israel.

But the PA said Sunday it had asked the Universal Postal Union to notify its member states that Palestinian postal codes were coming into force.

"From April, postal items that do not bear a Palestinian postal code will not be processed," Palestinian Minister of Communications Ishaq Sidr told reporters in Ramallah, the West Bank headquarters of the Palestinian Authority.

"It is a question of asserting Palestinian rights," he said.

Palestinian postal codes would also help put an end to

the seizure of shipments from abroad, Sidr said.

He said six tonnes of packages had been held up in Jordan since 2018, and accused Israel of obstructing deliveries.

Using postcodes "will prevent Israel from seizing postal items that come to Palestine, and will help make the services more efficient," Imad al-Tumayzi, head of international relations at the Palestinian Post, told AFP.

"In 2020, we recorded more than 7,000 violations of postal equipment on the Israeli side, whether by opening packages, seizing them or summoning their owners for investigation," he said.

Palestinians have complained that they are forced to use costly private courier services to send or receive parcels.

But it was not clear if the application of postal codes would cut mailing costs.

- AFP

## London's thinnest house for sale

**UK:** Blink and you could easily miss it. Wedged between a doctor's surgery and a hairdressing salon, London's thinnest house is only identified by a streak of dark blue paint.

But the five-floor house in Shepherd's Bush – which is just 5ft 6ins (1.6 metres) at its narrowest point – is currently on the market for £950,000 (\$1.3 million, 1.1 million euros).

The unusual property, originally a Victorian hat shop with storage for merchandise and living quarters on its upper floors, was built sometime in the late 19th or early 20th century.

In a nod to its past, the house still has an old-fashioned glass shopfront with a lamp in the shape of a bowler hat.

David Myers, an assistant sales manager at Winkworth estate agents which is selling the property, said the house was worth its price tag because it's "a unique part of London history".

"It's a bit of London magic," he told AFP. The dimensions of the house differ throughout.

While the kitchen at the end of the lower ground floor is the house's narrowest spot, it opens up into a dining area that's nearly double the size. A 16 foot-wide garden lies beyond behind French windows.

The ground floor, which now contains a reception where the old shop would have been, and the first floor are of similar sizes.

The first floor – where a bedroom and study can be found – also has a roof terrace with commanding views over the roofs and chimney pots of west London.

Spiral stairs lead from the second floor – the location of a bathroom and shower room – up to the master bedroom on the third. The price of the house is prohibitive for most in Britain, where the average house price is £256,000, but typical of London's property market.

- AFP



People walk past the front of what is dubbed London's thinnest house (painted blue). The unusual property was built sometime in the late 19th or early 20th century. - AFP



# Hungarian journalists protest drone law

**HUNGARY:** When Hungarian journalist Gabi Horn was called in by police last October about her investigative news site's drone footage of a business tycoon's estate, at first she thought a corruption probe had been opened.

"It turned out instead we had been reported for suspected 'illegal acquisition of data'," said Horn, 53, who works for the Atlatzo.hu outlet.

While that criminal case was eventually dropped by prosecutors, it came as a new law was adopted that Horn is convinced is aimed at hindering such investigations.

The Government says the new regulation on aerial drones, in force since January 1, protects privacy and sets safety standards.

But it also punishes the publication of drone footage of property without the owner's permission with up to one year in jail.

"That makes it harder for journalists to investigate suspected misuse of public money and EU



**Budapest store manager Zoltan Helmecci says drone technology should not be held back - AFP**

funds," Horn told AFP at Atlatzo's office in Budapest.

According to Zoltan Helmecci, manager of a shop in Budapest selling drones from Chinese brand DJI, few of Hungary's estimated 10,000 drone users

adhered to the previous looser

rules. The law adds to press freedom and corruption concerns that have dogged Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government since it came to power in 2010.

In 2019 the Reporters Without Borders watchdog described the degree of media control in Hun-

gary as "unprecedented in an EU country".

Corruption monitor Transparency International meanwhile relegated Hungary in its latest annual index to

joint bottom place in the EU alongside Romania and Bulgaria.

Budapest dismisses both organisations' reports, as they are part-funded by the liberal US billionaire George Soros, who the anti-immigration Orban has long accused of leading "pro-migration" forces.

The EU recommended a lower weight threshold for drone registration of 250 grammes (about nine ounces), but Hungary set this at 120 grammes, and has brought in mandatory pilot training and registration of all drones with cameras regardless of weight.

- AFP



# Growing protests against Myanmar coup

**MYANMAR:** Tens of thousands of anti-coup protesters in Myanmar poured back on to the streets Sunday, as an internet blackout failed to stifle growing outrage at the military's ouster of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The fresh rally followed large protests on Saturday across the country condemning the coup that brought a 10-year experiment with democracy to a crashing halt.

Backed by a din of car horns, tens of thousands of chanting protesters in Yangon held up banners saying "Justice for Myanmar" and "We do not want military dictatorship", while others waved the signature red flags of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

In Yangon, many also flashed the three-finger salute inspired by the "Hunger Games" films, which became a symbol of resistance during the pro-democracy protests in Thailand last year.

Around 300 people gathered at the United Nations office in Bangkok Sunday to protest against the coup, prompting Thai authorities to deploy riot police though there was no clash.

On Sunday, live Facebook video feeds showed the Yangon protesters as they marched through the streets. It was not immediately clear how they bypassed the government block.

The military had widened its efforts to quell organised dissent on Friday when it demanded new blocks on other social media services including Twitter.

Monitoring group Netblocks said Sunday that Myanmar "remains in the midst of a nation-scale internet blackout", with connectivity at 14 percent of usual levels.

Rumours that Suu Kyi had been released triggered brief but raucous street celebrations among her supporters on Saturday, before they were denied by her lawyer who said she remained in detention.



**Women sitting in the back of a car hold up the three finger salute during a demonstration against the military coup in Yangon on Sunday. - AFP**

An immensely popular figure despite a tarnished reputation in the West, Suu Kyi has not been seen in public since the coup, but a party spokesman said Friday she was "in good health".

Two days after the coup, criminal charges were filed against her related to the illegal import of a set of walkie-talkies.

- AFP

# Biden hosts first of chats to talk 'directly' with Americans

**US:** US President Joe Biden launched a series of conversations with ordinary Americans by calling a woman who lost her job due to the pandemic, in an effort to showcase his direct contact with his fellow citizens.

"The White House will launch a new effort for the President to regularly communicate directly with the American people," White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

Due to COVID-19, the conversation was held via telephone from the Oval Office in Washington to Michele, a mother from Roseville, California who lost her job at a start-up company because of the economic crisis sparked by the pandemic.

She had written to Biden to tell him about her struggles and her search for a new job.

"Like my dad used to say, a job is about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity, it's about your respect, it's about your place in the community," the 78-year-old president told Michele, in a video of the call posted online by the White House.

Biden also took the opportunity to promote his \$1.9 trillion stimulus package that his Democratic party is preparing to adopt in Congress, despite the lack of Republican support, as well as the massive vaccination campaign he has promised.

"We're so glad that we have you focusing on that," said Michele, whose last name was withheld, adding that her parents had just made their appointment to get their COVID-19 vaccinations.

With this new conversation series, Biden is seeking to show his empathy - and to mark a break from his predecessor Donald Trump, who was accused by critics of not caring about the fate of millions of Americans affected by America's health and economic crises.

Biden's phone calls are meant to be a modern-day iteration, in the era of social media, of the radio fireside chats held by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1930s as a way to invite himself into American homes.

Trump only sporadically took up this tradition, in the form of pre-recorded videos published on Facebook. - AFP

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**Pope Francis in conversation with Xaviere Missionary Sister Nathalie Becquart who is the first female to be appointed as an undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican.**

# Pope appoints first woman to senior Synod post

**VATICAN CITY :** Pope Francis has broken with Catholic tradition to appoint a woman as an undersecretary of the synod of bishops, the first to hold the post with voting rights in a body that studies major questions of doctrine.

Frenchwoman Nathalie Becquart is one of the two new undersecretaries named Saturday to the synod, where she has been a consultant since 2019.

The appointment signals the Pontiff's desire "for a greater participation of women in the process of discernment and decision-making in the church", said Cardinal Mario Grech, the secretary-general of the synod.

"During the previous syn-

ods, the number of women participating as experts and listeners has increased," he said.

A special synod on the Amazon in 2019 saw 35 female "auditors" invited to the assembly, but none could vote.

The Argentinian-born pope has signalled his wish to reform the synod and have women and laypeople play a greater role in the church.

He named Spaniard Luis Marin de San Martin as the other undersecretary in the synod of bishops.

Becquart, 52, a member of the France-based Xaviere Sisters, has a master's degree in management from the prestigious HEC business school in Paris and studied in Boston before joining the order. - AFP



**US President Joe Biden speaking via telephone from the Oval Office in Washington to Michele, a mother from Roseville, California who lost her job due to the pandemic.**

# 'Hope' probe approaches Mars

**UAE:** The first Arab interplanetary mission is expected to reach Mars' orbit Tuesday in what is considered the most critical part of the journey to unravel the secrets of weather on the Red Planet.

The unmanned probe - named "Al-Amal", Arabic for "Hope" - blasted off from Japan last year, marking the next step in the United Arab Emirates' ambitious space programme.

Here are some facts and figures about the oil-rich nation's project, which draws inspiration from the Middle East's golden age of cultural and scientific achievements.

The UAE, made up of seven emirates including Dubai and Abu Dhabi, has 12 satellites in orbit, with plans to launch several more in coming years.

In September 2019 it sent the first Emirati into space, Hazza al-Mansouri, who was part of a three-member crew.

They blasted off from Kazakhstan, returning home after an eight-day mission in which he became the first Arab

to visit the International Space Station. But the UAE's ambitions go much further, with a goal of building a human settlement on Mars by 2117.

In the meantime, it plans to create a white-domed "Science City" in the deserts outside Dubai to simulate Martian conditions and develop the technology needed to colonise the planet.

The UAE has plans to launch an unmanned rover to the moon by 2024 and is also eyeing future mining projects beyond Earth, as well as space tourism.

It has signed a memorandum of understanding with Richard Branson's space tourism company Virgin Galactic and announced

the creation of a "space court" to settle commercial disputes relating to space industries.

The "Hope" probe lifted off from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center on July 20 last year.

The 1,350-kilogramme (2,970-pound) probe - about the size of an SUV - took seven months to travel the 493 million kilometres (307 million miles) to Mars.

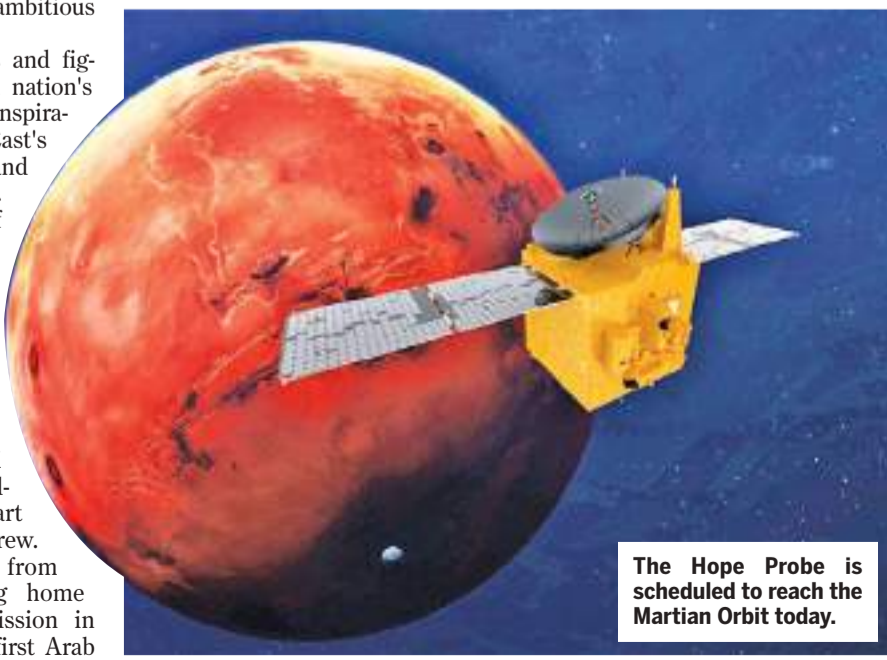
Officials say that the "most critical and complex" manoeuvre will begin on Tuesday at 1530 GMT, to slow the spacecraft enough to be captured by the gravity of the Red Planet.

The probe will for the first time fire all six of its Delta-V thrusters, for a duration of 27 minutes, to slow its cruising speed of 121,000 kilometres per hour to about 18,000 kph.

The process will consume half of the spacecraft's fuel, and it will take 11 minutes for a signal on its progress to reach Earth.

If successful, one loop around the planet will take 40 hours.

- AFP



**The Hope Probe is scheduled to reach the Martian Orbit today.**

**ADA KOTIPATHI - Tuesday**  
 Draw No.: 1189 Colour: Light Blue  
 Date: 09.02.2021  
**Today's Jackpot**  
**Rs. 106,206,570/-**  
 Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.  
 Development Lotteries Board  
 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2  
 Tel: 2 333 545-47 Fax: 2 333 545 Website: www.dlb.lk  
 Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

**Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 3,381,768/-**  
 Date: 07-02-2021  
 Draw Number: 3068  
 Colour: Purple  
 The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.  
**Winning Numbers**  
**12 32 53 57**  
**Cancer**  
**TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES**  
**Rs. 9,123,280/-**

**SUNDAY**  
 Date: 07.02.2021  
 Draw No.: 3517  
 Colour: Pink  
**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 3,493,640/-**  
**Winning Numbers**  
**01 24 58 73**  
**English Letter**  
**M**  
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months

**ADA KOTIPATHI**  
 Date: 07.02.2021  
 Draw No.: 1187  
 Colour: Green  
**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 4,737,640/-**  
**Winning Numbers**  
**04 13 49 52**  
**English Letter**  
**V**  
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months

**SUPER BALL**  
 Draw Number: 1361  
 Colour: Red  
 Draw Date: 07.02.2021  
 Date: Sunday  
**Winning English Letter and Numbers**  
**E 04 17 35 54**  
**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 2,896,180/-**  
 Winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.  
 Development Lotteries Board  
 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02  
 Tel: 0112 333 545-47  
 Fax: 0112 333 545-47  
 Website: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919  
 SMS: DLB-enquiry-LOT-enquiry-55 & send to 999  
 For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

**English Letter & Winning Numbers**  
**05 27 38 39**  
 Draw No: 687  
 Date: 07 Feb, 2021  
 Colour: Yellow  
**Super Jackpot has been won**  
**Rs. 80,903,270/-**  
**Next Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 75,000,000/-**  
 Yellow, Pink and Green coloured tickets are valid on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays respectively.  
 Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.



# Daily News



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news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021

## a shot in the arm - 2

Sri Lanka was one of the first countries in this region to begin the vaccination of frontline health workers and Security Forces personnel, using the Oxford/Astra Zeneca vaccines donated by India under its "Vaccine Maitri" programme. According to Government statistics, more than 161,000 health workers and Security Forces/Police personnel have been vaccinated up to February 7, which still leaves around 90,000 more personnel waiting to be vaccinated as we had received 500,000 doses from India and each person needs two doses for the vaccine to fully take effect.

However, the biggest question on everyone's mind is "when will the rest of the population be vaccinated?". There is no argument whatsoever that our valiant healthcare and Security Forces personnel deserved to be vaccinated first, because they are in the frontlines of the battle against COVID-19 and could potentially be exposed to the deadly virus in the course of their duties. However, various opinions have been expressed with regard to the sequence to be followed next.

Most observers are of the view that those above 60 who also suffer from Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) should be next in line, followed by those in the general population above 60, then over 50s and so on. There is also a counter proposal to vaccinate the working population (25-55 years) first, as being done in some countries, because this is the demographic that can actually spread the disease, due to their mobility and increased social interactions. Right now, only three groups have been left out of the calculations – infants and toddlers, schoolchildren (5-19 years) and pregnant women, since none of the vaccines currently on the market is recommended for these groups.

Sri Lanka, being a part of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) COVAX initiative, will receive around eight million vaccine doses from the facility, which would be sufficient to inoculate around four million persons. Sri Lanka is also negotiating with Chinese and Russian authorities to get down their Sinopharm/SinoVac and Sputnik V vaccines either on a free or paid-for basis. The State Pharmaceuticals Corporation (SPC) has been appointed as the official agent of the Gamaleya Institute of Russia, the manufacturer of the Sputnik V Vaccine, with a view to packaging or even producing the vaccine here. That would be a landmark development in pharma production in this country, in line with the Government's vision of making at least 70 per cent of the medicines locally. The number of doses pertaining to these negotiations is still not definitely known.

That still leaves around 14 million Sri Lankans needing to be inoculated. The good news in this regard is that the authorities are planning to order vaccines sufficient for vaccinating around nine million people initially. Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle, State Minister for Primary Health Services, Infectious Diseases and Covid-19 Prevention has said that people between the ages of 30 to 60 will be vaccinated against COVID-19 from March 1, 2021. The State Minister said 4,000 centres would be set up for this task and it is also planned to operate 2,000 centres out of it per day for vaccination.

This is a step in the right direction and a direct answer to critics in the Opposition and other forums who had pointed out that the Government had "no plan" to bring down vaccines other than those donated by COVAX and various other countries. Besides, it is always better to wait a few months and consider all scenarios before settling on a vaccine candidate most suitable for our general population from cost, efficacy, storage, transport and logistics perspectives. For example, some of the RNA-based vaccines require storage and transport temperature of around -70 Celsius. Such ultra cold medical grade freezers are available only in a few hospitals in the country and using such vaccines here could be a logistical challenge. There is also the chance that the latest versions of the vaccines will be engineered to be more effective against new variants of the Coronavirus that have emerged in the UK, Brazil and South Africa.

Another lacuna in our COVID testing regimen is that there is almost no genomic sequencing to identify the prevalence of these new strains, which are more transmissible and reportedly more lethal. Right now, only the Sri Jayawardanepura University is apparently equipped with the facilities needed for such genomic sequencing of viruses. We not only need more Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machines to speed up testing, but also more sequencing machines as well. We will be able to tailor appropriate health responses if we know more about the various variants in circulation.

However, even if 70 percent of the population is vaccinated (the threshold necessary to achieve herd immunity), there will be no free pass to go back to the "Before Times". This is because we do not know whether vaccinated individuals can still pass on the disease and the duration of the effectiveness of the vaccine(s). It could be three months, one year or two years. Some scientists say the COVID jab could be an annual affair, like the flu shot. As always, prevention is better than cure.



Tens of thousands of people take part in the largest protest in Myanmar after the recent military coup.

# Myanmar: 'Domestic political stability, essential'

KALINGA SENEVIRATNE

Both coverage in the Asian press and statements by neighbouring Asian governments reported in the media on the grabbing of exclusive power by the military in Myanmar, reflects the traditional Asian adage that democracy should go hand in hand with economic and political stability. Thus, sanctions and external funding of protest groups (usually urban elites and the young) are discouraged.

Myanmar is a member of the Association of South East Nations (ASEAN) regional grouping, which was instrumental in guiding Myanmar to transit from military rule to civilian rule a decade ago. The ASEAN secretariat issuing a statement through its current chair Brunei reiterated that "domestic political stability is essential to a peaceful, stable and prosperous ASEAN Community".

Sharon Seah, coordinator at the ASEAN Studies Centre at the National University of Singapore noted that the ASEAN statement this week is a slight deviation from the one that ASEAN made after the 2014 coup d'etat in Thailand. "What is new in this iteration is the fact that the grouping recognises that collective goals can be undermined by a member state's political ructions," she noted.

Seah, in a commentary published by Singapore's TODAYOnline news portal, points out that the current ASEAN statement "sounds familiar except that this time, ASEAN is far further along the process of regional integration and community-building, since the ASEAN Community blueprint was launched in 2015". Further, she says, "Pax Americana, as Southeast Asia knows it, is over and the global world order has changed irrevocably", thus external pressure (from outside the region) is not the way to go.

Interestingly, China's media – both Xinhua news agency and Global Times – have described the latest coup in Myanmar as a "reshuffle of Cabinet". Their logic may have some substance. "Myanmar military announced a major cabinet reshuffle hours after a state of emergency was declared on Monday," February 1, reported Xinhua from Yangon.

It referred to a military statement that "new union ministers were appointed for 11 ministries, while 24 deputy ministers were removed from their posts". It added that Union Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, Chief Justices and Judges of Regional or State High Courts are allowed to remain in office as well as members of Anti-Corruption Commission, chairman, vice-chairman and members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

The military used sections of the 2008 constitution, to which Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) had agreed when they took part in the 2015 elections and won on a landslide. This constitution allows the military to take over the government in the event of an emergency that threatens Myanmar's sovereignty leading to "disintegrating the Union (or) national solidarity". It is debatable if such a situation exists and this could be the subject of argument in coming months.

## Nine years ago

Luv Puri, a member of UN Secretary-General's good offices on Myanmar writing in Japan Times (as a private citizen) this week noted that nearly nine years ago, Aung San Suu Kyi reluctantly decided to participate



Aung San Suu Kyi

**China and India, with Myanmar, sandwiched between them have reacted cautiously to the latest developments. Myanmar is essential for the success of China's BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) while for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Look East" project Myanmar is an important lynchpin. India has a 1468 km long border with Myanmar that runs along 3 north-east Indian states – Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram – all of which face ethnic and religious tensions.**

in a by-election to the parliament and after being elected she was resolute in her cautiousness as the western leaders sought her advice on how to approach the then President Thein Sein's government.

"She had earlier termed the whole process an instance of sham democracy," recalls Puri, adding, "on February 1, 2021, she proved to be right as the military or Tatmadaw, as it is locally known, staged a coup in the wee hours".

Puri noted that the military's grouse is that at least 8.6 million irregularities were found in voter lists and the ruling NLD government and its appointed election commission failed to review the 2020 elections results, with the latter saying that there was no evidence to support the military's claims. The ruling NLD party won 396 out of 476 seats in the November 8 election, allowing the party to govern for another five years.

"The contesting positions are symptoms of a deeper institutional malaise. Constitutionally, three important ministries relating to national security, namely defence, home and border, are held by the military. The military nominates 30 per cent of the members of parliament," notes Puri. "In an environment in which the military is fighting an existential battle for political survival, after ruling the country directly or indirectly since the formation of the republic, a military coup was an imminent possibility."

China and India, with Myanmar, sandwiched between them have reacted cautiously to the latest develop-

ments. Myanmar is essential for the success of China's BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) while for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Look East" project Myanmar is an important lynchpin. India has a 1468 km long border with Myanmar that runs along 3 north-east Indian states – Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram – all of which face ethnic and religious tensions.

China has taken issue with western media reports that it supported the military takeover in Myanmar. Global Times reported that China's foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin has refuted such claims at a media briefing. "Such allegations are not factual," he said in Beijing. He has also added that China was puzzled by a leaked document from the UN Security Council that China is supposed to have vetoed.

"Any action taken by the Security Council should contribute to Myanmar's political and social stability, help Myanmar realize peace and reconciliation, and avoid intensifying contradictions," he told the media.

"For India, which has cultivated a careful balance, between nudging along the democratic process by supporting Ms. Suu Kyi, and working with the military to ensure its strategic interests to the North East and deny China a monopoly on Myanmar's infrastructure and resources, the developments are unwelcome," noted India's The Hindu in an editorial. "The government will need to craft its response taking into consideration the new geopolitical realities of the U.S. and China as well as its own standing as a South Asian power."

## "Share of uncertainties"

The Indian Express also expressed similar sentiments in an editorial noting that new developments "will create its share of uncertainties" for India. "It must continue its engagement with Myanmar and leverage its influence with the Army to persuade it to step back," added the Express.

While Myanmar's expat populations in places like Bangkok, Tokyo and Sydney have demonstrated calling for international intervention, within Myanmar people have taken a different strategy to confront the military takeover. Myanmar Times (MT), that is locally owned and published from Yangon, carried a number of reports on how this is shaping up. They reported about various aspects of civil disobedience campaigns initiated by trade unions, leading artists and the medical profession.

MT reported that a movement, which urged Myanmar citizens to not buy and use products affiliated with the Tatmadaw has gone viral since February 3. The military has been linked to a large number of businesses in various sectors. They have been associated with food and beverage products, cigarettes, the entertainment industry, internet service providers, banks, financial enterprises, hospitals, oil companies, and wholesale markets and retail businesses, among others, the newspaper pointed out.

MT also reported that "Myanmar celebrities, who usually make headlines for their latest albums, haircuts and fashion choices, have used their social media profiles for an entirely different purpose this week". Since the military seized power on February 1, "Myanmar's singers, actors and artists changed their topic of interest from cosmetics to disobedience to the rule of the junta" noted MT. Among the celebrities are Paing Takhon who started his modelling career in 2014 and has amassed over 1 million followers on Facebook and filmmaker Daung with 1.8 million.

Meanwhile, the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM) and Myanmar Industry Craft and Service-Trade Unions Federation (MICS) announced that they had resigned and are no longer part of government, employers and workers' groups. The 'Civil Disobedience Campaign' that was launched on February 2 is also joined by health-care workers in 40 townships including doctors and nurses from 80 hospitals.

Meanwhile, Seah argues that this month's events are a big setback for ASEAN community building and to help in any democratic retransformation, an ASEAN-led commission to investigate the military junta's allegations of electoral fraud could be set up, headed by a mutually respected senior ASEAN personality trusted by all sides. "For the commission's findings to be accepted at the international level, support must come from ASEAN's external stakeholders," she argues.

"The selection of the commission members must be transparent from the get-go and may require consultations with key stakeholders both inside and outside Myanmar (while) ASEAN should secure the agreement of the military junta to dial down to a state of limited emergency, refrain from the use of force against civilians and allow the functioning of government with specified conditions between the NLD and the military".

(IDN-InDepthNews)

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Vaccination may well be the greatest success story in medical history. - Michael Specter



# ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY IN A LANGUAGE

## LANGUAGE MATTERS

Dr. THARANGA WEERASOORIYA

Last week, we discussed some of the features such as redundancy and structure dependency that characterize language. In today's article, we will talk about some more features of language such as productivity, semanticity and reflexivity. This will serve to broaden our knowledge and understanding of the nature and character of language.

### PRODUCTIVITY

Language is a productive system in two perspectives. First, we can produce an infinite number of sentences and infinitely long sentences in a language. Second, we can create new words and sentences in a language which adds to the productivity in that language. We will discuss each of these in detail as in the following.

As we know, we have a limited number of words and grammar rules in a language to produce sentences. For instance, the English language has about half a million words. However, as we also know the number of sentences that one can produce in the English language is unlimited or infinite. Think about the number of sentences that you have spoken so far since your childhood and the number of sentences you will speak into your adulthood.

Think about the number of sentences that the speakers of the English language have spoken so far and will speak into the future. That is limitless. So, what is wonderful about language is that by means of a finite number of words and grammar rules, language serves to produce an infinite number of sentences. This productive capacity totally relies on the fact that language is a structure dependant phenomenon as we dis-



cussed in the last week's article. That is, a finite number of sentence structures such as SVO (Subject Verb Object), etc. and PNP (Preposition Noun phrase), etc. are utilised to produce an unlimited number of sentences in a language. For instance, the SVO structure in English can be exploited to produce any number of sentences as shown in the following.

*Mary ate a sandwich.* (SVO)

*Saman met Maala.* (SVO)

*Paul painted the house.* (SVO)

*Nimal brushed his teeth.* (SVO), etc.

In the same way, the SOV structure in Sinhala is used to produce a limitless number of sentences as shown in the following.

*Siri ambe kaewa.* "Siri ate mangoes." (SOV)

*Gune wathura biwa.* "Gune drank water." (SOV)

*Malli liuma yaewwa.* "Brother

sent the letter." (SOV)

*Minha sinduwak kiwa.* "The man sang a song." (SOV), etc.

At the same time, the structure dependence also allows us to produce infinitely long sentences. For example, a sentence formed with the SVO pattern can be combined with another sentence as shown here to produce another sentence.

*Tom knows that Mary ate a sandwich.*

In the sentence above, the clause/sentence *Mary ate a sandwich* is combined with the clause/sentence *Tom knows* to produce the sentence *Tom knows that Mary ate a sandwich*. In turn, this sentence can be combined with another clause/sentence to produce a new sentence as in the following.

*Mala assumes that Saman thinks that Tom knows that Mary ate a sandwich.*

And we can go on and on as there is no limit to the length of a sentence that we can produce.

At the same time, language can be and is used creatively. This creative aspect of language adds to productivity. Language has the capacity to produce new items (i.e., words/sentences) in creative ways. Language allows us to create new words and add

them to it. For instance, the words such as laptop, software, did not exist in the English language 40 years ago and at least 10 words a day are said to be added to the English language. This is common to any language and some people even assume language to be a living thing that grows.

Thus, language is a productive system as we can produce infinitely long and an infinite number of sentences and we can be creative in the production of words and sentences.

### SEMANTICITY

Items produced in language at the word or sentence level are used to mean things. What this means is that language has semanticity. Words and sentences processed in our minds are used to refer to ideas, feelings, concepts, states, physical objects, events, etc. in the actual world which we refer to as the meaning of these words and sentences. For instance, the

word *tree* in the English language or *gasa* in the Sinhala language refer to the physical object with the roots, trunk, branches, twigs, leaves etc. in the world. The word *happiness* in the English language or *sathuta* in the Sinhala language refer to the abstract feeling that we experience in the world. A sentence such as *Saman loves Mala* refers to a feeling experienced by two people in the world whether it is true or false. Thus, the thing that establishes a connection between a *form* (a combination of sounds/letters in the form of a word/sentence) and *meaning* (the things, ideas, feelings, events, etc. that the word/sentence refer to) is what we call language. Thus, language makes sense of the phenomena in our minds and the world.

### REFLEXIVITY

Language is also used to make sense of the language itself. For instance, I am making use of the tool called language right now to talk about language itself. This character

is known as reflexivity. The particular language that one uses to talk about language/a language is known as *metalinguage*. For instance, I am using English as the metalinguage to talk about language in these articles. Thus, reflexivity is yet a significant feature of language.

In today's and the last two articles, we talked about some features that characterize language such as spontaneity, arbitrariness, displacement, redundancy, structure dependency, productivity, semanticity and reflexivity. I hope that this discussion served to have a better understanding of what language is and does to form a sound foundation for the ideas discussed in the articles to come. Now, it is right time for us to start talking about the ideas associated with the process of acquiring a language by us at a very young age as children. In our next article, we will discuss this.

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What is wonderful about language is that by means of a finite number of words and grammar rules, language serves to produce an infinite number of sentences. This productive capacity totally relies on the fact that language is a structure dependant phenomenon.



## An appeal for fairness – instead of protectionism currently in play

Ensuring equitable access to vaccines globally during a pandemic is not only a moral issue, but an economic imperative to protect the well-being of people everywhere. But when will Africa get the protection it needs? If all lives are equal, why isn't access to vaccines?

PAUL KAGAME  
President of Rwanda

The current situation with regard to the access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines vividly illustrates the decades-old contradictions of the world order.

Rich and powerful nations have rushed to lock up supply of multiple vaccine candidates. Worse, some are hoarding vaccines – purchasing many times more doses than they need. This leaves African and other developing countries either far behind in the vaccine queue, or not in it at all.

There are worrying signs of vaccine nationalism in Europe and North America. The pressures on political leaders to vaccinate all their citizens before sharing supplies with others is understandable. But forcing smaller or poorer countries to wait until everyone in the north has been catered for is shortsighted.

Delaying access to vaccines for citizens of developing countries is ultimately many times more costly. The pandemic will rage on, crippling the global economy. New mutations may continue to emerge at a more rapid pace. The world risks reversing decades of human development gains and eclipsing the 2030 sustainable development goals.

In this context, the billions of dollars it would cost to distribute vaccines across the

developing world is not particularly high, given the return on the investment. Doing so would unlock global commerce, which would benefit all trading nations during the long road to economic recovery that lies ahead of us. We need global value chains to be fully operational again and to include everyone.

Last year, the world came together to provide additional fiscal space for developing countries through the debt service suspension initiative at the G20. This helped governments in Africa pay for their COVID responses and provide additional social protection, thereby preventing the worst outcomes. We shouldn't lose that spirit now and give in to an unfortunate erosion of global solidarity.

The Covax facility, led by the World Health Organisation, was supposed to ensure doses for 20% of Africa's people – right from the start and at the same time as richer countries. However, nearly two months after the first vaccines have been administered, it is still not clear when African nations will be able to start immunising people, though the first doses may begin reaching the continent later this month.

### Unfair prices

What can be done in practical terms? The rich world can help developing countries



### Developing countries

get the same fair prices that they have already negotiated for themselves. One pharmaceutical firm is reportedly planning to charge \$37 per dose for "small orders". Recently, one African country reported being asked to pay more than double the price that the European Union had negotiated for the same product.

During natural disasters, price gouging for essential supplies is illegal. It should not be tolerated for vaccines during a pandemic either. If prices are fair, and Africa is allowed to place orders, many countries on the continent would be willing and able to pay for themselves. But, given the current market structure, they will need active support from more powerful countries to do so. The African Union and Afreximbank have set up the Africa Medical Supplies Platform to help countries secure financing by providing advance commitment guarantees of up to \$2bn to manufacturers. The platform has negotiated an initial order of 270m doses, but this is still very far from the 60% coverage Africa needs to achieve some measure of herd immunity, and there is no telling when those supplies will be available.

Vaccine candidates from China and Russia are also coming online and may provide an alternative for some developing countries. However, the reality is that most countries will only be able to procure vaccines that have been approved by the World Health Organisation. The WHO should speed up emergency use approvals for COVID-19 vaccines in line with action taken by major national regulators in Europe and North America.

Africa is not sitting back and waiting for charity. We have learned our lessons from the past. All we ask for is transparency and fairness in vaccine access, not the protectionism currently in play.

Ensuring equitable access to vaccines globally during a pandemic is not only a moral issue, but an economic imperative to protect the well-being of people everywhere. But when will Africa get the protection it needs? If all lives are equal, why isn't access to vaccines?

- The Guardian



The Covishield vaccine



Nursing staff administer COVID-19 vaccines to frontline health workers in Colombo.



# US vet recovers lost wallet after 53 years

**US:** A meteorologist in the US Navy was pleasantly surprised to recover a wallet he had lost - 53 years ago in Antarctica.

Paul Grisham, 91, did not even remember losing the billfold when friendly strangers contacted him to return it via mail, The San Diego Union-Tribune reported this week.

The lucky discovery was made during the 2014 demolition of the scientific base on Ross Island, where Grisham had been stationed as a weather forecaster from October 1967 to November 1968.

The sailor's wallet was hidden behind a locker and contained, among other things: his Navy identity card, his driver's license, a reference card for what to do in case of a biological or chemical weapons attack... and a ration card for beer.

Grisham said he was "blown away" that so many people had gone to great lengths to reunite the wallet with its owner.

It took a long line of Good Samaritans to return the wallet to him. The head of a research group in Antarctica contacted one of his former employees, who previously had successfully reunited a Navy ID bracelet - spotted for sale in a store - with its rightful owner. Along with his daughter, they appealed to a foundation for veterans, who in turn contacted the Naval Weather Service Association, of which Grisham had been a member.

The wallet finally arrived last Saturday in good condition at Grisham's home in San Carlos, northern California. - *Agencies*



Former Navy meteorologist Paul Grisham with the wallet he recovered after 53 years.



Chinese President Xi Jinping with then U.S. Vice President Joe Biden in this 2013 photo.

# China should expect 'extreme competition' from U.S. - Biden

**US:** US President Joe Biden says China is in for "extreme competition" from the U.S. under his administration, but that the new relationship he wants to forge need not be one of conflict.

In an interview broadcast Sunday, Mr Biden acknowledged that he has yet to speak with Chinese President Xi Jinping since his inauguration January 20, but noted that the two leaders had met many times when both men served their countries as vice president.

"I know him pretty well," Mr Biden said in an excerpt of the interview aired Sunday by CBS' "Face the Nation." When they do speak, they will have "a whole lot to talk about," Mr Biden said.

President Biden appears to be concentrating his initial telephone diplomacy on US allies. He so far has spoken with the leaders of Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Australia and the NATO secretary-general.

He also worked in a conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Shortly after Biden succeeded President Donald Trump in the White House, a spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry said that "after this very difficult and extraordinary time, both the Chinese and American people deserve a better future." Beijing welcomed the Biden administration's decision to remain in the World Health Organisation and return to the Paris climate agreement.

The new administration, however, is unlikely to significantly alter US policies on trade, Taiwan, human rights and the South China Sea that have angered Xi's increasingly assertive government.

Biden, in the interview taped Friday, said he has said to Xi "all along, that we need not have a conflict." But, Mr Biden added, there will be "extreme competition. And I'm not going to do it the way that he knows. And that's because he's sending signals as well."

Biden said he will not pursue US-China relations in the way that Mr Trump did but will focus on "international rules of the road." - *AFP*

# Trump's falsehoods about election cost taxpayers \$519 mn



Former US President Donald Trump

**US:** Former US President Donald Trump's onslaught of falsehoods about the November election misled millions of Americans, undermined faith in the electoral system, sparked a deadly riot - and has now left taxpayers with a large, and growing, bill.

The total so far: \$519 million. The costs have mounted daily as government agencies at all levels have been forced to devote public funds to respond to actions taken by Trump and his supporters, according to a Washington Post review of local, state and federal spending records, as well as interviews with government officials. The expenditures include legal fees prompted by dozens of fruitless lawsuits, enhanced security in response to death threats against poll workers, and costly repairs needed after the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. That attack triggered the expensive massing of thousands of National Guard troops on the streets of Washington amid fears of additional extremist violence.

Although more than \$480 million of the total is attributable to the military's estimated expenses for the troop deployment through mid-March, the financial impact of the president's refusal to concede the election is probably much higher than what has been documented thus far, and the true costs may never be known. "I think anytime you see an event like we saw on January 6, it changes your perspective going forward. You don't take things for granted like we used to," said Michael Rapich, Superintendent of the Utah Highway Patrol, which spent \$227,000 on January 17 to deploy 300 troopers to the State Capitol after threats of an armed siege by Trump supporters ahead of the inauguration of President Biden. "It is an incredible amount of money to spend."

The cost to the federal government continues to grow daily as thousands of National Guard troops patrol Washington and lawmakers consider supplemental spending to bolster their security.

The 25,000 troops that were deployed in Washington traveled on military planes and stayed in local hotels - their presence aimed at restoring order in the nation's capital after an attempted insurrection that overwhelmed the Capitol Police and led to five deaths.

It is not clear whether the House Democrats managing Trump's impeachment trial plan to bring up the financial costs borne by taxpayers as a result of what critics have called his "big lie." The trial begins Tuesday, and Democrats have focused mainly on Trump's speech to supporters shortly before the Capitol riot.

Several states are working to calculate the taxpayer costs for additional security and related expenses in the aftermath of the November election and the January 6 protests.

In California, state officials estimated that they spent about \$19 million, deploying 1,000 National Guard troops and hundreds of state troopers from January 14 to January 21 to protect the State Capitol and other locations.

In Ohio, taxpayers spent \$1.2 million to deploy National Guard troops to the closed Statehouse building in Columbus. The New Mexico legislature increased its appropriation for Capitol security during the 60-day session by almost 40 percent this month, handing taxpayers a bill of \$1.5 million for personnel, equipment and other expenses, officials said.

Taxpayers paid to deploy helicopters to monitor potential demonstrations in Texas and North Carolina, temporary fencing around the capitols in Lansing, Michigan and Olympia, Washington, and extra security details for state lawmakers attending legislative sessions. - *NDTV*

# Batik dye causes blood-red flood in Indonesia

**INDONESIA:** A surreal, blood-red river inundated the Indonesian village of Jenggot after floods hit a nearby batik factory on Saturday, causing a frenzy on social media.

Thousands of users on Twitter shared photos and videos of the village south of Pekalongan city in Central Java being flooded by crimson-coloured water, which some social media users said reminded them of blood.

"I am so afraid if this photo

gets into the bad hands of hoax spreaders," said a Twitter user Ayah E Arek-Arek. "Fear mongering narratives about signs that it is the end of the world, bloody rain etc".

Pekalongan is a city known for manufacturing batik, a traditional Indonesian method of using wax to resist water-based dyes to depict patterns and drawings, usually on fabric.

It is not uncommon for rivers in Pekalongan to turn different colors. Bright green water cov-

ered another village north of the city during a flood last month. "Sometimes there are purple puddles on the road too," said Twitter user Area Julid, who claimed to be from the area.

The head of Pekalongan disaster relief, Dimas Arga Yudha, confirmed that the photos being circulated were real.

"The red flood is due to the batik dye, which has been hit by the flood. It will disappear when it mixes with rain after a while," he said. - *CNN*



A girl walks through a flooded road in Pekalongan.



Engelbert Humperdinck with his wife of more than 50 years, Patricia, who has died of Covid-19.



# SINGER ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK'S WIFE DIES OF COVID-19

Singer Engelbert Humperdinck is mourning his wife of 56 years, Patricia Healey, who died Thursday at age 85 after contracting COVID-19.

Humperdinck, 84, announced in a social media post shared Friday that his family was "heartbroken over the loss of my darling wife," who died the night before, "surrounded by our children, Louise, Jason, Brad, with Scott on FaceTime."

"Her earthly limitations no longer hold her down as she is freely running the glorious gardens of Heaven, reunited with so many loved ones," Humperdinck wrote. "We prayed as a family, blessed her with the water from

Lourdes and off she went ... ushered into the arms of Jesus with help from the generous heart filled prayers from all around the world."

Healey, a British-born actress, had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for more than a decade, Humperdinck revealed in 2019. He shared Jan. 26 that he, Healey, their son Jason and two of their caregivers had tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

"Her longtime caregivers lovingly helped make her transition easier on us all," Humperdinck wrote, adding his wife's "battle with Alzheimer's was brave from the very beginning. She never

resisted as we tried to leave no stone unturned."

The couple married in 1964, three years before Humperdinck - born Arnold George Dorsey - first found international popularity with his version of Release Me.

The B-side to that single, Ten Guitars, became a surprise hit in New Zealand and is now considered a national folk song.

Speaking to Stuff in 2019, Humperdinck said he loved playing in New Zealand because Ten Guitars was "like the national anthem". Humperdinck had a string of further hits throughout the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

- *USA TODAY*



Dr. Neville Fernando

# A maverick with the Midas touch

SANDYA SALGADO

Dr. Neville Fernando, *Maama, Aiya, Seeya* or *Uncle* to diverse family members, left on his onward journey leaving his family in shock and grief, as Covid-19 took him completely unexpectedly. Even at 89, he was planning to make his next big dream come true. As the elder statesman in our large family circle, he was adored by one and all due to his magnanimous and loving nature. His smile spoke a thousand words. He was the 'go-to' person for many members of the family for sound and genuine advice because he was a man who was able to be happy seeing the happiness of others. All these qualities and more simply make him a wonderful human being, beyond all else.

Neville Uncle and Swarna Aunty for me were an exemplary couple, who apparently had a roaring love affair before they tied the knot, juicy details of which we used to hear as kids from my mother and grandmother, who had supposedly supported their romance discreetly. While there are many kudos and achievements credited to him, for me, he embodied the true essence of being a wonderful family man. His life's partner of 65 years, Swarna Aunty, will vouch for this while constantly complaining that he was a 'stubborn man'. I would call this trait 'fearless and gutsy' and loved this fighting spirit he embodied in the face of injustice and adversity. Needless to say, he was a force to reckon with even as a husband, a father and a grandfather, because his zest for life I believe was incomprehensible to many.

As a doctor who served the rich and poor alike in Panadura for many years, was sought after by his patients clearly for his well-known *athgune* (healing hands). I believe this is where he earned his loyal fan base to venture into politics.

Panadura was richer for the innumerable services he rendered as a Member of Parliament; a position he secured by obtaining a landslide victory against the formidable leftist politician, Leslie Gunawardene who represented Panadura in Parliament for decades. This was a landmark victory for the UNP in 1977. As the MP, Dr. Fernando lost no time in using his political clout to provide to the people of Panadura what we treasure to date.

Amongst many feats he achieved for us in Panadura, establishing the much sought after Kethumathi Maternity Hospital; the only one of its kind outside of Colombo, Sri Sumangala Balika Maha Vidyalaya's expansion programme by adding the Swarnagiriya mansion to its school complex, starting an industrial zone in Modarawila in Panadura, where thousands of youth have found employment to date, starting Agamathi Girls' School and Janadhipathi Boy's School, as alternates to the Sri Sumangala Girls' and Boys' schools, self-funding the Sri Saugatha Vidyalaya Pirivena building at Rankoth Viharaya Temple are a few of the noteworthy contributions he provided his hometown, Panadura, as a representative of the people of this coastal town.

As a proud Old Boy of Sri Sumangala College, he had the foresight to donate the first computer lab 25 years ago, and provide two

acres of additional land to expand the school, which is spoken with gratitude by the students of his alma mater even to date. He gave magnanimously and honourably, with no expectation in return.

Dr. Neville Fernando was one fearless and principled man who stood up to the inimitable President Jayewardene, by opposing JR's proposed motion to take away Mrs. Bandaranaike's civic rights as he never wanted to compromise on his basic human values for politics. Sadly though, this is a man our society later crucified as a traitor and a businessman who was a political schemer. None of

which is true. I was amused to see his Facebook account which I visited today, where he had shared all the brickbats thrown at him by the media and social media. He was blasé to all this as he knew that he did what he did with a clear conscience and a vision for the country, even though the misinterpretation of it all was politically and professionally motivated.

He was a maverick par excellence, an entrepreneur extraordinaire and an astute businessman to boot, with a foresight that is not too common today.

As one of the pioneers in the hospitality industry, he built Hotel Swanee (aptly combining the two names Swarnamalee and Neville). Decades ago, he started JF&I, one of the most modern printing presses the country has. With Fernwood, he pioneered a porcelain export company and in later years purchased Asha Hospital, which he sold to build Asha Central; a better hospital with a convalescent care facility. He subsequently exchanged this dream for a bigger vision for the country by starting the SAITM Private University. When the Government went back on their word to provide a hospital for clinicals for SAITM Medical College, he built the Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital. Ironically, this 'one-thousand-bed' hospital in Malabe which was taken over by the Government and now houses Corona patients, was his largest investment and was planned to be a gift to the country once he was no more. These were all passionate projects envisioned by him, which culminated with SAITM. This gave him both immense pride and a lot of pain. However, after he was socially and



When the Government went back on their word to provide a hospital for clinicals for SAITM Medical College, he built the Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital. Ironically, this 'one-thousand-bed' hospital in Malabe which was taken over by the Government and now houses Corona patients, was his largest investment and was planned to be a gift to the country once he was no more. These were all passionate projects envisioned by him, which culminated with SAITM. This gave him both immense pride and a lot of pain.



Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital

politically crushed due to SAITM, he started a small 'bakery' to keep himself occupied. I was amused when he shared this idea one day with me and chuckled like a child saying, "I will make it better than the Salgado Bakery." That's Neville Uncle for me.

At 89, he was an avid Facebook warrior and used to keep abreast of what was going on in the Social Media space and would never miss an opportunity to share a post if he thought it would interest me. He was always interested in being in the know of others' wellbeing.

Writing about this unique human being cannot be limited to a few words. His life is an epic story with mega dreams that unfolded over eight decades. I hope someday, somebody will do justice to Dr. Neville Fernando, by writing his True Story, as he was mostly misunderstood and misinterpreted by those who had small minds and a tunnel vision for this country.

May your journey in Samsara be a short one, Neville Uncle. Until then, make heaven a better place for the others there with you, just like you did on this earth for a lot of us.

2021.02.07 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD **591,208**  
 TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS **24,405,750.00**  
 Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES **01** Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES **01** Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES **27**

**DHANA NIDHANAYA Official Results**

DATE: 2021.02.07

Draw Number - 428

English Letter: **C** Winning Number: **11 13 67 73**

COMBINATION	PRIZE	NO. OF WINNERS
1st Prize (if all numbers are correct)	Rs. 1,000,000.00	-
2nd Prize (if English Letter and 3 numbers are correct)	Rs. 100,000.00	03
3rd Prize (if any 3 numbers are correct)	Rs. 3,000.00	90
4th Prize (if English Letter and 2 numbers are correct)	Rs. 1,000.00	183
5th Prize (if any 2 numbers are correct)	Rs. 100.00	4,626
6th Prize (if English Letter and 1 number is correct)	Rs. 60.00	3,074
7th Prize (if 1 number is correct)	Rs. 20.00	78,259
8th Prize (if only English Letter is correct)	Rs. 20.00	14,711

Total prize money won in this draw **Rs. 3,259,440.00**  
 Number of Prize Winners in this draw **100,946**

Next Draw Super Prize **Rs. 80,619,958.00**

**Mega Power Official Results**

Draw Number 758 DATE: 2021.02.07

English Letter: **C** Super Number: **19** Winning Numbers: **04 07 27 68**

PRIZE STRUCTURE	PRIZE MONEY RS.	NO. OF WINNERS
1st Prize (If all 4 Numbers are correct)	1,000,000.00	-
2nd Prize (If only 3 Numbers with English Letter is correct)	100,000.00	03
3rd Prize (If all 3 Numbers are correct)	1,000.00	66
4th Prize (If only 2 Numbers with English Letter is correct)	500.00	172
5th Prize (Only 2 Numbers are correct)	100.00	4,027
6th Prize (If only 1 Number with English Letter is correct)	40.00	2,662
7th Prize (Only 1 Number are correct)	20.00	66,606
8th Prize (Only English Letter are correct)	20.00	12,089

Next Mega Super Prize **Rs. 65,318,872.40**

Next Power Super Prize **Rs. 20,118,860.80** Next Grand Super Prize **Rs. 32,050,433.60**

Total Prizes Won In This Draw **Rs. 2,535,080.00**

**Vasana Sampatha Official Results**

Draw No. 1663 Date 2021.02.07

English Letter: **C** Winning Nos. **36 49 52 57**

Prize	Prize Structure	Prize Money	No. of Winners
01 Prize	If only Four Numbers are correct	1,000,000/-	-
02 Prize	If Three Numbers and English Letter are correct	100,000/-	03
03 Prize	If only Three Numbers are correct	2,000/-	54
04 Prize	If Two Numbers and English Letter are correct	500/-	124
05 Prize	If only Two Numbers are correct	100/-	3,014
06 Prize	If one Number and English Letter are correct	60/-	1,915
07 Prize	If only One Numbers are correct	20/-	46,795
08 Prize	If only English Letter is correct	20/-	7,736

Total prize money won in this Draw **Rs. 1,976,920.00**

Next Super Prize **Rs. 26,647,453.40**

**MAHAJANA SAMPATHA Official Results**

Draw Number: 4391 DATE: 07-02-2021

Winnings Letter: **U** Winning Numbers: **0 0 5 2 6 2**

Prize	Prize Structure	Prize Money	No. of Winners
1st Prize	0 0 5 2 6 2	Rs. 2,000,000/-	01
2nd Prize	0 0 5 2 6 2	Rs. 100,000/-	11
3rd Prize	5 2 6 2	Rs. 10,000/-	103
4th Prize	2 6 2	Rs. 1,000/-	1,063
5th Prize	6 2	Rs. 100/-	10,657
6th Prize	2	Rs. 20/-	105,337

Value of prizes won in this draw - **Rs. 10,048,430.00**

The Super Prize of next draw **Rs. 11,761,077.00**

**Govisetha Official Results**

Draw Number 2686 DRAW DATE 07/02/2021

English Letter: **A** Winning Numbers: **03 11 25 29**

COMBINATION	PRICE	NO. OF WINNERS
1 PRIZE IF ALL 4 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 1,000,000.00	01
2 PRIZE IF LETTER & ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 100,000.00	07
3 PRIZE IF ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 2,000.00	157
4 PRIZE IF LETTER & ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 1,000.00	333
5 PRIZE IF ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 100.00	8,218
6 PRIZE IF LETTER & ANY NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 40.00	5,368
7 PRIZE IF ANY NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	135,276
8 PRIZE IF ONLY THE LETTER IS CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	24,842

TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW **174,202**

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 6,585,880.00**

SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 60,758,470.40**



# Classifieds

## Employment

**Automotive**

**122**  
M/Cycles & T/Wheelers

**309**  
Positions Vacant

**320**  
Positions Vacant

**117**  
Vans

**WP AAI-0173**  
Bajaj, 2013, WP AAV-4305 Bajaj, 2014, three-wheel for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel: 0711210810. 009497

**WP BIG-0912**  
Yamaha FZ, 2019 motor cycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel: 0711210810. 009500

**Corporate Accountant** - We are diversified group of companies, located at Colombo, requires a fully qualified Accountant with experience. The selected candidate must review financial reports and involve to develop strategic plan. An attractive remuneration package will be offered. Please forward your resume to: janatha.mohan@gmail.com 009937

**Urgent recruitment** to the following categories of Hawaii Restaurant. \* Rice & Curry Cooks - Rs. 90,000/-, \* Kitchen Helpers - Rs. 40,000/-, \* Juice & Fruit Salad Makers - Rs. 50,000/-, Counter Helpers - Rs. 40,000/-, Kottu & Rotty Makers - Rs. 65,000/- - 70,000/-, \* Cleaning Staffs - Rs. 40,000/- . Company will be providing food & lodging as well as 04 days off per month. Please kindly call for interviews - 0773658648. 009659

**Urgent requirement** for Tea Maker in Hawaii Restaurant (salary Rs. 45000/=). For inquiries: 0773658648. 009678

**CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY NO. 649**  
WE, BASNAYAKE MUDIYANSELAGE PRIYANTHA JANAKA BANDARA (NIC No. 703412467V) and BASNAYAKE MUDIYANSELAGE NADEESHA AYOMI (NIC No. 806430820V) of No. 145/5, Sooriya Mawatha, Thalagama North, Koswatta, Battaramulla do hereby inform that the Power of Attorney No. 649, dated 07.02.2008, attested by Sepalika Nanayakkara, Notary Public, and granted by us to, RAJAPAKSHA (NIC No. 475132769V) of No. 255/E, Vihara Mawatha, Ihala Yagoda, Imbulgoda, is cancelled and we will not hold responsible for any transaction done by the aforesaid, RAJAPAKSHAGE MULINE RAJAPAKSHA.

**KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT CANCELLATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY**  
Know all men by these present that Power of Attorney dated 17-01-2018 Under No. 105 attested by Attorney-at-Law S.H.G. Wickramaratne which had been granted to Sanjeeva Roshan Jayawardane of No. 34/10, Sarasavi Lane, Kasal Street, Borella, Colombo 08 by Bernard Chandrasiri Jayawardane was cancelled.  
**Sanjeeva Roshan Jayawardane, No. 34/10, Sarasavi Lane, Kasal Street, Borella, Colombo 08.**

**TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE (In the Territory of the Maldives)**  
Notice is hereby given that our Clients **SILHOUETTE International Schmied AG of Ellbognerstrasse 24 4020 Linz Austria** are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following Trade Mark:-  
  
The said Trade Mark is used in connection with "Optical apparatus for the eyes, particularly spectacles and sunglasses; spectacle cases; spectacles and sunglasses of metal and of synthetic material; spectacle frames, spectacle frames made of metal and of synthetic material" all in international class 09.  
Our abovementioned clients have instructed us and wish to bring to the notice of the trade and the public that they attach singular importance to their above mentioned trademark and that legal action will be taken against any person or persons who act in infringement of their rights.  
Any enquiry relative thereto may be referred to the following  
**JULIUS & CREASY**  
Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public  
No. 371, R. A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 03, Republic of Sri Lanka.  
pts1@juliusandcreasy.lk

**PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**Provincial Road Development Authority (W.P.)**  
(Provincial ministry of roads, transport, cooperative development and trade, Housing & construction, estate infrastructure facilities, industries and rural development Western Province).  
**Provision of ABC mixture relevant to the development of Roads within the Industrial City, Homagama**  
Bids are invited for the provision of ABC mixture relevant to the development of Roads within industrial city, Homagama.

	Description	Quantity required
1.	Provision of ABC mixture	5000 Cum.

02. The relevant bid document sets could be obtained from **10.02.2021 to 24.02.2021** from 8.30 a.m. to 2.45 p.m. subject to Rs. 2160.00 tender form fees, from the Procurement Division of this authority. Bid security for this tender should be paid in cash or by bank guarantee in accordance with the condition mentioned in the procurement document.

03. In the event of the bid amount exceeding Rs. 5.0 million, bidders should produce the registration certificate issued by the Registrar of companies under para 8 of the Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987, to be eligible for the award of the contract.

04. Receiving and opening of Bids will take place at this office at 10.30 a.m. on 25.02.2021 and bidders or one of their representatives would be present at the time.

**Chairman, Provincial Road Development Authority, No. 59, St. Sebastian Hill, Colombo 12. Telephone No. 011-5676903**

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.

**THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA**  
120/15, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07  
Tel: 2698426, 2699210 Fax: 2699202  
www.iesl.lk

**Eng. (Prof.) R. H. Paul Memorial Oration**  
Conducted as an **Online Webinar** on **The Changing Structure of the Electricity Industry: How Sri Lanka Can be Similar to but will also be Different to Other Countries** by **Eng. (Dr.) Tilak Siyambalapitiya** from **5.15 p.m. Onwards** on **Tuesday - February 09, 2021**  
IESL Members and Non-members must register for the event published on www.iesl.lk to receive the participation link.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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# UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

## NOTICE TO STATE UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS 2019/2020

### INITIATIVE ON FACILITATING THE STATE UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS 2019/2020 TO PURCHASE LAPTOP COMPUTERS UNDER A SPECIAL LOAN SCHEME

The concept of traditional education has changed radically within the last couple of years. Being physically present in a classroom is not the only learning option available for the students who are now entering a new era — the revolution of online education.

The University Grants Commission recognized the need of the students and decided to facilitate the new entrants-2019/2020, to purchase a Laptop Computer in collaboration with People's

Bank.A Special Loan Scheme of Rupees One Hundred Thousand (Rs. 100,000/-) has been introduced for the students to purchase a Laptop Computer. As recommended by the expert committee of the university system, three options are available for the students to select Laptop Computers to suit their needs.

A recommended list of suppliers with their specifications and selling prices of the Laptop computers are published in the University Grants

Commission's website (<https://www.ugc.ac.lk/>). Laptops are available from the price range of Rs.80,500/- to 177,500/- based on different specifications. If the price of a Laptop selected by a student is higher than the loan facility, the student should pay the balance amount in cash or make any other arrangement with the vendor. Upon ordering by the students, recommended suppliers have consented to supply Laptop Computers within eight (08) weeks.

**The summary of the proposed scheme is given below for the information of the prospective students.**

- a) **Eligibility** – The students who have been selected based on z-score of G.C.E. A/L 2019 and registered for the Academic Year 2019/2020 of the State Universities established under the University Grants Commission
- b) **Procedure** – As per the instruction given in the University Grants Commission's website – <https://www.ugc.ac.lk/>
- c) **Repayment plan** – Six year repayment plan with Four year grace period for capital payment
- d) **Warranty** – A Laptop Computer with four-year warranty
- e) **Microsoft Software** -All students who purchase laptop computers from recommended suppliers can register for Microsoft M365 Service which provides Microsoft Windows 10 Operating System and Office 365 Service free of charge provided by the University Grants Commission through MOU with Microsoft

For more details please visit University Grants Commission's web site: <https://www.ugc.ac.lk/>. This offer is subject to conditions.

**Chairman**  
**University Grants Commission**  
No. 20, Ward Place  
Colombo 07.



# Amjad Buksh one of the best scrum halves

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Kingswood College, Kandy is the pioneer institution which introduced Rugby in the country in 1891 and has been known as a rugby powerhouse. It has produced several top players who have brought honour and fame to Sri Lanka with their deeds on the rugby field. Amjad Buksh can be considered as one of the best players of Kingswood who played in the pivotal role of scrum half. He was the key link man between the forwards and the back division reaching great heights locally and internationally.

Allowdeen Buksh is his father who passed away in 2007 and mother is Doreen Buksh and he has three siblings. His father was an old boy of Zahira College, Gampola and played hockey. He joined the Sri Lanka Navy as a Chief Engineer later retired and joined the Royal Navy in Oman. His elder brother Ansar was a Kingwoodian who donned the college jersey in rugby and motivated Amjad to take up playing rugby. Ansar migrated to Wellington, New Zealand and settled down there. His elder sister Rikaza Alith is a pre-school teacher and owns a day care centre while the younger sister Rizana Liyanage owns a hotel in Kalpitiya. His mother Doreen was a former hockey player who schooled at Kandy Convent. Being a housewife, she was heavily involved with Kandy Malay Association for a long time and she served as the President from 2015 to 2019.

Amjad started to showcase his talent from the junior level captaining the Kingswood under-13 side in 1993 and 1994, after he was enrolled as a kid to junior school. Amjad's peerless all-round performances along with his fighting spirit steered Kingswoodians to a President's Trophy title in 2000 beating Thomians 30-26 in the final under coach G.B. Gunadasa and in the same year Kingswood sevens captaincy reins were handed over to Amjad; his trademark of sniping runs and his kicking was vital to secure a second spot finish at Schools Sevens tournament. After finishing off the school's rugby career on a high note, this exciting player was picked by Kandy Sports Club in 2002.

While he was playing rugby he was engaged in playing hockey for the under-18 team and scooped the highest number of goals for the Central Province team which enabled him to be selected to the National under-18 squad as



a stand by player when he played for Kandy Youth Club. Apart from his brother Ansar Buksh better known as 'Anchu' his cousin brothers Nilufer, Rinnie, Ronny Ibrahim had influenced him immensely to handle the oval shaped ball and hinted that one day he will play for the National team.

Amjad believes that it's all about sheer hard work and sacrifice one has put in to achieve his goal where one could end obtaining the anticipated results.

Kandy SC held all the aces during that period claiming back to back titles and Amjad Buksh got into full swing as a scrum half showcasing few splendid performances in Kandy SC colours. In 2006, Amjad joined CR and FC and showed his talent as a sevens player clinching the 'Most Outstanding Player' award at Club Rugby Sevens tournament.

Amjad made his international debut in 2003 and was privileged to don the Sri Lankan jersey at numerous International Championships.

He was a part of the Sri Lankan squad in Dubai

International Sevens Series, South African Sevens 2003, Hong Kong International Sevens and was also the scrum half for Sri Lanka in Asian Rugby Championships from 2004 to 2007 held in several countries. He has played under two National Captains namely Pradeep Bassnayake and Sajith Mallikarachchi which he says is an unblemished memory in his rugby career.

Apart from these he has few other distinctive memories in his illustrious career which began in 2003, at the Singer Sri Lankan International Sevens becoming 'Plate Champions' for the first time in history and being adjudged the second runner up player of the tournament followed by Carlton Sevens in the inaugural tournament held in 2011 at Bogambara Stadium. They emerged champions under his captaincy. In 2007, he was a member of the Lankan team which won the first World International match beating the USA side which was a great feeling at the World Series. He also shared his experience with Havelock Sports Club from 2011 to 2012.

He would like to show his sincere gratitude to some of the men who were instrumental in transforming him as a quality rugby player and a coach. This included his own brother Ansar Buksh, if not for his motivation and influence Amjad would never have achieved the present

status. Ansar played for Kandy SC from 1997 to 2006 and represented the National side from 1997 to 2004. His coach in under-13 was Ananda Kasthurarachchi, under-15 was Asela Muthumala, from under-17 to 19 was G. B. Gunadasa. According to him the late George Simpkin has been one of the best coaches he has ever met in his career.

After retiring, Amjad started his coaching career completing the level 1 and 2 coaching courses in Sri Lanka and has also successfully completed the World rugby level 1 and 2 sevens coaching course in Malaysia. Most importantly, he was fortunate enough to get international exposure as he was a part of the high performance course conducted by former All Blacks sevens coach Gordon Tietjens.

Currently, Amjad Buksh is heading the coaching department of Malay Sport Club and had a successful outing at the recently concluded Club Rugby League winning the championship of 'C' division. This year, Malay SC managed to clinch the title at the Development Sevens Tournament and got the much needed promotion to 'B' Division. Apart from the coaching stint at Malay SC, Amjad has joined TFB Academy and School of Rugby to share his expertise with the youngsters.

His wife Zinhara Burah is a housewife. At present he works as a Sub-officer at Seylan Bank Plc.

## Nisal Navodya Fernando excellent volleyball player

DILWIN MENDIS  
Moratuwa Sports Special  
Correspondent



Seventeen year old Volleyball Player, Athlete member of the Nattandiya United Volleyball Club Nisal Navodya Fernando excelled for his Alma Mater Dhammissara National School Nattandiya.

Nisal's first school was Morakela Government Buddhist School and he was admitted to this school in 2008 when Priyantha Kumara was the Principal and his first class teacher was Mrs. Indrani. He studied up to Grade 9 of this school and he did athletics at the under 12 age group at the Schools Sports Meet and he won the 100 and 200 metre races and came second in long jump and representing the school in the Divisional Meet he won these three events.

Following the footsteps of his father and coach former Sri Lanka Volleyball Player Nishantha Fernando at the Nattandiya United Volleyball Courts as a small boy he learnt the basics of the game. In 2016 he shifted to Dhammissara National School Nattandiya and came under the volleyball coach and Master in Charge of Volleyball Keerthi Jayasekera and in the same year he was selected to the under 14 volleyball team and his school emerged runners up of the District Tournament and participat-

ing in the All Island DSI Tournament they got the third place and in the same year participating in the Divisional, Zonal and District they were the winners but lost in the Provincial Tournament. In 2018 in the All Island under 18 DSI Tournament they came third and the same year they reached the quarter finals of the under 17 All Island National Schools Tournament and in the under 19 National Schools All Island Tournament they were the runners up and he was re awarded school colours for the third successive year.

With these performances under his belt Nisal was selected to the final 20 member squad for the tour of Bahrain. In 2019 representing Nattandiya United Volleyball Club as the Baby of the Team his club were the Runners Up of the All Island Dialog Tournament.

In addition in the 2018 Inter House Sports Meet competing in the 200 and 800 metres he won convincingly and came second in Long Jump in the under 19 age group and Jeewan Jude was his Coach.

His Principal Anil Pushpakumara and Deputy Principal Mrs. Nilmini Rodrigo, Jayasekera were very helpful to him to achieve success.



Dhammissara National School Nattandiya All Island Runners Up under 18 Volleyball Championship in 2018. The team posed for a photograph after the final game. Seated in front L/R - Antony, Nilanka Sanjaya (Sports Advisor), Channa Jayasekera (Head Coach), Keerthi Jayasekera (Prefect of Games), Kumaratunga Back Row Standing L/R - Mohamed Safan, Tishan Shanuka, Binara Hansana, Deyan Risith, Nisla Navodya Fernando, Ashen Rashmika, Achira Senanayake, Mahela Indiwara, Kavish Hansika, Roshan Fernando, Ishen Thilochana, Yohan Shanuka, Ashen Dhanushka (Picture by Dilwin Mendis Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

## Kavindu -an athlete par excellrnce

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA  
-Kandy Sports Special Correspondent

Kavindu Wichakshana Galkotuwa is a Grade 13 student of Dharmaraja College, Kandy who is an outstanding Athlete and he did Swimming and Scouting till he came up-to Grade.5 Class and gave up as he wanted to be a full time athlete.

At the start he concentrated on athletics under the coaching of D.M.Gunapala and he participated at the Kids Athletic Championship from 2010 and he won the 75 Metres. Race in the Under 8 age group and received a merit award. He repeated this performance in a 100 Metres. race in the following year and again received a merit award. Kavindu became the Under 11 Champion in School by winning the 100 Metres. race and long Jump under the coaching of Chandana Abeyratne. From 2013

onwards till 2017 he won the School Championship in the 100 Metres. 200 Metres and the Long Jump in his age group and apart from this he secured the second place in the 100 Metres event at the Central Province Athletic Meet in the Under 15 age category.

In 2018 he became the Champion at the 100 Metres race at the zonal Athletic Meet and in addition he was a member of the 4 x 100 winning Relay team at the same meet.

Kavindu ran the Anchor Lap of the Race and the other team members were Akalanka Rajapakse, Deshan Samarantunge, Ravindu Wickremathilake. He repeated the outstanding performance at the Provincial Athletic Meet in the same year to win the 100 Metres with a new Meet Record of 11.5 seeds, running on a grass track. He won the 200 Metres. event as well as the 300 Metres.

Hurdles and he was also in the winning 4 x 100 relay team. Apart from these outstanding performances he became the Champion Athlete for a record four consecutive years in the School Athletic Meet from Under 16 to Under 20 age group.

In 2018 Kavindu was among the first 10 runners at the John Tarbat Meet and the All island Athletic Championship in the same year. He is the President of the School Sports Council, Sports Captain and the Athletic Captain for the years 2020 and 2021.

He is intending to continue athletics and hopes to enter the Kotelawala Defence Academy and at present he is studying for the G.C.E.(A/) Examination in the Commerce stream.

He has already got through the AAT in all three parts and got the Chartered Business Accounting Level 1.



Kavindu who won the Athletic championship in all three years. (Pictures. By Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports spl.corr)



Kavindu in action at a 100 Metres. event.



Kavindu Wichakshana with his Relay team members.

## Jason Dissanayake one of the finest ruggerites

HAFIZ MARIKAR

Vidyarthi College's Jason Dissanayake who is a six footer is arguably one of the finest rugby players to come out of this school in recent times, and certainly one of the most durable. Jason Dissanayake made his rugby debut for Vidyarthi College in 2010, and led the side in 2012 and gave his best for the game and that year he took part in the Youth Commonwealth Games Rugby 7s in Isle of Man. Later he played for Navy, CR and FC, and Kandy SC and for the national side.

He started his club rugby for the Navy, getting into top gear, later crossing over to CR and FC from there to Kandy Sports Club he was an outstanding sevens and fifteens player during his school days and later for clubs. In 2020 Jason Dissanayake had a hat-trick of tries which helped reigning Dialog Rugby League champions KandySC continue their unbeaten



run, with a comfortable 36-26 win against Army SC at Welisara. With Dissanayake's three tries, Kandy completed yet another game with bonus points after scoring from a tally of six tries and three conversions, while leading 26-12 at half time. Army, who had been quite

impressive that season, was bolstered by the presence of Fijian-Tomasi Ravouvou, who scored two tries single handedly in the second half.

Army in the end finished with a tally of four tries and three conversions, while also earning bonus points Jason has represented the Sri Lanka side in 7s and 15s since 2012.

He has also taken part in the West London Rugby Sevens in 2019. He has been playing for Kandy Rugby Team since 2017. He is a solid forward who is good in ball handling and tackling. He has a knack for finding the try line in matches which is demonstrated by his individual score against the teams he played.

He is a player who is different from the rest. While many have talent and form an important part of their team's machine, only very few make the real difference when it matters most.

## Sri Lankan Olympic stars of yesteryear

### John de Saram - youngest competitor at 1948 Olympic Games

At the age of 20 years, John De Saram was the youngest athlete to represent Sri Lanka at the 1948 London Olympic Games.

He was included in the Sri Lankan contingent after some outstanding performances for Police Sports Club where he excelled in several track events.

In 1948, he helped Police Sports Club to clinch the 4X110 yards Relay Championship after having completed a successful school career at Royal College, Colombo.

In fact, in 1940 John De Saram became the Under-12 Track and Field champion at Royal College and he was the Under-14 and Under-16 champion in 1942 and 1944 respectively.

He displayed his skills at All-Ceylon level for the first time by securing the second place in the 100 yards race at the Public Schools Meet in 1945. He also helped Royal College to win the 4X100 yards relay event at the same meet.

He soon grew in reputation to annex the Trophy for the Most Talented Under-16 Athlete in 1946.

John De Saram stole the limelight once again when he established a new Public Schools Meet record with a time of 23.3 seconds in the 220 yards event in 1947.

In the same year, he had the distinction of winning School Athletics Colours and went on to claim the 220 yards event while pushing more reputed athletes of the calibre of W. T. Saunders and S. Krishnarajah into second and third place respectively.

At the 1948 London Olympic Games, John De Saram had the honour of competing in the 100, 200 and 400 metres events. He made it to the second-round of the 200 metres but could not qualify for the semi-finals of this event.

He recorded a time of 51.2 seconds but yet he could not proceed beyond the first-round of the 400 metres event.



John De Saram

In 1949, he displayed his talent and potential once again when he ran the 800 metres in two minutes 01.8 seconds as an undergraduate.

He also had the satisfaction of overcoming a couple of more experienced athletes in the form of Oscar Wijesinghe and H. M. P. Perera in the 220 yards both in 1949 and 1950.

John De Saram was a proud member of the Sri Lankan 4X110 Yards Relay Team which won the fourth place in the 1950 Commonwealth

Games in Auckland, New Zealand. The other three members of the Sri Lanka Relay Team were, Summa Navaratnam, Oscar Wijesinghe and Duncan White.

Thereafter, John De Saram left for the USA for further studies and had the honour of serving as the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations (UN) in New York.

(C.D)



WORLD OF SPORTS

Today (Tuesday)  
(LOCAL EVENTS)

TENNIS

Colombo Open  
Tournament  
at Green Path

(FOREIGN  
EVENTS)

CRICKET

India vs England  
(1st Test) at Chennai  
(5th day)

(Women's domestic  
One-Day match)

Victoria vs New South  
Wales at Melbourne

FOOTBALL (FA Cup

fifth-round)

Burnley vs AFC

Bournemouth

Manchester United vs

West Ham United

(Spanish League)

Real Madrid vs Getafe

TENNIS

Australian Open

at Melbourne

SL cricketers not  
prioritised for  
COVID-19  
vaccination  
- Prof. de Silva



Professor Arjuna de Silva

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Head of the Medical Committee of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) Professor Arjuna de Silva yesterday said that the Sri Lankan cricketers are not included in the priority list for the COVID-19 free vaccination.

"We can't include them to the priority list at this moment as the government has already named frontline health workers and security personnel for the vaccination," he said during a discussion with SLC officials.

Professor de Silva, who is also the chairman of the Sri Lanka Anti Doping Agency (SLADA) said that if the private sector start using the vaccination system in future then the cricketers could also make use of that facility.

"We can't list the cricketers for the priority list. They have a minimum risk for this COVID-19 and also they don't have any ailments such as diabetic or kidney diseases," he explained.

"They also maintain a good physical fitness always for the sport. So my personal view is that they can't be included for the COVID-19 priority list," he said.

"Not only the cricketers but even other athletes could request to have this vaccine but we have to proceed according to the Government system," added Professor de Silva.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka National pool players who are under a quarantine period, are subject to do their PCR tests today.

# Hasan leads Pakistan to first series win over South Africa since 2003

RAWALPINDI, MONDAY: Medium pacer Hasan Ali took a maiden ten-wicket haul to help Pakistan win its first series against South Africa since 2003 with a 95-run victory in the second Test on the fifth and final day in Rawalpindi on Monday.

Hasan finished with 5-60 to record his best match figures of 11-114 and help dismiss South Africa who were set a daunting 370 to chase for 274 before the tea break.

Hasan's new-ball partner Shaheen Shah Afridi finished with 4-51, while spinner Yasir Shah took the last wicket to spark jubilation among the Pakistan players.

Opener Aiden Markram scored a fighting 108 and Temba Bavuma 61. They put on a 106-run stand for the fourth wicket to give Pakistan a scare.

Markram took a single off the last ball before lunch as South Africa reached the break on 219-3, needing 151 for a win.

But Hasan ripped through the tourists' batting order, which lost seven wickets for just 33 runs with the second new ball.

Hasan struck with the second over of the new ball to end Markram's resistance by getting the opener caught in the slip and end his 335-minute fight.

Markram's fifth Test century the first outside South Africa included 13 boundaries and three sixes. Next ball, Hasan had Quinton de Kock caught in the slip for nought, ending the South African skipper's miserable series with just 46 runs. Pakistan skipper Babar Azam was delighted with the win.

"Thanks to South Africa for coming and playing competitive cricket," said Azam. "Hasan's comeback after one year was great and he showed great character."

Hasan was sidelined for more than a year with multiple injuries but came back strongly with 12 wickets in the series.

Azam admitted South Africa's resistance provided a tough challenge for his side.

"At one time, we thought the game could've gone either way when Markram and Bavuma were playing well. But we knew, one wicket and we can come back into the game again," he said.

Losing captain Quinton de Kock said his team lacked a killer touch.

"The first-innings deficit did play a big part," said de Kock. "We lost the big moments in the game and that cost us. It's painful at the moment."

"When we get back home, we'll have to look at our performances and improve on the way forward."

Hasan dismissed George Linde for four to record his third five-wicket haul as he improved upon his previous best match figures of 7-83 against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi in 2018.

In the morning, both teams were involved in a keen battle for victory as South Africa resumed on 127-1, knowing the best chase at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium in ten previous Tests was the 200 scored by Sri Lanka in 2000.

South Africa saw Dussen bowled off a beautiful inswinger by Hasan only the third ball of the day while



Pakistan's players pose for photographs with trophies after winning the Test series against South Africa during the fifth and final day of the second Test cricket match between Pakistan and South Africa at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi on February 8. AFP

Du Plessis was leg-before to the same bowler in the fifth over of the morning.

It capped a sub-par series for the experienced Du Plessis who managed just 55 in four innings.

This is Pakistan's only second Test series win over South Africa in 12 attempts, having lost eight and drawn three.

Pakistan last beat South Africa 1-0 in a two-match series at home in 2003. Pakistan won the first Test by seven wickets in Karachi. The series against South Africa - who

were touring Pakistan for the first time in 14 years is the biggest hosted by the home side since a deadly 2009 militant attack on Sri Lanka's squad in Lahore halted international tours. The series win also lifts Pakistan to fifth in international Test rankings the first time they have placed in the top five since January 2017.

South Africa are pushed to sixth from fifth. The two teams will now play three Twenty20 internationals on February 11, 13 and 14, all in Lahore. AFP

scoreCARD

Pa Kistan 1st innings 272 (Babar azam 77, faheem ashraf 78 not out; a. nortje 5-56, K. maharaj 3-90)	Q. de Kock c Butt b Hasan ..... 0 W. mulder b Yasir ..... 20 G. Linde c Ashraf b Hasan ..... 4 K. maharaj c Butt b Shaheen ..... 0 K. Rabada b Shaheen ..... 0 a. nortje not out ..... 2 extras: (lb2, nb7) ..... 9		
south africa 1st innings 201 (T. Bavuma 44; Hasan ali 5-56)	Pa Kistan 2nd innings 298 (mohammad rizwan 115 not out; G. Linde 5-64)	r. van der dussen not out ..... 17 a. markram c Butt b Hasan ..... 108 d. elgar c Rizwan b Shaheen ..... 17 b. shaheen not out ..... 48 f. du Plessis lbw b Hasan ..... 5 t. Bavuma c Rizwan b Shaheen ..... 61	total (91.4 overs, all out) 274 fall of wickets: 1-33 (Elgar), 2-127 (Dussen), 3-135 (du Plessis), 4-241 (Markram), 5-241 (de Kock), 6-253 (Bavuma), 7-258 (Rabada), 8-268 (Maharaj), 9-268 (Rabada) Bowling: Shaheen 21-6-51-4 (nb4), Hasan 16-2-60-5 (nb3), Nauman Ali 20-6-63-0, Yasir 23-4-5-56-1, Ashraf 10-2-37-0, Alam 1-0-5-0

# Neyara and Tuvini cruise into semi-finals



Neyara Weerawansa and Tuvini De Alwis celebrate their win

Neyara Weerawansa and Tuvini De Alwis powered their way into the semi-finals of the Women's Doubles on the fourth day of the Colombo Open Tennis Tournament, which continued at the SLTA Courts in Green Path yesterday.

The favourites lived up to expectations as they defeated the combination of Yasodara Koramage and Shehara Medawala in straight sets 6-1, 6-1.

**The results**  
Men's Doubles (quarter-finals): Dumindu Dilum and Luca Kneese beat Michael Siyaguna and M. Nishendiran 6-3, 6-3. Kavisha Rathnayake and Akila Vimukthi beat H. Parameshwaran and Rayan Bentharage 6-1, 6-4.

**Women's Doubles (quarter-finals):** Neyara Weerawansa and Tuvini De Alwis beat Yasodara Koramage and Shehara Medawala 6-1, 6-1. Saajida Razick and Dinethya Dharmarathne beat Vishmi Serasinghe and Nesangi Hemakumara 5-7, 6-1, 12-8. Janali Manamperi and Savini Jayasuriya beat Oneli Perera and Sethmi Sumanaweera 6-0, 5-7, 10-7. (A.N)

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# India lose Sharma in chase for 420 against England

CHENNAI, MONDAY: India lost Rohit Sharma in their chase for 420 after Ravichandran Ashwin took six wickets to dismiss England for 178 on day four of the opening Test on Monday.

The hosts reached 39 for one at stumps after spinner Jack Leach bowled Sharma for 12 on a deteriorating Chennai pitch.

Shubman Gill, on 15, and Cheteshwar Pujara, on 12, were batting at the close with India needing another 381 runs to win the first of the four Tests.

On a dominant day for spinners, Ashwin claimed his 28th five-wicket haul in England's second innings.

The off-spinner sent back Rory Burns with the first ball of the innings and struck crucial blows, including taking Ben Stokes for seven.

Skipper Joe Root top-scored with 40 off 32 deliveries. He hit 218 in the first innings of his 100th Test.

Root hit seven boundaries before being trapped lbw by paceman Jasprit Bumrah. Ollie Pope (28) and Dom Bess (25) also helped England build a big lead.

Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem took two wickets and got wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler stumped for 24. Dan Lawrence (18) was Ishant Sharma's 300th Test wicket.

India were bowled out for 337 in their first innings in the morning session, 42 runs short of avoiding



R. Ashwin appeals for a lbw decision

the follow on despite Washington Sundar's unbeaten 85.

England, who scored 578 in their first innings, decided against making the home side bat again.

Leach and paceman James Anderson took two wickets each in the morning session to pack off India after the hosts started the day 257-6.

Sundar, who made his debut in the fourth Test of India's historic win in Australia last month, put on 80 runs with overnight partner Ashwin, who made 31. AFP

scoreCARD

enGland 1st Innings 578 (root 218; Bumrah 3-84, ashwin 3-146)	d. Lawrence lbw b I Sharma ..... 18 J. root lbw b Bumrah ..... 40 B. Stokes c Pant b Ashwin ..... 7 o. Pope c R. Sharma b Nadeem ..... 28 J. Buttler st Pant b Nadeem ..... 24 d. Bess lbw b Ashwin ..... 25 J. Archer b Ashwin ..... 5 J. leach not out ..... 8 J. anderson c and b Ashwin ..... 0 extras (nb7) ..... 7 total (46.3 overs, all out) ..... 178
india 1st Innings (overnight 257-6, sundar 33, ashwin 8)	fall of wickets: 1-0 (Burns), 2-32 (Sibley), 3-58 (Lawrence), 4-71 (Stokes), 5-101 (Root), 6-130 (Pope), 7-165 (Buttler), 8-167 (Bess), 9-178 (Archer), 10-178 (Anderson) Bowling: Ashwin 17.3-2-61-6 (nb3), Nadeem 15-2-66-2 (nb3), Sharma 7-1-24-1, Bumrah 6-0-26-1 (nb1), Sundar 1-0-1-0
r. Sharma c Buttler b Archer ..... 6 s. Gill c Anderson b Archer ..... 29 c. Pujara c Burns b Bess ..... 73 V. Kohli c Pope b Bess ..... 11 a. rahane c Root b Bess ..... 1 r. pant c Leach b Bess ..... 91 W. sundar not out ..... 85 r. ashwin c Buttler b Leach ..... 31 c. Pujara c Stokes b Leach ..... 0 I. sharma c Pope b Anderson ..... 4 J. Bumrah c Stokes b Anderson ..... 0 extras (b4, lb1, nb1) ..... 6 total (95.5 overs, all out) ..... 337	india 2nd Innings r. Sharma b Leach ..... 12 s. Gill not out ..... 15 c. Pujara not out ..... 12 total (13 overs, one wicket) ..... 39 fall of wicket: 1-25 (R. Sharma) to bat: V. Kohli, A. Rahane, R. Pant, W. Sundar, R. Ashwin, J. Bumrah, I. Sharma, S. Nadeem Bowling: Archer 3-2-13-0, Leach 6-1-21-1, Anderson 2-1-2-0, Bess 2-0-3-0
enGland 2nd Innings r. Burns c Rahane b Ashwin ..... 0 d. sibley c Pujara b Ashwin ..... 16	total (95.5 overs, all out) ..... 337 fall of wickets: 1-19 (R. Sharma), 2-44 (Gill), 3-71 (Kohli), 4-73 (Rahane), 5-192 (Pujara), 6-225 (Pant), 7-305 (Ashwin), 8-312 (Nadeem), 9-323 (I. Sharma), 10-337 (Bumrah) Bowling: Anderson 16.5-5-46-2, Archer 21-3-75-2 (nb1), Stokes 6-1-16-0, Leach 24-5-105-2, Bess 26-5-76-4, Root 2-0-14-0

# Djokovic imperious as Covid-delayed Australian Open finally underway

MELBOURNE, MONDAY: Novak Djokovic served a reminder of why he's the greatest Australian Open champion in history as he demolished France's Jeremy Chardy in straight sets in round one on Monday.

The eight-time winner's 6-3, 6-1, 6-2 win showed that normal service had resumed at Rod Laver Arena after the year's first Grand Slam was delayed three weeks over the coronavirus.

Serena Williams, Naomi Osaka and Simona Halep also enjoyed convincing wins as the tournament finally got underway in front of limited crowds after a troubled build-up.

"It feels great, so great to see people back in the stadium," Djokovic said. "This is the most I've seen on a tennis court in 12 months."

Form and fitness are highly unpredictable at the Australian Open after the coronavirus wiped out five months of last season and badly disrupted preparations for the first Grand Slam of 2021.

But Djokovic left little doubt about his readiness to pursue a record-extending ninth title in Melbourne, breaking in the first game and completing the victory in 91 minutes.

The Australian Open was postponed to allow players to quarantine and play warm-up events, which were suspended for a day last week after a coronavirus case at a tournament hotel.

After the tortuous build-up, third seed Osaka struck the first serve on the centre court against Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and strode just 68 minutes later as a 6-1, 6-2 winner.

"I was really nervous coming into this match. I just wanted to play well," Osaka told a smattering of spectators on the socially-distanced court. AFP



Serbia's Novak Djokovic hits a return against France's Jeremy Chardy during their men's singles match on day one of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on February 8. AFP

# SLSCA announces official draw for U-19 Tourney

**ALTHAF NAWAZ**  
The Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA) yesterday released the official draw for the Inter-Schools Under-19 Limited Overs Cricket Tournament, which commences on March 12.

This tournament with a new format, instead of the regular two-day event, finally got the greenlight from the Ministry of Health and the Education Ministry to proceed as scheduled.

The first-round matches will be completed by the end of March and the knock-out stage will commence by the first week of April.

The quarter-final, semi-final and the final of this tournament is scheduled for April 20, 23 and 25 respectively at neutral venues.

**The draw (Division One Tier 'A'):**

**Group X:** Trinity, Royal, D. S. Senanayake, De Mazenod, Gurukula and Wesley.

**Group Y:** St. Joseph's, Mahanama, St. Thomas', Matara, St. Sebastian's, St. Benedict's and St. Anne's.

**Group Z:** St. Anthony's, Kandy, Nalanda, S. Thomas', Mount Lavinia, Richmond, Maliyadeva and Prince of Wales.

**(Division One Tier 'B'):**  
**Group X:** Thurstan, Mahinda, St. Peter's, Dharmaraja, St. Aloysius and Moratu MV.

**Group Y:** St. Joseph Vaz, Ispithana, Ananda, Zahira, Dharmapala and Maris Stella.

**Group Z:** Dharmasoka, St. Servatius', Devapathiraja, St. Anthony's, Wattala, Lumbini and St. Sylvester's.



# Daily News Business

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some of the first passenger group from the world famous tui international handled by aitken spence travels at mria

Aircraft C checks, maintenance and repairs in the pipeline

## MRIA to generate additional revenue from air cargo, MRO

Landing and parking charge waiver extended for 9-months, ground handling fees cut by 50%

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE in Mattala

The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) will soon start up lifting air cargo containers bringing additional revenue to the airport State Minister - Aviation and Export Zones Development, D. V. Chanaka said.

He was speaking at the launch of new scheduled airline service; Air Astana from Kazakhstan to MRJA, making it the first international airline to start flying to MRJA, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Minister said that the cargo handling and transhipment is increasing in Hambantota Sea Port and soon air cargo operation too would commence from it to MRJA. "This is in addition to exporting local cargo mainly fruit and vegetables."

He said that the former gov-

ernment used MRJA as a storage dump for paddy and soon the airport will start exporting rice as well from it. He disclosed that a minimum Rs. 300 million was spent to repair the damage to the cargo terminal and A/C system due to storing of paddy which was politically motivated.

Minister Chanaka also said that flydubai too would start operations to MRJA soon along with several other airlines.

"In a bid to attract more airlines to fly to MRJA we have decided to extend the 'grace period' offered for 'landing and parking' for 9 more months. "In addition we have reduced ground handling fees by 50% and will also offer concessions for fuelling."

The Minister also said that they have also achieved 30%



state minister - aviation and export Zones development, d. v. chanaka, minister of tourism , Prsanna ranatunga, chairman Isr,tilak Weerasinghe and senior airport aviation officials at mria. Pictures by Sulochana Gamage

success for the MRO negotiations with a European based airline and when this is complete most of the airline 'C checks' maintenance, and

repair of airlines in the region would be done at MRJA. Vice President IT and e-business Air Astana Chamindra Lenawa, Air Astana said

that they were very happy with the geographical layout and facilities of MRJA which is ideally suited for tourism. The airline will utilize flying

to MRJA to explore the possibility of opening up the Western European and North American markets to garment manufacturers and the Middle Eastern and South Asian markets for Sri Lankan perishables such as tea, sea food, fruits and vegetables through its cargo operations.

The inaugural flight using the new Airbus A321LR, with a capacity of 169 passengers on the route Almaty/Mattala/Almaty arrived on Saturday and will continue until end April 2021," said Chairman Lanka Sportreizen (local GSA for the airline) Tilak Weerasinghe. "Air Astana is looking to increase the frequency to two from April," he said.

Air Astana is a full-service international carrier. Air Astana operates the youngest fleet in the world with 32 brand new aircraft.



CARGILLS: 'VILLAGE TO... PAGE 20

**MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS**

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TO 15/02/2021

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COMMERCIAL BANK

## Polythene packing products, single use sachet packets banned from March 31

ANANDA KANNANGARA

Referring to the Extraordinary Gazette notification, issued by the Government

under the purview of Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera, the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) yesterday assured that the ban of using PET (Poly-Ethylene-Terephthalate) and PVC (Poly-Vinyl-Chloride) material for packing agro-chemicals and also sachet packets having the capacity of 20ml ( 20g) or below will be banned from March 31.

In addition to this manufacturing cotton buds with plastic stems and inflatable toys will also be banned from this date.

Speaking to *Daily News Business*, CEA Deputy Director General (Waste Management), Eng. Upali Indraratna said this decision was taken following an extensive study and research done by CEA on the increasing environmental pollution in the country due to excessive use of plastic by citizens without maintaining proper waste management disposal methods.

He said in addition, the ban of pesticide

in plastic bottles made of PET and PVC material will also come under the ban.

Eng. Indraratna said all these decisions had been taken by the CEA since both the soil and the water bodies in the country have faced severe damage and this situation has affected both the environment, its living beings and also the fauna and flora.

The CEA, DDG further explained that manufacturing of certain other items such as single use food wrapping papers made of Polythene and Sili-Sili bags, shopping bags, grocery bags made out of HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) were banned in September, 2017.

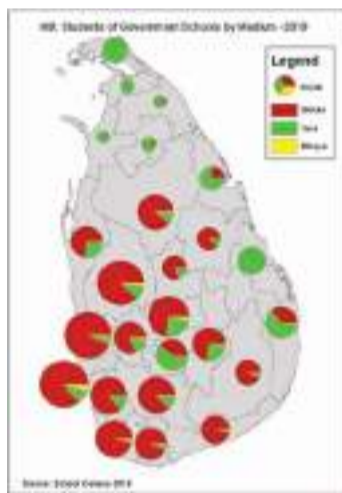
"Spoons of yogurt cups, straws of soft drink bottles and similar other items which are harmful to the environment will be banned in future," he said.

Quoting statistics CEA, DDG Eng. Indraratna said more than 70 MT of Single Use Plastic waste are moving into the sea almost every day through major rivers and other minor waterways and such a situation creates problems to people who are carrying sea activities and the ocean living beings.



## English medium a rarity in government schools

DINESH PERERA



Government schools by language.

Recent statistics show that only 91,645 (2.2%) students of the 4,061,653 students in government schools' study in a medium categorised as bilingual which includes the English medium. There are only 33 schools that teach all three major languages. These statistics were made available in the School Census report of 2019 released recently. The medium categorised as bilingual includes Sinhala-English and Tamil-English.

There are 542 Sinhala-

English schools and 168 Tamil-English schools.

This is in contrast to the 24.1% of students in Private schools' that study in the Bilingual/English medium. The majority of students in private schools are in the Western Province.

In government schools, the majority of (3.2 million) children study in Provincial schools. National schools make up 798,372 students.

There are 62,467 male teachers and 184,125 female teachers in service. Of these 119,323 are Grad-

uate Teachers, 120,848 are Trained Teachers, 4,759 are Trainee Teachers, 1,518 are Untrained Teachers, and 144 are other teachers.

The highest proportion of national schools are in the Southern Province followed by the Western province. 4% of schools are national schools. There are 373 National schools and 9792 provincial schools.

The majority of students (41.5%) are in schools that have Grades 1-13. 16.1% of students are in schools that have Grades 1-5, 18.7% in schools that have

Grades 1-11, and 23.1% in schools that have Grades 6-13.

Most schools are open to male and female students with only 385 being open to only one gender.

The majority of schools (42.3%) have 10-25 teachers. Schools with less than 10 teachers make up 29.9% of schools.

The majority of students (43.3%) at A level are in the Arts stream. 10.8% of students are in bioscience, 20.1% in commerce, and 7.3% in engineering and technology.

## Global oil prices reach pre-pandemic levels at a one-year high

Oil prices made their biggest weekly gain this year, reaching pre-pandemic levels at a one-year high. The price of Brent crude is about to breach the important psychological mark of \$60, closing the week at \$59.34 per barrel.

The price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude closed the week at \$56.85 per barrel.

The declining crude oil inventories in the world's two largest oil-consuming nations and largest economies, the US and China, have led to an outlook of

a tightening market. China's crude oil stocks fell to their lowest level in nearly a year amid a global drawdown in inventories that are being driven by tighter supply strategies from OPEC+, which has read the market very well. (*hellenicshippingnews*)

## GDP will recover to 3.2% growth – First Capital Research

First Capital Research in their Banking Sector 2021 report predicts that Sri Lanka's GDP will recover back to 3.2% growth. This will be mainly supported by the recommencement of tourism activities.

The report also adds that the economy is in transition and poised for renewed growth. This is also driven by the vaccination drive. Sri Lanka has already got its first shipment in the last week of January 2021. This provides confidence for the

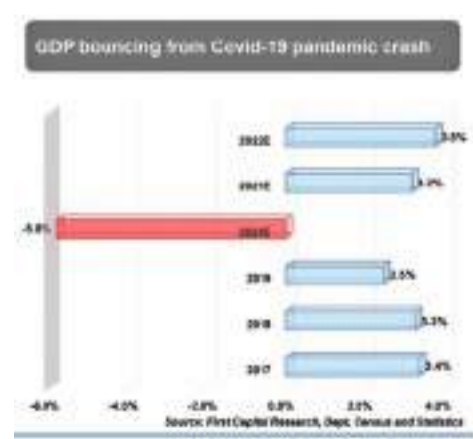
Government to accelerate the relaxing of control measures.

It says that the Banking system has shown resilience in the time of COVID-19. The CBSL reduction of interest rates, enhancing market liquidity and financing by the government were aimed at supporting economic activity. "CBSL continuously injected liquidity supporting the financial system throughout and announced multiple moratoriums to provide breathing space for businesses."

"Back-to-back moratoriums limit NPL shocks to record below expectations but banks take the safe zone with massive provisioning."

The report also says that the digitization process launched by the banking sector has helped to save the banking sector from COVID-19 lockdowns building long-term resilience and using technology for strategic cost transformation.

Economic activity too will bounce back with a normalizing SME business cycle.



## Lankan businesses not affected in Myanmar

Sri Lankan businesses in Myanmar are not affected in any way though businesses and analysts predict that the coup is likely to damage the country's economy.

Companies say the coup has already put many billions worth of foreign investment at risk according to the BBC report.

Former President International Chamber of Commerce Tissa Jayaweera said that there are over 60 active Sri Lanka businesses in the banking, Micro Finance and import and export of motor vehicle businesses. In addition several Sri Lankan manage top hotels in Myanmar as well."

He said that most of the businesses both local and foreign operating in Myanmar did have connections with the military even before the Coup and hence Sri Lankan and other foreign businesses would not be in any danger of being victimized. "Only people with political links are targeted."

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) commitments into Myanmar were worth \$5.5bn (£4bn) in the 2020 fiscal year, which ended in September.

However, with the US already considering sanctions against Myanmar due to the coup, these sanctions could have a significant effect on foreign investment, with both Western and Japanese companies thinking twice about projects in Myanmar.

One Yangon-based businessman, who asked not to be named, said he's relieved that the coup so far appears to have been relatively peaceful. "So far it's peaceful, without protests, but emotions are strong and people are upset," he said. (*SS*)

## PUCSL to crackdown on illegal lubricants



Chairman, Janaka ratnayake

The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL), will further strengthen their initiatives to control the sale of standard lubricants and the sale of illegal lubricants.

This was stated by the new Chairman of PUCSL, Janaka Ratnayake who assumed duties yesterday and launched their work plan for 2021. The PUCSL, as the shadow regulator of the lubricant market, assists the Ministry of Energy in regulating the lubricant market.

A project is also underway to dispose of used lubricants in an environmentally friendly manner. A system will be introduced to protect the rights of petroleum consumers and to resolve their grievances.

The Annual Activity Plan 2021 of the electricity sector regulator was also unveiled and 111 projects based on service quality and consumer rights protection in the power industry, water service industry and petroleum industry are to be implemented in 2021.

Projects related to the electricity industry have been formulated under four main objectives and four special projects will be implemented this year to expedite the resolution of electricity consumer complaints and disputes.

Around 45,000 electricians have been identified in the country and a project will be launched to provide them with the National Vocational Qualification or NVQ 3, the basic qualification required to obtain a permanent electricity license, quickly and free of charge.

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SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

market statistics on 08.02.2021

Table of stock market statistics including security names, volume, and price changes. Includes sub-headers for main board and other market segments.

Table of stock market statistics for various sectors including ASIA CAPITAL, BROWNS BEACH, and many others, listing volume, price, and change.

ECCSL to host webinar today

The European Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (ECCSL) will host a Webinar on 'Paperless and Contactless Procedure at the Port of Clearance'...

Resource Persons section featuring photos and titles of speakers: General (Retd.) R. M. Daya Ratnayake, Major General (Retd.) Vijitha Ravipriya, Mr. Upul Jinadasa, and Mr. Ahmed ur Rahman.

The objective of this is to discuss the new Paperless and Contactless procedures at the Port of Clearance and how this system can reduce delays and increase efficiency.

The webinar will be moderated by Ahmed ur Rahman, Chief Operating Officer, DHL Global Forwarding Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. It will be sponsored by A. Baur & Co. (Pvt) Ltd...

COCONUTS

Table of coconut products and prices, including items like FRESH COCONUT, COCONUT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY products, and DESICCATED COCONUT.

Table showing COCONUT OIL prices for local wholesale, Philippines, and other international markets.

Table of COCONUT SHELL and COCONUT EKELS prices, including shell charcoal and other shell products.

EXCHANGE RATES section with international operations department contact info and a table of exchange rates for various currencies like Australian Dollar, Euro, etc.

Small print text at the bottom of the page providing additional details about the data and services.



AVIATION/TRAVEL

# Air Astana launches direct flights to Mattala

Air Astana, the flag carrier of Kazakhstan launched direct weekly flights to Mattala airport, last Saturday from Almaty. The inaugural flight carried with 169 passengers.

Lanka Sportreizen (LSR) is the Sri Lankan GSA for the airline.

The service will be operated using the new Airbus A321LR, which is configured with 16 Business class and 150 Economy class seats. The lie-flat business class seats are equipped with individual 16-inch screens, with four of 16

seats offering additional personal space. Economy class features Recaro seats, which provide increased comfort for long flights and are equipped with individual 10-inch screens.

The airline commenced its operations in May 2002 as a joint venture between Kazakhstan's national wealth fund, Samruk Kazyna, and BAE Systems (UK), with respective shares of 51% and 49%.

Air Astana is a full-service international carrier. Air Astana

operates the youngest fleet in the world with 32 brand new aircraft including Boeing 767, Airbus A320/A320neo, Airbus A321/A321neo/ A321LR and Embraer E190-E2.

Air Astana became the first carrier from Russia, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Eastern Europe to be awarded a prestigious 4-Star rating by SkyTrax at its World Airline Awards 2012 and was also named "The Best Airline in Central Asia and India" that year.



nalin Jayasundera, md of aiken spence travels with tilak Weerasinghe md of lsr at mria

## Aitken Spence Travels facilitates first Charter Flight from Kazakhstan

Aitken Spence Travels, one of the leading DMC in Sri Lanka working in partnership with TUI Kazakhstan, welcomed the country's first charter from Kazakhstan on February 6, 2021 after the airports reopened for tourist arrivals.

There will be two charters operating from Kazakhstan and it will be a first since the Sri Lankan borders reopened for tourists. Air Astana flight will be a weekly flight operating every Saturday and is expected to continue till April 2021.

In addition, SCAT Airlines will also operate weekly flights every Thursday and will continue till April 2021. The combined passenger strength is approximately 350 passengers a week and the flights will land at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Airport, Mattala conforming to the health and safety guidelines.

Aitken Spence Travels as the local DMC engaged in this operation, began talks with TUI Kazakhstan when the government was making plans to re-open the airports using the 'bio bubble' concept. The 'bio bubble' will give visitors a relative amount of freedom to travel within the country while observing safety protocols.

The charters from Kazakhstan is a result of gaining the confidence from our tour operators to promote Sri Lanka as a safe and secure travel destination to be explored and enjoyed by their holiday makers.

Nalin Jayasundera, Managing Director of Aitken Spence Travels stated: "This is an investment from Aitken Spence Travels to revive the Tourism Industry as a whole. The Tourism Authority has stipulated high standards of health guidelines and protocols. However, we are confident that even with these challenging conditions the operations would be a success. We look forward to a larger scale operation in the future from Russia and CIS region based on the success of this operation."

"We must acknowledge and thank the Government and the Minister of Tourism for taking steps in opening up the borders of the country to restart tourism in Sri Lanka after a lapse of ten months".

Aitken Spence Travels has identified Kazakhstan as a medium market that has immense potential to expand tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka. The average stay is 7 nights while 20% of the bookings are for the two weeks duration.



some of the passengers at mria Pictures by Sulochana Gamage



## Singapore Airlines awarded Diamond rating in global airline health, safety audit

Singapore Airlines (SIA) has been awarded the Diamond rating – the highest level attainable – in the APEX Health Safety powered by SimpliFlying audit of global airlines.

Aitken Spence is the General Sales Agency (GSA) for Singapore Airlines in Sri Lanka and is the longest standing GSA representation in the Singapore Airlines network worldwide.

The diamond rating is the highest

achievable level for the audit, marking at least 200 points above the minimum gold standard determined by APEX and SimpliFlying for passenger safety and well-being.

Yeoh Phee Teik, Senior Vice President Customer Experience, Singapore Airlines, said: "Early in the Covid-19 pandemic, we undertook a comprehensive review of our health and safety measures together with our part-

ners and regulators, in consultation with medical experts, and by taking on board customer feedback.

"Our teams deep-dived into many check points along the end-to-end customer journey. We reinforced existing procedures where necessary, enhanced some of them, introduced new measures to supplement them, and used digital technologies to complement them and support a more seamless travel

experience." Dr. Joe Leader, CEO of APEX, said: "Singapore Airlines' commitment to customer well-being shines via a contactless journey management bolstered by best-in-class onboard hygiene.

As a Diamond health safety certified airline, Singapore Airlines has gone a step beyond investing in their passengers' wellness by implementing the latest advances in testing and health

passport technology." Shashank Nigam, CEO of SimpliFlying, said: "Singapore Airlines has raised the bar for health safety standards in the industry with initiatives such as near-touch check-in kiosks, mobile notifications for baggage delays and digitisation of in-flight menus and magazines. Taking hospital-grade measures in ensuring health safety will help bolster trust among travellers."

## oneworld enhances customer information portal

oneworld has partnered with travel tech company sherpa to offer the alliance's customers the most up-to-date information on government entry and travel restrictions, making it easier to plan travel.

Customers may visit the portal at <https://www.oneworld.com/covid-19/oneworld-together> to retrieve information specific to their journey, including government entry restrictions, testing requirements, health documentation and quarantine rules at their destinations.

The portal enhancement, powered by Sherpa data, will assist customers in knowing what to expect prior to embarking on their travel.



rob Gurney

First launched in July 2020, the oneworld customer information portal has served as a customer resource for information on the various health and well-being measures implemented by oneworld member airlines and major airports in the oneworld global network.

oneworld CEO Rob Gurney said: "We recognize that customers plan-

ning their travel will need to check government entry and travel restrictions. The portal enhancements that we have introduced will help customers access up-to-date information pertaining to government restrictions and COVID-19 measures."

sherpa Co-Founder and CEO Max Tremaine said: "Our data aggregates the most recent updates from thousands of sources such as Government websites, tourism boards and WHO, helping to reduce complexity for travellers. This launch demonstrates oneworld's commitment to delivering a seamless and personalised customer experience for the members of their global alliance."

## Classic Travel wins 'Resilience' award at SLIM Brand Excellence

Classic Travel, the IATA accredited subsidiary of Expolanka Holdings PLC, won a Restart Resilience Award under the Service Sector Large Category at the SLIM Brand Excellence Awards 2020.

Organized for the first time by SLIM Sri Lanka, the Restart Resilience Award was awarded to recognize and reward the outstanding efforts of organizations which withstood and overcame the challenges resulting from the pandemic.

"While being deeply affected by the many implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka, which brought the global

travel industry to a deafening halt, Classic nevertheless strived hard to offer an uninterrupted service to its customers. As we come back bolder and stronger in the new normal, we will continue to invest our efforts in maintaining consistently good customer services through an enhanced travel service portfolio." stated Shiham Imamudeen, Chief Executive Officer of Classic Travel.

The stringent awarding process evaluated numerous financial and operational areas, including the company's response to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on its internal and external

stakeholders, how it minimized the impact of operating efficiencies across the organization, its revised process and strategy, performance during the crisis as well as its business continuity plan for future crises.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in new challenges across organizations. It brought certain industries like travel and leisure a virtual complete stop whilst creating demand pressures to online transaction businesses which were not ready for the surge. It disrupted supply chains, route to market execution and customer interactions. SLIM Brand Excellence Awards 2020 was host-



classic travel ceo, shiham imamudeen and Head of marketing, Zafrana nafees receiving the restart resilience award at slim awards

ed to recognize these companies that stood strong in the face of disruptive change.

Additionally, Classic Travel won the gold award for Brand of the Year in B2B category at SLIM Brand Excellence awards 2018 and was awarded as a 'Great

Places to Work' for five consecutive years.

Classic Travel is part of EXPOLANKA HOLDINGS PLC, which operates in a diverse range of sectors throughout Asia and much of Southern Africa and the USA.

# Oasis Ayurveda Resort, H'tota, opens for locals after 3 decades

## First four star Ayurveda hotel in Sri Lanka

Oasis Ayurveda Beach Resort Sisilasagama, Hambantota, will open a large part of its hotel to accommodate local guests. This is after a lapse of 30 years.

The property owned by diversified entrepreneur Sumith Ekanayake, engaged in export of virgin coconut oil to Japan and other businesses focusing on the agro sector, diversified 30 years ago and opened this property. It was the first purposely built largest four star Ayurveda hotel in Sri Lanka and mainly targeted the German tourists.



chairman, sumith ekanayake

4-star hotel has a 24-hour front desk, room service and a children's playground.

Employed in the hotel sector for over 23 years Dasanayake started as a housekeeper with Amaya Lake and worked with many local star class hotels before moving to Dubai, Africa and the Maldives. Due to the Southern highway exit 10 minutes away from the hotel they receiving many corporate MICE events for which they offer two halls.

He said the hotel is also popular among families due to the facilities and special rates and also due to nearby



oasis ayurveda Beach resort



Gm, dinesh dasanayake

General Manager, Oasis Ayurveda Beach, Dinesh Dasanayake said that the hotel maintained over 90% occupancy throughout its operations mainly due to its unparalleled European standard of service.

"However with the COVID-19 pandemic the hotel operations came to a standstill and the management then decided to reinvest in completely refurbishing and adding more features to the hotel."

"Due to numerous requests especially from families and the corporate sector we have now decided to open the hotel to locals as well."

"As there is a growing

demand for weddings and large conferences we invested around Rs. 400 million for a 300 cover banquet hall with modern facilities. The construction began last year and 50% has been completed and this would be ready by the end of the year."

The Oasis Ayurveda Beach Resort now offers 2 suites, 10 chalets and 38 superior rooms with balconies, free Wi-Fi, air-conditioning, cable TV, safety deposit boxes, mini bar and host of other facilities. It also has a private beach, a large swimming pool with a special kiddie's area and host of sports activities that include fitness facilities, squash, badminton and tennis court pool table and many other services. Featuring a bar and a pool bar the

attractions such as Yala, Bundala and Uda Walawa National Parks, Ridiyagama Safari Park and other places of historic interest for which hotel arranges excursions.

He said that with the C-19 Pandemic

there is a demand for wellness tourism and they hope to offer part of the hotel under tight health guidelines for long stay foreigners after the impact on the pandemic reduces and the vaccination process is fully completed.





# Cargills: 'Village to Home' recommences at Rawathawatta



"Cargills: Village to Home" an initiative by Cargills Food City, created with the intention of strengthening the country's SME entrepreneurs by offering them a platform to engage with a wider network of customers, recommenced at Rawathawatta with all the necessary health and safety guidelines.

Previously held at Kandana, Pelawatte and Malabe these events were well received by the general public.

However, with the resurgence of the pandemic in the country last October, this initiative had to be put on hold. This initiative commenced at Food City Rawathawatta and as done previously, several local entrepreneurs as partners to promote their diverse

range of products in demarcated stalls were invited. Featuring a host of local boutique shops ranging from handloom and handicraft products to ayurvedic cosmetics, a variety of snacks was also on offer.

"The thinking behind this initiative was to broaden the reach of our local SMEs by giving them a marketplace. We also look to further improve their livelihoods by sharing our expertise in packaging, marketing and quality assurance," an official from Cargills said.

Cargills Bank will continue to provide financial support to SME entrepreneurs, helping them to grow and serve a larger market. Moving forward, we will continue to host Cargills: "Village to Home" at selected Food City outlets.



some highlights from cargills: "Village to Home" event at rawathawatta. Pictures by Saliya Rupasinghe

## Ceylon Biscuits, CBL Natural Foods among 40 Best Great Places to Work

Ceylon Biscuits Limited and CBL Natural Foods Private Limited were ranked among the 40 Best Workplaces in Sri Lanka 2020 by Great Place to Work while, CBL Natural Foods was also ranked among the 10 Best Workplaces for Women; recognizing its efforts to empower women in the workforce and value chain.

With over 85% of its dynamic workforce falling into the category of millennials, CBL Exports was also ranked

among the 10 Best Workplaces for Millennials in 2020.

CBL Group subsidiaries Ceylon Biscuits, CBL Natural Foods Private Limited and CBL Exports registered and were certified as Great Places to Work. The certification recognizes the commitment of these companies to develop the people and culture of their organizations.

"Our companies being ranked among Sri Lanka's 40 Best Workplaces and among the 10 Best Workplaces in Sri Lanka for Women and Millennials is a

strong testimony to CBL's commitment to living our core values through purpose driven business," said Sheamalee Wickramasingha Group Managing Director of the CBL Group. She explains that the Group has always focused on building a strong performance driven caring culture strengthened by core values of caring, quality, innovation and integrity and, ensuring that the right people are in the right position with the necessary tools and support for development is vital to achieving this goal.



the ceylon Biscuit limited team at the awards ceremony, receives the Great Place to Work accolade



the cBI natural foods limited team receives the award in recognition of their best practices

## Crocodile celebrates SLIM Digi Awards

A popular menswear brand, Crocodile, was awarded at the SLIM Digi Awards 2.0, earning for itself a seat among the country's most successful brands, all recognised for the effective implementation of their digital campaigns.

The highly-anticipated annual awards ceremony, held on January 21, highlighted digital excellence in the marketing arena.

Among many contenders for the title in the Retail category, Crocodile's #Upgrade campaign was awarded for the coveted 'Best Integrated Digital Marketing Campaign'. The campaign was created with the premise of exploring the menswear specialist's success in the Sri Lankan market, with key focus on the impact and outcomes of the digital marketing strategy of the brand.

"The goal of our campaign was to inspire men with different lifestyles to awaken, inspire, and engage;

instilling in our customer base the need to upgrade themselves by upgrading their fashion preferences," said Chamal Fonseka, General Manager of Crocodile Lanka, commenting on the win. "We are extremely pleased to have been recognised for our efforts in bringing value to our clients and industry, and through adopting and harnessing these digital tools to constantly upgrade our own efforts, we hope to be able to create more compelling content for the benefit of our client base."

Launched and hosted by the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM), the national body for Marketing in Sri Lanka, the SLIM Digi Awards is held every year with the aim to honour and acknowledge the most memorable digital content across a wide playing field of sectors, while also highlighting the crucial role played by digital in the marketing industry.



digibrush team lead Janidu siriwardena and crocodile lanka General manager chamal Fonseka receive the award for 'Best integrated digital marketing campaign' at the slim digi award



## Samsung Galaxy S21 series now in Sri Lanka

Galaxy S21 series is available in stores, giving eager customers in Sri Lanka the chance to get their hands on the ultimate smartphone experience.

Designed for the way we live now, the Galaxy S21 series brings a suite of new features to Samsung's flagship smartphone line up that make your everyday moments epic.

For over a decade, the Galaxy S series has delivered groundbreaking, flagship mobile experiences for people who rely on their smartphone for expression, connection and entertainment. The new Galaxy S21 series builds on this legacy to offer a premium flagship experience.

Made for the way we live now, the Galaxy S21 series is loaded with state-of-the-art innovations so you can make the most of every moment. The new flagship series debuts a head-turning, iconic design, an epic pro-grade camera for users of any skill level and the most advanced processor ever in a Galaxy device. All this comes with the connectivity, power and performance that only Samsung can deliver.

With a bold new style, Galaxy S21 series is built for expression. While the Galaxy S21 is designed for those who want a light design and compact 6.2-inch display, the Galaxy S21+ sports an expanded 6.7-inch display and a larger battery, perfect for marathon gamers and binge-watchers. Galaxy S21 Ultra is the largest member of the Galaxy S21 series with a 6.8-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2X display and Samsung's most intelligent screen to date. The Galaxy S21 series introduces an all-new, iconic Contour Cut Camera housing that seamlessly blends into the device's metal frame for a sleek, yet striking, aesthetic. Each device is coated with a luxurious haze finish on the back for a sophisticated look and feel and will be available in a range of eye-catching colours.

Galaxy S21 Ultra delivers Samsung's most advanced pro-grade camera system that features a quad rear camera and an upgraded 108MP pro sensor, for capturing 12-bit HDR photos with 64 times richer colour data and more than three times wider dynamic range. For the first time on a Galaxy smartphone, you can shoot in 4K at 60fps across all lenses including front and rear four lenses.

The Galaxy S21 series features the latest and most advanced smartphone chipset yet in a Galaxy for greater speed, energy efficiency, and advanced computing capabilities to support 5G connectivity and on-device AI. All three smartphones pack the power you need to process photos, record 8K videos, enjoy a cloud gaming marathon and make the perfect video clips.

The devices are available to purchase island-wide authorized dealers of Softlogic Mobile Distribution and John Keells Office Automation.



curtin university Virtual open day 2021

## SLIIT hosts Curtin University Open Day

SLIIT hosted a Curtin University Open Day on January 16, to provide prospective students with vital information about the Curtin University Computing and Engineering programs offered at SLIIT International in Colombo.

In view of the health concerns, the Curtin Open Day was held via online platforms such as Zoom, Facebook and YouTube. The event was designed to help students make an informed decision about one of the most important steps they take in life – pursuing higher education.

Prospective students were taken through a series of presentations, virtual tours, and activities to help them discover the strengths, unique features, and career prospects of the Curtin programs offered at SLIIT International in Colombo and determine if those are in line with their hopes and aspirations. Amongst other things, students could learn how the Curtin programs would help them unlock international opportunities for professional careers.

Prof. Seth Kunin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor International of Curtin University, Australia made a special guest appearance and drew attention to the measures in place to assure quality and standard of the programs offered in Colombo. Over 21 Q&A sessions, focusing on individual programs, enabled the students and parents to engage with experts in the respective fields. Students appreciated these sessions that gave them the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarifications and learn more about the programs.

Deans of Faculty, Heads of Department and SLIIT Lecturers in the relevant disciplines were available to provide information and clarifications. Moreover, the participating students had the opportunity to virtually witness the SLIIT International Campus, the modern, state-of-the-art facility at Nawam Mawatha in Colombo 02. No doubt, the parents were pleased, and the students were inspired.

Commenting on the day's proceedings, Dr. Athula Pitigala

Arachchi, Deputy Vice Chancellor International of SLIIT noted, "SLIIT-Curtin University Virtual Open Day provided an ideal opportunity for prospective students to learn more about Curtin's courses and the promising careers they lead to. I am sure they understood the value of obtaining an internationally recognized qualification from a global university to propel their careers. Students were also excited about the caring culture and supportive learning environment we are creating for them."

Prof. Mahesha Kapurubandara, Dean International of SLIIT said, "We at SLIIT are committed to helping our students achieve their full potential. In today's dynamic and connected world, the Curtin programs provide the ideal curriculum to prepare our students for the future."

As a centre of excellence, SLIIT continues to be deeply committed to disseminating knowledge, fostering innovation, and producing world class professionals.



# Town & Country

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With the school netball team At the All Island Tournament 2019



Principal welcoming Head Girl at the Children's Day celebrations 2020



Taking oaths as Head Girl



Heading the Head Board

# PARAGON of HUMILITY

Anula Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Galle



ISHARA JAYAWARDANE

Too many young people in this day and age have a sense of entitlement. And that is where they fail. Perfect Prefects features Head Girl of Anula Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Galle, Dilki Rashmika Sandamini who has earned the respect of others, because of her exemplary behaviour. Humility is not low self-esteem but rather high self-esteem, without being egocentric. Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern once said – "I really rebel against this idea that politics has to be a place full of ego and where you're constantly focused on scoring hits against each other. Yes, we need a robust democracy, but you can be strong, and you can be kind." The best way to start your school life is by being humble. It is never too late to start. You will find that those who are humble and who do not have a sense of entitlement are more likely to succeed than others. These two traits combined with the person's inborn talents is the key to success. You have to earn respect, because people will not respect you if they feel you don't deserve it. Expecting people to do so is the height of arrogance and the height of foolishness. Researchers in the field of psychology who study entitled individu-

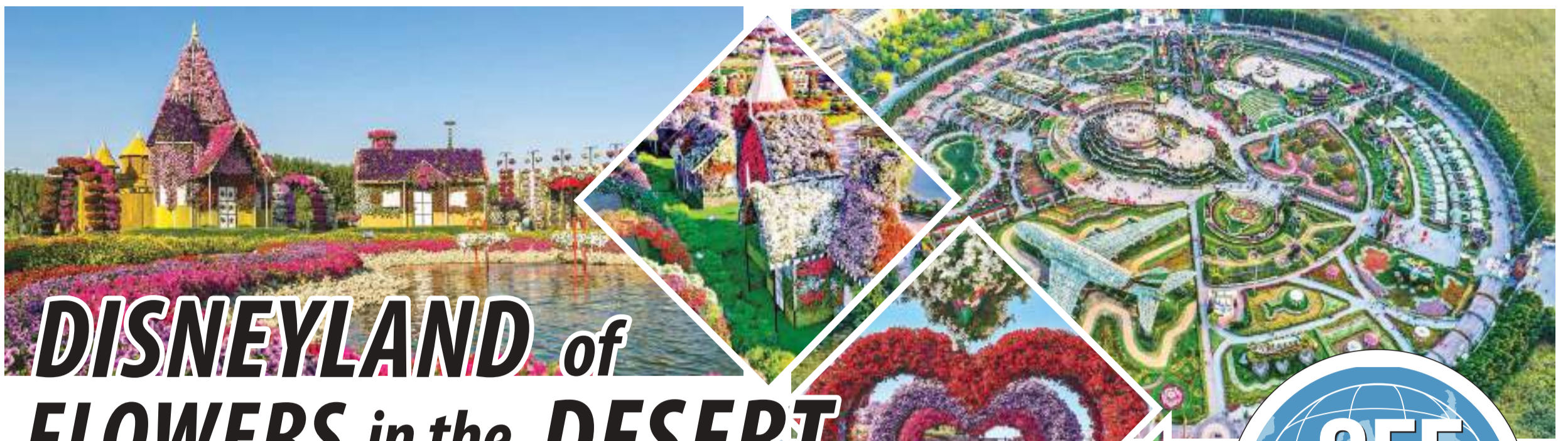
als have discovered that people with a sense of entitlement are more likely to create conflict. We know that there is the dark side of human nature where greed, selfishness and blind ignorance run riot. There is also dark side to society. Poverty forces people into crime and because of unemployment and the cost of living, people despair when they are unable to provide for themselves and their families. "My secret to success is hard work and humility. Though we cannot change the world, we can change ourselves and with our collective effort we can change the world. If we want to change our lives, then we need to take the initiative. I would like to make a positive difference in society. I think one can create change by being a living example. Humility and respect are so important when forming relationships. Relationships are key to peace," said Sandamini. When we talk about Health we talk about mental health and physical health. Neglecting both mental health and physical health is inviting disaster - the worst kind. If mental health suffers your physical health suffers and if your physical health suffers your mental health suffers. According to the WHO (2019), Depression is a common mental disorder and one of the main causes of disability worldwide. Globally, an estimated 264 million people are affected by depression. Bipolar disorder affects about 45 million people worldwide. Up to 5 million deaths a year could be averted if the global population was more active. Regular physical activity can reduce the risk of hypertension, coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, various types of cancer and depression. "When looking at society what really concerns me is the Health Sector. Making it better and more effective is something that really makes me passionate," pointed out Sandamini. When Sandamini speaks about making the Health Sector more effective, what she is saying is consistent with the policies/ constitution of the World Health Organization. WHO states that the achievement of any



State in the promotion and protection of health is of value to all. WHO also states that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, and political belief, economic or social condition. "Having good qualities and a good education for me is very important. My ambition is to be a doctor. Professionals who practice medicine are indispensable," added Sandamini. 2020 is the year that we truly began to appreciate the medical community throughout the world for standing bravely on the front lines in the war against Covid19 putting their lives at risk for us. These are the unsung heroes. "My biggest inspiration in life is my mother. She is my first teacher. As a child I understood how hard she worked and she is such a blessing to me. She always motivates me. I must also mention my school. It has been a huge influence in my life and has helped me to form my character. It is the biggest reason for who I am today. I cannot forget my Madam Principal and my teachers. They have always been behind me, guiding me and supporting me. Last but not least my sisters at school, they too have supported me," stated Sandamini. She also explained that Sri Lanka is a proud nation. Sri Lanka is home to many cultures, languages, religions and ethnicities. All of this forms a unique Sri Lankan identity. "We have a rich culture and we live in a beautiful country. I think we should try and live peacefully in this country. We defeated the worst terrorist group in the world. We struggled together and then we rejoiced together after the end of the Civil War. We can be hopeful about our future. We should maintain our traditions and appreciate our culture," said Sandamini. At school events, she is able to delegate tasks and has confidence that her master plan will be carried out to perfection by her guild. She is respected by her guild so she is able to organize her workload. She is able to prioritize her goals and meet the deadlines systematically.

Head Girl Dilki Rashmika Sandamini





# DISNEYLAND of FLOWERS in the DESERT

The Dubai Miracle Garden, with numerous self-perfect floral artistry, is the world's largest natural flower garden. It reopened on November 1, 2019.

The Emirates A380 made of millions of flowers earned for Dubai Miracle Garden a Guinness World Record title for featuring 'The world's largest floral structure forming the shape of A380'.

More than 65 million flowers are arranged in 2D and 3D designs at the Dubai Miracle Garden. It has a walking track for those who want to enjoy a leisurely walk amid the floral artistry.

Located in the heart of Dubai, the 72,000-square-metre destination is brought to life with a bright

flowers which is also the largest display of the most fragrant and colourful blooms, with over 50 million flowers of 120 varieties. It has already earned at least four Guinness World Records.

This is one of the city's most-awaited winter season tourist destinations. Colourful, original designs and record-breaking attractions continue to be a big draw for tourists, both domestic and international.

Gulf News



## Striking pigeon feathers installation

For London-based sculptor Kate McCWire, repurposing found materials into illusory works of art is a central part of the creative process. She says, "I gather, collate, re-use, layer, peel, burn, reveal, locate, question, duplicate, play, and photograph." Her recent installation Discharge is a sinuous five-meter-tall



something that is aesthetically fascinating.

Discharge is one of the nine installations McCWire created for her exhibition Menagerie at the Harewood House in West Yorkshire, England. While this sculpture occupies the library, another piece, entitled Cavort, is displayed on the floor of The Yellow Drawing Room. There, McCWire connects pigeon feathers of varying hues to create mesmerizing patterns, as though it were an embroidered tapestry. At the center is a large motif of a flower made of brown plumes, and surrounding it are swirls of gray and white feathers. "Menagerie shines a spotlight on the 'common' bird and connects the themes of nature, sustainability, and art," a statement from Harewood House says.

This twofold experience is intentional, as the artist wants the viewer to see the transformation of overlooked materials into

silhouettes that can be seen from the below photos. Some angles make the tower seem like a rounded pyramid, while others accentuate the twist as the building seems to pull away from the viewer. This dynamic form is sure to become an iconic landmark for the city.

My Modern Met

My Modern Met

## Twisting carbon-absorbing tower



Paris-based architecture firm Vincent Callebaut Architectures is known for their green designs and are often referred to as ecological architects. In 2010, the firm won a competition for a sustainable residential tower for Taipei's Xinyin District. Now, images of the Tao Zhu Yin Yuan Tower show that the structure is almost completed and that the green firm is certainly living up to its name. Pockets of vibrant green spaces spring from the balconies of the twisting tower and from the base of the building.

But this incredible landscaping designed by SWA - is not just for the aesthetic. An impressive 23,000 trees scattered across the project will absorb up to 130 tons of carbon dioxide annually. The construction of the building itself was also carefully planned to be more environmentally friendly in a process called eco-construction. This means that the firm, the client, and all

consultants had to carefully plan the process to lower the overall environmental footprint of the massive construction endeavor.

As for the twist, Vincent Callebaut Architectures carefully considered the surrounding context and designed the dramatic gesture to create views of important surrounding landmarks. Residents of the tower should have a clearer view of Taipei's CBD - central business district - and most notably, Taipei 101, the skyscraper formerly known as the Taipei World Financial Center.

In return, the city gets an incredible new view as well! The twisting building takes on an interesting new identity when viewed from any side, as demonstrated by the many different



My Modern Met

## Going BANANAS over BANANAS



about it because we've seen her several times this last year or so for his bouts of uveitis that he's had a small problem with but he's doing great and it is unrelated. She got quite a kick out of his photos. Banana would be unhealthy for a cat if consumed regularly though. So it's definitely not a diet staple for him." Bean's owner told Bored Panda.

Cats are our favourite pets who somehow manage to surprise us every single day. Like, for example, there's a cat named Bean who absolutely adores bananas and the photos of him licking this fruit have gone viral lately, mostly because they're adorable and a bit inappropriate.

Bean's owner says that her pet tasted bananas for the first time when he was about nine months old. He wanted only a sniff and ended up liking this fruit very much. Now, cats shouldn't be eating too much fruit, including bananas, so, unfortunately, Bean doesn't get to eat his favorite treat too often.

"His vet knows



Play Junkie

The small town of Nuoro, on Italy's Sardinia island, is home to what many are calling the world's rarest pasta, an intricate, hand-made treat that only a handful of people can make.

Known as su filindeu (in Sardinia's Sardo dialect), or Fili di Dio (in Italian), and translated as threads of God, this traditional pasta had been linked to La Festa di San Francesco, an ancient religious ritual celebrated every year, in May. For the past two hundred years, the only way to try threads of god pasta was to complete a 33km pilgrimage on foot or horseback from Nuoro to the village of Lula. But because this sacred dish is in serious danger of becoming extinct, the only three women in the world who know how to make it, have been trying to save it by making it more accessible.

A 67-year-old named Paola Abraini picked up the skills to make threads of god pasta from her mother, who also learned them from her mother, and so on for many generations. However, only one of her two daughters knows the basic technique, but lacks the passion and the patience necessary to carry on the family tradition.

The only other two women who she managed to pass on her knowledge to - Abraini's niece and her sister-in-law - don't have any daughters to



pass the secrets to, so su filindeu is in grave danger of vanishing.

In recent years, Paola Abraini became so desperate to save the pasta she so loves that she went to local authorities asking her to help set up a school for girls willing to become su filindeu makers. They told her there was no money for schools, so she decided to invite girls into her home and teach them. That didn't go well either, because making the threads of god isn't the easiest thing in the world.

"It didn't go well," Abraini told the BBC, in 2015.

"The problem was that once they saw how I actually do it, they'd say, 'It's just too much work', and wouldn't come back."

But she refuse to give up, and has since been invited to Rome to showcase her

## World's rarest PASTA

su filindeu making skills, by food and wine magazine Gambero Rosso. She also started making the rare pasta for several restaurants in the Italian capital to have it served to non-pilgrims for the first time, all in an attempt to save the rare dish.

But why is threads of god pasta so difficult to make? It only consists of three ingredients - semolina flour, water and salt - but because every-

thing is made by hand, it's the process itself that's grueling. After mixing the ingredients, the dough is kneaded for a very long time to stretch the gluten, the key to making the extremely long and thin strands. Once it's flexible enough, the stretching begins.

Paola Abraini rolls the dough into 8 long, thin strands, then folds them, cuts them in half and stretches them again. The process is repeated 32 times, until 256 extremely thin threads of pasta are obtained. Just to get an idea of how thin the pasta gets, they are about half as thin as the more well known angel hair pasta.

Then the strands are stretched over a round, flat tray called a fundu in three overlapping layers, and left in the sun for a few hours, to dry. The layers of pasta stick together, thus creating a



fabric-like design. Pieces of this edible tapestry are then broken and cooked.

The process is easy enough to understand, but getting it just right has apparently been a problem for most people, even seasoned cooks.

"Many people say that I have a secret I don't want to reveal," Abraini told the BBC. "But the secret is right in front of you. It's in my hands." In 2015, a team of engineers from internationally-known pasta brand Barilla visited the threads of god master, hoping to find ways of reproduce the pasta with a machine. They apparently failed. Then, chef superstar Jamie Oliver visited Abraini and tried to learn her technique, but gave up after two hours of trying. And these are only the most notable examples, hundreds others have tried and failed.

According to Slow Food International's Ark of Taste, a project that aims to classify and preserve the world's most endangered culinary traditions, out of the nearly 4,000 listed items, su filindeu is both the world's rarest and most endangered pasta.

"This is one of the most at-risk foods of becoming extinct, in large part because it's one of the most difficult pastas to make that exists, said Raffaella Ponzio, head coordinator of Ark of Taste.

Oddity Central





## MAKING RESEARCH COME ALIVE!

Text and pictures by  
**AJITH GANGODA,**  
Udadumbara Group Corr

A new Educational Research Center constructed in Delta Gamunupura Vidyalaya in Kothmale Divisional Secretariat was declared open by the Chairman of the National Institute of Fundamental Studies Professor Athula Sumathipala yesterday.

The project, a brainchild of the former principal Sarath Dayananda,

was initiated with a selected group of students in the school. Today, it has been constructed as an Educational Research Center for the students with the cost of five lakhs by the old students of the school under the guidance of the present principal G G Kusmsiri. He said that research based education will support students to think innovatively by moving away from traditional learning.

The guest, Professor Athula Sumathipala, said

the Government has taken many steps to modernize the education system of the country and research based learning will contribute to change the way of children's thinking. The center has a few computers and some of them are donated by The British Council. Students were awarded for presenting their

research and a magazine named 'Vidakshi' was also launched at the event. Some lecturers of Peradeniya University and Open University and some officers of National Science Foundation, the former principal of the school, Sarath Dayananda, the present principal G G Kusmsiri and other invitees were present.



## SCHOOL SCORE

# CHANCE to be a LEADER

**Y**ou're a Leader- Leadership Camp organised by Neth FM for the prefects of Ruhunu Vijayaba Beliatta last year was a phenomenal success. It was organized by Neth FM on the request made by Ruhunu Vijayaba by the school prefect board headed by H / Ruhunu Vijayaba College, Beliatta, Former Assistant Principal, Rohana Andaraweera.

"Teaching children the skills needed to be leaders is important to help prepare the next generation to take lead and become responsible citizens. Schools should provide children with opportunities so they can take up leadership roles in society. Group projects in the class and sports activities in the school can be organized to hone the leadership skills of children. Children should have a sense of belonging when it comes to school life. Teacher owned classroom is still in our school system and it inhibits the child when it comes to developing a positive attitude towards learning. Students' leadership in schools is an important element in the smooth running of school activities and maintaining students' discipline. It is important for the school administration as



**Dilshan Madawala**  
Head Trainer of the programme

well as teachers to consider student leaders as partners and therefore involve them in the planning and implementation of school strategies," said Andaraweera.

The camp was organized to instill leadership skills and in the Prefects focusing also on personality development. All participants spent a memorable and cheerful time in the camp. The three-day residential camp accommodated 100 students, grade 10 students onwards. One goal of the camp was to imbue in the Prefects a sense of patriotism. There was also a focus on



Fun and games

the importance of character building. Participants also got to understand how to communicate effectively which is an important quality of leadership. Developing communication skills is crucial and important for the development of an individual. Learning how to communicate allows you to motivate and encourage others. It is a widely acknowledged fact in the modern world that no matter how academically brilliant we are, if we are not able to com-

municate effectively, we cannot be successful.

The outdoor activities certainly proved beneficial to the students and the Latin phrase 'Mens sana in corpore sano'

comes to one's mind. It means that the mind and body should be both healthy and sound. A sound mind means a mind capable of good, positive and free thinking mind. A healthy body is obtained by maintaining a good diet and good exercise to keep the body going.

'You're a leader program' provides the youth with opportunities to learn through team work. Different modes of the camp such as lectures, films, discussions and out-door activities made the participants very active.

There is no doubt that this program brought out the hidden talents of the Prefects. They learnt how to shoulder responsibilities and they understood what it meant to be committed to each other. Overall they learnt how to unite and face the challenges the program posed, while thoroughly enjoying themselves. One of the highlights was the camp fire. The participants were also very keen to display their talent in drama in the presence of parents and teachers. Despite the tight schedule the participants never felt exhausted. The trainers from Neth FM had an excellent rapport with the students.

The teacher training session was another aspect of the camp and had a positive impact on the teachers. The parents also got involved in a special program. Most parents expressed their profound gratitude to the program presenter Dilshan Madawala for giving their children this golden opportunity for self-development.

Camp ended with the session 'Exam Secrets' giving useful tips for O/L students to perform well at the national level examinations. The camp organizers extended their cooperation providing the participants with 100 plants to create an eco friendly environment in the school.



Group activities



Full of colour



Different games



## Special allowances for pre-school teachers

Text and pictures by  
**M U M SANOON,**  
Puttalam TKN Corr

Special allowances have been provided by the North Western Provincial Pre-school Development Council to pre-school teachers who have been left without any income due to long-term leave because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The financial assistance has been provided to the Puttalam city pre-school teachers. The

event was held at the Pre-School Teacher Training Center in Savivapuram, Puttalam recently.

S C S A Bandara, Director of the Early Childhood Development Council, North Western Province was the Chief Guest. The event was presided over by Rubika, Puttalam City Coordinator, Early Childhood Development Council.

Many pre-school teachers serving in Puttalam attended.



## ONE FOR THE NEEDY

Text and pictures by  
**M S M MUNTHASIR,**  
Panadura Central Group Corr

Free school items worth around 5000 were gifted to school children by the former Colombo District Provincial Councillor, WPC, Arshad Nizamdeen in col-

laboration with M I M Anas of MMC recently. This Education Development Programme was held at Arshad Community Centre, Colombo 2. A limited number of parents and children grace the occasion following the health guidelines given by the Government.





# The FEMME FACTOR!

First female metal soloist in Sri Lanka  
- Shehara Jayathilake Napoleon



**SURESHNI PILAPITIYA**

Being recognized as the first female metal soloist is a high honour in one's perspective, and also a challenge in a mostly male dominated society and culture, which prevails especially in a country like Sri Lanka.

The International music scene includes quite a number of female soloists and bands such as Nightwish, Evanescence and Arch Enemy, (or even the Cranberries) but in

Sri Lanka, it's a rare scene, also in heavy metal. Females entering the metal music scene may not be everyone's cup of tea, though it will be approved by those who appreciate. Most individuals may look at it in different angles. Some might even say that 'Heavy

Metal' is not for women in the Sri Lankan context. In such an atmosphere, you may not be able to wear tattoos, pierce your nose, wear highlights or leather jackets and boots everywhere, but Shehara Jayathilake Napoleon is one of the Sri Lankan females who changed the trend and made a huge change by indirectly showing that women are capable of anything - even Heavy Metal!

**Q: Tell us about what you're up to these days.**

I'm mostly focusing on aspects of my life that need improvement right now. I've been working on teaching my kids, improving my designing skills, practicing, a bit of gardening, fitness and plans to improve the online store for Sh3hara, the e-store for Sri Lankan Music.

**Q: How would you describe yourself?**

I feel blessed to have the ability to recognize my weaknesses and to be somewhat aware about myself to understand what needs to change.

**Q: What inspired you to select heavy metal music in the first place?**

I have always been a huge fan of great music. That's one trait I got to unlock as a kid because of the exposure to various genres of music my Dad played loud on his setup. Maybe that's what opened my ears to Metal and made it easier for me to understand it while others see it as noise and distortion.

**Q: What inspired you to select heavy metal music in the first place?**

I Love all kinds of Music but, I'll choose Metal any day because I can't think of a band or artist from any other genre that plays as amazingly or

writes lyrics that completely shatter my pain and make me whole with a complete song or album.

**Q: What were the challenges which you had to face when you first entered the heavy metal scene, especially as a female?**

Personally, it was an inner challenge to confidently approach others and ask for their help to progress because I felt like I wasn't good enough. I felt like people wouldn't take me seriously because I was just a little girl. Sure, it was cool to be a girl in the industry but, I felt like I wasn't as good as I'd like to be so, it took years of experience, trial and error and lots of practice to be able to believe in myself and just be confident in my own decisions. When I put aside validation for personal development and happiness, it opened a lot of doors for me and brought the right people into my life.

**Q: You are the only female heavy metal artiste to release an album in Sri Lanka. How do you feel?**

I feel blessed and driven.

**Q: The International scene has several female lead singers such as in Arch Enemy, Night wish and Evanescence. How would you think being a female vocalist in a mostly male dominated industry would empower all women?**

Firstly, I think it reassures other women that entering the industry is possible for anyone! And secondly, I think it shows them a way things can be done as a woman in the industry or even how things shouldn't be done.

**Q: What were the bands which inspired you to select Heavy Metal?**

Metallica for sure. Iron Maiden, Dream Theatre, Dragonforce, Nightwish, Pantera and last but certainly not least, Stigmata.



**Q: What are the themes which you mostly take to write your songs? Do they include personal experiences too?**

The base is always a personal experience or belief and the lyrics revolve around self-reflection, empathy, addressing a problem and transcendence.

As a creative I'm happy to say that when I write music, things I've read, watched and listened to, every artwork, design, person, scientific theory and pattern in nature gets activated in my mind. I love that certain things have definitely influenced me and that I've absorbed the parts that I think are truly beautiful and good. They make me who I am and that reflects in the music I write.

**Q: Do you see any changes in the metal music scene when you first approached it?**

Most definitely, yes! We have more people supporting the scene and individuals who are working hard to develop every aspect - from gigs to sound, to promotions and digital sales. The Bands have more knowledge on sound and equipment which has resulted in a range of versatile and unique sounds and better recordings. And thanks to social media, fans and musicians have a better way to connect with each other, especially during times like this when we can't play gigs and meet them in person.

**Q: How did you form your band?**

Rewan Jayatilaka who is also my brother was helping me out with Tenny for acoustic shows before the full band came together. Izzy Wildchild was one of my producers for the Album

and I'm super glad they joined the band because they knew the songs well and I feel comfortable working with them.

Ash Lanthra was recommended to me by a very close friend when I was looking for musicians for a full band to play the Album Launch concert and when he joined us on drums at the first practice, I knew he was The One.

When Dimitri joined us on Bass, I Loved his vibe and how he and I are somewhere near the same frequency. I also like that we can openly talk about and understand the importance of a positive mindframe.

We played our first gig together, which was the launch concert and have been playing shows, recording music videos and writing new music since.

It may sound funny but in 2019, I asked The Universe to bring the right people into my life and things started falling into place accordingly. It's a blessing to have them all in the band, They are all amazing, driven and talented guys.

**Q: How did your family support you after you decided to select Heavy Metal?**

I think it wasn't as hard for me as it is for most kids in Metal because I listened to various sub genres of Metal. I listened to everything from Extreme Metal to very Melodic instrumentals when my parents were around and I think the mix of it all warmed them up to the genre as a whole. The fact they have music running in their veins too really helped a lot. My mom eagerly listened when I used to point out cool drum patterns and my dad has always been a huge fan of Rock and Metal too.

**Q: You are also involved in your profession as a Graphics Designer. How do you manage to balance all this with your music career?**

On the technical side of it, I suppose it's easier because both involve technology.

And in a creative sense, I love both because I get to keep being creative and learn new things all the time. It makes my life so much better so, it's more of prioritizing the work and also making room for music.

**Q: Looking back at your musical journey, how do you feel?**

Grateful. I feel blessed to have been guided and supported throughout the years.

**Q: Any albums coming up in future?**

Definitely. Watch out for our second album! Catch Shehara online with www.Sheharamusic.com or @shehara.official on Instagram.

Pictures by Shameem Ismail and Praveen Miranda

## Musical treat for everyone

## MERITORIOUS and MEANINGFUL

Keerthi Pasquel has always celebrated his birthdays by engaging in meaningful, meritorious activities. This year too he joined hands with the Help Circles organization to open doors to a new bone marrow transplant unit at the Apeksha Hospital.

Specialist in bone marrow transplant Dr Prasad Abeysinghe guided the team in the project.

Help Circles organization directors lawyer Niranga Nanayakkara, Nelum Jayaweera and Dr Arundathi Kurukulasooriya and Apeksha Hospital Director Dr Wasantha Dissanayake, Bone Marrow Transplant Unit Head Dr Prasad Abeysinghe, Consult Physician Susil Atale, Marta-sha Tajboi and the hospital staff took part in the event.

Pictures by Ujith Dilhan



It was all about memories and melodies at the recently held 'Star Lanka Musical Parade-Volume 1' CD launch held at the Breeze Bar, Cinnamon Grand Colombo, arranged by the singing sensation Rajeev Sebastian.

He was able to give retro lovers another musical treat as he launched his new CD, and the evening took a delightful turn as it was star studded with veterans such as Annesley Malewana, Indrani Perera, Sohan Weerasinghe, Luke Henriques, and other veteran artistes from yesteryear. Representing the younger generation, Yohani De Silva and Falan Andrea graced the event. Rajeev also spoke about the various artistes whom he worked with throughout years and did not forget to appreciate them for their valuable support. He also recalled that each of his songs were recorded under the guidance and advice of Mr. Vernon Perera and other veteran music producers.

He spoke of how he predicted that Falan Andrea might be the next 'Dream Star' and appreciated her for being respectful towards her veterans and contributing with vocals in the CD. The CD includes vocal performances by key musicians such as Desmond DeSilva, Sunil Perera, Annesley

Malewana, and the younger artistes representing Yohani De Silva. The CD basically includes 12 songs, produced and arranged by Rajeev himself. Some of them are, 'Mama Hemadamath', 'Parangi Landesi', 'Nadungamuwe Ath Raja', 'Hitha Heerunu' and 'Hasaralla Ba Gawa' etc.

The release is assisted by Ernest Soyya, Hemapala Perera, Chandral Fonseka, Mahindaa Bandara and others. The CD is a collaboration of many veteran artistes and is sure to take the audiences to the next level of Sinhala Retro and pop music. Each of the participants got a copy of the CD from veteran artiste Indrani Perera, including his band members (Rajeev and the clan). Rajeev showed gratitude by presenting copies of his CD to each of them and appreciating them for their guidance, and his this was a special moment for Rajeev to celebrate a milestone of being 30 years in the industry, entertaining the Sri Lankan audiences. Up to now, Hhis most respected musician who had inspired him always is none other

than the legendary Clarence Wijewardene.

During his speech, Rajeev recalled how he first entered the music industry, and encouraged youngsters and wanted them to enhance their talents. Rajeev mentioned the golden age of Sinhala



pop came out with band music. In general, he thanked all those who helped him throughout his musical career, and appreciated them for their continuous support.

He fondly spoke of the duo who contributed a great deal to take Sinhala pop forward, thus referring to the veteran singing duo Annesley Malewana and Indrani Perera.

It was a memorable moment with all the key musicians gathered together, both belonging to the older and younger generations. It was indeed an evening filled with good memories, fun moments and friendship. Rajeev invites his fans to enjoy a refreshing mix of Sinhala Retro / Pop music through the 'Star Lanka Hit Parade'. - SP







## PROCUREMENT NOTICE

### Provincial Road Development Authority (W.P.)

(Provincial ministry of roads, transport, cooperative development and trade, Housing & construction, estate infrastructure facilities, industries and rural development Western Province).

### Purchase of Production raw material required for the Asphalt production plant at (Wagawatte), Horana.

Bids are invited for the Purchase of undermentioned production raw material required for the Asphalt Production Plant at Wagawatte of this Authority.

#### Bid Summary

Bid No.	Description	Quantity m <sup>3</sup>	Tender form fee (except suppliers registered with the authority)	Opening date and time of Bids.
<b>For Asphalt Production Plant - Wagawatte</b>				
PRDA/WP/SUP/2021/04	Supply of 0 - 05 mm metal	5500 m <sup>3</sup>	Rs. 2000.00 + VAT	23.02.2021 2.30 p.m.
	Supply of 05 - 10 mm metal	4500 m <sup>3</sup>		
	Supply of 10 - 20 mm metal	3000 m <sup>3</sup>		

02. Relevant bid document sets could be obtained from 09.02.2021 to 22.02.2021 from 8.30 a.m. to 2.45 p.m. subject to above mentioned tender form fee from the Procurement Division of this authority. The bid security for this tender should be paid in cash or by bank guarantee in accordance with the conditions mentioned in procurement document.

03. In the event of the bid amount exceeding Rs. 5.0 million, bidders should produce the registration certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies under para 8 of the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987, to be eligible for the award of the contract.

04. Receiving and opening of Bids will take place on the dates mentioned above and bidders or one of their representatives could be present at the time.

**Chairman,  
Provincial Road Development Authority,  
No. 59, St. Sebastian Hill,  
Colombo 12.  
Telephone No. 011-5676903**

## Expressions of Interest

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

Name of the Line Ministry  
/Procuring Entity : State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness

### Selection of Consultancy Service for Conducting "Review and Refine of the Pre-Feasibility (PFS) and Feasibility Study (FS) of the Purple line of the Colombo Metro System"

[Contract MUD/TDP/Metro(FS)/2021/1]

The Ministry Consultants Procurement Committee on behalf of the State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness invites eligible (described below) consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services described herein. The Purple Metro Line is planned to implement from Port City to Kaduwela and Athurugiriya, with an approximate length of 32km. The service including reviewing and refining previous studies for the part of Purple line and perform the Feasibility Study for the balance. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff. etc.).

Consultants may form Joint-venture/associate with national/other international firms to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants, August 2007, published by National Procurement Agency following, CQS method.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 0900 to 1500 hours.

Expressions of interest should include the following information:

- Description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions indicating the name of client, nature of assignment, location, contract value, and period;
- Status of the firm including the names of the owners and names and qualifications of the key staff
- Any suggestions to associate with another firm or individual
- Proposal on approaching this assignment
- International firm's last year audited financial statements for the Sri Lankan Operation.
- Any other relevant information

#### Eligibility

- The lead firm should be an International Consultants firm registered to carry out business in Sri Lanka (Business registration certificate, Tax registration, and active VAT registration certificates are required).
- International Consultants firm should have satisfactorily completed similar assignments to the Line Ministry previously and/or conducting services for similar assignments for other Ministries.
- International Consultants firm who have not defaulted in Sri Lanka with Sri Lanka Client.

Further information could be obtained from Eng. P. Disanayake (+94718227009), Deputy Project Director Western Region Transport Development Project (WRTDP), 13th Floor, Wing "A", Sethsiripaya Stage II, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka, during office hours from 0900 to 1500 hours

EOI must be submitted to the address below, on or before 25th February 2021 by 1400 hours.

**Chairman,  
Ministry Consultants Procurement Committee,  
State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness,  
Technical Division, 18th Floor, Suhurupaya, Sri Subuthipura Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka**

**Address:**  
Western Region Transport Development Project,  
State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness  
13th Floor, Wing 'A' Sethsiripaya Stage II, Battaramulla,  
Sri Lanka.

Tel : 0112870751  
Fax : 0112870588  
Email : projectdirector.wrtdp@gmail.com



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA  
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS  
ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



## INVITATION FOR BIDS

### NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

### HIRING OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND TRUCKS & TRACTORS FOR THE 100,000 KM PROGRAMME FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (01) YEAR (2021/2022)

1. The Chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Road Development Authority (RDA), invites sealed bids for Hiring of Machinery & Equipment and Trucks & Tractors from the interested Suppliers. Complete details are available in the bidding document.

No.	Contract No.	Province	Machinery Type
01.	RDA/DPR/HMCP/2021/17	Central	Excavator (7 ton), Excavator(12 ton), Excavator (20 ton), Backhoe loader (JCB), Dump Truck (Tipper Truck) – 1 cube, Dump Truck (Tipper Truck) – 2 cube, Dump Truck (Tipper Truck) – 3 cube, Tractor Bowser (3000 L), Water Bowser Truck (3000L), Water Bowser Truck (6000L) Compressor Rammer, Poker Vibrator, Motor Grader (120-140 HP), Asphalt Cutter, Asphalt paver, Breakers, Chain Saw, Generator, Pneumatic Tier Rollers, Tractor with Road Broom, Sprayers, Static Rollers, Tractor with Bowser, Water Pumps (3 Inch – Sludge), Wheel Loader, Tractor with Trailer, Mobile Light Tower
02.	RDA/DPR/HMUvaP/2021/18	Uva	Plant, Concrete Mixer (200L), Concrete Mixer (400L), Skid Steer Loader, Bar Cutter, Double Drum Roller – Vibrating 10 ton, Double Drum Roller – Vibrating 5 ton, Double Drum Roller – Vibrating Pedestrian, Air Compressor, Compact Wheel Loader, Bitumen Tanker Truck, Bitumen Sprayer Truck, Smooth Road Roller, Truck Plant Compactor,
03.	RDA/DPR/HMSabP/2021/19	Sabaragamuwa	
04.	RDA/DPR/HMNWP/2021/20	North Western	
05.	RDA/DPR/HMNCP/2021/21	North Central	
06.	RDA/DPR/HMWV/2021/22	Western	
07.	RDA/DPR/HMSP/2021/23	Southern	
08.	RDA/DPR/HMNP/2021/24	Northern	
09.	RDA/DPR/HMEP/2021/25	Eastern	
10.	RDA/DPR/HMEP(Akkarei)/2021/26	Eastern Akkareipattu	

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- Interested Suppliers may obtain further information from the Procurement Division, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Maganeguma Mahamedura Road Development Authority, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla (Telephone: 011-2884790, 2046482, Fax: 011-2884790) and bidding documents shall be inspected during office hours free of charge at the above office.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language shall be purchased by interested bidders from the office of the **Director (Procurement), Road Development Authority, 04<sup>th</sup> Floor, Maganeguma Mahamedura Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla** from **09/02/2021** until **01/03/2021** during **09:00 hrs. to 15:00 hrs.** Pay order Rs. 5,000.00 Including of VAT (Validity 90 days) drawn in favor of "Director General, Road Development Authority" and for a non refundable tender fee
- Bid shall be submitted to the Director (Procurement), Road Development Authority, 04<sup>th</sup> Floor, Maganeguma Mahamedura Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla on or before **14:00 hrs. on 02/03/2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing of submission of bids in the presence of the bidder's representatives who chooses to attend.
- Bid Validity shall be until **31/01/2022**.

**The Chairman  
Road Development Authority Procurement Committee  
Road Development Authority**



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA  
CEYLON SHIPPING CORPORATION LTD  
(Ministry of Ports & Shipping)



## PROCUREMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS

### Invitation for Bids to Provision of Janitorial Services for Ceylon Shipping Corporation Limited

- Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd (CSCL) is a 100% government owned company based in Colombo. The Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd, invites sealed bids from licensed Janitorial service agencies to provide Janitorial Service for Head Office of Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd.
- Quotations should be submitted after a premises inspection relevant to Janitorial services for Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd Head Office, No. 27, M.I.C.H Building, Sir Razik Fareed Mawatha, Colombo 01
- The Service Contract is initially for a period of one year and subject to further extension for 02 years on annual basis at the end of each year upon evaluating of the performance of the services.
- The tentative date for commencement of the service is 01st April 2021 onwards.
- Bidding documents in English language consisting of the Form of Bid, Schedule of Requirement, General Terms and Conditions and the Form of Contract could be obtained from the Administration Division of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd., on payment in cash of a non-refundable Bidding fee of Rupees One Thousand (Rs. 1,000/= plus applicable Tax). Bidding documents will be issued on any working day, between 9.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. from 10th February 2021 to 1st March 2021
- The envelope containing the sealed bids should be addressed to the **Chairman, Procurement Committee**, and deposit in the Tender Box located at the entrance of office premises or send under registered post seal cover with clearly marked **"Quotations for supply Janitorial service"** at top left hand corner of the envelop to Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd. No. 27, MICH Building, Sir Razik Fareed Mawatha, Colombo 01. Within the time period specified below.
- Bids will be closed on **02<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 2.30 p.m.** and will be opened immediately thereafter. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of **Rupees Fifty Thousand Only (Rs. 50,000.00)** in the form of Bank Guaranty.
- Quotations will be received for the same, subject to the following conditions:
  - Should be registered as a company
  - Should be an institution paying taxes in accordance with government rules and regulations
  - Price revisions will not be permitted during the agreement period for any reason.
  - The staff members to be deployed should be very good health.
  - Previous experience
  - Any other relevant details if any.
- Bids should be submitted in the letter head of the bidding company signed by the Authorized Signatory.
- Please Indicate VAT separately if applicable and quoted prices should be without applicable Taxes.
- For further information/details please contact the Head of Administration, Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd., No. 27, MICH Building, Sir Razik Fareed Mawatha, Colombo 01. (Telephone No: 011-2326077/ Mobile: 071-0215720)

**Chairman  
Procurement Committee  
Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd.  
No. 27, MICH Building  
Sir Razik Fareed Mawatha,  
Colombo 01**



STATE MINISTRY OF LAND MANAGEMENT STATE ENTERPRISES AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

**SURVEY DEPARTMENT OF SRI LANKA**

**BID INVITATION**

**Preparation of cadastral maps and plans through surveys in 2021 under title registration act no. 21 of 1998 and survey act no. 17 of 2002**

**Bid No. SG/2021/01**

- On behalf of Survey Department of Sri Lanka, Surveyor General invites to all Registered Licensed Surveyors to submit bids for preparation of Cadastral maps and plans through Surveys under Title Registration Act No. 21 of 1998 and Survey Act No. 17 of 2002.
- Bid invitation will be made on national competitive bid invitation methodology.
- Interested bidders can download bid form, tender conditions and specifications and other relevant documents from the departmental website [www.survey.gov.lk](http://www.survey.gov.lk).
- When sending of bids, a copy of receipt obtained by paying of non-refundable amount of Rs. 500.00 each to any District / Provincial Survey Office in the island, Institute of Surveying and Mapping at Diyathalawa or Surveyor General's Office, for districts mentioned in paragraph 5 below, should be attached. Single bidder can submit separate quotations for maximum five districts and separate bid forms should be submitted for each.
- Bids can be submitted for Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Kegalle, Hambantota, Galle, Matara, Kandy, Matale, Nuwara eliya, Kurunegala, Puttalam, Jaffna, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Monaragala districts and priority will be given for the bids submitted for Colombo, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts.
- Bid security fee is Sixty Thousand Rupees (Rs. 60,000.00).
- Duly completed bid forms as per specimen may be sent by registered post or deposited in the relevant tender box available at Procurement and Supply Branch before 10.00 a.m. on 02.03.2021 "Quotation for preparation of cadastral maps in District of....." should be written on the top left hand corner of sealed envelope which bid forms are enclosed. Received bids will be opened at 10.05 a.m. on the same day.
- Bid forms should be sent to: Chairman, Procurement Committee, Procurement and Supply Branch, Surveyor General's Office, No: 150, Kirula Road, Colombo -05.
- Late bids will be rejected.

**Chairman,  
Procurement Committee,  
Procurement and Supply Branch,  
Surveyor General's Office,  
No: 150, Kirula Road.  
Colombo - 05.**

**SRI LANKA RAILWAYS**

**Procurement notice**

Bids are invited for the leasing of following Goods Stores Buildings at the Colombo Goods Storage Building Complex situated in Olcott Mawatha, Colombo 10 to store goods for a period of two years under an agreement.

Ser. No.	Stores No.	Extent (Sq. Ft.)
01	C1 - B3	700
02	C1 - E	2448
03	C1 - F	3744
04	C1 - G	1872
05	C2 - C	3840
06	C2 - F2 /C2 - F3	3400

Bid documents may be obtained on submission of the receipt obtained from the Chief Finance Officer of the Railway Headquarters upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 1000/- between 9.00 hrs and 15.00 hours on working days up to 02.00 p.m. on 02<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 to Sales and Marketing Division and bids should be submitted only on such bid documents obtained as above. If an individual wishes to apply for a few buildings separate applications should be submitted. Bids should be submitted as per the conditions and instructions provided and the duly perfected bids may either be sent by registered post to the address given below or deposited in the Tender Box kept at that address to be received before 2.00 p.m. on 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

Bids will be closed at 2.00 p.m. on 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 and will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on the same day. Late bids will not be taken into consideration and the bidder or only one representative of him may be present at the time of opening of bids. Departmental Procurement Committee (Major) reserves the right to take the final decision regarding awarding of tender.

An opportunity to inspect the stores may be obtained by meeting the Deputy Superintendent (Sales and Marketing) between 9.00 hours and 16.00 hours on weekdays.

**Chairman  
Departmental Procurement Committee (Major)  
Trading and Sales Division  
Railway Headquarters  
Colombo 10  
Tel. No. 0112431909**

**CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY NO. 2686**

I, BASNAYAKE MUDIYANSELAGE PRIYANI PUSHPIKA BANDARA (NIC No. 696161330V) OF No. 225/E, Vihara Mawatha, Ihalayagoda, Imbulgoda do hereby inform that the Power of Attorney granted by me to RAJAPAKSHAGE MULINE RAJAPAKSHA (NIC No. 475132769V) of No. 255/E, Vihara Mawatha, Ihalayagoda, Imbulgoda by Power of Attorney No. 2686, dated 13.10.2019, attested by Sepalika Nanayakkara Notary Public is cancelled. I will not hold responsible for any transaction done by the aforesaid, RAJAPAKSHAGE MULINE RAJAPAKSHA.

**ADVERTISING Centres**  
VISIT OUR ADVERTISING CENTRES IN KEY CITIES TO:

- Submit your advertisements
- Reserve rooms at Lake House Kataragama Pilgrims Rest
- Order subscriptions of Lake House newspapers

<p><b>Kandy Branch</b></p>  <p><b>KANDY</b> No.99 D.S.Senanayaka veediya Kandy <b>081 223 4200</b></p>	<p><b>Anuradhapura Branch</b></p>  <p><b>ANURADHAPURA</b> No.3107/2, Harischandra Mawatha, Bank Town <b>025 222 2370</b></p>
<p><b>Matara Branch</b></p>  <p><b>MATARA</b> No.29, Upper Floor, Main Bus Stand <b>041 223 5412</b></p>	<p><b>Nugegoda Branch</b></p>  <p><b>NUGEGODA</b> 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Saviiri Complex, High Levelle Road <b>011 282 8114</b></p>
<p><b>Jaffna Branch</b></p>  <p><b>JAFFNA</b> No.06, Siampirachy, Off Stanley Road <b>077 616 4901</b></p>	<p><b>Maradana k/v Branch</b></p>  <p><b>MARADANA</b> No.383, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10 <b>011 242 9336</b></p>
<p><b>Kataragama Branch</b></p>  <p><b>KATARAGAMA</b> Opposite Kataragama Bus Stand, Pussadewa Mawatha <b>047 223 5291</b></p>	

**LAKE HOUSE** HEAD OFFICE HOT LINES  
**1949, 011 242 9342, 011 242 9333**  
No.35, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10

**Department of Labour - Colombo 05**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**Selection of a Service Provider for Provision of Janitorial Services - 2021**

FG/TB/JANI.SER./2020

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Commissioner General of Labour now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders to provide Janitorial services for Labour Secretariat building. Complete details are included in the bidding document.

- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall have at least 30 No. of employees employed in the institute & 5 Years' experience in providing Janitorial services.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Accountant, Department of Labour, 9th floor, Mehewara Piyesa, Colombo 05 (Telephone 011-2581393) and inspect the bidding documents free of charge from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days from **10.02.2021** until **03.03.2021**.
- A complete set of Bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Finance division, Department of Labour, 9th floor, Mehewara Piyesa, Narahenpita, Colombo 05 upon submission of a written application on or before 3.00 p.m. on **03.03.2021** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2,000.00 (The payment will be made in cash).
- Bids must be sent by register post to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major), Finance division, Department of Labour, 9th floor, Mehewara Piyesa, Colombo 05 or put in to the tender box at cabin of Additional Commissioner General of Labour (Administration), 3rd Floor, Department of Labour, Labour Secretariat Building, Colombo 05 on or before **04.03.2021 at 2.00 p.m.** Late bids will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened soon after closing bids at the cabin of Additional Commissioner General of Labour (Administration), 3rd Floor, Department of Labour, Labour Secretariat Building, Colombo 05 in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security as section VII an Amount of **Rs. 42,800** and valid up to 20th May 2021.

**The Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee (Major),  
Department of Labour  
Colombo 05**

ministry of industries

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**lanKa mineral sands limited**

**Purchase of WHims machine, for Klift and electrical Panel Boards**

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC), on behalf of the Lanka Mineral Sands Limited now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders as described below.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure. (NCB)

Bid no.	description of Goods	document fees (non refundable)	Bid security (rs.)	Bid security should be valid up to	Bid Valid up to	Bid opening date & time
LMSL/SUP/DPC/06/2020	design, supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of IV Panel for Yan oya intake site	2,000.00	30,000.00	17/05/2021	03/05/2021	02/03/2021 14.00 hrs.
LMSL/SUP/DPC/14/2020	design, supply, delivery, electrical motor control Panel for new Block "a" Plant.	2,000.00	40,000.00	17/05/2021	03/05/2021	02/03/2021 14.30 hrs.
LMSL/SUP/DPC/12/2020	design, supply, installation & commissioning of Wet High intensity magnetic separator with a control Panel Board.	15,000.00	700,000.00	14/06/2021	31/05/2021	02/03/2021 15.00 hrs.
LMSL/SUP/DPC/02/2021	supply, delivery, commissioning and Handing over of forklift to Pulmoddai Plant.	3,500.00	100,000.00	01/06/2021	17/05/2021	02/03/2021 15.30 hrs.

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Supplies Manager, Lanka Mineral Sands Limited, 341/21, Sarana Mawatha, Rajagiriya and inspect the bidding documents at the same address from 9.00 hrs to 14.00 hrs on any working day from 9th February, 2021 up to 01st March 2021.  
Contact Nos: 011-2882025/2883951/2883952
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Supplies Manager's office from 09th February 2021 until 01st March, 2021 from 9.00 hrs to 14.00 hrs upon payment of non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be in cash at the Cashier's Counter, Finance Section of Lanka Mineral Sands Limited.
- Perfected Bids shall be delivered or sent, in duplicate "Original" and "Duplicate" enclosed in envelopes separately and both enclosed in a single envelope as follows, by registered post or deposited into the tender box made available at the LMSL's Supplies Section, addressed to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Lanka Mineral Sands Limited, 341/21, Sarana Mawatha, Rajagiriya to reach at or before 14.00 hrs on 02nd March, 2021. Late Bids will be rejected.
- Bids will be opened as described above by the opening committee of LMSL.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security which shall be
  - In the form included in section 3 in the bidding document.
  - In favour of Lanka Mineral Sands Limited
  - Issued by one of the agencies indicated in the clause 20.1 of the Bidding Date Sheet.

**chairman,  
department Procurement committee,  
lanKa mineral sands limited,  
341/21, sarana mawatha,  
rajagiriya.**



**WESTERN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL  
PROVINCIAL ENGINEERING ORGANIZATION**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**Correction Notice**

The words "Construction Period" appearing in Column 10 in the advertisements published in "Dinamina", "DailyNews", "Thinakaran" Newspapers on 20.01.2021 and 03.02.2021 should be corrected as "Bid Validity Period".

The number of days published in the newspaper dated 20.01.2021 under column 10 should be corrected as follows: The validity period 60 days should be corrected as 63 days and 75 days should be corrected as 77 days respectively.

Regret very much the inconvenience caused.

**Engineer Procurement,  
Procurement Unit,  
Engineering Organization (W.P),  
5th Floor, 204, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha,  
Battaramulla.**

Telephone: 011-2092504  
Fax: 011-2092505.



**Ceylon Medical College Council  
External Pharmacists Examination**

The pass list of the External Pharmacists Examination (Part I) will appear on the CMCC website [www.cmcc.lk](http://www.cmcc.lk) and CMCC Notice Boards. Do not telephone the CMCC for this information.

**Registrar  
Ceylon Medical College Council  
8 February 2021**

**Repeat  
Your ad  
For  
Better  
Offers**

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY**

**REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS - YEAR 2021  
EXTENSION OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE**

Further to the advertisement on Bids Invitation which appeared in the Daily News on 18th of January 2021.

Please note that the closing dates of the following procurements have now been extended to the dates mentioned below.

Accordingly the following amendments are enforced and these amendments should be taken into consideration by the prospective institutes for registration process of the year 2021 Ministry of Public Security. Except the described below, the other information given in the above advertisement remain unchanged.

Description	Application Submission Final Date	Final Date of Payment of the Registration Fees
Registration of Suppliers - Year 2021 Ministry of Public Security	20.02.2021	15.02.2021

For further clarification, please contact:

**Address:** Chief Accountant  
Ministry of Public Security  
14th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla.  
Email: [caminlofinance@gmail.com](mailto:caminlofinance@gmail.com)

**Telephone/Fax Numbers**  
T/Phone - 011-2887307  
Ext - 320/326  
Fax - 011-2887916

Secretary,  
Ministry of Public Security.



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT FOR REGISTRATION OF PERSONS



**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**SERVICE & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT AND LICENSING OF  
04 NOS. OF V x RAIL CLUSTER SERVER SYSTEMS IN DRP**

**IFB NO: DRP/ACC/07/16/2021**

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Department for Registration of Persons invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Service & Maintenance Agreement and Licensing of 04 Nos. of V x Rail Cluster Server Systems in DRP Head Office.**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding. (NCB)
- The interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information from Accountant (Payments), Department for Registration of Persons, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla on 011-5226137 **during working days, from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.** Bid documents can be inspected free of charge at the Accounts Division, Department for Registration of Persons, Wing C, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, "Suhurupaya", Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla, from **10.02.2021 to 02.03.2021.**
- The Bidder shall meet the following minimum qualifications criteria to be eligible for Award of Contract. The additional details are provided in the Bidding Document.
  - The Bidder must be a **Company registered in Sri Lanka for a period of more than five (05) years.** The Bidder shall provide copies of original documents defining the constitution or legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business. The authorization shall be given to the **person who signs the bid** and other documents in terms of a **Resolution made by the Board of Directors supported by a Power Of Attorney (POA)** for this tender and **if not attached, the bid offer shall be treated as a non-responsive bid.**
  - The Bidder shall be **ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management) certified.** (Copies of the original certificates should be submitted).
  - The Bidder shall be **registered under the Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987 at the time of bid submission** and the original certificate should be submitted with the Bidding Document.
  - The Bidder should be in the business as of the nature of the goods and services of this contract for at least five (05) years and the bidder should have at least three (03) year VM experience with minimum one (01) Project. Documentary evidence should be submitted. **If not attached, the bid offer shall be treated as a non-responsive bid.**
  - The Bidder **should be an Authorized Service Provider** of the Original Equipment Manufacturer of this product. Proof of the same should be enclosed with the bid together with the contact details of the Original Equipment Manufacturers and if applicable their local agent / distributors. Equipment that are not manufactured / offered by the Bidder himself, **Manufacturer's Authorization letters from original manufacturer should strictly be provided with the bid** using the format / template provided in this bidding document, and **if not attached, the bid offer shall be treated as a non-responsive bid.**
  - The bidder shall have an **average Annual Turnover of at least LKR Forty (40) Million or above for a period of last three (03) years (2018 - 2020).** (Documentary evidence should be submitted).
  - The bidder shall possess a **minimum of LKR Twenty five (25) Million net liquid assets** (Current assets-Inventory-Current Liabilities) and / or **credit facilities** for this project (Documentary evidence should be submitted).
  - The bidder shall submit the **certified copies of Audited Financial Statements** of the company for the **last three (03) years (2018 - 2020).**
  - The bidder shall have competent **permanent professional technical staff** for installation, maintenance and support services. (Staff Details should be provided with contact details).
  - The bidder shall have **capacity to provide required continuous Services (24 hours and 365 days) to DRP Head Office as requested by the purchaser.** Proof with Contact Person, communication addresses and telephone numbers for the same shall be provided (**Documentary evidence should be submitted and if not attached, the bidder offer shall be treated as a non-responsive bid.**)
  - Information regarding any litigation, current or during **last five (5) years (2016 - 2020)**, in which the bidder is involved, the parties concerned, and disputed amount, shall be provided.
  - The bidder or its subsidiaries or affiliated companies should not be blacklisted by any government institution during past ten (10) years (2011-2020).
- A complete set of Bidding Document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on a submission of a written application to the Accountant, Department for Registration of Persons, C Wing, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, "Suhurupaya", Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla, during **working days between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. from 10.02.2021 to 02.03.2021** upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR Three Thousand Five Hundred (3,500/=).** The method of payment will be cash.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate marked as "Original" and "Copy", in one sealed cover to the address indicated in Para 3 or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the **Accounts Division, Department for Registration of Persons, C Wing, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, "Suhurupaya", Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla, on or before 03.03.2021 at 2.00 p.m.** Bid shall be **valid up to 91 days** from the deadline of bids submission or any extended date stipulated by the purchaser. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing of bids, in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre Bid Meeting** will be held on **19.02.2021, 2.00p.m.** at Auditorium, Department for Registration of Persons, C Wing, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, "Suhurupaya", Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla.
- The Name of the Contract and the IFB Number shall be stated on top left hand corner of the envelope of the bid. All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of LKR Two Hundred and fifty Thousand (250,000/=)** issued by any licensed commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka.

**Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee,  
Department for Registration of Persons,  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, "Suhurupaya", Sri Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla.**



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA  
**CEYLON SHIPPING CORPORATION LTD**  
(Ministry of Ports & Shipping)



**Invitation for Offers for  
"Time Chartering" or "Commercial Management" of  
Vessels Owned by Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd.  
(Mv. Ceylon Breeze & Mv. Ceylon Princess)**

The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC) of the Ministry of Ports and Shipping of Sri Lanka, on behalf of Ceylon Shipping Corporation Ltd. (CSC) invites reputed "Charterers" and "Commercial Management Companies" (hereinafter referred to as the "Bidders" also) to submit their bids for "Time Chartering" (IFB No. CSC/2021/T/TC/CB&CP) or "Commercial Management" (IFB No. CSC/2021/T/CM/CB&CP) of one or both ships (Mv. Ceylon Breeze - IMO No. 9734563 and Mv. Ceylon Princess - IMO No. 9734575).

**Conditions :**

- The vessels will be open with following approx. delivery laycans for deployments (to be narrowed down after selection);
  - Mv. Ceylon Princess** 07<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2021
  - Mv. Ceylon Breeze** 12<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021
- Preferred place of delivery : Puttalam port anchorage / Colombo port outer anchorage, Sri Lanka for both vessels
- Preferred redelivery ranges : Mv. Ceylon Breeze - East Africa or West Coast of India or Singapore  
Mv. Ceylon Princess - East Coast of India
- Deployment period for both vessels will be up to around mid - August 2021.
- Remittances of the charter hires shall be made for 15 days in advance to CSC's nominated bank account/s in United States Dollars direct by the charterers.
- The selected Bidder/s shall enter into mutually agreed Implementation Agreement/s ("Commercial Management Agreement" or "Charter party Agreement," as applicable). In either case, charter party agreements shall be as per NYPE93 charter party format as amended with Rider Clauses subject to trading and cargo exclusions.
- SCAPC reserves the right to select the Bids received for the option of "Time Chartering" or "Commercial Management" for one ship or both ships, depending on the net highest economic benefit that will be accrued to CSC. Therefore, the Bids received for "Time Chartering" and then for "Commercial Management" will be evaluated in that order.

**Eligibility Criteria :**

- The Bidders should be registered entities in Sri Lanka or any other country and be a member of the Baltic & International Maritime Council (BIMCO) or The Baltic Exchange or any other similar internationally recognized organization acceptable to SCAPC, with an experience of at least three (03) years in chartering and operations of ships / Commercial Management, in the Supramax / Ultramax / Panamax dry bulk categories.
- Bidders should submit at least 03 Service Letters as References signed by a Director of the client company, as applicable for Time Chartering or Commercial Management).

**Place of obtaining of Bidding Documents :**

The time charter Specifications of the ships and the Bidding Documents (Common Invitation for Bids including General Terms & Conditions and two separate instructions to the Bidders) could be downloaded from CSC website : [www.csc.lk](http://www.csc.lk) (free of charge).

**Pre-Bid Teleconference :**

A Pre-Bid teleconference will be held between **1.00 pm to 3.00 pm** local time on **04<sup>th</sup> March, 2021** through skype address : CSC-IT CSC (E-mail address: [cscl@cscl.lk](mailto:cscl@cscl.lk))

**Bid Receiving Period & Opening Time:**

Detailed Bids addressed to the Chairman, SCAPC, Ministry of Ports and Shipping, Colombo 00100, Sri Lanka should be submitted between **10.00 am on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 to 3.00 pm on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2021** local time by email to password protected email account of CSC [chartcom@cscl.lk](mailto:chartcom@cscl.lk). The Bids will be closed and opened at the end of the Bid Receiving Period at **3.00 pm** local time on the same day.

The Subject of the emails should be the clearly mentioned, as relevant for the Bids being offered out of two Options, as mentioned in the Common Invitation for Bids.

Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representative/s who wish to attend, soon after the closing of Bids.

**Contact details for further details / clarifications:**

Manager - Chartering & Agency  
Contact No: +94 710215702  
Email: [dantha@cscl.lk](mailto:dantha@cscl.lk)

Deputy Manager - Chartering & Agency  
Contact No: +94 715656715  
Email: [saman@cscl.lk](mailto:saman@cscl.lk)

**Chairman  
Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee  
Ministry of Ports and Shipping  
Colombo 00100  
Sri Lanka**



## Uva Provincial Department of Road Development - Badulla

### AMENDMENT NOTICE

Ser. Nos. 29 and 30 in the newspaper advertisement published in the Dinamina of 03.02.2021 and in Thinakaran and Daily News of 04.02.2021 should be amended as follows.

- For the work published under Ser. No. 29, the refundable bid security should be Rs. 65000.00, bid form fee should be Rs. 3500.00 and the CIDA Grade and / Category of Qualification should be (Road Construction) C 6 and C 5
- For the work published under Ser. No. 30, the refundable bid security should be Rs. 55000.00, bid form fee should be Rs. 3000.00 and the CIDA Grade and / Category of Qualification should be (Road Construction) C 6 and C 5

Further, the qualification limit for all works where it is CIDA Grade / Category (Road Construction) C8 should be C 8 and C 7, C 7 should be C 7 and C 6 and C 6 should be C 6 and C 5.

**Chairman**  
Departmental / Ministry Procurement Committee  
Uva Provincial Department of Road Development,  
Badulla.  
Tel. 055-2229626 / 055-2225570

## land acQuisition act no. 28 of 1964 (cHaPter 460) notice under section 39 (a) 1

my no.: der/lan/laQui/a1/05  
ref no of land and land development ministry : lad/05/2010/Ve/74

30 Lots described in the Schedule below under Section (a) (1) and acquired to the Government for a public purpose has been published in Notice of Revocation No. 2092/17 dated 09.10.2018 in Extra Ordinary Gazette of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

#### Schedule

Province : Sabaragamuwa  
District : Kegalle  
Divisional Secretary's Division : Deraniyagala  
Name of Village : Deraniyagala South.  
Name of the Land : Paladeniyala Estate.  
Plan No. : KE/DRN/2010/149  
Lots No. : 01, 02

I.K.R.S. Bandara Menike  
Divisional Secretary/  
Deraniyagala.

At Divisional Secretariat,  
Deraniyagala.

08.01.2021

## OBSERVER JOBS

BREAKING BOUNDARIES

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST RECRUITMENT DATABASE

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## UNFPA Request for Quotation

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency addressing that expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy sexual and reproductive lives.

**RFQ No: UNFPA/LKA/RFQ/21/02 – All-In-One Printers**

These Request for Quotations are open to all legally-constituted business entities (sole proprietorships, partnerships, and Companies) that can provide the requested products and services and have the legal capacity to perform in Sri Lanka, or through an authorized representative.

To view the detailed RFQ and instructions on the submission of Quotations and other required documentation, please visit:

<https://sri Lanka.unfpa.org/en/>

Closing Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, 4:00 PM Sri Lanka Time.

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH INDIGENOUS MEDICINE, SOCIAL WELFARE, PROBATION AND CHILD CARE CENTRAL PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICE

Office of the Regional Director of Health Services - Kandy

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

#### District General Hospital - Nawalapitiya

#### Maintaining the Canteen - Year 2021

Sealed bids are invited from qualified caterers for the running of the 20x20 sq.ft. canteen of Nawalapitiya Base Hospital where 1000 to 1200 patients come daily for treatment, for the year 2021.

Bid application forms could be obtained from the office of the Regional Director of Health Services situated at Ehalapola Kumarihamy Mawatha, P.O. Box No: 56, Kandy, by producing the receipt obtained from the shroff for the payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000.00 to the Accounts Division from 08.02.2021 to 03.03.2021 during working days of the week from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 pm.

Bid forms will be issued from 08.02.2021 upto 12.00 noon on 03.03.2021, and receiving of bids will be closed at 12.00 noon on 03.03.2021. Bids will be opened at 12.15 p.m. the same day.

The caption "Running of the canteen of Nawalapitiya District Base Hospital" should be clearly marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing bids.

A bid bond of Rs. 100,000.00 obtained from a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in favour of the Regional Director of Health Services, Kandy should be submitted along with the bids.

The decision of the Procurement Committee will be final.

For further details contact Telephone No: 081-2234238 or 0812236452.

**Chairman,**  
**Procurement Committee,**  
**Office of the Regional Director of Health Services,**  
**Kandy.**

## MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION THALPITIGALA RESERVOIR PROJECT REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

### Improvements of Access Road to Proposed Thalpitigala dam site

Bid No. PD/TRP/WP/ARDA/2021/06-02

- The Chairman of the Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the secretary to the Ministry of Irrigation now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for construction of 600m long concrete paved road. This includes the improvements of access road to proposed Thalpitigala dam site (from Wasanagama to Thalpitigala Reservoir dam site) in Kandaketiya Divisional Secretary Division, Badulla District. Construction period is 3 months.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure. (NCB)
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidders shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirement.  
Minimum CIDA Registration Grade C 5
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include: Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Thalpitigala Reservoir Project, Project Engineer, Irrigation Department, Kandaketiya, T. P. / Fax No: 055-2245626, E-mail - [pdthalpitigala@gmail.com](mailto:pdthalpitigala@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during weekdays.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below from 09.02.2021 until 01.03.2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 7500.00. The method of payment will be in cash for set of document.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below on or before 1300 hrs on 02.03.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 14.00 hrs on 02.03.2021.
- Bids shall be valid upto 91 days.
- Pre bid meeting will be held on 18.02.2021 at 10.00 a.m. at Thalpitigala Reservoir Project, Irrigation Department, Kandaketiya.
- All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Security," of Rs. 375,000.00. Bid security shall be valid upto 29.06.2021.
- Duly filled and sealed bid marked "Improvements of Access Road to Proposed Thalpitigala dam site" (from Wasanagama to Thalpitigala Reservoir dam site) and Bid No: PD/TRP/WP/ARDA/2021/06-02 on the top left hand corner of envelope.

The address referred to above is:

**Project Director,**  
**Thalpitigala Reservoir Project,**  
**Irrigation Department,**  
**Kandaketiya.**  
T. P. / Fax No: 055 - 2245626



### PROPOSED SRILANKAN AVIATION CAMPUS - SRILANKAN AIRLINES POST OF REGISTRAR

SriLankan Airlines Limited seeks a dynamic individual to join the management of the proposed SriLankan Aviation Campus. Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following post.

#### Registrar

The registrar will be responsible to act as the Secretary to the Board of Management, and Senate whilst maintaining the records, and properties of the Campus in safe custody. The registrar will provide leadership to non-academic staff and is a full-time officer of the campus.

Further, the registrar shall provide proper and timely documentation to support regulatory compliance with auditing and quality assurance. He/she must ensure all activities of the proposed campus undertaken are in accordance with the governance, policy and regulatory frameworks of the proposed SriLankan Aviation Campus.

#### The applicant should possess the following qualifications:

- A Degree with First or Second Class and a Postgraduate Degree at the level of PhD in Administration or Management from a recognized University/HEI with not less than ten (10) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree;
- OR
- Should possess a Degree with First or Second Class and a Postgraduate Degree of not less than two (02) years duration at Master's level in Administration or Management from a recognized University/HEI with not less than ten (10) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree;
- OR
- A holder of the post of Deputy Secretary/Registrar of a HEI who has completed three (03) years of satisfactory service in that post with a Degree and a Master's Degree in Administration or Management of not less than one (01) year's duration from a recognized University/HEI and with not less than fourteen (14) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree. At least five (05) years of such experience should be at the level of Deputy Secretary/Deputy Registrar and/or Senior Assistant Secretary/Senior Assistant Registrar at a HEI;
- OR
- A holder of the post of Deputy Secretary/Registrar of a HEI who has completed three (03) years of satisfactory service in that post with a Degree and a Postgraduate Diploma of not less than one year's duration in Administration or Management from a recognized University/HEI with not less than fifteen (15) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree. At least five (05) years of such experience should be at the level of Deputy Secretary/Deputy Registrar and/or Senior Assistant Secretary/Senior Assistant Registrar at a HEI;
- OR
- An Attorney-at-Law with a Degree from a recognized University/HEI who has completed three (03) years of satisfactory service in the post of Deputy Secretary/Deputy Registrar at an HEI with fifteen years (15) of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree. At least five (05) years of such experience should be at the level of Deputy Secretary/Deputy Registrar and/or Senior Assistant Secretary/Senior Assistant Registrar at a HEI;
- OR
- A holder of the post of Deputy Secretary/Registrar of a HEI who is a graduate from a recognized University/HEI with eighteen (18) years of administrative experience in a HEI out of which at least three (03) years of such experience should be at the level of Deputy Secretary/Deputy Registrar and/or Senior Assistant Secretary/Senior Assistant Registrar at a HEI;

#### Note:

"Administrative Experience" means experience gained in a post in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service or in a Private Sector Organization in Human Resource Management or General Administration or Overall Management after obtaining the first Degree from a recognized University/HEI.

#### The above vacancy is open to Sri Lankan citizens only.

Applications (with copies of educational/professional certificates attached) along with the contact number and e-mail address should be forwarded to [careers@srilankan.com](mailto:careers@srilankan.com) on or before 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

The above appointment will take effect upon receiving the Non-State Higher Education Institute with degree awarding status for the proposed SriLankan Aviation Campus.

#### We are an equal opportunity Organization.

Influencing will be a reflection of unsuitability.

Company Registration No - PS 67